



Nets Course Treetop Tots – Risk Assessment

Originally written by: Dan Short / Phil Latham April 2018

Most recently edited by: January 2019

Authorised by: Mike Turner January 2019

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Risk Likelihood	Risk Consequence	Control Measure
Weather				
Cold and wet conditions	Participants and staff	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational staff to check that all participants have suitable footwear and clothing before starting. Operational staff to check participants are warm enough throughout their session Session will be rescheduled and participants informed if weather is unsuitable Sessions kept to 1 hour duration to reduce chance of participants becoming cold
Lightning / storms	All	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational staff will cease operation during a lightning storm and evacuate the course via the correct safety procedures (and check forecast for likelihood before commencing the activity) Course is only to be re-opened 30 minutes after last thunder/lightning observed and once the DM /CC on the day have made an assessment of the course and conditions. Ground checks to be completed before re-opening the course. Operational staff to check weather forecast prior to opening the course and raise awareness of anything that might be of concern for the day. On the occasions where lightning is forecast, trained staff will inform customers during the brief about the possibility of course evacuation and the procedure (in brief).
Wind	Participants and staff	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities to cease when wind is determined to compromise safety. Enhanced vigilance to take place when wind speed is above 25MPH. Course to be closed if wind is 40MPH+. If a tree limb breaks which is believed to compromise the safety of the course the course is to be shut immediately until branch removed or deemed safe enough to re-open.
Equipment				
Trapped hair, clothing ,jewellery, pacifiers	Participants	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational staff are to be vigilant checking that hair is tied back and make sure there is no clothing and jewellery that may cause injury to the participant, and brief the individual accordingly. If rings cannot be removed they shall be taped up. Participating adults to be briefed not to use pacifiers with their children when on The Nets These rules are also clearly stated at reception, on signs, on the acknowledgement of risk form, booking terms and conditions and website.
Faulty equipment	All	M	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment is checked and replaced where necessary i.e. damaged or contaminated. <p>To prevent damage to Nets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Smoking, eating or drinking in the Nets No use of chemicals near Nets. Chemicals used on site to be PH neutral.

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Risk Likelihood	Risk Consequence	Control Measure
Incorrectly maintained equipment	Participants and staff	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The equipment shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer guidance at designated intervals. Course checks are regularly done by trained staff. Course checks are carried out daily before opening by trained staff and logged accordingly
Tree / pole / equipment vandalism	All	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual course checks shall be made before use each day. For more information, refer to the opening checks procedure in the Staff manual
Entrapment	Participants and staff	M	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course designed to minimise risk of entrapment Operational staff monitor participant use and address any rule breaking appropriately Operational staff are made aware of the risk and have access to cutting equipment if necessary. (Safety scissors only) Participants are briefed on how to use the Nets safely and to be dressed appropriate for the activity The use of the slides and the slide area is prohibited during Treetot Nets sessions. The use of all climbing towers, crawl tunnels and the relevant pad is prohibited during Treetot Nets sessions
Operations				
Suitability of customers to participate with the activity	Participants	M	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who does not have the correct footwear (e.g. sandals) or clothing that may lead to a slip or a trip will not be allowed onto the course. Tots session exclusive to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years old and supervising/participating adult Maximum weight of 16 stone / 100kg. Scales are provided. Information provided at reception, on signs, on the Acknowledgment of Risk form and website. Any customer suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to take part in activity and given a full refund. Where a customer requires the assistance of another to take part – in accordance with our access statement – we will permit the 'helper' to take part free of charge. If a customer is unable to take part through limited ability / mobility and is unable to provide a 'helper' they may be refused access on to the course. Adult to child ratio 1:1 for any children under 3. 1:3 for other children. Staff may make a dynamic risk assessment for a mixed party ie 1 under 3 year old and 1 five year old child with one parent.
Falling objects	All	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational staff will brief participants instructing them to remove loose or heavy items and handbags prior to starting the session or making sure they are secured safely within pockets. For designated staff carrying out maintenance tasks at height tools must be attached to the instructor via a lanyard. No maintenance tasks to be carried out during Treetot Nets session
Falling from any part of course including Treehouse	Participants and staff	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treehouses closed for Treetop Tot sessions
Somersaults and Inversion tricks	Participants	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants are briefed to never do somersaults or inversion tricks in the nets
Customer collisions in the nets	Participants	H	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session capacity is not to be exceeded to ensure plenty of space on the nets Session is for under 5 years old only Customer behaviour is monitored by Staff on the ground Adults to not bounce. Safety brief to include information on risk of collisions
Customer collisions in tunnels and slides				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers are briefed not to use tunnels and slides during Treetot sessions

