

ZIPLINE

Goal – Purpose of the activity.	
Challenge courses are also known as challenge ropes courses. <i>Participants</i> are required to use dexterity, strength, balance and complex physical movements to successfully traverse the element or course of elements. Challenge courses are often used for experiential learning, personal challenge or team building purposes but also for entertainment. Challenge ropes courses are designed to present physical and mental challenges to individuals and groups. A Zipline is a transportation system or piece of recreation equipment consisting of a cable stretched between points of different elevations, a pulley, and a harness attaching a rider, who moves by gravity. Our Zipline is stretched across the gully above the Waterslide located between the Conference Centre and the Marquee. It is approximately 60m long and starts and finishes at the tree beside the road. Participants are attached to the tree, descend to the gully and a partner tows them back to the start tree. There are no platforms to climb, and the participant simply runs under the zipline to begin the ride. Zipline is a “High Element” <i>and</i> is an element for which safety can no longer be achieved by spotting and requires a <i>belay system</i> using harnesses and specialist safety equipment or other established methods or systems.	
Participants	Leadership and Qualifications
Participants are those persons who undertake the activity, and who are not a leader or assistant leader for the activity. Dependent Participants are persons owed a duty of care by the activity provider who is reliant upon the activity leaders for supervision, guidance and instruction to support the person's participation. All participants are to be considered Dependent Participants for this activity. There will be a 1 active participant who will be attached by the Activity Leader.	Activity leaders should have or be able to demonstrate: • Core Good Practice Guide Leader General Competencies (Appendix M Core Good Practice Guide) • Specific competencies as outlined in the Challenge Course Good Practice Guide Appendix 9 Leaders may demonstrate their competency through any of the 4 recognised pathways: • Training Qualification and/or Training Course • Outdoor Sector and/or Organisation Accreditation Scheme • Leader Registration Schemes • Peer Recognition and Verification Process
Participant/Leader Ratios	
Ratio 1:20 + 1 School Staff Member (Assistant Leader) for school groups. Activity Leader is to provide Level 1 (Direct Supervision), Assistant Leader (school personnel) is to act as a responsible person and manage the behaviour of non-participants.	
Operational Procedures	Location: Lake Cooby
Participants are to be briefed by the facilitator of the expectations of the group. Linking in with their values discussed at the start of camp. The group then is run through what to expect and do that session, depending on the weather and ability of the group. Pre-Activity The psychological preparation of students is as important as the physical preparation, especially for students who are anxious about the activity. Under no circumstances should students be pressured by staff or peers to participate beyond their readiness. A challenge by choice should be used for all participants. They should all be encouraged to fit a harness in preparation for the activity, or at least to be part of the belay team. A safety brief is given and a demonstration of how to wear a harness and helmet correctly and how to use the carabiners and ropes safety. • All participants must wear appropriate clothing and be sun smart with sunscreen, hat, etc. Everyone is to wear a harness (and a helmet when required) for the session and is not to take it off unless instructed by the facilitator or at the end of the session as directed. The Activity Leader must visually check to ensure that the harness has been fitted correctly and that the attachment has been checked. • Once the facilitator is happy with the ability of the group they will begin the activity. During Activity • Participants must stay on the ground and wait at the tree until instructed to attach to the zipline.	

- The tow rope is coiled and is placed over the shoulder of the participant or the participant holds the rope in their hands.
- Once the participant has reached the opposite side of the zipline and as they begin to return, they are to drop the rope.
- The participants partner, who is waiting at the water slide, will take hold of the rope and tow their partner up the hill to the start tree.
- The participant is then detached by the activity leader.
- Once the participants have detached, the next participant can be attached to the zipline.
- There should be good communication between Leader and the participant and partner at all times.

Post Activity

All harnesses to be fully extended and placed into boxes for next session.

The facilitator will front load the participants before the debrief to think about how they may have improved on their values or maybe achieved a goal they set from them self or team before heading. They then will be challenged to apply those values/goals back at camp and home.

Weather

Effective planning requires access to up-to-date weather and fire information, which is generally available through newspapers, radio and television.

The most up-to-date information is available on the website of the Bureau of Meteorology at www.bom.gov.au/qld . Or

<http://www.eldersweather.com.au/qld/darling-downs/geham>

Equipment and Logistics

Equipment, whether hired, borrowed or owned by the school or students, must be in a safe condition and suitable for the activity

Belay Devices

Belaying devices must meet Australian standards. Devices must be in good working order.

Harnesses

Providers of artificial climbing and abseiling activities must refer to manufacturers and installers to establish appropriate operating parameters. These parameters must address the correct fitting and attachment of harnesses. The harness must also ensure the student or staff member will remain secure in the event of an inversion. Harnesses must be regularly checked and replaced, if necessary, with a recommended maximum life span of five years.

Helmets

Helmets which meet Australian standards must be worn by all students and staff using high elements and by those belaying or observing from below. Caps must not be worn under helmets.

