

Safety Policy

Kent and Sussex Climbing Ltd.
Updated April 2025.



This Safety Policy is specific to climbing coaching carried out by Kent and Sussex Climbing at all sites and includes simple guidelines for activities that will be carried out within the sites.

Kent & Sussex Climbing Ltd is committed to providing a safe, structured and professionally delivered climbing environment for all participants aged 6–90 years.

We recognise our duty of care to:

- Children and young people
- Adult participants
- Staff and volunteers
- Partner venues

This policy applies to Indoor bouldering sessions and Indoor roped climbing sessions. All sessions are delivered within licensed indoor climbing facilities.

Our sessions are delivered primarily at Chimera Climbing Centre (Tunbridge Wells) and Chimera Climbing Centre (Chatham) and The Skinner’s School in Tunbridge Wells.

Kent & Sussex Climbing operates in accordance with each venue’s:

- Site-specific risk assessments
- Operating procedures
- Emergency action plans
- Safeguarding expectations

Venue rules always take precedence regarding facility safety.



Staffing & Qualifications:

All regular coaches (3 or more sessions) must have completed their inhouse training with Kent and Sussex Climbing.

Lead Coaches Must Hold:

- Enhanced DBS check
- Inhouse Kent and Sussex Climbing Training
- Safeguarding Sports Level 1
- Climbing Wall Instructor (CWI) qualification
- 16-hour Outdoor First Aid certificate

Regular (3 sessions or more in total) Assistant Coaches Must Have:

- Enhanced DBS check
- Have completed Chimera Climbing Centre's "In-House Green Award"
- Inhouse Kent and Sussex Climbing Training
- Work under supervision of a qualified lead coach

No coach delivers a session alone without meeting the lead coach criteria.

Supervision & Ratios

Supervision ratios are determined by:

- Age of participants
- Experience level
- Type of session (bouldering vs roped)
- Complexity of activity

Typical operating ratios:

- Ages 6–8: 1:6 maximum
- Ages 9–12: 1:7 maximum
- Ages 13-18: 1:8 maximum
- Adults: 1:10 maximum



Participant Safety Procedures:

Before Climbing

- All participants must be registered with the venue.
- All participants must signed a Kent and Sussex Climbing Waiver Form via Jotform.
- All participants under 18 must have parental consent.
- Equipment checks are conducted before roped sessions.
- Safety brief given at the start of each session.

During Bouldering

Venue rules always take precedence regarding facility safety. This includes:

- Encouraging downclimbing where possible.
- Ensuring landing zones are clear.
- Eliminating running in the centre, or walking underneath climbers.
- Appropriate spotting guidance taught (where age-appropriate).

During Roped Climbing

- All equipment must be checked prior to use before the session.
- The wall must adhere to national guidelines, including having an annual wall inspection certificate.
- All climbers must be checked before leaving the floor, including knots and belay devices.
- Only trained belayers permitted.
- Coaches supervise all rope systems in use.



Safeguarding Integration

Kent & Sussex Climbing recognises safeguarding as integral to safety.

- All staff hold required qualifications as stated above.
- All lead coaches hold safeguarding training.
- All lead coaches must have sufficient first aid training.
- Concerns and incidents are logged in a secure incident log.
- Confidential records are password protected.
- Concerns may be escalated to local safeguarding authorities where required.

Physical contact is limited to safety-critical situations (e.g., preventing injury) or consent-based reassurance.

Emergency Procedures.

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Emergency Procedures:

In the event of an injury:

1. Stop the session immediately if necessary.
2. Make area safe.
3. Provide first aid if necessary.
4. Inform the venue staff immediately.
5. Contact parent/guardian (if climber is under 18).
6. Document fully post-incident.

In the event of a serious injury:

1. Stop the session immediately. Ensure the rest of the group are no longer climbing.
2. Inform the venue staff immediately.
3. Ensure the venue staff have called the emergency services (999), or call them directly yourself.
4. Contact parent/guardian (if climber is under 18).
5. Document fully post-incident.

In the event of a safeguarding concern or incident:

1. Try to listen carefully and avoid any leading questions.
2. Do not promise any confidentiality.
3. Make a record as soon as you can (no later than 24 hours). Try to leave out any emotional parts and write factually only.
4. Report immediately to the DSL – Huseyin Bozkurt. In the event the safeguarding incident / concern involves the DSL, please contact the DSL of the local venue immediately, and involve the Local Safeguarding Authorities is necessary.

Local Venues include:

Chimera Climbing Centre – Marisa Gifford (marisa@chimeraclimbing.com)

The Skinners' School - Debbie Blake – (safeguarding@skinners-school.org.uk)



Behaviour & Conduct:

All participants are expected to:

- Follow coach instructions that include guidance and safety.
- Respect and follow all rules from the local venue.

Coaches must adhere to and follow our rules / guidelines in our Coaching Code of Conduct.

Risk Management:

Kent & Sussex Climbing:

- Conducts dynamic risk assessments during sessions.
- Reviews risk assessments annually.
- Adapts sessions based on participant ability and fatigue.
- Cancels or modifies sessions if safety is compromised.

Responsibilities:

Director / Head Coach:

- The director / head coach must observe and maintain overall safety.
- The director / head coach must ensure all ratios / requirements for the session to run are maintained.
- The director / head coach must review policies annually or where necessary, and review any incidents.

Lead Coaches:

- All lead coaches must ensure sessions are delivered safely and to the standard of Kent and Sussex Climbing.
- All lead coaches must ensure all equipment is safe to use where necessary.
- All lead coaches must adhere to the rules of running a session, including having necessary qualifications and ratios.
- All lead coaches must lead and report any incidents.
- All lead coaches must ensure all participants are following local venues centre rules.

Assistant Coaches

- All assistant coaches must support the lead coaches where possible.
- All assistant coaches must follow the lead coach instruction.
- All assistant coaches must maintain supervision throughout the session.
- All assistant coaches must ensure all participants are following the local venues centre rules.



Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- Legislation changes
- An incident indicates review is required
- Operational changes occur

Signed: Huseyin Bozurt
Director – Kent & Sussex Climbing Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huseyin Bozurt', written in a cursive style.

Date: 28th April, 2025

Review Date: 27th April 2026