

## **SCOUTS NSW BRANCH ROCK-RELATED ACTIVITIES POLICY**

### **1 PHILOSOPHY**

A policy and guidelines for the conduct of activities involving the use of rock faces, caves, canyons (or the like) is required for the following reasons:

- 1.1 There is inherent risk in these activities.
- 1.2 Leaders in Scouting need to be made aware of risks and of the ways of reducing hazards to acceptable levels.
- 1.3 It needs to be emphasised to all persons associated with the activity that the most important factors in ensuring safety in rock-related activities is adequate leadership and observance of safety principles.
- 1.4 The need to conserve the environment and maintain the name of Scouting at a high level.

### **2 PRINCIPLES**

- 2.1 Control of all activities defined in this Policy shall be vested in the Chief Commissioner.
- 2.2 Authority for the control of all activities defined in this Policy shall normally be delegated to the Branch Commissioner (Activities).
- 2.3 The promotion and administration shall be vested in a Branch Advisory Committee, Rock-Related Activities: - BAC (Rock).

### **3 APPLICATION**

- 3.1 This Policy shall apply to all of the following activities whether such are utilising natural or artificial 'rock' faces:
  - a. Abseiling
  - b. Canyoning
  - c. Caving
  - d. Rockclimbing
  - e. Any combination of the above
  - f. Any other such activities, which by nature of the safety aspects involved may be so defined, with the exception of commercially conducted rock-related activities run by persons or organisations outside the Scout Association.
- 3.2 This policy shall not apply to commercially conducted activities, run by persons or organisations outside the Scout Association.
- 3.3 Before participation in any commercially conducted rock-related activities, the policy on Prohibited Activities and the guidelines on Commercially Run Activities should be considered.

### **4 OPERATION**

#### **4.1 Branch Advisory Committee (Rock-Related Activities)**

- 4.1.1 The BAC (Rock) shall be appointed by the Chief Commissioner, shall report to the Branch Commissioner (Activities), and shall normally consist of the following:
  - (a) The Branch Commissioner (Activities) or nominee.
  - (b) A Chairman.
  - (c) The Regional Coordinator (Rock-Related Activities) from each Region within the Branch.

- (d) The Warden or Manager of any Activity Centre specifically established for a purpose that is the subject of this Policy.
- (e) Other co-opted persons as the Chief Commissioner may approve from time to time.
- (f) A non-voting Adviser to the Chairman.
- (g) Branch Rover Council Nominee.
- (h) An elected delegate from the Rover Speleological Society.

4.1.2 Appointments to the BAC (Rock) shall be for a period not exceeding three years. Such appointments may be renewed for further terms if recommended by the Branch Commissioner (Activities).

4.1.3 The BAC (Rock) is to:

- (a) Promote and administer the activities covered by this Policy within the Branch,
- (b) Determine the appointment process of Instructors for the activities covered under this Policy,
- (c) Regularly review this Policy, schedule to this Policy, and guidelines, and to community expectations using Sport and Recreation Training Packages,
- (d) Represent the Branch in dealings with the public, the authorities and other similar interest groups on technical matters relating to this Policy,
- (e) Reflect at all times the Association's interest and responsibility in all aspects of the activities covered by this Policy.

4.1.4 Sub-Committees may be formed when required to assist the BAC (Rock) to review technical standards, safety and/or training.

## **4.2 Equipment**

All equipment used in Rock-Related Activities by members of the NSW Branch, must meet or exceed the relevant Union Internationale Alpinisme Association's standard and/or relevant Australian Standard.

