

RISK ASSESSMENT

TASK / ACTIVITY / OPERATION / LOCATION / EQUIPMENT / INDIVIDUAL / DATE(S):	COLLEGE: Easton College	DEPARTMENT/BUILDING/AREA: AgroChallenge 2026
Log Splitting – 24 th & 25 th June	ASSESSOR: Rob Kemp	
Outdoor education splitting area Easton	DATE ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT: 30 th April 2026	
	REVIEW DATE (Annually or after significant changes): 29 th April 2027	
	LINE MANAGER / VP APPROVAL (Name & Date):	Mat Scott 03/06/26

Hazards Associated with the Task, Activity, Operation, Location, Equipment, Individual.	Persons Affected	How Might They be Harmed	Control Measures	Severity Rating	Frequency Rating (likelihood)	Overall Risk Rating (Low, Medium or High)
Use of sharp tools (axes, mauls, wedges)	Competitors	Cuts, lacerations, amputations	The supervisor of the log splitting activities must be a competent person with experience in this specific activity Only competent participants are allowed. Pre competition safety briefing. axes inspected before and after use. Resharpener when dull. Competitors must work one at a time within their station. PPE for the log splitting activities is to extend to include professional shin guards specifically designed for log splitting activities	3	2	Low (6)
Flying wood splinters or broken tools	Competitors, judges, spectators	Eye injuries, impact injuries	Mandatory PPE for competitors (eye protection, gloves, safety boots) to be check and always worn during activity. Exclusion zones marked with barriers. Spectators kept at 3m behind barriers. No spectators Infront or behind during splitting	3	2	Low (6)

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Incorrect stance or fatigue during competition	Competitors	Muscular strain, loss of control of tool	Participants briefed on safe stance and technique. Adequate warm-up advised. Rest periods enforced. Competition stopped if unsafe behavior observed.	2	2	Low (4)
Slips, trips and falls on uneven or wet ground	All persons	Sprains, fractures, impact injuries	Area inspected before event. Ground kept clear of offcuts. Non-slip footwear required. Event postponed if conditions become unsafe.	2	2	Low (4)
Spectators entering working area	Spectators	Contact with tools or flying debris	Clear physical barriers and signage. Strict no entry policy during active splitting.	4	1	Low (4)
Manual handling of logs	Competitors, event staff	Back strain, crush injuries	Logs sized appropriately. Two person lifts encouraged where required. Demonstration of safe lifting techniques.	2	2	Low (4)
Weather conditions (rain, heat, wind)	All persons	Slips, heat stress, reduced control of tools	Weather monitored. Event suspended during adverse conditions. Drinking water and shade provided. Participants to make staff aware if feeling unwell. First aid trained staff available.	2	2	Low (4)

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NUMERICAL ASSESSMENT				OVERALL RISK FACTOR						
Severity Rating		Frequency Rating (likelihood)		Overall Risk Factor = Severity x Frequency	Frequency (likelihood)					
					5	4	3	2	1	
1	No Injuries / Minor Damage	1	Remote	Severity	5	25	20	15	10	5
2	Single Minor Injury	2	Unlikely		4	20	16	12	8	4
3	Single Major Injury / Personal Injury	3	Occasional		3	15	12	9	6	3
4	Single Fatality / Major Pollution	4	Probable		2	10	8	6	4	2
5	Multiple Fatalities	5	Frequent		1	5	4	3	2	1

15-25 High Risk	UNACCEPTABLE - REVISIT ACTIVITY & CONTROL MEASURES
8-12 Medium Risk	REVIEW THE CONTROL MEASURES – CAN YOU IMPLEMENT FURTHER CONTROL MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK? IF NOT, REGULARLY REVIEW CONTROL MEASURES.
1-6 Low Risk	ACCEPTABLE (Keep control measures under review).

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Method Statement: Log Splitting Competition

1. Scope of Works

This method statement covers the arrangements, procedures, and safety controls required to safely conduct a log splitting competition using hand tools (e.g., splitting axes/mauls)

2. Responsibilities

- **Competition Supervisor**
 - Enforces rules and safety procedures on the day ensuring PPE is worn
 - Stops activity if unsafe conditions arise
 - **Competitors**
 - Must follow instructions and use equipment safely
 - Wear required PPE at all times
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3. Equipment & Materials

- Logs (uniform size and species where possible)
- Splitting axes/mauls (well-maintained, undamaged)
- Log splitting blocks (stable, level surface)
- Measuring/timing equipment
- Hera Barriers at 3m distance
- First aid kit

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4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All participants and officials within the working area must wear:

