



Outdoors WA

Roping Activity Code of Practice

Topics of Discussion

- Why do we need a Roping Activity Code of Practice?
- Where did it all start?
- Where does the Code of Practice fit in with the AAS?
- What information will be used to create the Code of Practice?
- What are the results of the Code of Practice Survey?
- What were the contentious issues?
- Where to from here?



Why Do We Need a Code of Practice?

- In the absence of any other guidelines or codes of practice, WorkSafe (and other government bodies) may use the industrial Codes of Practice / Standards / guidelines to assess the roping techniques that we use in the recreational / educational world.

Is this what our industry wants?



Significant Incident Summary



WorkSafe

16/2004

Fall injures abseil instructor

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Employers and employees engaged in work at heights need to maintain continual vigilance in the selection, use and maintenance of gear used in fall injury prevention systems.
2. Work carried out at heights should be in accordance with the Western Australian Code of Practice 'Prevention of Falls at Workplaces' and the Australian New Zealand Standard, AS/NZS 1891 series '*Industrial Fall-Arrest Systems and Devices*'.
3. A competent person should inspect fall arrest equipment prior to use to ensure appropriate selection, fixing and positioning.

Why Do We Need a Code of Practice?

- Land Managers (and other bodies) will refer to the COP (as well as the AAS) to assist in making decisions on:
 - What activities they will allow on the land they manage / own
 - What qualifications / registrations are required by the leader
 - Leader : Participant ratios for various roping activities
 - Maximum / Minimum group sizes at different sites
 - Provision of anchor points for roping activities



Why Do We Need a Code of Practice?

- The Outdoors Community will finally have a document that details the standards required for roping activities in WA
- Up to now this information has been passed on by word of mouth and is often misinterpreted or misunderstood
- Roping leaders from other states and countries will be able to gain an understanding of how we operate in WA
- Roping techniques and standards change – any updates can be made to the COP and quickly spread through the industry



Where Did It All Start?

- The Roping Activity Sub Committee of the Registration and Accreditation Panel of OWA initiated the COP project. Funding was sought to complete the project from the Department of Sport and Recreation.
- The Department of Sport and Recreation provided the funding to Outdoors WA and the contract was awarded to Brett Huntly and David Byers.
- Feedback from the Outdoors Community has been sought by way of the on-line survey and will be sought again in the upcoming forum.



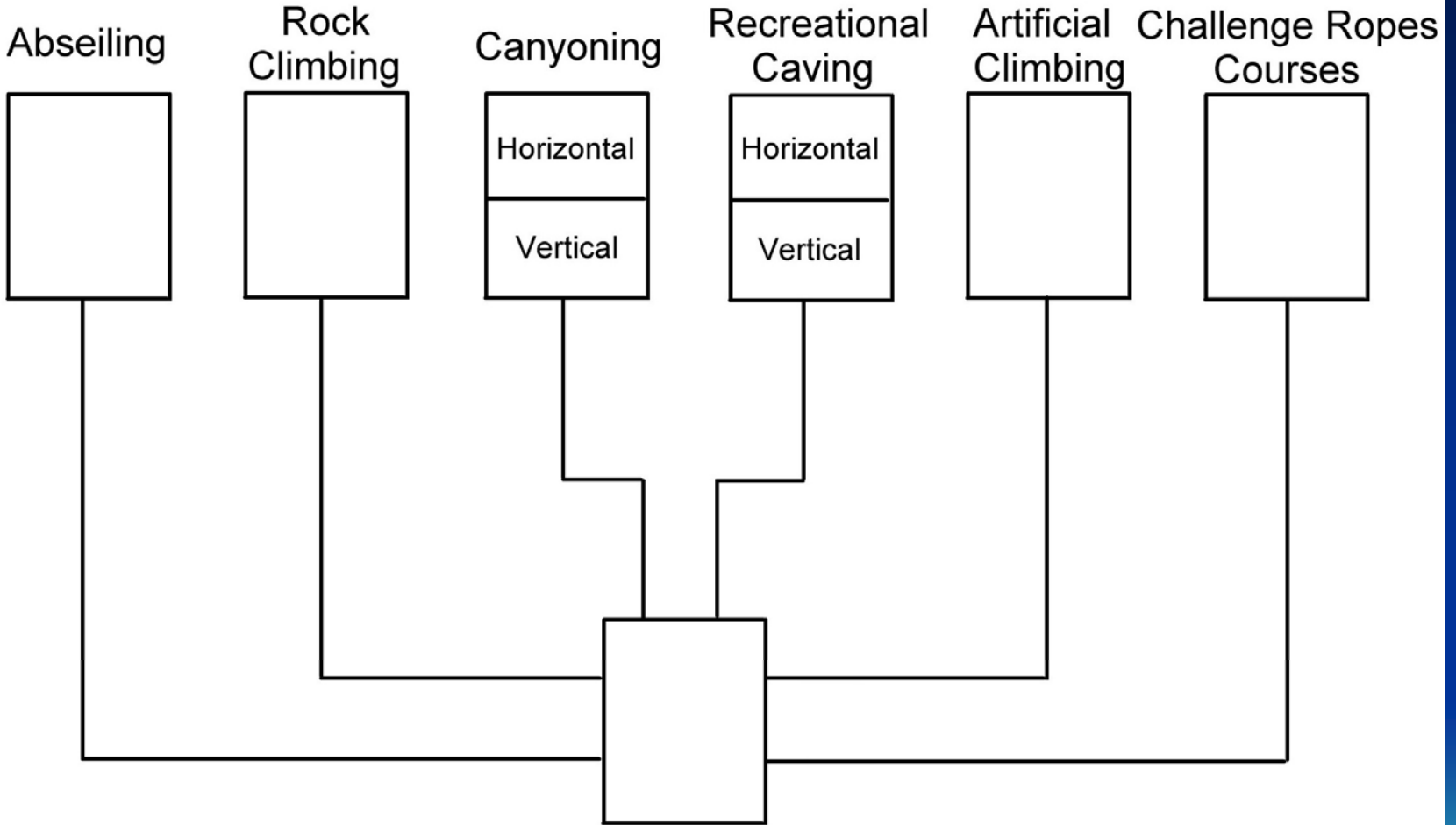
Where does the Code of Practice fit in with the AAS?

