

# User Regulations

Alpenverein Austria Flakturm  
ÖAV "Sektion Austria" Freizeit Aktiv Ges.m.b.H.



## General

The User Regulations primarily serve to ensure **accident prevention, hygiene, and proper order**. In the entrance area of the climbing center, these regulations are visibly displayed and must be **read through and acknowledged in writing by every user of the facility**.

**Whoever uses the climbing center is aware of the User Regulations and is obligated to adhere to them.**

Violations of these regulations can result in a permanent or temporary ban from using the climbing center by its personnel without any claim to reimbursement of the entrance fee. The rights of the operator to assert more extensive claims remain unaffected thereby. In the event of repeated violations of these regulations, the offending user may be banned from the climbing center indefinitely.

The use of the Alpenverein Austria Flakturm is subject to a fee. Each visitor must check in and out either at the office or with the respective personnel on duty (in the evening). Only people with a valid entrance ticket are allowed to use the facility. It may be requested that the entrance ticket be presented at any time throughout your visit to the climbing facility. The Alpenverein Austria climbing center may only be used during the opening hours determined at the operator's discretion.

Opening hours and entrance fees are on display at the climbing center and can also be found online.

## 1. General Provisions

- a) Every user is aware that climbing in the hall is associated with risks that cannot be completely eliminated by the operator even if the user adheres to all rules specified in the User Regulations. Accidents that occur while climbing indoors mostly occur due to the improper handling of materials, ignorance, and negligence on the part of the rope team. Insufficient mastery of climbing or belaying technology or the use of unsuitable equipment poses a risk of fatal injury. A great degree of caution and individual responsibility on the part of the user is therefore required. At busy times in the climbing center, mutual consideration is of central importance so that others are not put at risk, harmed, or injured. The use of the climbing facility requires complete concentration while climbing and belaying. The instructions of our staff must always be followed. Our staff is entitled to inspect the climbing and belaying technology of the users.
- b) Wearing any kind of jewelry around one's neck and on or around one's hands (e.g. necklaces, rings, bracelets) is prohibited while climbing in order to prevent injuries. Long hair must be tied up while climbing. Climbers may not take heavy, pointed, sharp, or loose objects with them while using the climbing walls.
- c) Wearing a climbing helmet is recommended.
- d) Any kind of unauthorized **changes to the wall** are prohibited, such as the relocation grips or safety straps.
- e) Climbers and belayers are to inspect one another before every climb ("**partner check**"): Is their climbing harness fastened correctly? Are all buckles fastened? Is the climber correctly roped up? Did the belayer correctly tie the munter hitch, or the belaying device? Have all knots been tied properly and completely? Are the safety carabiners screwed in? Within this context, we also refer to the recommendations of the Austrian Alpenverein for the "partner check", which are on display in the hall. Particular caution is to be exercised when using the automatic securing devices (Gri-Gri, Smart, etc.).
- f) Belayers may only use devices with which they are sufficiently familiar!
- g) The belayer must remain within the immediate proximity (maximum of 1 meter away) from the climber while he/she is climbing. Belaying while sitting or lying down is prohibited in the interests of safety. If the two partners are of significantly differing weights, we recommend using a standing belaying device and only selecting appropriately equipped routes.
- h) The belayer is prohibited from climbing after the climber until the climber has completely returned to where his/her climbing route began.
- i) **Fast abseiling** is generally prohibited.
  - a. Climbers are to be lowered slowly and steadily. While lowering, the belayer is responsible for ensuring no third parties are put at risk.
  - b. An "open landing zone" must be ensured for the climber being lowered to avoid scaring or injuring other climbers.

- j) **Solo climbing** is forbidden! Climbing may only take place with rope protection. Climbing without a rope – with the exception of the bouldering area, which has been specially adapted for such climbing with the addition of landing mats – is not permitted. Solo climbing not only represents a particular risk to yourself, but other users of the climbing center too. It also sets a bad example (for children).
- k) **Never hang two or more ropes**, accessory cords, band loops, etc. in a fixing point (carabiner or V-shaped anchor)! This would pose a risk of the rope, band loop, etc. tearing as a result of the heat caused by friction.
- l) While **standing in the climbing zone**, the fall zone underneath the person climbing must be kept clear. Climbing above one another is prohibited. Also, while climbing next to one another, sufficient distance between the two climbers must be maintained at all times. A “pendulum fall” may occur in which a climber slips and swings from side to side like a pendulum. Proper precaution should be taken to avoid such a fall and its impact on one’s fellow climbers.
- m) The **safety rope** must be kept taut. Slack must be avoided. Top-rope climbers must be especially cautious to prevent the risks posed to other climbers by pendulum falls or slips.