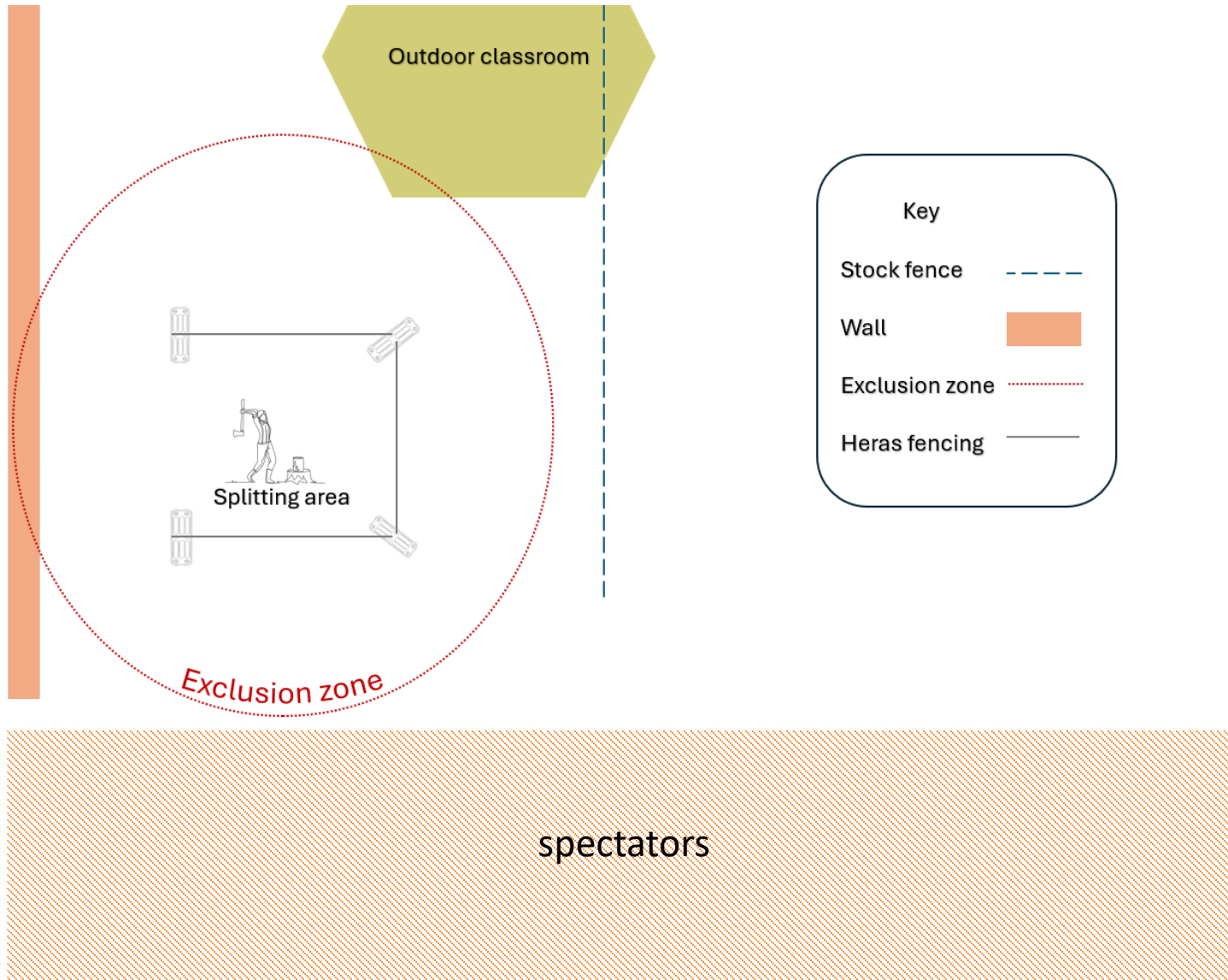
- Safety boots with toe protection
- Safety glasses or face shield
- Long trousers
- High-visibility vest (for marshals/supervisors)

5. Site Preparation

- Site will be a flat, stable, non-slip surface
- Establish clearly marked **exclusion zones** around each competitor (minimum 5m radius) with Heras fencing on three sides open at rear (a strictly no personnel zone during splitting)
- Provide spectator barriers at a safe distance
- Ensure adequate light and weather conditions are safe in extreme weather ensure competition is stopped
- Position first aid point and emergency access route

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- Site layout as below:



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6. Method of Work

6.1 Pre-Event Checks

- Inspect all tools for damage (loose heads, cracks, dulled blades etc.)
- Check logs for embedded foreign objects (metal, stones)
- Brief all participants on rules, hazards, and emergency procedures
- Demonstrate correct splitting technique,

6.2 Competition Procedure

1. Competitor enters designated splitting area
2. Supervisor confirms:
 - PPE is worn correctly
 - Work area is clear of others
3. Log is placed securely on splitting block
4. On signal, competitor begins splitting using controlled strikes
5. Competitor must:
 - Maintain stable stance
 - Keep both hands on tool when striking
 - Ensure no one enters exclusion zone

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6. Splitting continues until:
 - Log is fully split to specified size, or
 - 5-minute time limit is reached
 7. Supervisor signals stop
 8. Competitor makes tool safe and exits area
 9. Area is cleared and split wood is stacked neatly away from wood splitting area
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8. Emergency Procedures

- Stop competition immediately in case of incident
 - First aider attends casualty
 - Call emergency services if required
 - Clear area to allow access
 - Incident recorded and reported
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9. Environmental Considerations

- Collect wood debris and waste after event
 - Avoid damage to ground surface where possible
 - Store tools and materials safely pre and post-event
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10. Completion

- Ensure axes are accounted for and stored
 - Inspect site for hazards or debris
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