


Hautbois Activity Centre Risk Assessment			
TOMAHAWK THROWING			
Assessment Code: RA-THK25	SOP Code: SOP-THK25	Lesson Plan Code: LP-THK25	
Review Date: March 2026	Assessor: Rory Howard	Tech Advisor: Cameron Jewell	

Description: Tomahawk throwing takes place in the limepits area. Ratio of 1:16


SR= Severity Rating; 5 (Catastrophic) 4 (Major) 3 (Moderate) 2 (Minor) 1 (None)

LH=Likelihood Rating 5 (Almost certain) 4 (Likely) 3 (Possible) 2 (Unlikely) 1 (Insignificant)

RR= Risk Rating; A (Acceptable Risk) RR (Residual Risk remains despite controls- 'occupational hazard') U (Unacceptable Risk, action to be taken immediately)

Significant Hazard	Persons at Risk	How	Controls	Severity	Likelihood	Risk Rating
Being hit with an axe or tomahawk	Participants, leaders, instructors & spectators	Spectators entering the range during a session. Participants or other site users straying into the range area or deliberately misusing equipment. Tomahawks bouncing back from the target. Tomahawks being dropped n feet.	Ensure the area in front of the assigned throwing line is clear before giving the command to throw. Closing gates and ensuring Tomahawk throwing signs are in place. The Instructor must remain vigilant and suspend Throwing if the safety area is violated. Behaviour of all participants and spectators is closely monitored throughout the session by the leader and instructor in charge. Instructors brief all participants about safe use of the range and rules of use are clear to all users, including spectators. Sessions to be run by a qualified Archery GB Instructor or above with additional 5 hour in house tomahawk throwing training Appropriate throwing line to be used depending on the type of tomahawk used Instructors to check closed toe shoes are being worn.	5	2	RR
Equipment Failure & misuse of equipment.	Participants, leaders, instructors	Tomahawks separating during use or damaged axes breaking. Touching or picking up tomahawks' sharp blades	Equipment is visually inspected before each session, and during weekly and monthly activity checks. Unsafe/ damaged equipment is removed from service and placed in a quarantine bin for disposal or recommissioning after repair. Instructors taught during induction and activity training on how to check the equipment and how it is stored correctly Only equipment provided by hautbois to be used on the range.	3	1	A
Poor Instruction & range preparation	Participants, leaders, instructors	Poor group management resulting in injury.	Instructors are qualified to Archery GB Instructors award or above, trained and assessed by competent persons with additional 5 hour in house Tomahawk throwing training. Access to range limited to two tomahawk throwers at once, all other participants to remain in the designated waiting area. All tomahawks to be secured in the lock box and removed from the range at the end of every session. Participants given clear instruction on the direction of throwing The range is set in a banked area to prevent tomahawks going beyond or to the sides of the targets.	3	1	A
Entrapment	Participants, leaders, instructors	Clothing, jewellery, body piercings, badges, buttons etc. become caught when throwing tomahawks resulting in personal injury.	Instructors to ensure long hair is tied back and remove loose/dangling jewellery. Regular visual checks carried out by instructor throughout session and participants encouraged to carry out checks themselves.	3	2	A
Throwing and collection of tomahawks causing injury to participants	Participants, leaders, instructors	Tomahawks sticking out of ground or target could cause personal injury or tripping. Poor throwing technique result in injury	Instructors to give clear demonstration and instruction on throwing a tomahawk Instructors to ensure participants understand the tomahawk blades are sharp and to not touch when throwing or collecting Instructors to demonstrate the correct method to remove a tomahawk safely Instructors to follow Safe Operating Procedures Only two participants can throw a tomahawk at any one time Participants briefed about range safety and strict walking only rule applies throughout the session.	3	1	A

This Risk Assessment should work in conjunction with the generic risk assessment (RA-GEN) and relevant activity's Safe Operating Procedure (SOP-).

Tomahawk Throwing SOP-THK25		
RA-THK25	LP-THK25	
Review Date: March 2026		
Must be used in conjunction with Generic Safe Operating Procedure (SOP-GEN)		

Qualifications Required:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archery GB instructor award with an additional 5 hour in house training course • Instructor must be at least 18 years old • Instructor must have a valid first aid certificate - 1 day minimum
Activity Area:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that all gates on the perimeter fence are shut and locked. • Make sure all warning signs are displayed correctly • The waiting area must be clearly marked • The throwing lines must be clearly marked using the markers provided. • The “never ever” line must be in place. • Make sure area is totally clear of debris and deadfall before every session. • Tomahawks and angels must never be left out after sessions. • Check that targets are secured
Equipment: Visual checks of all equipment must be done before each session.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centre tomahawks and angels to be used only • Appropriate footwear must be worn by all participants and instructors • Count tomahawks and angels out and back in again at the end of every session • Check the blades aren't too dull so they can penetrate the wooden target
Session Management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positions of the different throwing lines, along with which equipment can be used at each line, should be explained to the participants and their understanding of these checked. • Check if left or right-handed to ensure that the participants have the correct foot positioned forwards. • Introduce and explain the different tomahawks and the correct handling of each type. Never touching the blade. • The following Safety Rules must be highlighted to all participants (confirming their understanding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No student should move to the throwing line, throw a tomahawk or collect tomahawks until specifically told to do so by the instructor ○ Emphasise the “STOP” command and what to do if they hear this. Remind them that anyone can call “STOP” if they see anything unsafe/ dangerous. ○ When participants have finished their turn, they must go back to the waiting area until further instructions are given ○ Tomahawks are only to be picked up when the participant is correctly positioned at the throwing line. ○ Once handling a tomahawk, the participants must always be facing down range ○ No one is to run at any time during the session. This should be emphasised by the instructor. • Only two participants are to throw at a time when one instructor is present. • Position first participant on the throwing line and closely supervise their first throws or until you are confident, they can continue unaided. • Once participants have thrown, explain the procedure for collecting tomahawks - to include removing them from targets and ground and carrying them back correctly. NB - Depending on the age/maturity of the group it may be necessary for the instructor only to collect tomahawks. • The participants are instructed in simple and logical stages the technique of throwing appropriate for their ability level and age. • All tomahawk equipment must be supervised by the instructor at all times. • On completion of the session participants assist in returning all the equipment safely and appropriately. Instructors must check all equipment is returned to the correct place. Count all tomahawks back in • Following every session all equipment must be returned to storage and any faults/defects reported and recorded <p>In the event of an emergency Instructors to follow the Staff accident and incident emergency procedure located in the first aid kit.</p>

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