## **4.3 Regional Coordinator Rock Related Activities (if appointed by Regional Commissioner Activities)**

4.3.1 The RCRRA is to promote, administer, and regulate the activities covered by this Policy within the Region.

4.3.2 Recommendation, to the Regional Commissioner Activities, of appointments under this Policy, shall only be authorised by the RCRRA upon the recommendation of:

- (a) Two Instructors for the appointment of an Instructor; or
- (b) Two Instructors for Leader level appointment; or
- (c) One Instructor for any other appointment;

4.3.3 The RCRRA is to maintain a record of all past and current certificates and appointments issued within the Region.

4.3.4 The RCRRA may recommend endorsement of any certificate with any conditions, limitations or restrictions deemed appropriate and may cancel or suspend any certificate or recommend to the Regional Commissioner Activities the suspension of any Leader appointments while practices relating to this Policy are being conducted in a manner considered to be unsafe or contrary to this Policy. A cancellation or suspension of a certificate shall be effective

immediately the holder is notified in writing. Appeal against such cancellation or suspension should be forwarded in writing to the Regional Commissioner.

- 4.3.5 All certificates for activities covered by the Policy shall be limited to three year's currency from the date of qualification. The validity of certificates may be extended for a further period of up to three years by the RCRRA who may require the holder to successfully participate in a re-qualification activity at which changes in technique and/or practice are reviewed. Similar renewal may occur for successive periods.
- 4.3.6 The RCRRA shall advise the Regional Commissioner Activities if he is not able to consciously support the views and recommendations of RRRAC (if appointed).

#### **4.4 Regional Rock-Related Activities Committee (RRRAC) (if appointed by the Regional Commissioner Activities)**

- 4.4.1 The RRRAC is to actively assist the RCRRA in the conduct of his duties.
- 4.4.2 The RRRAC shall recommend to the RCRRA on all matters relating to appointments and the issue of certificates under this Policy.
- 4.4.3 The RRRAC shall consist of:
  - (a) The RC (Activities) or his representative.
  - (b) The RCRRA (Chairman).
  - (c) Instructors in Rock-Related Activities within the Region.
  - (d) Any other person co-opted by the Regional Commissioner Activities.

#### **4.5 BRANCH ACTIVITY CENTRE'S, FORMATIONS ATTACHED TO BRANCH AND BRANCH TEAM MEMBERS**

- 4.5.1 Branch Activity Centres and formations attached to Branch (e.g. Lones) and Branch Team Members shall be responsible to the Branch Commissioner Activities, if they wish to conduct Rock-Related Activities.
- 4.5.2 Appointment of Instructors, and approval of conduct of Rock-Related Activities shall be the responsibility of the Branch Commissioner Activities.
- 4.5.3 Appointment of Instructors is to be made by the Branch Commissioner Activities on the recommendation of two Instructors and a Regional Commissioner Activities or the Branch Commissioner Activities. All Activity Centre Instructors are responsible directly to the Branch Commissioner Activities.
- 4.5.4 All appointments made for staff at these Centres will carry Schedule B activities

### **5 QUALIFICATIONS**

**5.1** The requirements for qualifications to the varying levels of competency in the activities covered by this Policy are contained in Schedule A to this Policy.

**5.2** The following qualifications are included:

- a) Basic Rock Skills
- b) Abseiler
- c) Abseil Leader
- d) Abseil Instructor
- e) 1) Canyonier (Horizontal)  
2) Canyonier (Vertical)
- f) 1) Canyoning Leader (Horizontal)

- 2) Canyoning Leader (Vertical)
- g) 1) Canyoning Instructor (Horizontal)  
2) Canyoning Instructor (Vertical)
- h) 1) Caver (Horizontal)  
2) Caver (Vertical)
- i) 1) Caving Leader (Horizontal)  
2) Caving Leader (Vertical)
- j) 1) Caving Instructor (Horizontal)  
2) Caving Instructor (Vertical)
- k) Rock Climber
- l) Rock Climbing Leader
- m) Rock Climbing Instructor
- n) Other levels of qualification for other rock-related activities may be included from time to time.

**5.3** Satisfactory completion of the requirements for 'Basic Rock Skills' level shall be a prerequisite to all activity qualifications covered by this Policy

**5.4** The following requirements for Leaders and Instructors shall be applicable to all activities covered by this Policy in addition to any technical requirement for that qualification contained in Schedule A.