Ropes

Ropes used on a challenge rope course must be used in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and meet Australian Standards.

Before the activity commences, an experienced staff member needs to inspect the ropes.

The ropes' history and maintenance needs to be logged and the ropes must be stored in a cool, dry place free from ultraviolet light, chemical or physical hazards.

Shoes

Participants must wear covered and firmly fitting shoes with a non-slip sole.

First aid kits

First aid kits appropriate to the location and level of training must be carried.

Rescue equipment

Rescue equipment specific to the ropes course must be accessible at all times..

Clothing

Clothing is the individual's primary protection against severe and variable weather conditions.

Clothing lists need to be appropriate for the activity, environment and season. Items which are recommended not to be taken or worn (such as jewelry or rings) should be identified.

Glasses or sunglasses should be secured and long hair tied back to avoid being caught in belay devices or other equipment. Loose jewelry must not be worn and rings should be taped if not removed. Items of jewelry or rings which students remove should be placed in a secure location so they do not get lost.

All objects should be removed from pockets before participating. Gloves may be appropriate on elements involving a dynamic belay.

To protect against sunburn use broad-spectrum, water-resistant SPF 30+ sunscreen on all exposed parts of the body, applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Students who own sunglasses should be encouraged to bring and wear them when required.

Identification

Staff and students must be easily identifiable.

Staff must determine the most suitable system/s of identification, based on the assessment of the environment, students' skills, the type of activities to be undertaken and the age and number of students.

Levels of Challenge and Possible Variations

Safety Considerations

Sun Safety

Sunburn is a risk for anyone who participates in outdoor activities, particularly in Queensland. Leaders should take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the likelihood of staff and participants suffering excessive sun exposure.

Weather

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Ensure all safety equipment is fitted correctly.
Ensure clear instructions are given to participants.
Ensure rope does not get tangled or caught when climbing up.
Ensure rope does not get caught on board platform.
If appropriate touch trapeze bar rather than grab to reduce risk of shoulder injury

Course construction and security

The construction of challenge ropes courses is an expert field and should be undertaken by qualified individuals and/or organisations specialising in the planning and construction of ropes courses.
Contractors must provide written confirmation that the materials, equipment and installation meet current industry requirements.
Staff must ensure that challenge ropes course elements are not accessible when unsupervised.

Maintenance

The owner of the course must carry out regular formal maintenance inspections which are fully documented and endorsed by an independent industry expert. Operators must be able to provide written evidence that a maintenance check has been conducted. Before each activity, the instructor should carry out a visual inspection of the course to ensure there are no obvious impediments to normal operation.

For more details please see corresponding RA

Emergency Management Procedure

- | | |
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| A | Assess situation, call emergency services, assist those in danger |
| E | Evacuate students, staff and visitors, if appropriate |
| I | Inform School Camp Leader onsite and off site, Camp Cooby Directors or Camp Manager if not onsite |
| O | Organise resources, advise parents |
| U | Undertake recovery operations and return site to normal |

Risk Assessment

Danger.	Risk Description	Risk Level.	Management Strategies.	Residual Risk Assessment – after Management Strategies.
Environment.				
Sun Exposure	Sunburn Dehydration Heat Exhaustion/ Stroke	M	Participants advised on appropriate clothing and equipment. Clothing with sleeves must be worn. Participants carry minimum of 3L water. Refill stops. Particular pointers to apply sunscreen to backs of hands and inside thighs. (recommended minimum +30) Regular rest stops. Encourage peer reminders and monitoring. Review weather conditions prior to the activity. www.bom.gov.au/qld . Or http://www.eldersweather.com.au/qld/darling-downs/geham Briefs and debriefs as well as team planning should be conducted in the shade where available.	L
Winds	Falling branches Falling trees.	S	Monitor winds before departure. Aggressive movement of trees nearby are an indication of thinking about strong management strategies or cancellation. No activity will take place during strong winds, or near dead trees, no pulling or swinging on trees. All dead trees & fallen branches will be monitored in initiative area. All dead trees and branches deemed a risk will be removed from the area.. Review weather conditions prior to the activity. www.bom.gov.au/qld . Or http://www.eldersweather.com.au/qld/darling-downs/geham Assess students' ability to cope with increasingly difficult wind conditions.	L
Rain	Wet Equipment Hypothermia Slips and trips	S	Review weather conditions prior to the activity. www.bom.gov.au/qld . Or http://www.eldersweather.com.au/qld/darling-downs/geham Pre-briefing and equipment list outlines appropriate clothing and wet weather gear. Participants are shown how to waterproof equipment. Group condition is monitored closely during wet weather. Group to be briefed on safe practice in wet conditions using extra caution. Students will wear firmly fitting, covered footwear with a non-slip sole. Participants will be instructed to be aware of the ground underfoot, & to avoid walking on damp/wet areas & to be aware of trees, branches & brambles, & not to run.	L