The Roping Activity Code of Practice will provide the technical roping backbone for all the Adventure Activity Standards that include roping activities. These include:

- Abseiling
- Artificial Climbing
- Rock Climbing
- Canyoning
- Vertical Caving
- Challenge Ropes Courses.



Adventure Activity Standards



Roping Activity Code of Practice

What information will be used to create the Code of Practice?

- Abseiling Assessment Panel – Active from ?? to ??
- Abseiling Instructor Courses – Run by AAP from ?? to ??
- Other Roping Guide Courses – Central TAFE, Commercial Providers
- Western Australian Guidelines – DET, DSR, etc
- Other Australian Guidelines
- International Guidelines – UIAA, BMC, etc
- OWA Roping Activity COP Survey
- Reference books on Caving, Rock Climbing and other roping techniques
- Other references such as web sites, etc.



What are the results of the OWA COP Survey?

- The full results of the survey are now available via a web link – details are currently being sent out to the industry and to the respondents to the survey.
- There is also a Survey Summary Form in PDF format which we will refer to today
- There were 88 who started the survey and 60 who completed it (68.2%)



Who Responded to the Survey?

- The respondents were mostly experienced or highly experienced in roping activities
- Most were teaching / educating participants in roping activities
- Nearly all were mostly operating in Western Australia
- Nearly half had ten or more years of experience
- Many had several years of guiding / instructing with over 200 hours per year
- There was a fairly even split between natural and artificial surfaces



What were the contentious issues?

If a contentious issue is defined as where the most popular opinion was selected by less than 50% of the respondents, the following fit this criteria:

- The maximum leader : participant ratios
- The maximum group size
- The lowest ages for various activities
- The minimum number of artificial anchor points
- The suitability of static ropes being used in climbing walls
- Frequency of incorrect tying of Bowline with Yosemite tie off
- The need for a top line belay for novices learning prussiking
- The acceptability of Inversion Abseiling as an alternative descent
- The acceptability of Trust Abseiling as an alternative descent
- Minimum ages for all alternative descents



Where to From Here?

- An another attempt will be made to host a forum in early 2008. The forum will focus on the contentious issues arising from the survey results
- The draft Code of Practice will be started using research information as well as focussing on non-contentious issues arising from the survey
- A draft Code of Practice will be released following on from the forum
- Contentious issues relating to the AAS such as leader : participant ratios, maximum group sizes, minimum ages, etc will be passed back to the TWCs for resolution



The End