**5.4.1 Leader**

- a) Have met the requirements for qualification at the basic Level for the specific activity;
- b) Have demonstrated to two Instructors and to the satisfaction of the RCRRA the necessary skill, technique, maturity and common sense to safely lead in the specific activity, and a knowledge of accident recovery procedures and has taken part in an accident recovery exercise to their satisfaction;
- c) Know the advantages, disadvantages and technical characteristics of ropes and other equipment used in the specific activity and can competently examine it for faults;
- d) Have current Approved First Aid competency .

**5.4.2 Instructor**

- a) Have met the requirements for qualification at Leader level of the specific activity;
- b) Have demonstrated to two Instructors and to the satisfaction of the RCRRA the necessary skill, technique, maturity, common sense and instructional ability to teach and supervise the specific activity and the knowledge and have demonstrated initiative to safely and speedily effect the recovery of a stranded or injured person; and hold an RTO qualification in instruction delivery or equivalent.
- c) Demonstrate a competency in Risk Management.

**6 NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

Where appointment at Instructor or Assessor levels are for the purpose of delivery of National Training courses, criteria for National appointment will also apply.

**7 CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES**

- 7.1 The minimum party size for the normal safety of groups undertaking any expedition away from civilisation, shall be five, one of whom must be an appropriately qualified Leader. Special provisions may be required for individual facets of this Policy.
- 7.2 The qualified person responsible for a rock-related activity must ensure that all members of the party have appropriate experience, qualification, equipment, mental attitude, and physical ability prior to the activity being undertaken.
- 7.3 In all cases, rock-related activities must be approved under the standard approval procedure applying to activities within the Branch and Region.
- 7.4 Under no circumstances are 'stunt' methods to be conducted. These high-risk methods have no place in an activity where safety is the first consideration. 'Stunt' methods may be defined by the BAC (Rock) or RCRRA as necessary from time to time.
- 7.5 Members of all Sections or Leaders may participate in limited forms of rock-related activities. The requirement for such limited participation is set out in Schedule B and such is intended for use in familiarisation situations to interest participants in that activity.
- 7.6 Members of the Joey Scout Section shall not be permitted to participate in the activities covered by this Policy unless specifically authorized by the Chief Commissioner.
- 7.7 The wearing of a correctly fitting, four point attachment, safety helmet (eg climbing helmet) is required for participants in rock-related activities. Industrial type helmets may be worn in situations where the participant is not at risk of falling (e.g. horizontal caving).

#### **7.8 Abseiling**

The following shall apply to all abseiling carried out as part of any activities covered by this Policy:

- 7.8.1 No unqualified person may abseil unless under the direct supervision of a qualified instructor and then only in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.
- 7.8.2 No Abseiler may abseil unless under the supervision of an Abseil Leader or Instructor.
- 7.8.3 An Abseil Leader may only supervise abseiling activities with participants who are qualified as Abseilers.
- 7.8.4 Official abseiling logbooks should be signed at the time of the activity by an Abseiling Leader, or Abseiling Instructor, as a record of abseiling undertaken by a particular person.
- 7.8.5 In general, all abseiling activities involving multiple pitch descents to be under the control of an Abseil Instructor. The RCRRA may give the approval for an abseiling activity involving rebelay descents to be under the control of an Abseil Leader. In such cases any conditions or limitations on the approval shall be stated in writing.

#### **7.9 Caving**

- 7.9.1 In general, all caving trips shall be under the control of a Caving Instructor. The RCRRA may give approval for a caving activity to be under the control of a Caving Leader. In such cases, any conditions or limitations on the approval shall be stated in writing.
- 7.9.2 Official caving logbooks should to be signed at the time of the activity by a Caving Instructor or Caving Leader, as a record of caving undertaken by a particular person.

#### **7.10 Rock Climbing**

- 7.10.1 In general, all rock climbing activities shall be under the control of a Rock climbing Instructor. The RCRRA may give approval for a rock climbing activity

to be under the control of a Rock climbing Leader. In such cases, any conditions or limitations on the approval shall be stated in writing.

