

# Risk Assessment Activity – Giant Swing

Pioneer Centre	Assessed by: James Kniffen	Assessed/Reviewed:	Next Review Date
		10/01/2023	12/12/2026
		07/01/2025	
Reviewed by:	Assist Chief: Max Bishop		12/12/2026
Reviewed by:	Senior Instructors: Andrew Evrard, Joseph Page, Steph McMenemy, Kieren Plant & Ronan Halpenny Lead Instructors: Rebecca Arms	Dec 2025	

**Overview:** Giant Swing was purpose built by JM Adventures (approved contractor) March 2020. The Giant Swing is 11-meter giant swing and is suitable for participants between 20kg and 120kg. Trained staff do a visual check at the beginning of the day, when used, to ensure all equipment and elements are in good working order. There is annual independent inspection by High Times Ltd. A quarterly inspection of the structure is carried out by trained staff and recorded. All the equipment inspection procedures are established and overseen by the Chief instructor who is a qualified Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor (WMCI). Staff are in-house trained and assessed. Preferred Staff to Client ratio 2:12 and a maximum of 2:16 under supervision (under instruction when being clipped in, hoisted up and released for the swing instructor/participant 1:1/1:2/1:3). All instructors are first aid trained and emergency procedures are in place in case of a major accident.

Hazards	Groups of People at Risk from the Hazards Identified	Probability	Control Measures – Reduces the severity and lowers the probability to acceptable levels
		Severity	
Structural Failure	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very unlikely	Giant Swing structure was built by approved contractors, and external annual inspections are carried out and any issues and guidance given is sorted and followed. Quarterly structural checks are carried out. Structure built of a suitable material.
		Fatal	
		Medium	
Falling objects	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Helmets are worn by anyone in the area when activities are being delivered or maintenance is being done and guests briefed on how to stand if objects fall to protect themselves. The guests advised to remove things from pockets or have them stored safely in zipped pockets. Safe areas clearly marked, with a physical barrier (fence) for the swing path in place.
		Major	
		Medium	
		Unlikely	

Unauthorized access to the Giant Swing	Instructors, staff, guest/participants and general public	Fatal	When not being used on session the ladders are removed and padlocked away. Also, elements required to use the swing are packed away or removed.
		Medium	
Slips, trips and falls	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Maintenance of the site is carried out by the activities and maintenance team. Instructors visually check the area upon arrival. General brief and group management are provided by instructors to ensure play is safe. Gravel base suitable for activity. Solid and stable platform for accessing the swing bar.
		Minor	
		Medium	
Swinging on the bar or climbing access poles without being clipped into the bar or secured with belay	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	A trained instructor is present during the session and is the only person to clip the participants into the bar and who secures a secondary safety connection. The instructor checks the harness and helmet before participants are connected to the swing bar. When not in use ladders and swing stored away by securing them to a fixed-point using locks and tightened maillons.
		Fatal	
		High	
Pulley/hoist system locking up/jamming	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Very Unlikely	Visual inspection before use is done to ensure smooth running of the pulley/hoisting system. Safe securing of the pulling rope system enables access to unjam or unlock pulley system. Staff trained on use and locking and unlocking capture device.
		Major	
		Medium	
Finger caught in pulley	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	Staff are trained in safe practice and will make clear to participants how to handle and use the rope pulley system and monitor and correct use to prevent fingers being caught in the pulley system.
		Major	
		Medium	
Over raising swing which could lead to incorrect use and injury (damage elements, equipment that could lead to other issues and compromise safety)	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely	Staff are trained at max height for raising participants. They will monitor the hoisting team and progress of the swing. If raised too high staff are trained in how to lower the swing to the right height.
		Major	
		High	
Equipment failure / malfunction	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely	PPE and other equipment visually checked before use, and a further bimonthly check takes place to ensure the equipment is in good order. Any suspected equipment is immediately taken out of use and possibly replaced if deemed damaged or worn to access. Quarterly inspections of the structure and its elements are carried out and recorded and an annual independent inspection is carried out and issues raised followed up on and remedied.
		Major	
		Medium	
Physiological effects	Guest/participants	Unlikely	Instructors are aware of the group's needs and medical issues. Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participants' choices and be sensitive to participants' reactions to the activity they are invited to participate in. Control on when to release is left with participants and

			stopping the swing and then slowly lowering can be done by instructors if needed due to participants changing their minds about doing the swing.
Stress / Panic Attack	Guest/participants	Unlikely Major or traumatizing Medium	Challenge by choice brief is given and instructors will respect participants' choices. Instructors will err on the side of caution if participants start to panic or have strong emotional reaction to the activity the instructors will react quickly to ensure the level of stress is brought back down to acceptable level. This should help ensure the activity runs well for all those involved.
Medical issues – pregnant, heart complaint, spinal injury or weak spine or medical conditions that could be exacerbated by the swing	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely Major Medium	Instructors check medical sheets to see if any participants cannot take part in the swing due to sitting in a harness and medical issues (exacerbate medical conditions). Any participants with heart or spinal issues or are pregnant will not be allowed to participant in the swing.
Long Hair/Loose clothing caught in elements of the activity and causing harm	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely Major Medium	Instructors to ensure participants tie their hair back and loose clothing removed or zipped up before participants start the activity.
Obstacle, including platform or participants in the swing path / area	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Likely Major High	Instructors to brief on where to stand and highlight areas that participants are not allowed to go. The area is clearly marked with a safety fence. Activity is stopped if public/guests or participants access the swing path when swing is being operated e.g. people on the swing. Platform is moved out of the swing path prior to commencing the pulley system. Participants are not allowed to touch or hold the pulley system until an instructor has safely clipped in participants and moved platform and secured it via chain and carabiner to the pole that is clear of the swing path.
Human error- in correct clipping of the harness to bar	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely Fatal High	Staff are appropriately trained and monitored, and two points of connection are used to help ensure participants are clipped in before being hoisted up to height.
Swing equipment straps and connector	Guest/participants	Unlikely Minor	Straps/slings have been made stiff with plastic tubes to prevent them and connectors hitting participants. If an issue of it hitting participants arises then

hitting participants		Low	the instructor will default to operate with two (adults only as the issues doesn't occur with kids) on the outsides of the swing bar, leaving the middle space clear (slings and connector path of travel when release).
Tracer cord getting wrapped around limbs of swing participants	Guest/participants	Unlikely Major Medium	Instructors to monitor cord and taken in slack and clip in to dedicated maillon /pole near the pulley/rope system which helps keep the cord clear of participant's limbs.
Weather hazards – including lightning, and strong winds	Instructors, staff and guest/participants	Unlikely Major Medium	All participants are briefed on proper clothing for the current weather conditions. Instructors are issued appropriate PPE, waterproof jacket, warm layers, and gloves to use for activity delivery.  The swing will not be used, or sessions cancelled in the event of thunder & lightning (activities can resume 30mins after last thunder sound was heard) and/or winds gusts above 40/45mph (senior staff may reassess and end sessions below this level or may let continue if direction is suitable and hazards are managed). Also, further control measures under the Adverse Weather Risk Assessment are to help with environmental hazards.