

AURAC SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019



Your witty caption here: _____

Updated: 17/09/2019

Introduction

From July 2015, the Auckland University Rock and Alpine Club (AURAC) is implementing a new safety management plan. The plan is aimed to facilitate safe practices on club climbing trips, prevent the misuse of club climbing gear and safeguard trip participants from serious injury.

AURAC is a volunteer run organisation, and our primary objective is to enable our members to get outdoors and go climbing! We love climbing and want to share that passion with you, our members. The club's committee and instructors are all giving their time to the club out of their passion for the sport, and many of us have busy lives with work and/or studying, so we really appreciate any feedback and assistance with making this club as great as it can be, all we ask for in return is your respect and understanding. All this awesome stuff doesn't happen by itself!

The safety management plan creates a system that integrates day to day operations of the club and helps committee members to work together and provide a safety net for club members. The club operations integrated into the safety management plan include:

- Technical skills accreditation
- Technical skills courses
- Gear lending
- Club trips

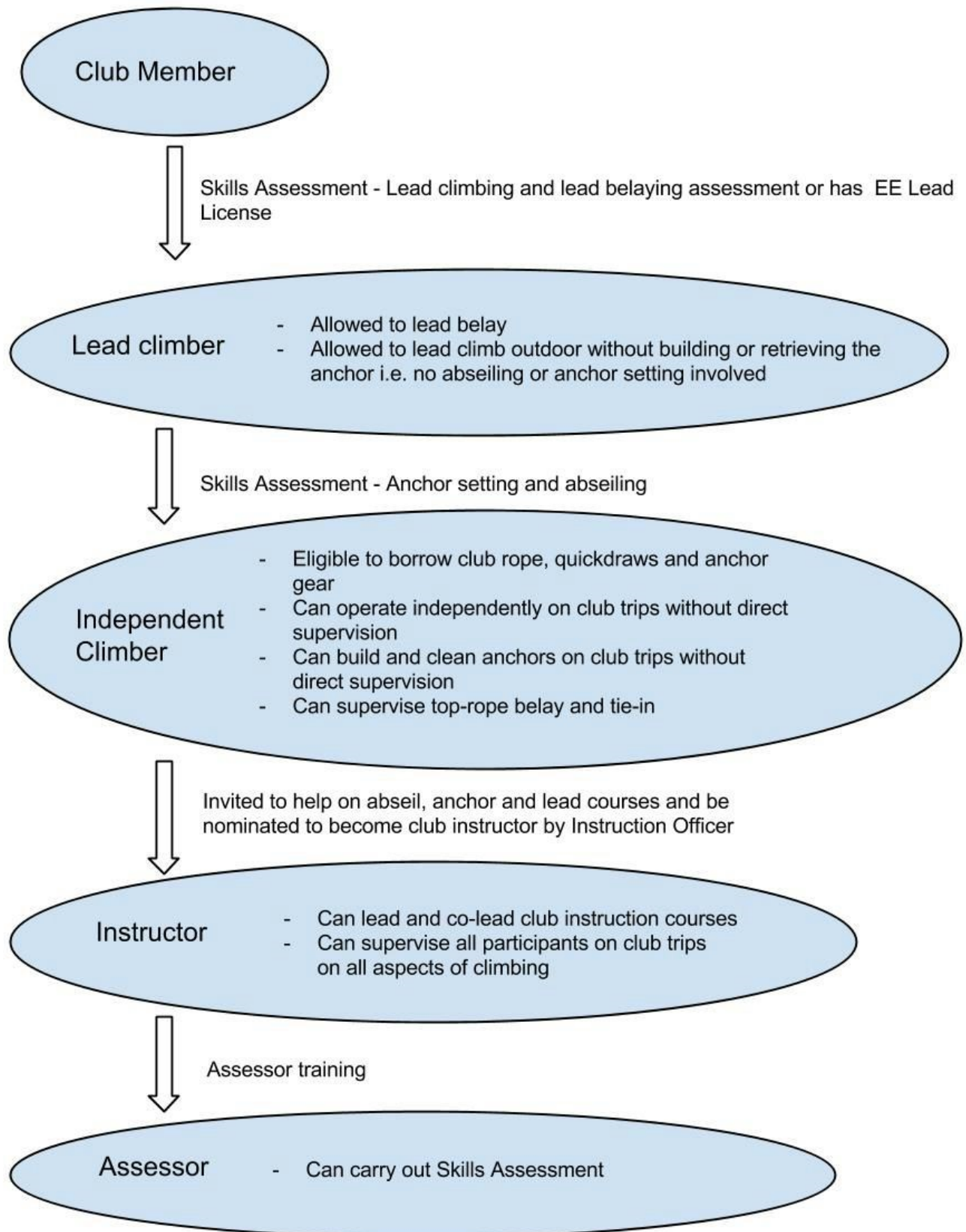
TECHNICAL SKILLS ACCREDITATION

Based on the technical skills which AURAC members possess, they can be accredited to four different skill levels — **Lead Climber**, **Independent Climber**, **Instructor** and **Assessor** — attained through the Skills Assessments and training. Each club member's eligibility to borrow gear, ability to supervise and assess will be based on his/her accredited skill level.

A club member without any accredited skill level needs supervision from a club instructor or assessor on all aspects of climbing such as top-rope belaying, lead belaying, lead climbing, setting anchors, cleaning anchors and abseiling on climbing trips etc. Also, un-accredited members cannot borrow club ropes, anchor gear or quickdraws.

On the next page is a diagram which explains the scope of each skill level and its accreditation process.

AURAC Technical Skills Accreditation Process



Skills Assessments Process

To be accredited as an AURAC Lead Climber a club member needs to attend and pass a **Lead Climbing and Lead Belaying Assessment**. To be accredited as an AURAC

Independent Climber a club member needs to attend and pass an **Anchor Setting and Abseiling Assessment** in addition to the respective Lead Climber assessment. Each assessment will normally take around 15 minutes and there is no prerequisite for attending any of the Skills Assessments. However, there are a few rules regarding the assessments:

- The assessment can only be conducted by an AURAC Assessor.
- The assessor can withhold the assessment result if the assessor feels there is need to consult the other club assessors regarding the assessment.
