



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
566 BROWNSON ROAD
ANNAPOLIS MARYLAND 21402-1300

DIRATHINST 11100.5B
20/AD
1 Nov 2024

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS INSTRUCTION 11100.5B

From: Director of Athletics, U.S. Naval Academy

Subj: ADMINISTRATION AND POLICIES OF CLIMBING WALL

Encl: (1) Equipment Retirement Guidance
(2) Climbing Wall Watch SOP
(3) Climbing Wall Belay Certification Requirements
(4) Climbing Wall Watch Certification Requirements
(5) Climbing Wall Equipment/ Supply Request
(6) Incident Report Form

1. Purpose. To establish procedures and responsibilities regarding the administration of the Climbing Wall at the United States Naval Academy.

2. Cancellation. DIRATHINST 11100.5A

3. Background. The physical mission of the Naval Academy is to develop in Midshipmen the applied knowledge of wellness, lifetime physical fitness, athletic skills, and competitive spirit so as to endure physical hardship associated with military leadership and to instruct others in physical fitness and wellness. As part of this mission, the Naval Academy has added an artificial rock climbing wall, which will provide high quality and challenging physical education to its students. A thorough understanding by all faculty members and Midshipmen of their responsibility is necessary.

4. General Policies

a. Authorized Use of the Climbing Wall and Required Qualification:

(1) The climbing wall will be open to belay-qualified Midshipmen and PE button holders during the following hours, except during periods of military drill, holidays (as promulgated by the PE Department), and academic final exam periods:

(a) Monday-Thursday: 1730-1830

(b) Upon request via email to Rock Watch Officer

(2) Belay-qualified button holders will be permitted use of the wall only during evening climbing hours. Only belay-qualified Staff, Faculty, and their dependents over the age of 16 may climb during these periods. Belay tests and instruction will be administered by a qualified Climbing Supervisor to button holders **upon request**.

(3) Belay qualification requires a successful demonstration of basic climbing safety. Instruction will be provided to Midshipmen by qualified Climbing Supervisors only during these designated times. Belay testing will be given immediately after the instruction, and climbers must pass the belay test before being permitted to belay an individual on the climbing wall (testing criteria outlined in enclosure (1)). The Climbing Wall Duty Section will maintain an official belay certification log, clearly outlining everyone who has passed the certification test, the date of their certification, and the Supervisor who has qualified them. The belay certification log will be kept by the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer and passed down to the watchstanders each semester.

(4) At a minimum, all climbers must possess a climbing harness, belay device, and locking carabiner while climbing. All equipment is subject to inspection by the Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors to ensure safety.

b. Operation of the Climbing Wall:

(1) The Rock Watch Officer will establish a watch rotation during the Academic Year based upon the hours the climbing wall is available for Midshipmen and Button holders. The watch bill will provide two qualified Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors on watch at all times the climbing wall is open, and this watch will substitute for other official duties for which the midshipmen might otherwise be responsible.

(2) Climbing activities are only permitted when the Physical Education (PE) climbing staff or two qualified Midshipmen Climbing Supervisors are available and no safety concerns exist. In order to assist the watch bill preparation during the Academic Year, the Physical Education Department will submit a monthly schedule of events that may necessitate the presence of Midshipmen Watchstanders to the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer, although that list is subject to change.

(3) The PE Department will provide all watches and training in support of Plebe Summer.

(4) Only the Physical Education Department and Rock Watch Officer will qualify midshipmen as Climbing Supervisors after successful completion of enclosure (2). In order to qualify, Midshipmen must successfully demonstrate thorough climbing knowledge, safety skills, maturity, and sound judgment. This qualification entrusts a midshipman to provide impeccable supervisions of the climbing wall at all times and is not to be taken lightly.

c. Maintenance of the Climbing Wall:

(1) The Public Works Department will be responsible for coordinating all significant maintenance and inspections of the climbing wall and will submit an annual status report to the PE Rock Wall Director.

