



The YSS SRT-Training Facility

User Procedures & Risk Assessment

INTRODUCTION

Caving is an inherently risky activity. As in many aspects of life there is a balance between risk and benefit and, for cavers, the benefits of caving outweigh the risks.

The YSS SRT facility is designed to replicate the sorts of rope-based scenarios that a caver might encounter underground and provides the opportunity to practise these on the surface, rather than in the more inhospitable underground environment. It has been designed to meet all necessary standards with regular inspections carried out by suitably-competent individuals.

Despite this, caving and associated ropework are still inherently risky activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Users should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

USAGE POLICY & BOOKING

The YSS SRT facility is volunteer run and available for use by members and non-member guests, as well as others who are not staying overnight.

The facility is generally available by pre-booking on a first-come, first-served basis, but the YSS reserve the right to limit usage on any given day to members only. This will generally be during monthly Committee Meeting weekends.

Bookings are available each day in three sessions of four hours each and are made by contacting Damian Weare. In the first instance this is best done via the form at www.yssuk.com. In the event of problems, direct contact can be made with Damian via srtwall@yssuk.com or, for last-minute bookings, it is worth trying his home or mobile numbers (01423) 203218 and (07742) 900174.

NOTE ON USE BY PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS

Professional use (which we define as use by anyone being paid for their time or skills) is welcome, but only after prior approval obtained during the booking process.

As members of the British Caving Association Public Liability scheme, the club is covered for the use of the SRT Facility by its members and guests. However, this cover does not extend to the risks associated with professional instruction. Therefore if members or guests wish to use the services of an instructor, this must be authorised by the Club on each specific occasion.

Use will normally be authorised provided the instructor agrees to the standard operating procedures and, crucially, provides evidence of appropriate liability insurance for their activities. In this respect the Club normally expects liability insurance cover of at least £2 million.

CHARGES

A small charge will be levied to non-members for use of the facility. The intention is for users to make a fair contribution towards running costs, rather than for the Club to make a profit. The charge is currently **£5 per session** but this is reviewed regularly and subject to change. Members are charged at £1 per session.

The charge includes the use of the rest of our facilities, including the kitchen, toilets and showers.

Ideally payment will be made **directly into the box** in the porch of the facility. However it is also possible to pay by BACS (online transfer) to:

Sort Code: 40-51-62 Account Number: 32515489 (Please mark it: SRT_YOURNAME)

If you are staying overnight too and paying by BACS, please make two separate transfers. Bundling it in with your Hut Fees causes us an admin headache!

USER PROCEDURES

To minimise risk it is recommend that the following procedures are followed:

- All first-time users must complete and sign a pre-use Registration Form (see appendices). A separate form exists for Under 18s to be completed by their legal parent/guardian. Blank Registration Forms will normally be available in the porch area of the facility and then, once completed, will be kept on file by the YSS so users generally need only complete one form. From time to time users may be asked to complete a new form in which case users will be notified via a sign in the porch area. If there are no (or insufficient) blank forms available, then unfortunately the facility cannot be used.
- Perform the following pre-use checks:
 - Ensure your own equipment is fit for purpose and fitted correctly.
 - Ensure the floor areas are clear.
 - Ensure that there are no loose items, either on surfaces or on you, as they could fall and injure other users.
 - Before loading an anchor, satisfy yourself that it is visually sound and the blockwork or steel surrounding it is free from obvious defects.
 - If you choose to use our fixed ropes, then before loading each maillon, ensure it is correctly positioned and done up. Also inspect the rope for any obvious damage.
- Ensure that, between you, you have the equipment and experience to rescue someone stranded mid-rope in a timely fashion from whatever situation they may find themselves.