- The participant needs to pass every skill on the skills checklist to be able to pass the assessment. It is the participant's responsibility to be familiar with the skills checklist before attending an assessment.
- If the participant fails the assessment, a reassessment can be held after 24 hours.

Lead Climbing and Lead Belaying Assessment

Extreme Edge or Vertical Adventures Lead Licence: AURAC honours lead licenses from Extreme Edge and Vertical Adventures, so if you hold a licence from either you are automatically qualified as an AURAC Lead Climber with proof provided.

Doing an assessment at Birkenhead Leisure Centre: You can arrange an assessment with an AURAC assessor at Birkenhead Leisure Centre.

Doing an assessment on an outdoor climbing trip: You can also arrange an assessment with an AURAC assessor on a climbing trip.

**Demonstrate lead climbing on bolted rock climbs
Updated: 17/09/2019**

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1	Lead climb on single-pitch rock climbing routes with bolts and in-situ anchors.
Outcome 2	Belay a climber leading on bolts.

Summary of assessment activities

This is a Practical Skills Assessment.

Assessment conditions Practical skills assessment

- a. The time allowed for the whole practical assessment is one hour.
- b. You will be asked to perform tasks related to the skills you are being assessed on (refer to your assessment checklist).

Due date

The practical skills assessment will happen at least one day after learning all the skills covered in the learning outcomes.

Pass criteria

Students must be competent to pass the assessment, which means they must perform all criteria in the checklist to a standard deemed competent.

Reassessment criteria

If any of the skills are not demonstrated to the required standard, you will have the opportunity to resit your assessment after 24 hours.

Demonstrate lead climbing on bolted rock climbs
Updated: 16/06/2015 SKILLS CHECKLIST

Skills	RESULT (C/NYC)
1.1 Harness is worn and used according to manufacturer's guidelines.	
1.2 Tie-in method used is safe and remains fastened throughout the climb.	
1.3 Climbing calls are used with the climbing partner.	
1.4 Quickdraws and/or other clips are positioned and clipped to minimise the chance of them opening during a fall.	
1.5 Rope is clipped safely to prevent serious injury from falling.	
1.6 Rope is positioned correctly to prevent it from flipping the climber upside down.	
1.7 The descent is done in a way that minimises risk to equipment and other climbers.	
2.1 An appropriate belay device is used and set up correctly.	
2.2 The climber is spotted until the first bolt is clipped.	
2.3 Belay position is selected to avoid being pulled off balance or struck by a falling climber.	
2.4 Climbing calls ensure communication between the belayer and climber is clear.	
2.5 Belayer focuses on the climber at all times.	
2.6 Safe belay methods are demonstrated.	
2.7 The climber is belayed safely and smoothly while allowing freedom of movement.	
2.8 A safe and controlled lower of the climber is demonstrated.	

