

Risk Assessment: Flashpoint Swansea
Version 1.1
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For: Impact Route Setting



Method Statement

All route setters to read the following risk assessment and route setting policy and to be inducted by a competent Impact route setter. Route setters are expected to work to these standards at all times. If for any reason they are unable to work to these standards, route setters are expected to notify the Head Route Setter or an Impact Director immediately.

In the case of any 'grey area', route setters are advised to use their professional judgement and err on the side of caution at all times. It is incredibly important to understand that route setting dictates the safety of both route setters and the users of the climbing wall and this must be the defining factor in any professional decisions made.

Route setting is never done alone in the centre, there must always be someone else in the building that is capable of assisting an injured route setter and contacting the emergency services.

All setters are required to work to the standards laid out in the Working at Height Regulations (WAH). When boulder setting ropes are not required but ladders must be used appropriately as stated on the instructions. On top of this, when ladders are used the area directly underneath them should be kept clear if possible, the exception to this may be when stripping the bouldering walls as it is not practical to come down the ladder to remove every hold from the "fall zone" whilst stripping.

Ladders will be provided for use when setting. These ladders are checked regularly and conform to the manufacturer's standards. External Route Setters are expected to look after and regularly check their own PPE. Impact will provide all necessary equipment for their employed staff.

Route setters are expected to read and understand the following risk assessments before commencing work with Impact. Route setters must also have read, understood and signed the Impact Route Setting Policy before commencing work.

Impact Risk Assessments

In accordance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Impact carries out risk assessments of all activities that present a risk to their employees and visitors. These risk assessments are carried out in line with Health & Safety Executive guidance, recorded in a standard format, and kept with the relevant procedure. Impact provides a site specific Risk Assessment for each wall at which it manages the route setting. For each activity or operation, the following information is recorded:

- i. Description of the nature of the hazard.
- ii. Who is likely to be affected by a particular hazard?
- iii. Risk Factor. The risk factor is calculated for each hazard by multiplying the **Likelihood** of occurrence by the **Severity** of the outcome (**L x S**) gives a measure of the precautions necessary to minimise the risk. If the risk factor is greater than 10 then either additional precautions/training need to be put into place to reduce the risks below 10 or the activity or operation is not carried out.
 - The **likelihood** of occurrence (**L**), recorded on the following scale:
 - 1 Could occur but very rarely
 - 2 Could occur but rarely
 - 3 Could occur from time to time
 - 4 Likely to occur
 - 5 Likely to occur often
 - The **severity** of the outcome (**S**), recorded on the following scale:
 - 1 Slight inconvenience
 - 2 Minor injury requiring first aid
 - 3 Medical attention required
 - 4 Major injury leading to hospitalisation
 - 5 Fatality or serious injury leading to disability
- iv. Procedures are then written to ensure that the activity or operation is carried out in a way which minimises exposure to the risk.

Risk assessments are reviewed when things change, or when there is reason to believe that they are no longer valid.

Nature of Hazard	Who Affected	Risk Factor	Current Procedure
Fall from height	Route Setter	$2 \times 3 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ladders to be inspected before use and damage or possibility of excessive wear to be reported to centre manager and Impact directors. All setters to keep the area underneath ladders clear as much as possible during boulder sets (while stripping the boulders this may not be practical) . Ladders must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. When testing a sufficiently sized fall zone must be cleared. No testing is to be done without a clear fallzone.
Falling objects while setting	Route Setter	$2 \times 3 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All route setting areas to be cordoned off while setting is taking place. Route setters are not to work underneath each other and must leave a sufficient area around anyone working at height. The route setting cupboard has an appropriately strong hold storage rack. Holds at the top must be laid flat and not stacked so that they cannot fall off and cause injury.
Injury from hold washing	Route Setter	$2 \times 1 = 2$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone washing holds must receive an induction from a suitably qualified Impact Employee. The holds are usually washed with a pressure washer. Anyone operating the pressure washer should have done the Jet washer induction. To avoid injury there is PPE provided that must be used at all times. Pressure Washer PPE: goggles / safety spectacles (other PPE is not mandatory other than shoes/ boots).
Illness whilst route setting	Route Setter	$1 \times 4 = 4$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route Setters must not work alone in the building. There must always be someone else capable of rescuing on site. Duty Managers are first aid trained. First aid kits are kept on-site and well stocked

