

The term Schmooling is used to describe the action of ascending/climbing the artificial structure using the supplied tools from Schmoolz

CENTRE/WALL NAME:	DATE:
RISK ASSESSMENT	

Guidelines for using Schmoolz (dry tools) on artificial surfaces/walls
(Note: not ice axes used for dry tooling)

Climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement. Activities involving the use of Schmoolz are inherently dangerous. You are solely responsible for your own actions and your decision to use the product.

Please Note: All standard operating procedures/risk assessments should be adhered to alongside this specific risk assessment

ASSESSOR:

SIGNED:

DATE:

REASSESSMENT DATE:

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?	WHO MAY BE HARMED AND HOW?	REQUIRED COUNTER MEASURES
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Inappropriate use of the Schmoolz

All

A public notice/sign will be displayed at various appropriate positions around the wall indicating the very basics of expected usage of the Schmoolz tools

Interfering with other users (climbers and Schmoolers) on adjacent climbs

Climbers

Communication/awareness between users is essential when climbing/Schmooling on adjacent climbs. Schmoolers are to give way to 'normal' climbers in all circumstances.

Forgetting to tie into harness	Climbers	Climbers are highly recommended to tie into the harness first using a suitable knot before attaching to the tools via the leash system
Climber hitting the ground while leading	Climbers	It is mandatory that climbers (leaders) should not climb unless at least two runners have been pre-clipped in a 'normal' climbing way i.e. using the hands to ascend the wall. Climbers (leaders) will then descend/be lowered to the floor/matting before using the Schmoolz
Climber hitting the floor while top / bottom roping	Climbers	When belaying using a 'bottom rope/top rope' system it is highly recommended that the belayer keeps the rope tight initially to the climber thus preventing a ground fall due to an unexpected pop (fall) from the wall and stretch in the rope
Objects/tools falling onto users	All	The use of a helmet when Schmooling is highly recommended but not compulsory. Users should wear their own or be offered a helmet. However, users should sign a helmet waver if they indicate refusal to wear one. (this may be in the standard operating procedures written by the centre/wall and may also be part of the joining instructions)
Dropping tools while climbing	Belayer/other users	The use of a leash system is mandatory when using the Schmoolz in roped climbing situations, as this will prevent a dropped tool falling and hitting someone, particularly during none-specific climbing sessions ie when 'normal' climbers are climbing alongside someone Schmooling. However, it is perfectly acceptable to remove the leashes and climb leash less during exclusive Schmooling sessions or competitions so long as notices are visible and participants have received the standard Schmooling safety brief based on the notices/signs around the centre/wall
Hanging from the leash system	Climbers	In certain circumstances climbers may fall while top roping or leading leaving behind the tool attached to a hold but also attached to the climber via the leash system. If this situation arises the climber simply climbs back up the route by hand to release the tool. It is highly recommended that the leash system is not shock loaded by climbers where possible. It may

state in the leash manufactures guidelines that the leash is not 'load bearable'. However, there is a small chance this may happen and an even smaller chance that the leash will snap as energy is absorbed through the rubber sling on the tool. This may expose other users to possible tools falling from above.

Dynoing with the Schmoolz

Climber

Dynoing with the Schmoolz should be avoided as this could create a potential shock-loading situation if the climber was to catch a hold but fail to hang it. The Schmoolz are not designed to be loaded in this way.

Hit in the face by the tool

Climbers

There is a slight chance that the tools can hit the climber in the face due to unexpected disconnection (pop) from the chosen hold/wall. Climbers/participants should be made aware of this especially when introducing the activity

Being hit by the tools while bouldering in a none specific (exclusive) session

All

Bouldering/Schmooling will not take place alongside each other as there is a great risk of other users being hit by flailing tools

Bloulderer hung up by leashes due to slip or fading strength

Climber

In exclusive Schmooling bouldering sessions climbers must not use the leash system and must climb leash less. This will allow the hands to be released from the tools and the climber to fall/jump safely to the ground/mat

Centre's/wall's should add any site specific risks to this risk assessment to ensure ALL risks have been evaluated