Bushfire	Burns Smoke Inhalation Death	H	Participants advised on appropriate clothing and equipment. Participants carry minimum of 3L water. Encourage peer reminders and monitoring. Review weather conditions prior to the activity. www.bom.gov.au/qld . Or http://www.eldersweather.com.au/qld/darling-downs/geham Aggressive heat waves are an indication of thinking about bush fire management strategies or cancellation. Fires may only be lit in specified areas. Fires should not be lit in windy conditions. Participants will be briefed on emergency procedures.	L
Dead Trees	Impact Injuries Canoe Damage	M	Participants are briefed about the dead trees and the likelihood of tree fall if hit. Participants are asked to care for equipment.	L
Steep Banks	Sprains & Strains	M	Appropriate path ways are chosen to avoid any difficulties. Students will wear firmly fitting, covered footwear with a non-slip sole.	L
Rubbish	Cut Feet Embedded Objects	S	Participants are expected to wear closed in shoes at all times.	L
Environmental Impact		M	Participants are to be briefed on specific environmental factors that concern Cooby Dam. Ensure rubbish is 'carried out'. Ensure that the designated landing areas are used and no landing zones are observed.	L
Wildlife		S	Participants are expected to wear closed in shoes at all times. Appropriate pathways are chosen to avoid potential wildlife Participants will be instructed to be aware of the ground underfoot, & to avoid walking through unmown areas & to be aware of trees, branches & brambles which may be home to various wildlife, & not to run. pathways are kept clear and mowed to ensure all wildlife can be seen and avoided. Participants will be instructed to give all wildlife a wide berth to avoid injury. Staff will inspect all activity areas prior to use to ensure no wildlife is in close proximity.	L
People.				

Zipline Activity Plan

Inexperienced	poorly fitted harness, resulting in soft tissue or skeletal injury	S	All participants will wear correctly fitted helmets and harnesses. These are to be checked at the start of the activity and throughout the activity, especially when a harness is removed or adjusted. Pre-activity planning will consider whether the planned zipline session matches the maturity and abilities of the group.	L
Poor Technique	Student does not run directly down the designated path and trips and falls	L	All participants are given explicit instructions regarding launching on the zipline. Participants may hold onto the attached cable lanyard, their harness or nothing. They must run directly down the designated path. They must then sit in the harness when their feet leave the ground. Retrieval rope will be looped and placed over the participants shoulder. This rope is to be dropped for retrieval.	L
Entrapment (equipment)	A student or staff member catches their hair, clothing or jewelry in equipment, causing injury or distress.	H	Staff will advise students that jewelry and rings must not be taken or worn, and suggest appropriate clothing (both in the pre-activity briefing and before the day of the activity). Staff will ensure that hair, clothing and jewelry are appropriately managed to avoid injury or mishap.	L
Fear / psychological damage	Student or staff freeze	H	If a person freezes on a high element it is normally possible to talk him through. As participants do not disembark at the end of the Zipline, they will be talked through the retrieval process rather than lowered from the element.	L
Inconsiderate Participants	Participants being inconsiderate of other participants resulting in soft tissue, skeletal or emotional injury / damage	M	Participants will be briefed on the risks associated with the activity. Inconsiderate participants will be removed from the activity. Staff will ensure safety procedures are met and will cease any ideas which may result in a participant's safety being jeopardised.	L
Allergies	Environmental triggers (pollens, dust)	H	Check medical information, be aware of possible triggers.	L
Equipment				
Faulty	Faulty equipment could result in further damage to equipment and increase risk of incident,	H	Staff will inspect all ropes equipment before and after activity. Trees and connections of the zipline cable must be checked prior to every use of the equipment. If the attachment bolt has been pulled and the safety cable is taut, then the element must NOT be used. Cable installer (Caldera) must be called to inspect the element. All equipment use will be logged. All equipment will be used and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Camp Staff are responsible for set up and pack down of all Zipline equipment. Personal protective equipment checked for correct fitting & monitored throughout activity by the instructor	L

Consequence					
Likelihood	Insignificant 1	Minor 2	Moderate 3	Major 4	Catastrophic 5
A (almost certain)	S	S	H	H	H
B (Likely)	M	S	S	H	H
C (Moderate)	L	M	S	H	H
D (unlikely)	L	L	M	S	H
E (rare)	L	L	M	S	S

Risk Level

H – High risk: e.g. likely or almost certain to occur, with at least moderate consequence – at least medical treatment required (See table below)

S – Significant risk

M – Moderate risk

L – Low risk

CONSEQUENCE RATING TABLE		
1	Insignificant	No injuries, No financial loss
2	Minor	First Aid treatment, Low financial loss
3	Moderate	Medical treatment required, Medium financial loss
4	Major	Extensive injuries, High financial loss
5	Catastrophic	Death, Major financial loss