Injury from use of power cutting tools	Route Setter	$2 \times 4 = 8$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angle grinders are occasionally needed to smooth out broken screws or cut through bolts so that they do not create a hazard for customers. Use of an angle grinder should always be a last resort after attempting to use non-power tools to solve the issue. When a grinder must be used: Eye protectors must be used Gloves should be worn The grinder must be fitted with a guard A second member of staff must be present If working on a ladder staff must use it as the manufacturer recommends You must make yourself aware of the closest fire-fighting equipment and alarms before using the grinder
Injury from lifting heavy objects	Route Setter	$3 \times 2 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route setters are to not "overfill" baskets/crates.. All setters are required to read and understand HSE manual handling safety guidelines. Setters should team up to handle heavy creates or volumes. Sack truck or other trolley to be used where available. Steel toe capped shoes are not practical for route setting but closed shoes are required. Flip flops or sandals are not acceptable.
Spinning Holds	Users (Climbers)	3×2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent route setters to attach holds correctly All in-house route setters to receive sufficient training. All holds to be pinned. All boulders tested before being opened to public. Users warned of risk of spinning holds. Policy to fix (tighten) spinning holds or cordon off area where fixing is not possible.
Holds Falling Off Wall	Users (Climbers) & Setters	$2 \times 3 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freelance setters to view and agree to Impact Standard Operating Procedures In-house setters to receive adequate training on hold attachment. Guidelines on hold attachment taken from industry standard and best practice. Hold visually inspected whilst setting and damaged holds disposed of.
Volume detached from wall	Users (Climbers)	$2 \times 4 = 8$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition of volume checked before attachment Use adequate number of screws relative to size of volume based on manufacturer prepared attachment points Ensure screw holes are in good condition Volumes to be retired or repaired if deemed 'unsafe' by the Chief Setter.

Climber striking volume or hold	Users (Climbers)	$2 \times 4 = 8$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setters must consider placement of volumes and holds carefully to minimise risk of climbers falling onto them from above. • Section sign off to include checking that 'climbs are deemed safe' before being opened to public.
Finger Traps from gaps between holds	Users (Climbers)	$3 \times 2 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hold placements checked to ensure trapping hazards are avoided. • Extra care taken over blocking holds.
Sports Injury	Users (Climbers)	$4 \times 2 = 8$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setters should consider that they are setting within the safe climbing ability of users at each grade. • Routes clearly labelled with an indication of difficulty. • Setters should pay special attention to create secure climbing at the top of easier problems (V3 and below). • Setters should not set boulders with sequences likely to cause injury (e.g. heel-toe locks at height)
Snapped Screws	Setters and Users	$4 \times 2 = 8$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snapped screws to be removed from the wall with mole grips when possible. • Hammer or angle grinder used to flatten sharp edges of screw stub if it cannot be removed by mole grips. • Snapped screws marked with a long bolt in nearby T-nut if not able to be fixed immediately to ensure it is not forgotten or missed. • Visually inspection of walls for snapped screws during sign off procedure.

Site Specific Risks

Nature of Hazard	Who Affected	Risk Factor	Current Procedure
Holds placed in areas of wall where fall zones are not sufficient	Users (Climbers)	$2 \times 2 = 4$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No holds to be attached in areas where there are no t-nuts present. This is universal around all areas of the centre
Climbers unable to descend from the Top Out boulder	Users (Climbers)	$3 \times 2 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure a suitable downclimb is set on the slabby rear side of the boulder. Do not set other climbs in the same place as the downclimb
Falling from height when topping out	Users (Climbers)	$2 \times 3 = 6$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care should be taken to avoid crux moves on the highest section of the top out boulder (highlighted in Appendix 1). Climbs V3 and below should have secure hands and feet for this section, aiming for a top out which is at least 1 grade easier than the stated grade.

APPENDIX 1

