**AXE THROWING**

REFERENCE No RA001

**ASSESSOR Alan Whiteley 14 July 2017**

The safety procedures and risk assessment are based on the assumption that the participants in the activity are of average ability. Before commencing the activity the instructor will assess the participant and will make any allowances necessary to cover such things as disability. The safety level must not be compromised, but steps will be taken to ensure that those less able can take a full enjoyable and active part in the activity

**Instructor** Only Castle Training Services Staff who have been trained and approved, and have proved competent in throwing techniques. All staff must prove that they have attended regular updates and keep an up to date log. If possible be a member of KATTA (Knife, Axe, Tomahawk Throwing Association).

**Qualifications necessary** Knowledge of dangers of activity

**Ratio Instructor/Participants** **1:10**

**Protective Equipment** Normal outdoor clothing suitable for the prevailing weather conditions should be worn. Sun block if approved by parent/guardian, or clothing to prevent sunburn. Loose clothing should be removed or securely tucked in. Shoes must be suitable for the activity.

**Restrictions** Must be 8 years minimum age, and physically suitable for this type of activity

The following safety precautions will be undertaken by the instructor before each session

**To make sure this activity is as safe as possible, only 3 people on the range at a time, fixed wall. MAXIMUM 4 throwers on mobiles targets (1 thrower per target) if there is room. Once the range has people ready to throw, there must be no access to anybody else apart from Castle Training Service Staff.**

**If people are waiting, the next set of throwers can be allowed in to the administration area only, there they can be taken through the safety sheet/ disclaimer and instruction on throwing. All other people are to Que up on the outside of the safety fence away from the throwing area.**

* The instructor(s) will monitor each person on a one to one basis, as far as is practical and offer warnings when appropriate.
* The instructor/s will make periodic checks to ensure that the course/activity is suitable for the age and ability of the participants.
* Participants will be made aware of the dangers of trip hazards, wet mossy areas, uneven ground etc. and therefore to proceed with caution when they see them.
* The staff will ensure that the course is free from any natural hazards such as stinging nettles brambles, low hanging branches etc. and any objects likely to cause injury such as glass, faeces or sharp objects
* The area must be securely fenced off, in particular the area behind and at the sides of the targets must be secure enough to prevent any persons wandering into the danger zone. The distance from the throwing line to the rear fence must be greater than the distance a competent adult can throw an axe. There should be only one single access route
* Targets, perimeter fencing and axes will be checked before each session. Any faulty equipment will be marked as such and must be removed
* All participants to be assessed with ‘dummy axes’ prior to using real axes and trained in the method of use. If in doubt of the participant’s ability, then they will not be allowed to throw.

The test we use is to give the young person 3 tennis balls and they must be able to hit the target 2 out of 3, they can be given 2 goes. If unable to hit target or the instructor feels that they cannot control their throw then they will not be able to throw axes

* The throwing line should be far enough back to prevent injury caused by axe bouncing back. 10 feet for angels (mini axes) 14 feet for hawks.
* Axes will not be retrieved until the instructor is sure that all axes have been thrown
* Axes should be sheaved when not in use and should be removed during breaks and after the activity
* Participants and those waiting will be told of the need to act in a suitable manner [no jostling, pushing or horseplay]. If necessary extra staff will be necessary to control those waiting or they will be told to return at a later time. They must at all times remain well away from the throwing area.
* Participants should be shown how to carry axes
* A demonstration of the method will be done if thought necessary by the instructor.

