UGA OUTDOOR RECREATION – CLIMBING WALL – CLIMBING WALL MAINTENANCE

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to outline the procedure for the general upkeep and regular maintenance of the indoor and outdoor climbing walls.

Scope: The UGA climbing walls serve several thousand climbers every year. The Assistant Director for Outdoor Recreation, Outdoor Recreation Graduate Assistant, Climbing Wall Managers, and Climbing Wall Staff are responsible for maintaining the various components of both walls.

Climbing Wall Maintenance Procedures:

I. DAILY MAINTENANCE
   a. The Climbing Wall Staff are responsible for ensuring the daily upkeep of the indoor and outdoor climbing walls. Such upkeep includes:

      i. Making sure the indoor and outdoor facilities are clean, devoid of clutter, and free of environmental hazards
      ii. Confirming that climbing holds are properly secured to the wall
      iii. Ensuring that climbing routes are properly taped and labeled
      iv. Scanning the wall for excess chalk, blood, etc., and removing it with the appropriate cleaning supplies (bleach, scrub brush)
         1. Climbing wall staff have access to cleaning supplies, replacement bolts, tape, holds, wrenches, and drills inside the climbing wall desk and “Hobbit Hole” (storage unit on the interior of the indoor wall) if replacement parts are needed
      v. Regularly checking climbing gear, including:
         1. Harnesses (buckles, straps, loops, critical clip-in points all function correctly, no visible deformities)
         2. Belay devices (gates on Gri-Gri and carabiners open and close fluidly, no visible deformities)
         3. Ropes (no visible deformities or excess wear)
         4. Crash pads (no visible deformities or excess wear)

II. BI-WEEKLY MAINTENANCE
   a. The Climbing Wall Manager(s) is/are responsible for a thorough check of all climbing gear every two weeks. The bi-weekly maintenance responsibilities include a visual and tactile inspection of the following:

      i. Ropes
      ii. Harnesses
      iii. Belay devices
      iv. Autobelay device (including webbing)
      v. Climbing holds (as needed)
         1. Each component (ropes, harnesses, etc.) has a corresponding electronic inspection log (NOTE: currently on Google—can this be added to a Wufoo form on a “hidden” staff page on the website?) that needs to be filled out

each time the component is inspected. The log includes the date of inspection, any noticeable wear or deformities, additional notes, and a date on which the equipment needs to be retired

2. The manager can use the Outdoor Recreation iPad to complete the inspection logs

III. SEMESTERLY MAINTENANCE

a. At the end of each semester, the indoor and outdoor walls need to be closed for approximately 2 weeks to strip, clean, and reset the holds

b. As the walls are being stripped, staff need to complete a thorough check of the wall surface (removing blood, chalk, dirt, etc.) and of t-nuts, noting any stripped or removed t-nuts that need to be repaired or replaced

c. Once all holds have been removed from the wall, the holds will be cleaned using a pressure washer. The Assistant Director will schedule additional staff from the ORC if necessary. The Assistant Director will also arrange for an additional pressure washer to be used to speed up this process.

Once holds have been washed and dried and the wall has been cleaned, students can re-set climbing routes on the wall

IV. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

a. The TruBlue® Autobelay device must be returned to Head Rush Technologies for an annual inspection every year.

b. The required date of the annual inspection is listed on the belay device

c. The annual recertification can be purchased online from: http://store.headrushtech.com/climbing/auto-belay-services

V. RETIRING GEAR

a. Regular use and irregular accidents may force climbing gear to be retired. Retiring gear may be a result of:

i. Regular wear and tear over time
ii. Gear that has been dropped from a height of 20ft or higher
iii. Gear that has been dropped or jammed against sharp surfaces
iv. Gear that has visible deformities
v. Improperly closing gates, loose parts, “sticky” parts, etc.
vi. Friction that results in fraying, bunching, glazing, etc.
vii. Any gear that illustrates any of the aforementioned issues should be retired IMMEDIATELY and reported to the Climbing Wall Managers and Assistant Director for Outdoor Recreation

VI. REPAIRING STUCK HOLDS/T-NUTS

a. Occasionally, climbing holds get stuck on the climbing wall due to improper placement, which strips the bolt that is screwed into the t-nut (which secures the hold to the wall)

b. The staff responsible for servicing the hold should NOT try and unscrew a bolt once it has been stripped; doing so can further strip the bolt and make it more difficult to remove from the wall

c. Before completely removing the t-nut, staff members should try gently rethreading the t-nut using a rethreading kit, located in the climbing wall desk

d. Replacing t-nuts on the indoor wall

   i. The indoor wall has t-nuts that are connected to the wall by three small screws; if the t-nut is spinning (meaning that it has become dislodged from the wall), replacing these screws may solve the problem and allow the staff member to gently unscrew the hold from the wall
   ii. If replacing the three screws fails so solve the problem, the staff member may need to remove the t-nut from the wall using the electric dremel
   iii. Staff members should NOT use the dremel unless they have been properly trained by a manager
   iv. Staff members should ALWAYS wear safety goggles when operating the dremel
   v. The staff member may need to cut the bolt after removing the t-nut so that the hold can be pushed out from the wall in order to remove it

e. Replacing t-nuts on the outdoor wall

   i. Like the indoor wall, the outdoor wall uses t-nuts to connect holds (using bolts) to the wall structure; unlike the indoor wall, which uses small screws to attach the t-nut to the wall, the outdoor wall uses epoxy
   ii. If a t-nut needs to be replaced on the outdoor wall, the wall staff remember replacing the t-nut should have another staff member take a hold (with a bolt) and insert it into the corresponding hole; then, the staff member inside the interior of the wall should screw the t-nut on the back of the bolt, seal the t-nut to the wall using epoxy, and leave the entire structure (t-nut, bolt, and hold) in the same position for 24 hours or until dry, at which time the hold and bolt can be removed

VII. IMPORTANT VENDORS/RESOURCES

a. Holds - Atomik, Element, So Ill, Teknik, Nicros

b. Harnesses - Black Diamond

c. Belay Devices – (GriGri) Petzl

d. Autobelay - TruBlue (Head Rush Technologies)

e. Ropes – Beal Wall School (via Liberty Mountain)

f. Wall Structure – indoor (Nicros) outdoor (Entre-Prises)