

**CLIMBING ACTIVITIES ARE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS**  
**SUPERVISION IS LIMITED | BE AWARE | CLIMB WITH CARE**

# HIVE CLIMBING

## LEAD BELAY TEST

The purpose of the Lead Belay Test is to ensure that all individuals lead climbing in the facility are doing so up to the safety standards of the facility.

**BELAY TEST TIME** About 20 minutes

### PREREQUISITES

Lead Belay Test Candidates must have passed the Top Rope Belay Test first.

Previous lead-climbing experience from outdoors, another facility, or a recent lead climbing course.

Appropriately paired climber & belayer – large weight discrepancies are not permissible for lead climbing in this facility; if you are unsure please consult the lead climbing weight discrepancies chart.

Anyone taking the test must be able to both lead-climb and lead-belay.\*

\*Exceptions may be made for parents of experienced athletes who wish to lead belay their children.

The Hive Heights strongly recommends guests testing in the gym are capable of climbing a minimum difficulty of 5.9 comfortably and cleanly.

### PROCEDURE

There will be no coaching by the staff during the test. Guests who are unsure of their skills or who are uncomfortable with the current grade offerings on the lead walls are encouraged to reconsider their decision to test now.

### COMPETENCIES

TO PASS THE BELAY TEST YOU MUST DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY OF THE FOLLOWING:

All pertinent items from the TR Belay Test (harness assembly and fig.8 knot, e.g.)

Clear understanding of lead climbing hazards

Proper stacking/flaking of rope before climbing

Spotting the climber until the first clip is made.

Appropriate positioning of the belayer. This often changes during the course of the climb.

The climber is not allowed to skip clips. All quick draws in line with the route as set must be clipped.

Appropriate amounts of slack in the rope at various times in the climb; to avoid hard falls, ground falls, or impeding the climber's ability to clip. Excess slack when belaying is considered unsafe.

The belayer should be able to feed slack and then take rope in while maintaining a closed hand. This process should be smooth, effective, and controlled.

A lead fall must be held without hesitation. The climber should not expose themselves to the risk of being flipped or injured by a rope wrapped around a limb. The climber should not grab at holds, quick-draws, or the rope.

Dealing with Z-clips (Down-climb, then lower immediately) and back-clipping (correct or immediately lower). These should be identified by either belayer or climber, and should happen no more than once if at all.

The belayer should lower the climber slowly to avoid hitting others. The climber's knot should be fully untied before pulling the rope or leaving the climb.

### PASS OR FAIL

Upon passing the Belay Test, customers will be given an orientation to the facility and an explanation of the facility rules. A customer who fails the check cannot belay for the rest of the day, but can be rechecked on their next visit.