



Novice Supervision FAQs (March 2017)

I'm a bouldering only member, can I supervise a novice?

The Bouldering Only Registration will NOT allow you to supervise novice climbers of any age. If you are coming climbing with an adult 18 years plus they can register for a bouldering only membership. If new to climbing they MUST watch our bouldering induction video. We strongly recommend that all climbers, regardless of experience, watch the bouldering induction video prior to registration.

If you wish to bring an under 18 climbing and supervise them we will require you to register as a roped climbing member. You will need to be able to put on a harness, tie in and belay without any assistance. If you are unsure or unable to show these skills we would suggest taking an [intro course](#). Once you have completed this course you will be able to bring in up to two novices and supervise them at the centre.

We just want to boulder; do we need to complete the novice supervision form?

If you are over the age of 18 you can register as a boulder only member. You will need to watch our [bouldering induction video](#) and complete a [bouldering only registration form](#). Please note if you wish to supervise an under 18 you will need to be a registered roped climber to do so, we do not allow boulder only members to supervise under 18's to boulder.

Do I need written parental consent if I want to bring a child in as a novice?

We do not require a written parental consent however you MUST have the permission of their parent or guardian to supervise them climbing indoors.

How can I teach my novice to belay?

The best way to teach a novice to belay will be to come as a 3 either two novices and a supervisor or two competent climbers and one novice. Please note that their supervisor must remain on the ground, backing up the brake rope at all times. A novice can either learn this way or take [introductory course](#).

I'm coming in with three children, but only two of them will be climbing at any one time- is that OK?

You can only supervise up to two novices at any one time. There is no exception to this rule.

Can we fill out the novice form ahead of time?

Yes you can, all our forms are available on our [website](#). Please note our new novice form will go live on 3rd April – when the new policy comes into place. We would advise that if you have previously completed a novice form (prior to 3rd April), for the novice you intend to bring on this visit, that you re-complete this form prior to visiting the Centre. This will speed up the registration process.

We're a uni club- how can we manage supervising large groups of novices safely?

For further information on bringing a university club please contact reception@castle-climbing.co.uk.

Can novices use the autobelays?

Novices can only use the Autobelays under the supervision of their nominated Supervisor. The supervisor should remain on the ground whilst the novice is using the Auto belay to assist with clipping in and unclipping and make sure the area is clear for their descent.

When can a Novice register to climb unsupervised?

Novices should only take the steps to become a full registered member of the centre once they are confident that they can safely climb, tie in and belay without assistance. The step to becoming a fully registered member is a big responsibility if you are questioning if you are ready or not you probably need more time. We would always recommend attending a course to get professional instruction.

I'm a parent, registered to rope climb, can I still boulder with my children?

Yes, you can! The updates to the novice policy apply to roped climbing only. As a supervisor you must remain on the floor to back up the break rope. When bouldering, you can still climb, however we would expect you to remain on the floor while your child is climbing. This is to assist and monitor your child, should they have any problems.