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Risk Likelihood	Risk Consequence	Control Measure
De-hydration	Participants	H	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A free water station is provided for customers Staying hydrated is highlighted in the Instructor briefing
Customer abrasions	Participants	H	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers are strongly recommended to cover arms and legs Customers who bring 1 -5 year olds who have arms and legs that are not covered are strongly recommended not to take part in Treetot sessions
Customer serious accidents in the nets	Participants	L	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Aid and a stretcher are located in the office. In the event of a serious accident trained staff can exit customers on a stretcher to the ground using standard customer entrance and exit points Good access to site entrance at all times
Customer serious accidents in a tunnel	Participants	L	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to Tot sessions are briefed not to use Slides, Tunnels and Climbing sections of The Nets Staff to cordon off Slide Area during Tot session
Falls accessing or exiting the Crows Nest	Participants and staff	M	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are briefed that the Crows Nest is out of bounds during Tot sessions A member of TTN staff is supervising area at all times
Unauthorised access and unauthorised use of the equipment	Public	H	H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone wishing to enter the secure net area must enter through the office and be signed in by the receptionist. All participants will be issued with a high visible wrist band; patrol staff will monitor entrance to nets to ensure all signed in participants can enter the nets. Spectators will be issued with a different colour wrist band. Whilst not in use the office shall be locked and the area has security fencing and CCTV Anyone deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs are not permitted access onto the course. Clear signage will be displayed at all entrance and access points advising of the risk and instructing not to enter unless with authorised supervision.
Other				
Tree / deadfall	All	M	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All course trees have been checked prior to building the course by a qualified arboricultural expert. All course trees are inspected annually by an arboriculturalist and a written report of these inspections is to be kept. All course trees are visually checked daily, during opening checks for loose and broken branches that may become dislodged and fall. Deadwood likely to fall onto the course should be removed to prevent injury. Operational staff to be aware of the general condition of trees and take particular care after high winds to check for damage or hung up branches.
Tripping & Slipping	All	H	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational staff to brief participants about a general risk of trip hazards prior to entering activity site. Treetop Nets Acknowledgment of Risk form, Signs, and website clearly forewarn participants to the risks. First aid supplies are available with at least one trained first aider on site. Number of participants reduced to ensure congestion is kept to a minimum,
Food waste Human waste	All	M	L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants briefed not to take food or drink into The Nets Participants informed during brief of nearest baby changing facility Affected area of Nets temporarily cordoned off and cleaned by TTN staff using protective clothing and appropriate cleaning equipment/materials. All cleaning chemicals to PH neutral.
Fire	All	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strictly no smoking or open fires on all Treetop sites (e.g. barbeques) Course to be immediately evacuated in the event of a fire Evac practice during Nets Training. Fire alarm and evac practice monthly.
Evacuation and Rescue	All	L	VH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the brief, Instructors will explain the '3 blasts on a whistle' system. Stop bouncing, stay where you are and an instructor will let you know what to do. No clothing and hair to be worn that could cause entrapment (monitored at reception and briefing) Evac practice during Nets Training for all Nets Staff. Monthly Evac practice including stretcher (EMERGENCY SERVICE VISITS TO ALL SITES)

Level	Risk Likelihood	Risk Consequence
VL = Very Low	Very unlikely to happen.	Injury very insignificant i.e. splinters
L = Low	Unlikely to happen.	Injury fairly minor, i.e. minor cut, graze, bruising.
M = Medium	Moderate chance of accident happening	Injury would stop casualty continuing with task
H = High	Quite likely to happen.	Serious injury requiring medical assistance, i.e broken bones, deep cut.
VH = Very Height	Likelihood will happen.	Very serious injury or possible fatality.

NOTES

1. Instructor Training – Treetop Nets instructors must pass through a full training and assessment programme, following ERCA and the UK ropes course guide guidelines where appropriate. Prior to training candidates are selected if they can demonstrate they have the requisite aptitude and experience. They then undergo training in safety instruction and procedures, operational limits on the use of the course, course inspections, emergency operations, health and safety and customer management.

Only instructors with the correct aptitude are selected for additional training in rope rescue techniques.

Full time instructors are First Aid trained.

2. The Review Process. Treetop Nets risk assessments are thoroughly reviewed annually. The risk assessments are also dynamically reviewed when it is suspected that the assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change. In addition, they will be thoroughly reviewed annually.

3. Operational Procedures. Individual site guidelines will be issued in addition to the assessment.