

Climbing Wall Supervisor



Photo: Lee Howell

Scope and Syllabus

With the support of:



NZOIA™ Climbing Wall Supervisor Scope

Climbing Wall Supervisor Profile

The NZOIA Climbing Wall Supervisor is able to:

- Supervise top roping and bouldering activities on artificial climbing structures
- Teach beginners how to use in-situ top rope systems
- Assess client competency of basic skills
- Assess equipment for safety and wear and safety
- Perform basic ground level rescues
- Demonstrate adherence to the safety management system
- Demonstrate top roping skills
- Introduce bouldering to beginners

The NZOIA Climbing Wall Supervisor is able to supervise basic climbing activity on artificial climbing structures (inside or outside, fixed or mobile). It is recommended they work under the supervision of a person who has additional competencies including a current First Aid Certificate and the ability to perform complex rescues and follow emergency procedures. If there is more than one staff member, someone on site must have the ability to manage the operator's supervision system. It is recommended that one person in the operation holds the NZOIA Sport Climbing or NZOIA Rock 1 qualification. Alternatively, a technical expert should be brought in on a regular basis to check and monitor procedures. Climbing Wall Supervisors are qualified to operate within the standard operating procedures of the climbing wall. The qualification does not define the skill set required to write or approve such a plan.

This is a foundation qualification and provides a stepping stone towards NZOIA Leader, Rock and Sport Climbing qualifications.

Refer to the Activity Safety Guidelines "Indoor Climbing and climbing on other artificial structures" for operational good practice www.supportadventure.co.nz.

Scope

The NZOIA Climbing Wall Supervisor can:

- Introduce top roping to small groups of beginners where in-situ top rope systems are in place and regular checks of anchors are completed by the organisation managing the facility
- Introduce bouldering where the landing zone is on suitable mats

Prerequisites

Be a current Registered Member or working under an Affiliated Membership of NZOIA

Be 18 years old or over

Have the following experience as evidence in a logbook:

Personal experience – at least 6 sessions of personal climbing on a climbing wall including a minimum of grade 14

Instructional experience – at least 3 sessions in an assistant supervisor role

A session is considered to be at least 2 hours or more of climbing activity or assistant supervising. The personal sessions must include no less than 4 climbs per session.

The prerequisite experience requirements are minimums, extra days are recommended.

Registration and Revalidation

This qualification is valid for four years at which time the supervisor is required to re-sit the assessment. Registration with NZOIA provides proof of currency.

Progressing to higher NZOIA qualifications

As the Climbing Wall Supervisor gains more experience they may progress towards gaining the NZOIA Monitor Lead Endorsement, NZOIA Rock Leader, NZOIA Abseil Leader, NZOIA Sport Climbing and NZOIA Rock 1 qualifications. The steps they would follow include:

- Gaining the experience outlined in the qualification prerequisites
- Attending an NZOIA training course
- Working with a NZOIA Monitor Lead Endorsement, Rock Leader, Abseil Leader, Sport Climbing or Rock 1 holder

Syllabus

Assessment Notes

The syllabus outlines what the content of the assessment will include and gives an idea of what assessment tasks the candidate will be asked to complete. All judgements on how the candidate meets the syllabus must be based on current good practice and industry standards.

Assessors can use two types of direct evidence to judge a candidate's competency:

- Observation of practical tasks
- Questioning and discussion

Candidates are expected to know and follow a system as defined by the operator

Candidates are required to apply a process to show all new comers how to use the facility's equipment and in-situ top rope systems which they are familiar with, and introduce bouldering

Candidates are required to monitor top roping and bouldering within a familiar environment and to work within the safe operating procedures of the facility

Technical Competence

1. Demonstrate and/or describe the care and correct use of clothing and equipment for climbing wall activities

Including:

- 1.1** Ropes
- 1.2** Belay devices both manual locking (e.g. ATC) and assisted braking (e.g. GriGri)
- 1.3** Karabiners
- 1.4** Harnesses
- 1.5** Knots used for tying in specific to climbing wall e.g. re-threaded figure 8
- 1.6** Floor anchors and their connectors
- 1.7** Use equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current good practice
- 1.8** Dress appropriately e.g. hair, jewellery, clothing

2. Demonstrate effective skills for top rope climbing

The candidate will complete at least two climbs to a minimum of grade 14 and be able to demonstrate:

- 2.1** Correct procedures for attaching climbing rope and belay device to harness
- 2.2** A systematic safety check of self and belayer before climbing
- 2.3** Clear communication with the belayer using agreed calls
- 2.4** Controlled and efficient movement

3. Demonstrate safe belaying technique

The candidate will belay a top rope system at least twice and demonstrate:

- 3.1** Using a manual locking and assisted braking belay device
- 3.2** Threading the rope through the belay device and attaching to self
- 3.3** A systematic safety check before the climber leaves the ground
- 3.4** Good practice belay technique
- 3.5** Clear communication with the climber using agreed calls
- 3.6** Maintain tension as required
- 3.7** Lowering the climber safely

4. Demonstrate safe and efficient basic ground level rescues

The candidate will be able to perform safe and efficient rescues for:

- 4.1 Jammed belay device
- 4.2 Excessive slack in the 'live' rope of the belay system

Group Management and Leadership

5. Supervising bouldering and top roping

The candidate will be responsible for monitoring client's bouldering and top roping and will:

- 5.1 Be able to describe and apply the supervision levels (direct and indirect) required for different clients as specified by the facilities safe operating procedures
- 5.2 Demonstrate the ability to scan the area to assess the overall situation and identify any clients or groups that may require closer monitoring
- 5.3 Identify and correct unsafe practices for both climber and belayer e.g. climbing too high without a rope, using equipment incorrectly, ineffective communication, clothing or hair interfering with belaying, climbing too quickly for the belayer, climbing off route, putting fingers in hangers
- 5.4 Demonstrate the personal skills and a range of strategies required to intervene
- 5.5 Demonstrate clear communication skills

6. Demonstrate effective safety management according to the facility's safe operating procedures

The candidate will:

- 6.1 Demonstrate the induction procedure for introducing a client to the risks of climbing and the rules of the climbing wall
- 6.2 Adhere to and know the facility's safe operating procedures
- 6.3 Demonstrate a general site check for hazards and take steps to rectify any identified
- 6.4 Complete a pre-activity check of equipment for fitness of use including all top rope setups, ground anchor connectors, belay devices and connectors, knot and karabiner functionality
- 6.5 Identify and manage dangerous equipment (repair, replace and/or isolate)
- 6.6 Continually monitor all equipment in use

Instruction

7. Introduce a group to top rope climbing with in-situ top rope systems

The candidate will apply the facility's safe operating procedures to introduce newcomers to the facility's equipment using clear demonstrations and explanations in the following:

- 7.1 Fitting of harnesses
- 7.2 Method of attachment to rope
- 7.3 Method of attachment to ground anchor
- 7.4 A systematic safety check before climbing
- 7.5 Clear communication between belayer and climber using agreed calls
- 7.6 Belay technique (ascending and lowering)
- 7.7 Back up belaying
- 7.8 Basic climbing movement
- 7.9 Describe the grading and labelling system and identify the correct rope and achievable climb for the clients

8. Introduce a group to safe bouldering practices

- 8.1 Safe practices
- 8.2 Falling and spotting techniques
- 8.3 Basic climbing movement

9. Assess client competency

The candidate will demonstrate good judgement in assessing competency of clients for

- 9.1 Top rope belaying
- 9.2 Bouldering