Anchor Setting and Abseiling Assessment

Doing an assessment at Wednesday club night: This is the preferred method. On climbing trips assessors are usually busy and might not have time to run an assessment. Come to club night on Wednesday and an assessor can do an assessment with you.

Doing an assessment on an outdoor climbing trips: If a club assessor is on the trip and has time, you can also be assessed outdoors.

Demonstrate the use of basic rope systems for top rope rock climbing and abseiling
Updated: 16/06/2015

ASSESSMENT PLAN

Learning Outcomes

Outcome 1	Demonstrate skills and an understanding of knots and harnesses.
Outcome 2	Demonstrate the setting up and operation of anchors and belays.
Outcome 3	Demonstrate descent techniques.

Summary of assessment activities

This is a Practical Skills Assessment.

Assessment conditions Practical skills assessment

- a. The time allowed for the practical assessment is one hour.
- b. You will be asked to perform tasks related to the skills you are being assessed on (refer to your assessment checklist).

Due date

The practical skills assessment will happen at least one day after learning the skills covered in the learning outcomes.

Pass criteria

Students must be competent to pass this assessment, which means they must perform all criteria in the skills checklist to a standard deemed competent.

Reassessment criteria

If any of the skills are not completed to the required standard you will have the opportunity to resit your assessment after 24 hours.

Demonstrate the use of basic rope systems for top rope rock climbing and abseiling Updated: 16/06/2015 SKILLS CHECKLIST

Skills	RESULT (C/NYC)
1.1 Climber is able to connect two ends of tape with a tape knot and two ends of prussic cord with a double fisherman's knot.	
1.2 Harness is fitted correctly.	
2.1 Climbing calls are used with the climbing partner.	
2.2 Personal safety is maintained at all times when constructing anchors.	
2.3 Top-rope anchors are linked safely and efficiently with appropriate load sharing.	
2.4 Top-rope anchors are constructed appropriate for the site to avoid damage to rope, slings and carabiners.	
3.1 Personal safety is maintained at all times when setting up an abseil.	
3.2 A safe abseil is set up directly on the anchor bolts and the rope can be retrieved after the abseil.	
3.3 Climbing rope is secured at all times when setting up an abseil.	
3.4 Common hazards of abseiling are identified and managed during the abseil.	
3.5 Checks for the abseil setup are performed before disconnecting personal safety from the anchor.	
3.6 A self-protected abseil is demonstrated.	
3.7 Abseil techniques used are appropriate to the abseil.	

TECHNICAL SKILLS COURSES

AURAC organises a series of courses that teach skills including abseiling, anchor setting, lead climbing, trad climbing, multi-pitch climbing, self-rescue, outdoor first-aid and alpine climbing.

It is club policy that casual instruction by non-club instructors is discouraged on club trips. AURAC encourages members to attend club run courses in order to learn the best practice in a controlled environment from approved club instructors.

Abseil Course, Anchor Setting Course and Lead Climbing Course: These three courses cover all the skills for Skills Assessments and are essential for becoming a competent outdoor climber. There is no prerequisite for these courses and they can be done in any order.

Trad Course: This is a two day course that teaches all aspects of traditional climbing. Members who complete the course can borrow club trad gear. Only Independent Climbers or above can attend this course.

Multi-Pitch Course: This is a half day course usually run on a club trip. It teaches essential skills to lead and descend multi-pitch climbs. Only Independent Climbers or above can attend this course.

Self-Rescue Workshop: This workshop aims to teach how to rescue a stuck or injured climber from up or down a climb, whether single pitch or multi-pitch. It is usually run before university holidays and only Independent Climbers or above can attend this course.

Outdoor First-Aid Course: AURAC organizes a two-day outdoor first aid course based on demand with an approved first-aid provider. There is no prerequisite to attend this course.

