

Hardrock Lead Climbing Rules



All prospective lead climbers must have completed a **hardrock** Rock Climbing Agreement Form and a **hardrock** Top-rope Safety Check.

Lead climbers and belayers must complete all relevant forms and pass a **hardrock** Lead Climbing Assessment before participating in lead climbing.

Lead climbers will be issued with a **hardrock** Lead Pass.

This must be clearly displayed on both the climbers and belayers harness at all times.

Equipment

- Harnesses must be of a 'sit harness' style, and must be designed for lead climbing.
- Lead rope must be 'single' and 'dynamic' with a minimum length of 40 metres.
- Only in-situ quickdraws are to be used.
- Only manual belay devices of the *belay plate* or *tube* style (eg. ATC, Reverso) are permitted. *Assisted braking* style devices (eg. Gri Gri, Eddy, Sum, Cinch), Friction knots (such as Italian or Munter hitch) and 'Figure 8' style descending devices are not permitted for belaying. Belay devices must be suited to the rope.
- The belayer's karabiner must be a 'pear shaped' HMS karabiner.
- The belayer is permitted to anchor into the floor; however during the Lead Climbing Assessment use of a floor anchor is not permitted.

Communication

- The climber and belayer must communicate effectively with each other.
- Lead climbers must complete a buddy check on each other to ensure that all equipment is correctly fitted and attached.

Climber

- The climber must tie in using a rethreaded figure-of-eight knot with a stopper.
- The rope should be threaded through the harness as per the manufacture's recommendations.
- The climber must clip all quickdraws appropriate for each climb.
- Each quickdraw must be clipped correctly and from a safe position.
- Climbers must show good rope management whilst on the wall. Ideally the climber should never come between the rope and the wall.
- The climber must lower to the ground in a safe manner with regard to the safety of other wall users.
- Top roping on lead ropes is not permitted unless under the direct supervision of a Hardrock instructor.

Belayer

- Belayers must use proper rope management skills. Specifically the rope should be 'flaked' out in an appropriate position to belay, and not obstructing other patrons.
- The rope must be passed through the belay device correctly (according to the manufacturer's instructions for that device).
- The karabiner attaching the belay device to the harness must be attached and orientated correctly (as per the instructions from the harness and belay device manufacturer).
- The belayer must spot the climber until they clip the first quickdraw.
- The belayer should stand in a safe position. This should never be directly below the climber or more than 2 metres from the bottom of the climb.
- The belayer should feed out rope smoothly and safely, not impeding the movement of the climber.
- The belayer must constantly have the brake rope in a firm, full-handed grip.
- The belayer must maintain a stable position to safely catch a fall.
- Whilst lowering the climber both hands must be gripping the brake rope and the climber's descent must be at an appropriate speed.
- The rope must be retrieved from the belayer's end.