

Under 18 & Novice Supervision Policy

What is a novice?

Rainbow Rocket defines a novice as an individual irrespective of age who cannot independently manage the risks of participation for themselves or others, be that due to a lack of competence or knowledge, or a lack of ability to be held responsible for their actions.

Purpose of policies

Bouldering comes with inherent risks and a high volume of falls occur in the bouldering area. We have strict requirements for novice climbers to help reduce these risks, although they cannot be eliminated entirely. Please make sure you have read and understood our policy before your visit to our facility.

Adult Supervisors

To supervise an under 16 or novice over 16, you will need to be registered as an Adult Supervisor and have completed a Supervisor Form for each person you are supervising. To register as an Adult Supervisor you will need to:

- 1) Be over 18
- 2) Have completed a Bouldering Supervisor course OR have one year of regular bouldering experience under your belt
- 3) Successfully pass an assessment with a Duty Manager
- 4) Sign to accept full responsibility for the safety of the people you are supervising

The supervising adult must comply with this policy and ensure each person they are supervising has a completed Acknowledgement of Risk form. Supervision is at the discretion of the Duty Manager. This policy can be changed based on the information provided to our team and the quality of the supervision being provided.

Assessments can be booked on our website, or in the centre with a staff member.

Please note: once a child enters a bouldering (matted) area an adult needs to be signed off as an adult supervisor.

Novice Climbers (16+)

Novice climbers over 16 years old do not need experience to climb at Rainbow Rocket. They must watch the Induction Video, complete the Acknowledgment of Risk form and accept the terms and conditions of use. However, novice climbers, if they fail the safety questions at reception or do not feel comfortable climbing alone should book onto an Introduction to Bouldering Course with one of our instructors. This can be done via our website.

All climbers between 16-17 years of age will need to complete the process above with a parent or legal guardian present.

Supervising Under 16s

All junior climbers U16 are classified as novice climbers and require supervision, unless they are aged 14-15 and have completed additional assessment with a Duty Manager for unsupervised climbing.

0-7 Year Olds

An adult can supervise one child aged 0yrs – 7yrs old – The adult CAN'T climb. The child must be within arms reach.

If 2 adults bring 1 child aged 0yrs – 7yrs old, then one of the adults can climb whilst the other supervises, as long as both are registered as supervisors for the junior climber.

8-15 Year Olds

An adult can supervise two children aged 8 - 15 yrs old - the adult CAN climb.

8-15 year olds must be in direct line of sight. The supervisor must be able to assist at any given moment. The supervisor must remain on the ground while junior/s are climbing.

Unsupervised 14-15 Year Olds

We allow children aged 14 – 15 years old to climb unsupervised. To be able to climb unsupervised the child will need to:

- 1) Have completed a Junior Unsupervised Climbing course OR have one year of regular bouldering experience under their belt
- 2) Successfully pass an assessment with a Duty Manager
- 3) All 14–15-year-olds will require an Junior Acknowledgment of Risk (AOR) form filled in and consent given by a parent or legal guardian.

The climber will need to be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the risks of indoor bouldering and that they have the maturity to climb without supervision. This status can be revoked if our Conditions of Use are not followed.

Becoming a competent climber takes time and practice. Even if you've covered the basic safety points, you may not be ready to climb unsupervised. Our staff are here to help you - if there's anything you're not sure about just ask one of our Duty Managers. Assessments can be booked on our website, or in the centre with a staff member.

Definition of Supervision -

Supervision is at the discretion of the Duty Manager. This policy can be changed based on the information provided to our team and the quality of the supervision being provided / unsupervised

Adult Supervisor Requirements

Supervising climbers must be 18+ and a competent and regular boulderer OR have completed our Bouldering Supervisor course.

Junior Unsupervised Assessment Requirements

Unsupervised juniors must be between 14-15 years old, and a competent and regular boulderer OR have completed our Junior Unsupervised Bouldering course.

Competent and regular boulderer = a climber who has gained, through formal training or personal experience, the appropriate knowledge to boulder safely in an indoor environment and can demonstrate an understanding of the risks involved in indoor bouldering.