## **2. Lead Climbing**

- a) Climbing in the lead climbing area is only allowed for skilled climbers or people who are being supervised during a lesson or who are receiving private instruction from a trained climbing instructor.
- b) You may only lead climb with your own ropes, which must be at least 60 meters long. The person lead climbing must attach himself/herself directly to the rope (i.e. not with a carabiner). Top-rope ropes may not be removed and used for lead climbing.
- c) While lead climbing, all intermediate fixing points must be mounted to. Whoever does not reach the spiral V-shaped anchor at the end of the route must immediately remove the rope after making it back to the ground. “TopRope” may not be climbed on intermediate fixing points! If the route is climbed to the end, the redirecting may only take place with the help of the open spiral V-shaped anchor.
- d) Your own slings must be hung if the hitch straps do not include express slings! Holding on to hitch straps is prohibited. In the event of a fall, fingers may be severely injured.
- e) The rope must be removed in such a way that it runs back through the carabiners along the wall.

## **3. Top-Rope Climbing**

- a) Only the top-rope ropes that are fixed in the climbing center may be climbed on. Knots and safety tape on the ropes may not be undone. Top-rope ropes may not be removed. Damage to the top-rope ropes must be immediately reported to the person supervising the climbing center, the office staff, or the operator.
- b) Redirecting top-rope ropes via express slings is not permitted. Top-rope ropes must always be redirected via 2 fixing points (redundant).
- c) Due to the risk of a pendulum fall along the routes in the overhang, climbers may only climb on a rope that is fed through the intermediate fixing points in the overhang.
- d) While top-rope climbing, the climber must attach himself/herself with 2 opposite-hanging screw carabiners in the belay loop.

#### **4. Bouldering**

- a) Climbing without a rope is only permitted in the boulder area.
- b) The padded mats in the boulder area may not be used to lie down on.
- c) Jumping onto the mats must be done in a controlled manner and in consideration of other people. Special precaution must be taken if children are present.

#### **5. Children**

- a) Children **younger than 14** may only use the climbing facility if accompanied by an adult. Children younger than 14 may only be present under constant supervision by an adult, and adults are entirely responsible for adhering to this supervision obligation.
- b) Running and playing in the climbing or boulder area is prohibited (exception: an organized group activity).
- c) Children **younger than 7** may only visit the climbing facility under the supervision of qualified trainers or supervisors.
- d) Children **younger than 3** may not climb in the facility. Children between 3 and 5 may only climb a maximum of 1.80 meters.

#### **6. Private Groups (school classes, etc.)**

The group leader assumes complete responsibility for his/her participants. We recommend bringing in a climbing instructor from the operator (information on this can be obtained from the business office).

## **7. Lessons**

Lesson participants must strictly adhere to the instructions of the instructor. The User Regulations also apply to lesson participants.

## **8. Materials**

- a) Every user is responsible for the faultless condition of his/her equipment.
- b) For climbing, only the standard-tested mountaineering equipment (CE- and/or UIAA-test marks) may be used.
- c) If defects are determined in the climbing facility (intermediate fixed points, loose grips, redirects, etc.), users are obligated to report these immediately to the supervising person at the climbing center, the staff at the office, or the operator.

## **9. Tidiness and Cleanliness**

- a) Climbing barefoot as well as climbing with outdoor shoes is not permitted.  
For hygiene reasons, climbing may only take place with climbing shoes or clean indoor training shoes (tennis shoes without soles that leave marks).
- b) Smoking is absolutely forbidden throughout the entire climbing center (including halls & locker rooms).
- c) The operator recommends foregoing the use of magnesium powder in the climbing center. The use of Magnesia balls or Mega-Grip is recommended.
- d) People under the influence of medication, drugs, or alcohol are prohibited from entering or using the climbing center.
- e) Dogs and any other pets may not enter the climbing center, apart from guide dogs or other service dogs.
- f) The climbing facility and restrooms must be kept clean.

# ATTACHMENT

## Safety and Liability

### **Liability**

**Use the climbing center at your own risk!** The operator, his/her agents, as well as any auxiliary persons commissioned by him or his agents are only liable for personal damages caused by their gross negligence. They are also only liable for premeditated or grossly negligent conduct.

With regards to valuable items, we recommend using the lockers in the climbing center.

Users who cause damage or injure people must bear the consequences themselves.

All users are aware that grips and footsteps may loosen, turn, or even, in exceptional cases, break.

### **Safety Standards**

The operator must strive to fulfil the highest safety standards as the operator of the climbing center. The facility must provide the user with the maximum possible and reasonable degree of safety.

If a climber brings his/her own material, it is the **responsibility of the climber** to only use standard-tested, faultless, and safe equipment. It is not the task of hall staff to inspect the climber's equipment. Likewise, every climber is also responsible for his/her own selected belaying technology and strategy.

Within this context, we also refer to the latest climbing recommendations from the Austrian Alpenverein, which is on display in the hall.

**ÖAV "Sektion Austria" Freizeit Aktiv Ges.m.b.H.**  
**January 2019**