



Risk Assessment for Go Karting

Location: Wildtracks

Introduction

This risk assessment identifies potential hazards and assesses the risks associated with go-karting. The goal is to ensure the safety of all participants, staff, and visitors while engaging in go-karting, off-road driving, and other recreational activities. This assessment complies with UK health and safety regulations, including the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and specific guidelines for go-karting and adventure activities.

2. Activity Description

- **Go-Karting:** Indoor and outdoor go-karting tracks for individuals and groups of varying ages and skill levels.
 - **Off-road driving:** 4x4 vehicles, dirt bikes, and quad bikes used in off-road courses.
 - **Other Activities:** Various recreational activities, such as archery, paintball, laser tag, and obstacle courses.
 - **Participants:** Individuals and groups, including children, families, school groups, and corporate teams.
 - **Location:** The site includes multiple activity zones, go-karting tracks, off-road courses, and equipment rental stations.
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3. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

A. Go-Karting Risks

Hazards:

- Collisions between go-karts

- Loss of control on wet or slippery tracks
- Mechanical failure of the go-karts
- Unsupervised or reckless driving by participants

Risks:

- Injuries from collisions, such as bruises, sprains, and fractures
- Whiplash, head injuries, or impact injuries from high-speed crashes
- Mechanical failure leading to accidents or sudden stopping
- Risk of falls or accidents if the go-kart flips or crashes

Control Measures:

- Clear signage outlining track rules and instructions for safe driving
- Regular maintenance checks and safety inspections of go-karts
- Safety briefings for all participants, including proper driving techniques, speed limits, and track etiquette
- Protective gear (e.g., helmets, seatbelts) worn by all participants
- Clearly marked, separated lanes for different skill levels, ensuring that beginners are not placed in advanced areas
- Supervisors and marshals on hand to monitor safety on the track and prevent reckless driving

B. Off-Road Driving (4x4, Dirt Bikes, Quad Bikes)

Hazards:

- Collisions with obstacles (trees, rocks, uneven terrain)
- Loss of control on uneven, slippery, or challenging terrain
- Speeding and failure to follow course rules
- Falls or injuries from being ejected from the vehicle

Risks:

- Serious injuries from high-speed impacts, such as broken bones, concussions, or internal injuries
- Getting stuck or tipping over due to poor handling or terrain conditions
- Riders being thrown from vehicles, resulting in serious injury

Control Measures:

- All participants to wear appropriate PPE (e.g., helmets, knee pads, elbow pads, gloves, body armor)
- Pre-activity assessments to ensure participants are fit to ride or drive the vehicles
- Clear instructions given to participants on the course layout, expected speeds, and handling of the vehicles
- Close supervision by trained instructors to guide participants on appropriate behavior and course use
- Regular vehicle safety checks and maintenance to ensure they are in good working condition
- Suitable training or familiarization sessions provided for first-time riders or drivers

C. Other Activities (Paintball, Archery, Laser Tag, Obstacle Course)

Hazards:

- Impact injuries from projectiles in paintball and laser tag
- Tripping or falling during obstacle courses or other physical activities
- Eye injuries from misdirected projectiles or debris
- Sharp objects, ropes, and equipment used in obstacle courses

Risks:

- Eye injuries, bruises, or cuts from projectiles (paintballs, laser beams, etc.)
- Sprains, strains, or fractures from physical activity on the obstacle course
- Injuries from sharp equipment or obstacles

Control Measures:

- Protective goggles and masks worn by all participants in paintball and laser tag activities
- Safety equipment provided, including padding, gloves, and body armor for certain activities
- Adequate supervision to ensure that participants follow safety rules and are using equipment correctly
- Clearly marked boundaries and zones for various activities to reduce the chance of collisions or interference between activities
- Safety briefings before engaging in physical activities, including proper use of equipment and safety behavior
- Regular inspection and maintenance of obstacle courses and equipment to ensure they are safe and free of hazards

D. Slips, Trips, and Falls

Hazards:

- Wet or slippery surfaces, especially during adverse weather conditions
- Uneven ground or unmaintained surfaces in recreational areas
- Trip hazards from misplaced equipment

Risks:

- Injuries from slips, trips, and falls, such as sprains, fractures, or bruises
- Risk of participants falling while running, climbing, or navigating the course

Control Measures:

- Regular maintenance of all areas, ensuring clear, level pathways and removing any obstacles or debris
- Clearly marked walkways and appropriate barriers or guardrails in high-traffic or elevated areas
- Wet weather conditions monitored, with wet or slippery areas marked and appropriately managed
- Proper footwear requirements for participants, particularly in physical activities

E. Equipment Use and Storage

Hazards:

- Improper use of equipment (e.g., go-karts, paintball guns, off-road vehicles)
- Inadequate storage of equipment, leading to accidental damage or misuse

Risks:

- Injuries from misuse or malfunction of equipment
- Accidents caused by damaged or improperly stored equipment

Control Measures:

- All equipment checked and maintained regularly for safety and functionality
 - Clear guidelines and training provided for safe use of all equipment
 - Equipment stored securely when not in use to prevent unauthorized access or accidental damage
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4. Emergency Procedures

- **First Aid:**

- Trained first aid staff on-site during all activities
- Well-stocked first aid kits located at strategic points throughout the site
- Immediate access to emergency medical services in case of serious injury

- **Fire Safety:**

- Fire exits clearly marked and unobstructed
- Fire extinguishers available throughout the site
- Regular fire drills conducted with all staff familiar with emergency procedures

- **Accident Reporting:**

- All accidents, no matter how minor, must be reported and logged

- Regular review of accident reports to identify and mitigate potential risks
 - **Evacuation Plan:**
 - Clear evacuation routes posted
 - Regular evacuation drills to ensure staff familiarity with procedures
 - Emergency contact numbers clearly displayed
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5. Review and Monitoring

- This risk assessment will be reviewed annually or following any significant incident or change in site operations.
 - Feedback from staff, participants, and emergency responders will be considered in the review process.
 - Staff will conduct regular safety checks, including inspecting equipment, activity zones, and emergency procedures, to ensure ongoing safety compliance.
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Approved by:

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