(2) The Head Setter and Staff, under the supervision of the PE Department, will provide all routine climbing wall maintenance. This includes periodic removal of excess chalk build-up, inspection/replacement of climbing ropes and harnesses, handhold changing, and route redesign.

(3) The Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer will request supplies for recurring needs, such as hold-cleaning solution, brushes, plastic storage bins, bolts, and new holds from the PE Department via the Climbing Wall Director.

(4) The PE Department will include maintenance funding in its annual budget request.

d. Security of Climbing Wall:

(1) The Navy Rock Climbing Team will maintain a combination lock to provide access to the gear locker and climbing wall for the Climbing Wall Watch Sections.

(2) No one is permitted on the climbing wall outside of authorized climbing hours unless previously scheduled with the Climbing Wall Director and Physical Education Scheduling Officer. Requests will only be fielded if a lesson plan and ORM documents are submitted with request.

e. Equipment required for Climbing Wall:

(1) The PE Department will provide all equipment for Physical Education Classes, including Plebe Summer.

(2) The PE Department will provide harnesses, locking carabiners and belay devices (ATC) for recreational Midshipmen climbing.

(3) Climbing Equipment that is designated for PE Classes will be maintained in a separate gear locker at the Rock Wall, and is not to be used outside of the Physical Education Classes.

(4) The Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer and Staff will maintain and account for the climbing equipment that is designated to be used for recreational Midshipmen climbing during climbing wall hours as per section (2). An accountability log will be kept by Watchstanders to ensure the equipment is accounted for on a daily basis.

(5) It is imperative that both the PE Department, Staff and the Midshipmen Climbing Wall Staff ensure equipment safety, maintain strict accountability of equipment, and extend the life of the equipment through proper maintenance.

(6) The PE Department will include funding for gear and gear replacement in its annual budget request.

(7) Climbing ropes shall be regularly inspected by both PE Climbing Wall Staff and Midshipmen Watchstanders before use and retired/downgraded per manufacturer guidance. See enclosure (1).

f. Uniform for Climbing. Midshipmen will wear Physical Education gear (blue rim and USNA shorts) for climbing elective classes. Uniform for all other training will be approved by the Climbing Wall Director. Climbing Team Uniforms may be used during training periods with the approval of the Commandant.

5. Responsibilities

a. Head, PE Department shall:

(1) Assume responsibility for overall coordination of Climbing Wall operations, gear management, maintenance, curriculum, funding requests, and all climbing related activities.

(2) Ensure Physical Education staff is properly trained to provide climbing training to Midshipmen.

(3) Oversee Climbing Wall Committee.

(4) Provide routine maintenance equipment and supplies to the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer.

b. The Climbing Wall Committee shall:

(1) The Climbing Wall Committee will consist of the Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer, Vice President, and Secretary with oversight from Officer Representative.

(2) Provide training and testing for all Midshipmen Climbing Wall Supervisors. See enclosure (2)

(3) Conduct annual inventory of all Physical Education climbing Equipment, replacing outdated or unserviceable gear immediately.

(4) Inspect all climbing ropes and equipment weekly. Maintain rope log to track use and assist with rope retirement. Refer to enclosure (1)

(5) Document actions of the Climbing Wall Committee.

c. The Public Works Officer shall coordinate and provide all required significant maintenance and inspections of the climbing wall.

d. The Rock Climbing Club shall designate a Midshipman Climbing Wall Officer each year to oversee Midshipmen Climbing Wall Supervisors as designated in midshipmen watch organization. As a Commandant approved watch, Climbing Wall Watch will replace CMOD.

e. The Midshipmen Climbing Wall Officer shall:

(1) Designate a Rock Watch Officer to organize, train, and qualify Midshipmen Rock Wall Supervisor sections and establish a watch schedule for climbing hours.

(2) Maintain cleanliness of the wall, periodically change out climbing routes, and maintain and account for all Midshipmen used climbing equipment.