- 7.10.2 Official rock climbing logbooks should be signed at the time of the activity by a Rock climbing Leader, or Rock climbing Instructor, as a record of rock climbing undertaken by a particular person.
- 7.10.3 The minimum number of climbers working together on a rock face shall be two.
- 7.10.4 No unqualified person may rock climb unless under the direct supervision of a qualified instructor and then only in accordance with the provisions of this Policy.

## **7.11 Canyoning**

- 7.11.1 Canyoning shall be considered an activity under this Policy if it involves the passage down a valley where hand lines may be required (HORIZONTAL CANYONING). If abseiling is necessary either as means of entering, exiting or traversing the canyon it is considered a VERTICAL CANYON.
- 7.11.2 In general, all canyoning activities shall be under the control of a Canyoning Instructor. The RCRRA may give approval for a canyoning activity to be under the control of a Canyoning Leader. In such cases, any conditions or limitations on the approval shall be stated in writing.
- 7.11.3 Official canyoning logbooks should be signed at the time of the activity by a Canyoning Leader, or Canyoning Instructor, as a record of canyoning undertaken by a particular person.

## **7.12 Rescue and First Aid Equipment**

The leader of the activity must ensure that the relevant approved rescue and first aid equipment is available at the activity site.

## **SCHEDULE A – ROCK GUIDELINES**

### **1 QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **1.1 Basic Rock Skills**

##### 1.1.1 General

- a) Satisfactory completion of Basic Rock Skills Level is a prerequisite for all rock qualifications.
- b) Participants in the Basic Rock Skills Level of instruction must be under the direct supervision of an Instructor who shall ensure that all theoretical knowledge has been understood by the participant prior to any activity at or near the rock face being affected.
- c) Activities involving belaying [e.g. crate stacking] minimum requirement an Abseiling Instructor to be in charge. Consideration to be given to inversion in event of a fall.

##### 1.1.2 Requirements

- a) Know and understand the basic precautions applicable to rock-related activities.
- b) Be fully conversant with the standard communication terms and procedures.
- c) Tie without error and demonstrate the uses of the following knots:
  - 1. Figure Eight Loops
  - 2. Double Fisherman's
  - 3. Prussick
  - 4. Tape
  - 5. Alpine Butterfly
  - 6. Plus any other knots specified by the BAC (Rock) from time to time.

1.1.3 Know how to take care of equipment used in rock-related activities. Understand the inherent damage caused to synthetic rope by fast abseiling, lack of care on rocks and prolonged exposure to strong sunlight, chemicals, etc. Demonstrate how to examine a rope for damage and how to coil it.

1.1.5 Show application of the Australian Scout Environment Charter in the care of all sites where activities are conducted.

1.1.6 Demonstrate how to set up an abseil rope and explain the necessary precautions taken in doing so. Know the dangers inherent in using trees and vegetation as anchor and belay points.

1.1.7 Establish a safe belay and be able to competently belay an abseiler.

#### **1.2 Abseiling**

##### 1.2.1 Abseiler

- a) Have successfully completed Basic Rock Skills.
- b) Demonstrate how to abseil by three methods.
- c) Have logged at least 20 abseils totalling a minimum of 400 metres under varying conditions.
- d) Demonstrate ability to Prussick.
- e) Is restricted to single 50m pitches unless under direct control of an Abseil Instructor.

- 1.2.2 Abseil Leader (See also General Requirements for Leader)
- a) Have satisfactorily completed the Abseiler level of instruction.
  - b) Have at least 12 months experience as an Abseiler or otherwise at the discretion of RRRAC.
  - c) Have undergone training belays with a weight of at least 60kg.
- 1.2.3 Abseil Instructor (See also General Requirements for Instructors)
- (a) Demonstrate ability to cross a rebelay.