- Ensure that people standing in the floor area are kept to a minimum. If it is necessary for other people to enter the facility (e.g. trainer) then they must wear suitable protective equipment (i.e. helmets) at all times.
- Do not exceed 6 people on the ropes at any one time.
- Always wear a helmet, ensure you have secured your footwear, and are not carrying anything that is loose and could, therefore, be dropped.
- Ensure that any novices are closely supervised by competent people.
- Only use standard, modern rigging and techniques.
- Cowstails should be used for protection at all pitch heads and during all SRT manoeuvres.
- Electron ladders are not items of PPE must only be used in conjunction with a lifeline. Traditional "body" belaying must never be used. Two bottom anchors are available and it is recommended these are used.
- The low-level traverse line anchors on the left-hand side are designed for practising rigging and progression along pitch heads from the safety of the ground. Because of the substrate they are installed in, these anchors have not been designed or tested to BSEN12572-1:2007 and must, therefore, not be used for anything other than ground-based practice. These anchors are clearly labelled.
- Clearly label suspected defects with "danger: do not use" labels located in the porch area of the facility. Then please report these defects immediately to the first number below, giving as much information as possible. If you do not get an answer, please work through the list in order until you do. Please do not rely on leaving a message. If necessary, don't use the facility at all - you will be refunded any fee you have paid.
 - Damian – 07742 900173 or 01423 203218
 - Stuart - 07974 286264
 - Paul - 07580 247984
 - Rich - 07745 130390
- Ensure all your equipment is removed from the facility after use.

Use by Professional Instructors

- Professional Instructors must provide proof of sufficient and appropriate insurance and obtain permission **before** they can use the facility. All other procedures remain the same.

Payment

- A small charge will be levied to non-members for use of the facility. The intention of this charge is for users to make a fair contribution towards running costs, rather than for the Club to make a profit. The charges are reviewed regularly and subject to change.

YSS SRT Facility - Risk Assessment

reviewed by: Damian Weare

on: 21/02/17

Location: The Old School, Helwith Bridge, BD24 0EH

Hazard	Persons affected	Unmanaged Risk	Control Measures	Managed Risk
Fall from Height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Users 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users reminded in documentation and signage of the need to be competent in the techniques being practised, or to have sufficient competent supervision. • Personal & rigging equipment should be in good condition. • Only standard, accepted techniques in rigging and progression should be used. • Body belaying formally banned. 	Acceptable
Falling Objects or blows to head	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Users • Spectators 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs remind users to empty their pockets and take great care with other objects being used. • Signs remind users to secure their footwear. • All users reminded to wear helmets at all times when in the "active zone". • Barrier reminding users about the need for a helmet is located before entering the "active zone". 	Acceptable
Structural Failure of Wall / Anchors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Users • Spectators 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walls, steels and anchor plates designed by qualified structural engineer to withstand a tensile loading of 22Kn. • Platform designed with a SWL in excess of 6 people. • Anchors tested on installation to EN 12572-1:2007 • Anchors to be visually tested prior to each use - reminder on self-certification form and "Good Practice" signs. • Visual inspections completed by competent individuals approximately six weekly and full professional inspections (to EN 12572-1:2007) completed annually. • Raumer Rock and Annelox Hangers rated to 27Kn. All used within manufacturer's guidelines and inspected approximately monthly. 	Acceptable

Fixed Equipment Failure - ropes, connectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Users Spectators 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fixed ropes meet EN 1891 Type A and are individually tagged and logged. All fixed connectors meet EN362 Equipment only used within manufacturers' guidelines. Monthly visual and full annual inspections by suitably competent people. Users reminded to inspect ropes and connectors individually prior to use. Any defective equipment to be labelled as such immediately and then reported (process on display in facility and in user documentation). 	Acceptable
Suspension Trauma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Users 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users to ensure their group is capable of rescuing someone stranded mid-rope in a timely fashion. Users to provide any spare equipment deemed necessary to ensure effective self-rescue. 	Acceptable
Misuse of Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Users Spectators 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users to complete a self-certification form before their first use. Non-competent users may only use the facility if adequate competent supervision is available. 	Acceptable
Existing Medical Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Users 	Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users to make other users aware of any pre-existing medical condition, such as asthma and diabetes. Users to ensure necessary medication is with them and to make other users aware of its location. Telephone in building to contact emergency services. 	Acceptable

