

## Minors at the EWU Climbing Wall

### Minors Climbing Wall use

**No children under the age of 6 are allowed inside the Climbing Wall area.**

**Minors aged 17 and under** are not allowed in the climbing area without their parent or legal guardian unless it is with a group that has made arrangements with the Wall Manager. These gym users must have adult supervision other than wall staff.

- A legal guardian is an individual that has been appointed by the courts as the legal custodial guardian of a child.
- The parent(s) of a child's friend is NOT a legal guardian.
- An older sibling is NOT a legal guardian unless a court has appointed that sibling as having legal custody of that child.
- A camp counselor or chaperone is NOT a legal guardian.

### Minors and Waivers

All Individuals between the ages of 6 and 17 that have a parent or legal guardian present are allowed in the gym area only with a waiver signed by the parent or legal guardian.

**There are no exceptions to the rules regarding waiver signatures.**

### Minors Belaying

Belaying instruction in the wall area to users of any age is done by EWU Wall Staff ONLY.

EWU Climbing Wall users wishing to instruct a friend or relative are prohibited from doing so in the Climbing Wall area.

Belay classes taught at the EWU Climbing Wall are only for users aged 15 or older.

Wall users aged 6 to 14 that have become proficient at belaying through family recreation or other formal instruction may be certified to belay in the EWU Climbing Wall area through a top rope belay proficiency check performed by the Climbing Wall manager. Limitations may be made to these belay approved minors as to who they are allowed to belay in our gym. For example: 'may belay family members only' may be specified. Exceptions may be made to this guideline for groups through prior arrangement, at least 7 days prior to an event, with the Climbing Wall Manager.



This section outlines guidelines for allowable exceptions to the publicly posted document: “Minors at the EPIC Climbing Wall”. This information will be printed in the Climbing Wall staff handbook.

## Minors Climbing Wall use

### **No children under the age of 6 are allowed inside the Climbing Wall area**

**Minors aged 14 and under** are not allowed in the climbing area without their parent or legal guardian. These gym users must have adult supervision other than wall staff. Exceptions may be made to this rule through prior arrangement with the Wall Manager or EPIC Director only.

Safety issues with this age group depend on adequate adult supervision. Having a parent or legal guardian in the Climbing Wall area with their minor child ensures this. Exceptions to this rule depend on planning for adequate supervision. The Wall Manager or EPIC Director may plan for a group that has members of this age group by scheduling extra staff or partitioning off a section of gym so that younger/smaller wall users and older/larger wall users are separated. These provisions may impact EWU students' use of the gym and require charging these users for the disruption of normal gym operations.

Parents should be made aware that the Wall Staff are not responsible for babysitting their children. If a minor of this age group can not act responsibly even with staff and parental supervision, they should be prohibited from using the Climbing Wall area.

**Children that are between 15 and 17 years of age** are allowed in the gym unaccompanied by an adult or without adult supervision (other than Wall Staff) once a waiver of liability has been signed by an appropriate parent or legal guardian and is on file at the Climbing Wall.

## Minors and Waivers

All Individuals between the ages of 6 and 17 are allowed in the gym area only with a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.

- A legal guardian is an individual that has been appointed by the courts as the legal custodial guardian of a child.
- The parent(s) of a child's friend is NOT a legal guardian.
- An older sibling is NOT a legal guardian unless a court has appointed that sibling as having legal custody of that child.
- A camp counselor or chaperone is NOT a legal guardian.

**There are no exceptions to the rules regarding waiver signatures.**

**Children that are between 15 and 17 years of age** are allowed in the gym unaccompanied by an adult or without adult supervision (other than Wall Staff) once a waiver of liability has been signed by an appropriate parent or legal guardian and is on file at the Climbing Wall.



This waiver must be signed in the presence of Wall Staff.

If a parent of an individual of these ages can not come to the gym to sign a waiver, then **Wall Staff must be part of the communication chain with the parent that leads to the waiver being accepted at the gym.** For example:

- Wall Staff may call a parent and direct them to the Climbing Wall website where they can download a waiver. They should be instructed to sign the waiver and then either fax, mail or have the child bring it in. The Wall Staff should document this communication in the 'Wall Tracking System' so that other staff will know the circumstances when the minor brings the waiver in.
- If a minor brings a waiver in with a signature that they claim is the parents', Climbing Wall staff must communicate directly with the parent to confirm the validity of the signature.

## **Minors Belaying**

The only belaying instruction allowed in the wall area to users of any age is by EPIC Wall Staff **ONLY**. EPIC Climbing Wall users wishing to instruct a friend or relative are prohibited from doing so in the Climbing Wall area.

Minors under the age of 15 are not allowed to participate in belay classes taught at the EPIC Climbing Wall. Belay classes are only for users aged 15 or older.

Minors under the age of 15 can be successfully taught to belay and use top-rope systems but our Climbing Wall Instructors adhere to a program designed for users of college age and older.

Wall users aged 6 to 14 that have become proficient at belaying through family recreation or other formal instruction may be certified to belay in the EPIC Climbing Wall area through a top rope belay proficiency check **performed by the EPIC Director or Climbing Wall Manager**. Limitations may be made to these belay approved minors as to who they are allowed to belay in our gym. For example: 'may belay family members only' may be specified. Exceptions may be made to this rule for groups through prior arrangement, at least 7 days prior to an event, with the Climbing Wall Manager.

Exceptions to this rule depend on planning for adequate supervision. The Wall Manager may plan for a group that has members of this age group by scheduling extra staff or partitioning off a section of gym so that younger/smaller wall users and older/larger wall users are separated. These provisions may impact EWU students' use of the gym and require charging these users for the disruption of normal gym operations. These belayers would be approved only to belay within their specially planned group.