NAME OF ACTIVITY **AXE THROWING** REF No RA001

SCORE up to **5** risk acceptable [lower if possible] ~ **6 to 10** risks should be reduced if possible ~ over **12** risk unacceptable

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Describe Hazard, Hazardous event & possible harm | Persons at Risk | Existing safety measures | Likelihood x Severity | Additional controls required | New rating |
|  |  |  | L  | S | L/M/H |  |  |
| Uneven or wet groundResulting in Slips, Trips and falls causing possible bruising, bumps possible fractures. | Participants & Staff | Area checked before commencement. Participants warned of danger, Supervision | 1 | 3 | **1 x 3 = 3****LOW** | If bad weather and the site is deemed unsafe then activity stops until area is made safe |  |
| Setting up throwing wall, wood falling over while been fixed in place, causing bruising and minor injuries, cuts/ bumps  | StaffParticipantsAnd anybody in the area | Safety work area marked out with security fencing. Only castle staff to erect wallWall to be storm staked down |  |  | **3 x 3 = 9****Med** | 2 panels to fixed together then next placed and then 4th panel.If strong winds, lay down wall  | **2 x 3 = 6****Med** |
| Manual handling of rounds/stands and equipment box, causing muscular skeleton disorders |  | 2 people to lift large roundsCareful lifting of tri podsManual handling trainingTrolleyWarm up before setting up range | 3 | 3 | **3 x 3 = 9****Med** |  | **2 x 3 = 6****Med** |
| Dropping equipment causing foot or leg injury | Staff or anybody assisting | Manual handling trainingCarry only one piece at a timeStaff to wear strong boots | 3 | 3 | **3 x 3 = 9****Med** | Toe camp boots2 people to set up range | **2 x 2 = 4****Low** |
| Cutting of fingers on fixing bolts | Staff | To check fixing each time the tri pod is set up. Damaged fixing reported and replaced. | 3 | 2 | **3 x 2 = 6****Med** |  | **1 x 2 =2****Low** |
| Trip hazard from the safety line. | Participants & staff | Safety talk, Everybody to walk and not runRegulator reminders | 3 | 3 | **3 x 3 = 9****Med** | Make sure line is level, use paint if practical for surface | **1 x 3 = 3** **LOW** |
| Toxocariasis ~ blindness (dog dirt) | Participants& Staff | Area to be checked by a member of staffBefore set up,Disposable GlovesBags. | 1 | 5 | **1 x 5 = 5 MED** |  |  |
| Horseplay & unruliness causing major injury, cuts, bruising etc | Participant’s Staffspectators | Safety talk be instructor about behaviourAny messing around participants to leave the area immediately  | 2 | 4 | **2 x 4 = 8 MED** | Constant observation of throwing areaRegular breaksWarning signs | **2 x 2 = 4****LOW** |
| Environmental conditions causing sun burn or hypothermia  | ParticipantsStaff | Suitable clothing, sunblock, SupervisionPop up shelter | 1 | 3 | **1 x 3 = 3 LOW** | Hot and cold drinks available Spare sun cream |  |
|  Hit by miss fired /rebound axeAxe missing target causing  severe injury, major cuts, bruising | ParticipantsStaffspectators | Fenced off area, suitable to the area been used. First aid kitAll staff trained in first aidAll blades to be sheaved if available or locked in a suitable box when not in use | 3 | 5 | **3 x 5 = 15** **HIGH** | Constant safety checks on bladesHourly fence checkSpare fencing and poles | **1 x 5 = 5****LOW** |
| Cut by axe/knifes when handling the equipmentCausing minor injurySmall cuts mainly fingers | Participant’sStaff | All equipment checked before useParticipant’s warned of sharp areasIf bur is found, instructor to file smooth and check. | 3 | 2 | **3 x 2 = 6 MED** | Tool box, file.Gloves | **1 x 2 = 2****LOW** |
| Mobile Targets falling over causing injuries to feet/ legsCuts bruising possible fractures | Participant’sStaff | All equipment to be spot checked throughout the event, if targets need anchoring they will be pegged on each leg Participants to hold target with one hand and pull axe with other to steady target | 3 | 3 | **3 x 3= 9****MED** | Paracord, pegs, weights Remind participants each time the remove axes | **1 x 3 = 3****LOW** |

Assessor: Alan Whiteley Date: 14/7/17

To be reviewed after each session and amendments attached to another sheet if necessary.