Snow Schools: Each year AURAC and AUTC organise multiple Beginner Snow Schools and one Advanced Snow School under the Alpine Agreement. Sign-up details for these courses are advertised by Alpine Officer usually two months before inter-semester break.

GEAR LENDING

AURAC has a lot of climbing gear for members to borrow free of charge. Use of club gear is a privilege not a right, and the club asks that members acknowledge this and use the gear with care and respect. To ensure the safety of club members, the club officers need to know:

- That people who borrow the gear know how to use it safely.
- The intended use of the gear.
- The history of the gear used.
- That club gear is used by club members only.
- Whether the gear is returned promptly.

The new safety plan will restrict the lending of certain technical gear to accredited members only. How the new lending system works is explained below.

General Climbing Gear:

This includes climbing shoes, harnesses, helmets, belay devices, personal safety slings, and carabiners to go with the belay device and safety sling.

This gear can be borrowed by all AURAC members.

Step 1: Contact the AURAC Gear Officer via email 72 hours **before the time you intend to pick-up the gear**. Clearly state the gear you would like to borrow, including details like shoe size.

It is unlikely you will get the gear if you contact the Gear Officer less than 48 hours before the intended pick up time.

Step 2: Wait for a reply from the Gear Officer to arrange a pick-up time and location.

Step 3: Pick up gear and arrange a time to return the borrowed gear with Gear Officer.

Step 4: Promptly return gear after use and let the Gear Officer know if there is any damage to the gear. You won't need to pay for the damage if it is legitimate wear and tear. E.g. holes in climbing shoes, stitches on harness ripping, carabiners having deep grooves, ATCs having a sharp edge.

Technical Gear:

This include ropes, quickdraws, anchor slings, and carabiners for anchors.

- This gear listed can be borrowed by Independent Climbers or above ONLY.
- It is compulsory for the borrower to state to the Gear Officer another club member who is a Lead Climber or above who is belaying on the trip in order to be able to borrow technical gear.
- An online Gear And Trip Intentions Form needs to be filled out for the climbing trip before embarking on the trip.

Step 1: Contact the AURAC Gear Officer via email 72 hours **before the time you intend to pick-up the gear**. Clearly state the gear you would like to borrow and who your belayer is.

It is unlikely you will get the gear if you contact the Gear Officer less than 48 hours before the intended pick up time.

Step 2: Wait for a reply from the Gear Officer to arrange a pick-up time and location.

Step 3: Pick up gear and arrange a time to return the borrowed gear with the Gear Officer.

Step 4: Fill in the online intentions form before going on the climbing trip. The link for the intentions form is on AURAC website www.aurac.org.nz

Step 5: Promptly return the gear after use and let the Gear Officer know if there is any damage to the gear. You won't need to pay for the damage if it is legitimate wear and tear. Fill in an Incident Form on www.aurac.org.nz if needed.

CLUB TRIPS

A club trip is defined as: Whenever club technical gear is used for a climbing session. This includes ropes, quickdraws, anchor slings and anchor carabiners.

Any club member in the club can organise a club trip. However there are logistics to organising a club trip for a large group of club members so please consult a committee member or an experienced club member if you are interested in organising one.

A few tasks need to be done when organising a club trip:

Arrange gear borrowing with the gear officer:

The details are in the Gear Lending Section of this document.

Complete a Gear and Trip Intentions Form before the trip:

The form can be filled in online at the AURAC website at www.aurac.org.nz

Print out a Safety Card for the intended crag and take it with you on the trip: Safety cards can be downloaded from the AURAC website www.aurac.org.nz. Each card is specific for each climbing area, it has information on access, facilities, communication methods, courtesy, closest medical centres, emergency contacts and first-aid. It is invaluable for dealing with emergencies on a trip.

Fill out an incident form after the trip if there is a major incident during the trip: The form can be filled out online at the AURAC website www.aurac.org.nz. Any incidents involving health and safety, behaviour, gear, facilities, or environment — the committee would like to know about it. The more the committee knows about what happens on trips, the more they can do to improve safety for club members.



Updates:

- 17 September 2019: Specify that lead licences from Vertical Adventures (formerly known as Extreme Edge Glen Eden) are accepted.