### 1.3 Caving

#### 1.3.1.1 Caver (Horizontal)

- a) Have satisfactorily completed the Basic Rock Skills level of instruction.
- b) Have knowledge of the basic personal equipment necessary for caving trips - clothing, boots, helmet, lights, and first aid kits.
- c) Know the rules of conservation and good behaviour applicable to caving.
- d) Understand formations and phenomena of caves.
- e) After first satisfying the above requirements gain five hours' experience underground.

#### 1.3.1.2 Caver (Vertical)

- a) Meet all the requirements for Caver (**Horizontal**)
- b) Have satisfactorily completed the Abseiler level of qualification.

#### 1.3.2.1 Caving Leader (Horizontal) (See also General Requirements for Leader)

- a) Produce logs showing evidence of experience in horizontal systems. While no firm minimum number of hours' experience is set, it is unlikely that a caver with less than fifteen hours logged underground or 3 separate trips would receive approval as a Caving Leader (**Horizontal**).
- b) Produce a detailed report on a cave visited and has knowledge of cave formation and cave mapping interpretation.
- c) Under the guidance of a qualified Caving Instructor (**Horizontal**), lead into two different caves for a total of at least five hours.
- d) Must be able to rig and use a top belay using a 'Munter Hitch' or equivalent.

#### 1.3.2.2 Caving Leader (Vertical)

- a) Meet all the requirements for Caving Leader (**Horizontal**)
- b) Must hold Abseil Leader qualifications
- c) Produce logs showing evidence of experience in both horizontal and vertical systems. While no firm minimum number of hours' experience is set, it is unlikely that a caver with less than forty hours logged underground would receive approval as a Caving Leader (**Vertical**).
- d) Under the supervision of a Caving Instructor (**Vertical**):
  - set up mechanical belays.
  - set up a ladder with appropriate safety measures and show ability to climb a ladder without difficulty.
  - hold a falling 60kg weight on belay.
- e) Demonstrate a basic ability in top rope climbing.

1.3.3.1 **Caving Instructor (Horizontal)** (See also General Requirements for Instructors).

a) Have a minimum of 20 hours of caving experience in at least two geographically different areas.

b) Participate in, either individually or as part of a small group, a project on an aspect of caving approved by RCRRRA.

1.3.3.2 **Caving Instructor (Vertical)** (See also General Requirements for Instructors).

a) Meet all the requirements for Caving Leader (Vertical)

b) Meet all the requirements for Caving Instructor (Horizontal)

c) Must hold Abseil Instructor qualifications.

## 1.4 **Rockclimbing**

1.4.1 **Rock Climber**

a) Have satisfactorily completed the Abseiler level of instruction.

b) Have undergone appropriate theoretical and practical instruction in rock climbing principles and procedures, particularly in belaying technique.

c) Know the dangers inherent in using trees and vegetation as belay points or handholds and be able to establish a safe belay and be able to competently belay leaders and climbers.

d) Have undergone training belays with suitable weights up to 60kg and have efficiently arrested a number of weights in practice drops.

e) Have logged a minimum of five climbs of grade 8 or higher and totaling a minimum of 300 metres over not less than two instructional weekends.

1.4.2 **Rockclimbing Leader** (See also General Requirements for Leaders)

a) Understand the principles and use of Leader belays and the associated problems of rope drag, traverses, etc, and be familiar with the forces likely to be experienced in the various parts of the belay chain if a Leader falls and know the weakest part of the system.

b) Have led at least five climbs of Grade 8 or higher and have taken part in a Grade 12 climb and at least five double pitch (or more) climbs. Total logged climbing experience should be not less than 1,000 metres.

c) Demonstrate the use of prussicks and know the various types of ascending devices currently in use together with their attendant advantages and problems if any.

d) Understand the need to belay an injured or sick climber on an abseil.

e) Have an understanding of rock compositions and strengths, their inherent dangers of fracture and the consequent need to adopt appropriate techniques and safeguards.

