

Risk assessment

Soft (plastic) Axe throwing



You can find more information in the [Safety checklist for leaders](#) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Risk assessment

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|------------------------|
| Name of activity, event, and location | Soft (plastic) Axe throwing | Date of risk assessment | August 2024 | Name of person doing this risk assessment | Jane Leadbetter GLV |
| | | Date of next review | August 2026 | | |

| What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it? | Who is at risk? | What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs? | Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled? |
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| A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard. | For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors | Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity. | Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review. |
| For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns | Leaders, visitors, Young Leaders, Scouts | Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on carefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available. | |
| Stray axes – bruising, eye injury | All | Instruction given and understood by participants before the activity takes place. Activity supervised at all times. The range is set up with supervision to stop non-participants straying onto the range. Spectators to remain safe distance BEHIND participants. Axes to be pointed down the range towards targets only. Halt activity whilst used axes are collected. Axes to be used to be stored in buckets by participants by rope/mat throwing line. NO participants or spectators to stand behind the targets AT ANY TIME! | |
| Axe collection – bruising, eye injury | All | No running on the range at any time. Axes to be collected from targets first then the floor. Targets to be approached from the side. Axes to be removed from target from the side making sure no one is in front of the target. All participants to remain behind the safety line until axes collected. | |
| Incorrect technique – spains, strains, bruising | All | Clear instructions to be given before use. Instructors to monitor use throughout. Incorrect technique to be corrected by instructors. | |
| Slips, trips & falls | All | Range should be kept tidy and free from trip hazards. Shoelaces to be kept tied. Any spilt liquids or food to be cleared up immediately. No running on the range. Range to be well lit. | |

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| Equipment failure – injured by equipment | All | Regular equipment check & service. Faulty equipment removed from service until repaired. | |
| Unauthorised use – injured by equipment | All | Equipment is kept in a locked store when not in use. Equipment to be returned to the locked store at the end of each session. Equipment is never to be left unattended. | |

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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