BEARPACK MOBILE AXE THROWING

RISK ASSESSMENT

Activity: Mobile Axe Throwing
Company: BearPack Mobile Axe Throwing
Assessor: Chris Holden
Position: Director / Instructor
Assessment Date: _____
Review Date: _____
Version: 1.0

1. PURPOSE

This Risk Assessment identifies the principal hazards associated with BearPack Mobile Axe Throwing activities and the controls used to reduce those risks.

The assessment applies to transportation, setup, participant activity, spectator management, dismantling and departure.

2. RISK RATING

Risks are assessed using:

Likelihood: Low / Medium / High

Severity: Low / Medium / High

The resulting risk rating is based on the combination of likelihood and potential severity.

Where additional controls are required, they will be implemented before the activity begins wherever reasonably practicable.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT TABLE

Hazard 1 — Axe striking a person

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, spectators/public

Potential harm: Serious injury

Control measures:

- Direct instructor supervision
- Safety briefing before participation
- Designated throwing lanes
- One participant throwing at a time
- Participants remain behind throwing line
- Controlled axe retrieval
- Safety barriers
- Spectator exclusion areas
- Instructor authority to stop activity

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Medium

Hazard 2 — Axe rebound or deflection

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, spectators/public

Potential harm: Injury

Control measures:

- Suitable target setup

- Safety netting behind targets
- Controlled throwing area
- Safety briefing
- Direct supervision
- Activity stopped if equipment or target becomes unsafe

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Medium

Hazard 3 — Damaged axe or equipment

Persons at risk: Participants, staff

Potential harm: Cuts, impact injury or equipment failure

Control measures:

- Equipment inspection before each event
- Check axe heads
- Check handles
- Check fixings
- Defective equipment removed from service
- Damaged equipment not returned to use until assessed

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 4 — Target or support structure failure

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, spectators

Potential harm: Impact injury

Control measures:

- Secure target setup
- Inspection before use
- Support structure inspection

- Activity stopped if setup becomes unsafe

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 5 — Spectator entering throwing area

Persons at risk: Spectators, participants

Potential harm: Serious injury

Control measures:

- Safety barriers
- Guide ropes
- Signage
- Designated spectator area
- Direct instructor supervision
- Throwing stopped if required

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 6 — Child entering active throwing area

Persons at risk: Children, participants

Potential harm: Serious injury

Control measures:

- Controlled activity area
- Safety barriers
- Direct supervision
- Minimum age requirement
- Responsible adult requirement for ages 8–12

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 7 — Intoxicated participant

Persons at risk: Participant, staff, public

Potential harm: Injury or unsafe behaviour

Control measures:

- Instructor observes participant behaviour
- Intoxicated or impaired participants refused participation
- Instructor decision final
- Activity stopped if necessary

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 8 — Aggressive or unsafe behaviour

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, public

Potential harm: Injury or confrontation

Control measures:

- Instructor authority
- Unsafe participants refused participation
- Individuals may be removed from activity area
- Activity suspended where necessary
- Event organiser informed where appropriate

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 9 — Unsuitable or uneven ground

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, public

Potential harm: Slips, trips and falls

Control measures:

- Activity area assessed on arrival
- Trip hazards identified
- Suitable area selected
- Setup modified where possible
- Activity refused or suspended where area cannot be made safe

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 10 — Slips, trips and falls

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, public

Potential harm: Minor to moderate injury

Control measures:

- Walkways kept clear
- Equipment positioned safely
- Trip hazards identified
- Cables/equipment secured where applicable
- Activity area checked before operation

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 11 — Manual handling

Persons at risk: Staff

Potential harm: Strains, sprains or musculoskeletal injury

Control measures:

- Safe lifting techniques
- Appropriate handling methods
- Team lifting where necessary
- Avoid unnecessary lifting
- Equipment secured during transport

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 12 — Transportation of equipment

Persons at risk: Staff, public

Potential harm: Injury or equipment damage

Control measures:

- Equipment secured during transportation
- Axes sheathed or stored securely
- Equipment kept inaccessible to the public
- Only authorised persons handle axes
- Secure loading and unloading procedures

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 13 — Severe weather

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, public

Potential harm: Injury from wind, lightning, reduced visibility or other weather conditions

Control measures:

- Weather monitored
- Activity suspended during unsafe conditions
- Lightning/thunderstorm suspension
- Severe wind suspension
- Instructor authority to stop activity

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Medium

Hazard 14 — Medical emergency

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, public

Potential harm: Serious illness or injury

Control measures:

- First-aid kit available
- Emergency procedures
- Emergency access maintained
- Emergency services contacted where required
- Incident recorded

Initial risk: High

Residual risk: Medium

Hazard 15 — Emergency access obstructed

Persons at risk: Participants, staff, public

Potential harm: Delayed emergency response

Control measures:

- Emergency access routes identified
- Access routes kept clear
- Activity setup does not obstruct emergency access

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

Hazard 16 — Equipment left unsecured

Persons at risk: Participants, spectators, public

Potential harm: Injury

Control measures:

- Axes secured when not in use
- Restricted equipment access
- Equipment secured during breaks
- Equipment removed after event

Initial risk: Medium

Residual risk: Low

4. PARTICIPANT RULES

All participants must:

- Follow instructor instructions
- Follow safety rules
- Remain within designated areas
- Not enter active throwing lanes
- Not retrieve axes without permission
- Wear suitable closed-toe footwear
- Inform the instructor of anything affecting safe participation

5. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

In the event of an incident:

1. Stop the activity.

2. Make the area safe.
3. Provide first aid where appropriate.
4. Contact emergency services where required.
5. Maintain emergency access.
6. Record the incident.
7. Review the incident before restarting.

6. REVIEW

This Risk Assessment will be reviewed:

- Annually
- Following an accident
- Following a near miss
- Following significant equipment changes
- Following changes to operating procedures
- Following relevant changes to legislation or guidance
- Following any significant change to the activity

7. DECLARATION

Assessor: Chris Holden

Position: Director / Instructor

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Next Review Date: _____