1.4.3 **Rockclimbing Instructor** (See also General Requirements for Instructors)

a) Demonstrate ability to cross a rebelay.

## 1.5 **Canyoning**

1.5.1 **Canyoner**

a) Have satisfactorily completed the Abseiler level.

b) Can swim and stay afloat or tread water for 5 minutes in jumper, shorts, and sandals.

c) Be familiar with the dangers of hypothermia and swimming in extremely cold water.

d) Have gained experience in at least three different canyons requiring abseiling to the satisfaction of RCRRRA.

1.5.2.1 **Canyoning Leader (Horizontal)** (See also General Requirements for Leaders)

a) Be able to competently navigate in rugged terrain and demonstrate a knowledge of canyon systems.

b) Be familiar with the weather pattern within the area that it is intended to enter and be aware of the dangers and potential of flash flooding in the area.

c) Must be able to rig and use a top belay using a 'Munter Hitch' or equivalent.

1.5.2.2 **Canyoning Leader (Vertical)**

a) Must hold Canyoner qualification.

b) Must hold Abseil Leader qualifications.

c) Meet all the requirements for Canyoning Leader (Horizontal)

1.5.3.1 **Canyoning Instructor (Horizontal)** (See also General Requirements for Instructors)

a) Must hold Canyoning Leader (Horizontal) qualifications.

b) Demonstrate how to set up a belay and safety line.

1.5.3.2 **Canyoning Instructor (Vertical)**

a) Must hold Canyoning Leader (Vertical) qualifications.

b) Must hold Abseil Instructor qualifications.

c) Meet all the requirements for Canyoning Instructor (Horizontal)

d) Demonstrate ability to cross a rebelay.

## SCHEDULE B

### FAMILIARISATION OF ROCK RELATED ACTIVITIES:

#### No Qualifications Issued

## 1 GENERAL

- 1.1 Scouting should encompass as wide a range of outdoor activities as possible but within the legal and moral constraints of the Association's policies.
- 1.2 Rock-related activities pose an inherent danger to life! Therefore, NSW Branch Policies have been formulated and implemented to minimise risk in rock-related activities while maximising enjoyment and participation by its members.
- 1.3 Schedule B of the NSW Branch Rock-Related Activities Policy allows members of the Cub Scout, Scout, Venturer Scout, Rover Sections as well as Leaders to undertake and enjoy a limited experience of abseiling, caving, canyoning and rock climbing.
- 1.4 However, several conditions exist that restrict the 'familiarisation' of such activities. These conditions are:
  - 1.4.1 The activity must be under the direct control of an appropriately qualified instructor.
  - 1.4.2 A Leader from the Cub Scout Section must be present when Cub Scouts are participating in the activity.
  - 1.4.3 There must be no more than 10 people per instructor undertaking the activity.
  - 1.4.4 For Cub Scout activities the Cub Scout: adult ratio must not exceed 6:1.
  - 1.4.5 Preliminary Instruction

The instruction before the commencement of the activity must include the following:

    - a) Basic safety precautions applicable to rock activities;
    - b) Standard communication terms and procedures;
    - c) Care of equipment including ropes and hardware etc;
    - d) The dangers of using natural (trees and rocks) and artificial (friends and chocks) anchor points; and
    - e) Care of the site by implementing the Scout Environment Code.
  - 1.4.6 The extent and limitations of the activity.

## 2 ABSEILING

The instructor is to demonstrate how to abseil using one mechanical device; the participants are to abseil using a single pitch (20m for Scouts, 8m for Cub Scouts); and the activity must be under direct control of an Abseiling Instructor. Cub Scouts must be belayed by a person qualified in "Basic Rock Skills".

