

Sport Climbing Endorsement



Photo: Michael Zysman

Assessment Guide For Assessors and Candidates

Assessment Notes

This Assessment Guide is to assist assessors with judging a candidates competency. All judgements must be based on current best practice and industry standards. This guide is also to help candidates know what they will be assessed on and what assessment tasks they will be asked to complete.

Assessors use 2 types of direct evidence to judge a candidates competency:

- Observation of practical tasks.
- Questioning and discussion.

Technical Competence

1. Describe sport climbing history and ethics.

The candidate will be able to describe and discuss:

- The development of sport climbing and current developments and trends.
- The NZ Alpine Club Code of Conduct for Rock Climbers.
- Any ethical issues for climbing areas visited e.g. use of top ropes, bolts, pegs, chalk, aid, modification of the climb/rock-chipping, cleaning, gardening, pruning.

2. Demonstrate the care and correct use of sport climbing gear and equipment.

The candidate will:

- Use equipment that is in good condition, well maintained and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current best practice.
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of current equipment used for sport climbing and reasons for choice e.g. dynamic rope, karabiner types, belay devices, quickdraws, daisy chains.
- Complete a pre-activity check of equipment and describe how to identify worn equipment e.g. surface wear of ropes and harnesses, internal damage to ropes, wear and stress to metal of karabiners and belay/abseil devices, wear and stress to helmets, recommended maximum life for use of equipment.
- Describe the types of fixed protection commonly used at sport climbing venues in New Zealand.

3. Demonstrate efficient and safe lead climbing techniques on bolts.

The candidate will climb a grade 16 bolted route without falling or hanging and demonstrate:

- Leading the climb and leaving it set up for top roping.
- Clearing a sport route after top rope use.
- The climbing moves and techniques required for a participant to complete a grade 16 sport route.

4. Demonstrate efficient and safe belaying technique.

The candidate will demonstrate:

- Systematic checking before the climber leaves the ground.
- Clear communication with a lead climber including anticipating the climber's movement and paying out and taking in the rope as required.
- Lowering the climber safely, smoothly and efficiently.

The Environment

5. Role model accepted environmental practices.

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate and/or describe the responsibilities to the site, land owners and other users, including access protocols and issues.
- Understand and work within the specific rules and regulations of indoor/artificial climbing venues/facilities.
- Role model the NZ Alpine Club Code of Conduct for Rock Climbers.
- Role model Leave No Trace principles and/or the New Zealand Environmental Care Code.

6. Demonstrate cultural and environmental knowledge and information about climbing sites visited.

The candidate will be able to describe and discuss and/or provide information about:

Indoor or artificial climbing walls

- An overview of the background of the indoor/artificial facility.

Outdoor climbing venues

- The natural and cultural history of the area.
- The geology of the climbing site.
- Local flora and fauna.

Group Management and Leadership

7. Plan and prepare a lead climbing experience.

The candidate will prepare a written risk management or activity management plan which:

- Identifies any hazards of the climbing site and the risk management strategies to minimise or avoid the impact of these identified hazards.
- Contains a relevant weather forecast and identifies any implications of the weather forecast for the planned session.
- Outlines emergency procedures.

8. Lead and manage a group during a lead climbing session.

The candidate will be responsible for a group during a lead climbing session using fixed protection and demonstrate:

- Effective group briefing including setting boundaries/safe areas and ground rules.
- Coaching, encouraging, motivating participants to ensure they are interested engaged and have a fun and positive experience.
- Supervising and coaching climbers and belayers.
- Establishing rapport with participants and have an awareness of the emotional, cultural and other needs of the group.

9. Apply effective safety management.

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate checking the climbing routes used for hazards e.g. loose rocks, unsafe bolts, and loose holds.
- Be able to identify and manage areas of risk on the climbing route e.g. placing draws, extending runners, and clipping the first bolt.
- Use an effective communication and checking system with participants during the climbing sessions.
- Have a first aid kit and be able to deal with first aid situations as required.
- Never compromise their personal safety or the safety of their participants.
- Demonstrate safe practices and good judgment and decision making within the scope of this qualification.

Instruction

10. Instruct the sport climbing skills required a positive, educational and safe experience.

The candidate will provide participants with effective instruction in the following skills:

- Fitting and checking of harnesses and helmets.
- Bouldering activities and spotting.
- Climbing movement.
- Efficient and safe belaying of a lead climber, including clear communication between belayer and climber using agreed calls and systematic checking before the climber leaves the ground.
- Efficient and safe clipping of bolts while lead climbing.
- Efficient and safe transitions from climbing to descending at the top of the climb e.g. lowering, abseiling.
- Abseiling with self-protection.

The candidate will use:

- A logical sequence of teaching progressions.
- Clear demonstrations and explanations.

11. Prepare and deliver a teaching session.

The candidate will prepare and deliver a teaching session on any given topic or skill contained in the NZOIA Sport Climbing Instructor (Endorsement) Assessment Guide which demonstrates:

- A range of teaching skills e.g. introduction, appropriate voice, language and body language, teaching/visual aids, demonstrations, evaluation of learning.
- A wide knowledge of the topic.

- Creating a positive learning environment which encourages enthusiasm, interest and learning.