

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS
UGA OUTDOOR RECREATION – CLIMBING WALL – CLIMBING WALL POLICIES

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to outline the current policies for the indoor climbing wall, outdoor bouldering wall, and slackline.

Scope:

The UGA climbing wall is used by several thousand patrons each year. Given the inherent risk associated with climbing, the department has outlined specific policies designed to keep participants and staff safe while participating in activities associated with the climbing wall or bouldering courtyard.

Climbing Wall Policies:

I. GENERAL POLICIES

- a. The indoor wall, bouldering wall, hangboard, and slackline are only open during supervised climbing hours (when staff is present).
- b. Climbers must check-in at the climbing wall desk with a valid UGA ID card every time they wish to climb.
- c. Climbers must wear closed-toe shoes to climb the wall. UGA students and Ramsey members may check out climbing shoes for free at the wall.
- d. Climbers must utilize proper safety checks and climbing commands:
 - i. Climber: "On belay?" ("Am I on belay?")
 - ii. Belayer: "Belay on." ("The belay is on.")
 - iii. Climber: "Climbing." ("I'm beginning to climb.")
 - iv. Belayer: "Climb On." ("Go ahead and start climbing.")
 - v. Climber: "Take." ("Take the slack out of the rope; pull it tight.")
 - vi. Climber: "Slack." ("Give me some slack; the rope is too tight.")

II. INDOOR WALL

- a. All climbers must successfully enroll in and pass a UGA belay clinic. No other forms of belay certification will be accepted. No exceptions.
- b. Climbers may bring their own shoes, harness, and chalk bag, but they must utilize UGA Recreational Sports' belay devices.
- c. Child-dependents cannot climb without the supervision of a belay-certified guardian and must be able to properly fit into a harness.

III. BOULDERING WALL

- a. Climbers should utilize crash pads and are encouraged to use a spotter. A crash pad must be used when a climber uses the hangboard.
- b. Climbers should not "top out" (climb on top of) the bouldering wall.
- c. Spotters should utilize proper spotting technique:

- i. Stand with feet shoulder-width apart with feet slightly staggered.
- i. Have hands up (keep fingers together) to guide climber back to the pads.
- ii. Keep eyes on the climbers' hips.
- iii. Do not stand in the "fall zone."

IV. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE REGULATIONS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL AND POTENTIAL REVOCATION OF FUTURE FACILITY ACCESS.

- a. Providing unauthorized access to the facility and/or equipment.
- b. Performing aerial or acrobatic moves on the slackline or any wall.
- c. Tampering with or modifying any UGA Recreational Sports equipment.