**Joey Scouts MAY participate in abseiling activities, must be belayed by an Instructor, wear a full body harness or a chest harness connected to the waist harness provided the angle of incline does not exceed 70 degrees from the horizontal (no overhangs), distance does not exceed 4 metres and accompanied by an Activity Leader on an adjacent rope. Supervision ratio of 1:1 required.**

## 3 CAVING

Pre-instruction is also to include the fields of personal equipment, conservation rules in caving and of good caving behaviour. Participants are to cave only in horizontal caves where no abseiling or using caving ladders of the 'Bonwick' design is involved. The activity must be under the direct control of a Caving Instructor. Cub Scouts may cave for no more

than 2 hours' duration. Party size must not exceed 8 in total, 2 Leaders, 1 of whom must be a Caving Instructor. Joey Scouts MAY NOT participate in caving activities.

#### **4 CANYONING**

Participants can swim and stay afloat or tread water for 5 minutes in jumper, shorts and sandshoes. They must be familiar with the dangers of hypothermia and swimming in extremely cold water. The activity must be under the direct control of a Canyoning Instructor. They must only use canyons where no climbing is required and where abseiling is required a Canyoning Instructor (Vertical) must be present and there should be no more than 3 abseils (one abseil of 15m for Scouts). Joey Scouts and Cub Scouts MAY NOT participate in canyoning activities.

#### **5 ROCKCLIMBING**

The instructor is to instruct and demonstrate the rock climbing principles and procedures, particularly in belaying. The activity is limited to single pitches of no more than 15m (8m for Cub Scouts). Rock climbing may be under the control of a qualified instructor in any discipline as all participants must be top belayed. Cub Scouts must be belayed by a person qualified in "Basic Rock Skills". Joey Scouts MAY NOT participate in rockclimbing activities.

## Alterations to previous Guidelines and there locations

### Change # 1 – done 15 November 2008

#### 4.5 Branch Activity Centre's, Formations Attached to Branch and Branch Team Members

4.5.1 Branch Activity Centres and formations attached to Branch (e.g. Lones) **and Branch Team Members** shall be responsible to the **Branch Commissioner Activities**, if they wish to conduct Rock-Related Activities.

4.5.2 Appointment of Instructors, and approval of conduct of Rock-Related Activities shall be the responsibility of the **Branch Commissioner Activities**.

4.5.3 Appointment of Instructors is to be made by **the Branch Commissioner Activities** on the recommendation of two Instructors and a Regional Commissioner Activities or **the Branch Commissioner Activities**. All Activity Centre Instructors are responsible directly to **the Branch Commissioner Activities**.

4.5.4 All appointments made for staff at these Centre's will carry Schedule B activities

### Change # 2 – done 15 November 2008

#### 1.1 Basic Rock Skills

##### 1.1.1 General

- a) Satisfactory completion of Basic Rock Skills Level is a prerequisite for all rock qualifications.
- b) Participants in the Basic Rock Skills Level of instruction must be under the direct supervision of an Instructor who shall ensure that all theoretical knowledge has been understood by the participant prior to any activity at or near the rock face being affected.
- c) Activities involving belaying [e.g. crate stacking] minimum requirement an Abseiling Instructor to be in charge. Consideration to be given to inversion in event of a fall.

### Change # 3 – done 15 November 2008

#### 2. ABSEILING

The instructor is to demonstrate how to abseil using one mechanical device; the participants are to abseil using a single pitch (20m for Scouts, 8m for Cub Scouts); and the activity must be under direct control of an Abseiling Instructor. Cub Scouts must be belayed by a person qualified in "Basic Rock Skills".

**Joey Scouts MAY participate in abseiling activities, must be belayed by an Instructor, wear a full body harness or a chest harness connected to the waist harness provided the angle of incline does not exceed 70 degrees from the horizontal (no overhangs), distance does not exceed 4 metres and accompanied by an Activity Leader on an adjacent rope. Supervision ratio of 1:1 required.**

### Change # 4 – done 15 November 2008

7.5 Members of **all** Sections or Leaders may participate in limited forms of rock-related activities. The requirement for such limited participation is set out in Schedule B and such is intended for use in familiarisation situations to interest participants in that activity.

**Abseiling height for Scouts to change from 15 to 20 metres**