(4) Submit requests for maintenance equipment and supplies to the Physical Education Department. Properly store equipment behind the climbing wall.

f. Midshipmen and Button holders shall:

(1) Complete belay instruction and pass belay test prior to using climbing wall. Belay certification must be confirmed in the Belay Certification Log by a Climbing Wall Supervisor prior to climbing.

(2) Obtain required equipment prior to climbing.

6. Records Management

a. Records created as a result of this instruction, regardless of format or media, must be maintained and dispositioned per the records disposition schedules located on the DON Assistant for Administration, Directives and Records Management Division portal page at <https://portal.secnv.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-InformationManagement/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

b. For questions concerning the management of records related to this instruction or the records disposition schedules, please contact your local record custodian or the USNA Records Manager.

12. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.71A, the Director of Physical Education will review this instruction annually on the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction.



J. J. ANTONELLI
Director of Physical Education



C. S. GLADCHUK
Athletic Director

DIRATHINST 11100.5B

1 Nov 2024

Releasability and distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically via the

Director of Athletics Instructions internet website: <https://www.usna.edu/>

AthleticDirector/

EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT GUIDANCE

Ropes and webbing shall be retired if:

1. It has been in daily use for more than one calendar year or stored for greater than ten years, whichever occurs first.
2. It shows signs of extreme wear, such as cuts, abrasion, furring, core damage (hard or mushy areas) or folds flat on itself.
3. Exposed to extreme loads or temperatures.
4. Contaminated with oils, grease, solvents, or bitumen.
5. Retired ropes shall be destroyed (cut in half) and disposed of properly to prevent inadvertent use.

Harnesses provided by USNA shall be retired if:

1. Harness exceeds manufacturer's recommended shelf life.
2. Webbing is ripped, abraded, fraying, or discolored.
3. Stitching or bar-tacks are abraded or compromised.

All metal hardware (carabiners, belay devices) have indefinite lives unless there is reason to doubt their integrity/condition.

CLIMBING WALL WATCHSTANDER STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

1. Watchstanders shall not climb while on duty.
2. Watchstanders will inspect the ropes and equipment before and after opening the wall. Inspections will be logged.
3. All climbers shall check in with Watchstander to verify proper belay certification.
4. Significant events and material discrepancies shall be reported to the Secretary and logged appropriately.
5. Watchstanders will ensure that those bouldering do not climb higher than ten feet (measured from the floor to the climbers feet) and are utilizing crash pads.
6. Watchstanders will spot check three (3) belayers while on watch and log the results. Safety violators will be corrected and reported to the Climbing Committee for recommended action.
 - a. Watch bill will be posted two weeks in advance of the following month.

CLIMBING WALL BELAY CERTIFICATION

1. The Rock Watch Officer is responsible for maintaining an accurate list of all personnel qualified for top-rope and lead belaying.
2. Route Setters and Lead belayers may only be certified by the Climbing Wall Director, or the Rock Watch Officer (with the concurrence of the O-REP).

	AREA	INITIAL
EQUIP. FAM.	HARNESS FAMILIARIZATION	
	BELAY DEVICE (ATC)	
	LOCKING CARABINER	
	RETRACED FIGURE 8	
BELAY TECHNIQUE	CLIMBING COMMANDS	
	BELAY TECHNIQUE	
	FALL CATCHING	
	LOWERING	
	BELAYING ROOF CLIMBING	
	PENDULUM DANGER	
	BOULDER SPOTTING	
LEAD CLIMB	PROPER CLIPPING TECHNIQUE	
	BACK / Z-CLIPPING	
	ROPE AND BODY ORIENTATION	
	FALL CHECK	
LEAD* BELAY	BELAYER POSITION	
	SOFT / HARD CATCH	
	ANNOUNCED / UNANNOUNCED FALLS	
	ALL ABOVE DISCUSS ITEMS	
ROUTE SETTER	AUTHORIZED BELAY SETUPS	
	TOOL / EQUIP ALOFT CONSIDERATION	
	TOOL / EQUIP FAMILIARIZATION	
	ROUTESETTING CONSIDERATIONS	

*LEAD BELAYERS MUST ALREADY BE TOP-ROPE CERTIFIED. SEE INSTRUCTION FOR PERSONNEL AUTHORIZED TO QUALIFY.

