

Blair Atholl Risk Assessment 2026

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| Name of activity, event, and location | Activity: Tomahawks Event: Blair Atholl 2026 Location: Blair Atholl | Date of risk assessment | 01/07/26 | Name of person doing this risk assessment | Alan Wallace |
| | | Date of next review | 01/07/28 | | |

| What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it? | Who is at risk? | What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs? | Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled? |
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| A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard. | For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors | Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity. | Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review. |
| For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns | Leaders, visitors, Young Leaders, Scouts | Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on carefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available. | |
| Slip, Trips and Falls | All users and instructors | Instructors trained in first aid. Area regularly maintained to restrict undergrowth and remove trip hazards | |
| Misuse of the equipment | All users | Instructions given and understood by participants before the activity takes place. Activity supervised at all times by instructors/ leader. Ensure that the rules are complied with. Axes kept in locked box when not in use. | |
| Impact from axe | All users and instructors | Activity supervised at all times by an instructor/ leader to ensure that rules are complied with. Target bosses checked regularly, along with the targets. Overthrow area to be checked, and barriers to be checked for any impact damage | |
| Equipment Failure | Instructors and participants | Equipment checked before use. Equipment is checked on a regular basis. Faulty equipment removed from service. | |
| Tomahawks rebounding | All users | Have suitable safety zones and no movement until throwing has stopped. Participants area taught the proper technique of throwing, and supervised when throwing. | |

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for leaders and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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| Cuts from tomahawks | All users | Brief the group on the dangers of the tomahawk: Where to hold it and not to touch the blade First Aid box is part of the kit | |
| Accidental release behind thrower | All users | Position group in waiting area. Instructor to stand to one side | |
| External people on range | External people | bounderies will be set up to prevent this | |
| General inspection and brief | Instructors and participants | Areas used for the Tomahawk session are checked prior to commencement to make sure they are suitable Any potential hazards are pointed out to groups and unnecessary hazards are removed from the area as appropriate Good instructor awareness and briefing No running on the range Participants instructed to hold equipment correctly Rules of the range explained i.e. Throwing line and waiting line | |
| In the event of an injury | Instructors and participants | Instructors must have first aid training and have contact to first aid tent in the event of an injury | |
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| In the event of an injury | Instructors and participants | Instructors must have first aid training and have contact to first aid tent in the event of an injury | |
| Inclusion | All users | Everyone will be included, this includes scouts with disabilities Extra Support will be provided for example if they are on wheelchair bound then there will be a leader by their side and shown how to draw a bow while on a chair Both physical support and verbal support | |
| Correct foot wear | All users | Correct footwear must be on to stop tomahawks cutting through footwear this included no sandles, crocs, wellies | |
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Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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