

Indoor Axe Throwing Risk Assessment 1

Comprehensive Safety Procedures and Control Measures

Assessor Details

Assessors Name	Wolf
Document	Risk Assessment 10/17
Reviewed By	Wolf
Reviewed Date	11/11/25
Approved By	Wolf
Issue No	3

Risk Assessment Structure

Section A1	Description of activity or task
Section A2.1	Health and Safety Hazards
Section A2.2	Health and Safety hazards associated control measures
Section A3	Persons at risk
Section A4	Hazardous substances
Section A5	Mandatory PPE requirements
Section A6.1	Environmental
Section 7	Quality factors and Associated Control Measures
Section B1	Standard System of Work

Activity Details

Name of Activity: Axe Throwing

Reference Number: RA 1: 10/17

Risk Score Guidance: A score up to 5 is considered acceptable and should be reduced further if possible. Scores between 6 and 10 indicate the need for risk reduction measures. Scores above 12 are classed as unacceptable.

Risk Assessment Table

Ref No.	Hazard	Description of Hazardous Event & Possible Harm	Persons at Risk	Existing Safety Measures	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Additional Controls Required	New Rating
1	Environment	Uneven or wet ground may result in slips, trips and falls, potentially causing bruising, bumps, and possible fractures.	Participants & Staff	The area is checked before commencement, participants are warned of the danger, and supervision is provided.	1	3	1 x 3 =3 (LOW)		
2	Mobile Targets/Stands	Targets may be pulled over when retrieving knives and axes, leading to head/shoulder injuries, cuts, bumps, or rounds falling onto feet.	Staff, Participants, and anyone in the area	Participants are taught how to safely remove knives/axes, staff continually monitor equipment collection, and assist as needed.	3	3	3 x 3 = 9 (MED)	Ropes should be used to secure targets if necessary. In strong winds, targets should be laid down.	2 x 3 = 6 (MED)
3	Manual Handling	Manual handling of rounds, stands, and equipment boxes could cause musculoskeletal disorders.	Staff and assistants	Two people are required to lift large rounds, tripod lifting is done carefully, manual handling training is provided, a trolley is	3	3	3 x 3 = 9 (MED)	Regular updates and toolbox talks on manual handling are advised.	2 x 3 = 6 (MED)

				available, and a warm-up is recommended before setup. Rounds should be rolled when possible and only lifted if necessary.					
4	Manual Handling	Fixing targets to walls or mobile stands could result in targets becoming loose and falling, causing toe or leg injuries.	Staff, Participants	Targets must be fixed with a minimum of two coach bolts if attached to the wall, and screws through the legs for mobile stands.	4	3	12 (MED)	Targets should be checked for looseness during axe retrieval; stop activities immediately to correct issues before restarting. Monitor axe collection technique.	1 x 3 = 3 (LOW)
5	Manual Handling	Dropping equipment may cause foot or leg injuries.	Staff or assistants	Manual handling training is provided; only one piece of equipment is carried at a time; strong boots are worn.	3	3	9 (MED)	Toe cap boots should be worn; two people are required to set up the range.	2 x 3 = 6 (MED)
6	Cuts	Cutting of fingers may occur on fixing bolts.	Staff	Fixings are checked each time the tripod is set up, and damaged fixings	3	2	6 (MED)	Spare bolts and screws are provided.	1 x 2 = 2 (LOW)

				are reported and replaced.					
7	Environment	The safety line may create a trip hazard.	Participants & Staff	A safety talk is given, everyone is instructed to walk not run, and regular reminders are provided.	3	3	9 (MED)	The line should be level; use paint if practical for the surface.	1 x 3 = 3 (LOW)
8	Cuts	Horseplay and unruliness could cause major injuries, cuts, and bruising.	Participants, Staff, Spectators	The instructor delivers a safety talk regarding behaviour; anyone messing around is removed from the area.	2	4	8 (MED)	Constant observation of the throwing area, regular breaks, and warning signs are used.	1 x 4 = 4 (LOW)
9	Cuts	Hit by misfired or rebound axe, or axe missing target, potentially causing severe injury, major cuts, or bruising.	Participants, Staff, Spectators	The area is fenced off appropriately, a first aid kit is available, all staff are trained in first aid, and all blades are sheathed or locked away when not in use.	3	5	15 (HIGH)	Constant safety checks on blades, hourly fence checks, and spare fencing and poles are maintained.	1 x 5 = 5 (LOW)
10	Cuts	Cut by axe or knives when handling equipment, causing minor injuries or small cuts, mainly to fingers.	Participants, Staff	All equipment is checked before use, participants are warned of sharp areas, and any burrs found are filed smooth by the instructor.	3	2	6 (MED)	A toolbox, file, and gloves are provided.	1 x 2 = 2 (LOW)