**LEAD CLIMBERS, LEAD BELAYERS, AND ROUTE SETTERS SHALL HAVE THEIR PQS/QUAL SHEET MAINTAINED IN THE WATCHSTANDING BINDER. TOP-ROPE BELAYERS SHALL HAVE THEIR QUAL LOGGED.

CLIMBING WALL WATCH CERTIFICATION

1. The Rock Watch Officer is responsible for maintaining an accurate list of all personnel qualified for rock wall watchstanding, top-rope belaying, and lead belaying.
2. Lead belayers may only be certified by the Climbing Wall Director or the Rock Watch Officer (with the concurrence of the Officer Representative).

	AREA	INITIAL
EQUIP. FAM.	HARNESS FAMILIARIZATION	
	BELAY DEVICE (ATC, FIGURE 8)	
	LOCKING CARABINER	
	ROPE	
	SHOES	
WATCHSTANDER RESPONSIBILITIES	AUTHORITY/RESPONSIBILITY	
	OPENING/CLOSING WALL	
	CHECKING CLIMBERS IN	
	CHECKING OUT EQUIPMENT	
	LOOSE HOLDS	
	LOGBOOK/BINDER FAMILIARIZATION	
	EMERGENCY ACTIONS/RESPONSE	
BELAY TECHNIQUE	RETRACED FIGURE 8 W/ BACKUP KNOT	
	CLIMBING COMMANDS	
	BELAY TECHNIQUE	
	FALL CATCHING	
	LOWERING	
	BELAYING ROOF CLIMBING	
	PENDULUM DANGER	
SAFETY	BOULDERING SPOTTING	
	SPOT INCORRECTLY WORN HARNESS	
	SPOT INCORRECTLY TIED FIGURE 8	
	CONDUCT SPOT CHECKS	
	BELAY INSTRUCTION	

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CLIMBING WALL EQUIPMENT/SUPPLY REQUEST

Date

From: MIDN 1/C Sailor, USN, Navy Rock Climbing President
To: Mr./Mrs., Climbing Wall Director

Subj: CLIMBING WALL EQUIPMENT/SUPPLY REQUEST

Ref: (a) DIRATHINST 11100.5A

1. Per reference (a), I am respectfully requesting the following supplies/equipment:
 - a. (List #1 priority rating)
 - b. (List #2 priority rating)
 - c. (List #2 priority rating)
2. The previously requested supplies/equipment are required in order to complete (INSERT) maintenance on (DATE).

MIDN 1/C SAILOR

Enclosure (5)

INCIDENT REPORT FORM

Date: _____
From: _____
To: Director, PE Department

1. Brief description of incident and designation of apparent cause (Write a short paragraph that summarizes the incident. In the last sentence, clearly define your assessment of the root cause of this incident):

The root cause of the incident was:
MATERIAL _____ **PERSONNEL** _____ **PROCEDURE** _____

2. Initial conditions (Write one or more paragraphs that set the stage for the incident. Include in your description your activity, equipment, protection, number and qualifications/experience of those involved, and any abnormal conditions that have existed that might have been distracters):

3. Detailed description of the incident (Be specific. Explain in detail what happened. Also explain what was known and not known at the time of the incident. Some of this material may have been determined in the post-incident critique):

4. Immediate corrective action taken (Describe what you did immediately following the incident, and in the near term aftermath – Also, in retrospect, assess the correctness of your actions.):

5. Lessons learned (Describe what you learned from this incident – viewed from the perspective of what should be shared with others so that they also can learn from this incident.):

6. Recommendations for long-term corrective action (i.e., what needs to be done to minimize the chance of this occurring again? This may include things like revisions to instructions, program revisions or enhancements/improvements required – what could have/should have been done differently that would have prevented this incident?):

7. List enclosures

- a. _____
- b. _____