11	Falling Objects	Targets falling off wall, could cause injuries to feet/legs, cuts, bruising, or possible fractures.	Participants, Staff	Equipment is spot-checked throughout the event; participants are instructed to hold targets steady when removing axes.	3	3	3 x 3 = 9 (MED)	Paracord, pegs, weights are used, and reminders are given each time axes are removed.	1 x 3 = 3 (LOW)
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Persons at Risk

Employee conducting activity/task	Expectant mothers	Temporary staff	Visitors/members of the public

Review and Amendments

Assessor: Wolf

Date: 11/11/25

This assessment is to be reviewed after each session. Any amendments should be attached on a separate sheet as necessary.

Axe Throwing Risk Assessment and Safety Procedures

Reference Details

Reference Number: RA 1: 10/17

Assessor: wolf

Date: 11th November 2025

General Approach and Participant Assessment

All safety procedures and risk assessments are based on the expectation that participants possess average ability. Prior to the commencement of any activity, the instructor will evaluate each participant and make appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities. While safety standards must never be compromised, efforts will be made to enable all individuals, regardless of ability, to participate fully and enjoyably in the activity.

Instructor Requirements

Only White Wolf Bushcraft School Ltd staff who have undergone training, received approval, and demonstrated competence in throwing techniques are permitted to instruct. All staff members are required to maintain records of regular training updates and must keep an up-to-date log. Where possible, instructors should hold membership with the Knife, Axe, Tomahawk Throwing Association (KATTA).

Qualifications Required: Instructors must possess a thorough understanding of the dangers associated with the activity.

Instructor to Participant Ratio

The recommended ratio is one instructor to thirty participants (1:30).

Protective Equipment

Participants should wear normal outdoor clothing suited to current weather conditions. If approved by a parent or guardian, sunblock should be applied, or suitable clothing worn to prevent sunburn. Loose clothing should be removed or securely fastened, and shoes must be appropriate for the activity.

Participant Restrictions

All participants must be at least eight years old and physically capable of engaging in axe throwing. Prior to each session, instructors will:

- Limit range access to three individuals at a time, with a fixed wall. For mobile targets, a maximum of four throwers is allowed (one per target), space permitting.
- Ensure that only White Wolf Bushcraft School staff and designated participants are permitted in the throwing range while activity is ongoing.
- Admit the next set of throwers into the administration area only, where they will be briefed on the safety sheet, disclaimer, and throwing instructions. All other individuals must queue outside the safety fence, away from the throwing area.

Safe System of Work

Instructors will, as far as practical, monitor each participant individually and issue warnings when necessary. Periodic checks will be conducted to verify the suitability of the course or activity for the age and ability of participants. Participants will be informed of potential hazards such as trip risks, wet or mossy areas, and uneven ground, and instructed to proceed with caution.

Staff are responsible for ensuring the activity area is free from natural hazards, including stinging nettles, brambles, low hanging branches, and dangerous objects like glass, faeces, or sharp items. The area must be securely fenced, especially behind and beside targets, to prevent unauthorised access to the danger zone. The distance from the throwing line to the rear fence must exceed the maximum axe throwing distance of a competent adult. Only a single access route is permitted.

Before each session, targets, perimeter fencing, and axes will be inspected. Any faulty equipment will be clearly marked and removed from use. All participants will be assessed using dummy axes and trained in proper technique before handling real axes. If there is any doubt about a participant's ability, they will not be permitted to throw. The assessment involves giving the participant three tennis balls, requiring them to hit the target at least twice. Two attempts are allowed. If unsuccessful or if the instructor feels the participant cannot control their throw, they will not be allowed to throw axes.

The throwing line must be set far enough back to minimise injury from rebounding axes—three metres for mini axes (“angels”) and a minimum of four metres for hawks. Axes are not to be retrieved until all have been thrown and the instructor confirms it is safe to do so. When not in use, axes should be sheathed or secured in a locked box and must be removed during breaks and after the session.

All participants and those waiting will be instructed on appropriate behaviour, including the prohibition of jostling, pushing, or horseplay. Additional staff may be assigned to manage waiting participants, or individuals may be asked to return later. At all times, those not throwing must remain well clear of the throwing area.

Participants will be shown the correct method for carrying axes, and demonstrations will be provided by the instructor as required.