



Risk Assessment	Tomahawk Throwing (inc. Angels) RA applies to Soft Hawks	Date of risk assessment	Updated 27/05/26	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Russ Burton	Date for review	27/05/2027
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Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	Severity	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Inappropriate running of the activity	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity instructors to be competent and proficient in leading session. Non TSA qualifications are preferred but not necessary, if instructors are experienced in running a range at least 7hrs of practical leading and instructing Access to the range to be limited to active participants only. Instructor to check the equipment prior to use. Tomahawk throwing is restricted to appropriate sections. Actual hawks are suitable for older Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Network and Leaders. Soft Hawks are appropriate for Squirrels, Beavers, younger Cubs. Instructors will assess to suitability of the activity for the age group prior to commencing the activity. 	
Injury to participants and instructors through incorrect use of equipment, accidental release or 'bounce back	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety briefing by trained persons See above. All persons involved remain in the designate area in the range. No unauthorised access to the equipment or in the throwing area. No throwing to take place without supervision of an instructor. Only purpose made throwing items to be used. Tomahawks/ Angels are approved. Throwing Stars/ Knives are forbidden. 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning people of the danger if they enter the throwing area. Throwing area and surrounding area clearly marked off with hi-viz tape/ rope as per POR. Instructors are wearing Hi-Viz tabards. 	
Over and side shoots, bounce back	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants to be given clear instruction on direction of throwing. Physical stop behind targets to stop overthrows/ or plenty of marked clearance give to dead space. Observation/ waiting area to be at the rear of activity area. With a clearly marked in/out cordoned off area. See diagram below 	
Participants' behaviour	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If in the opinion of the instructor the behaviour of an individual or the group as a whole is not conducive to running a safe session then the activity session will be stopped and the person or persons causing concern removed. No person under the influence of alcohol or drugs should be allowed on the activity site. 	

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Injury to participant(s) and instructor(s)	All	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructors to make sure that all participants are wearing appropriate footwear eg strong shoes- no sandals, “cros”, or open toed shoes. Trousers to be worn as per TSA POR Guidelines. <p>Based on Environmental factors- e.g. Hot weather- Range coordinators/ instructors will conduct a dynamic/ on going real time RA, to monitor individuals suitability to participate. Extra caution will be observed and advised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor to give clear demonstration and instruction on throwing a tomahawk. No two handed over the head throws. Practical throws can be done using a wooden stave similar to the length of hawks Instructor to ensure participants are aware that tomahawks are or could be sharp and not to touch the cutting edge under any circumstances. Demonstrate the correct method of removing the tomahawk from the target. The hawks (no more than two at a time) are walked back to the fire line with the heads held in hand, sharp edge facing away from the body with the helve vertical securer on armpit/shoulder. Tomahawks to be regularly inspected for damage or burrs especially if a clash of tomahawks has occurred. Number of people at the throwing points to be controlled by the instructor (Maximum of 12 per session). A first aid box should be kept in the activity area during the running of the activity. One hawk to be held at a time when throwing. Only one hawk to be thrown at a time 	
Equipment failure	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment to be checked regularly and particularly before use. Instructor to give clear demonstration and instruction how to use a tomahawk. 	
Unauthorised use	All	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tomahawks to be removed from activity area and correctly stored in purpose built box and locked storage area. 	
Manual handling of targets and stands	Instructors	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury through manual handling of targets and stands can be reduced significantly by the use of two or more people being used to move them on the site. Only people trained to move the stands and targets should be allowed to do so. Gloves to be worn. 	

Tomahawk Throwing Range Layout – January 2019

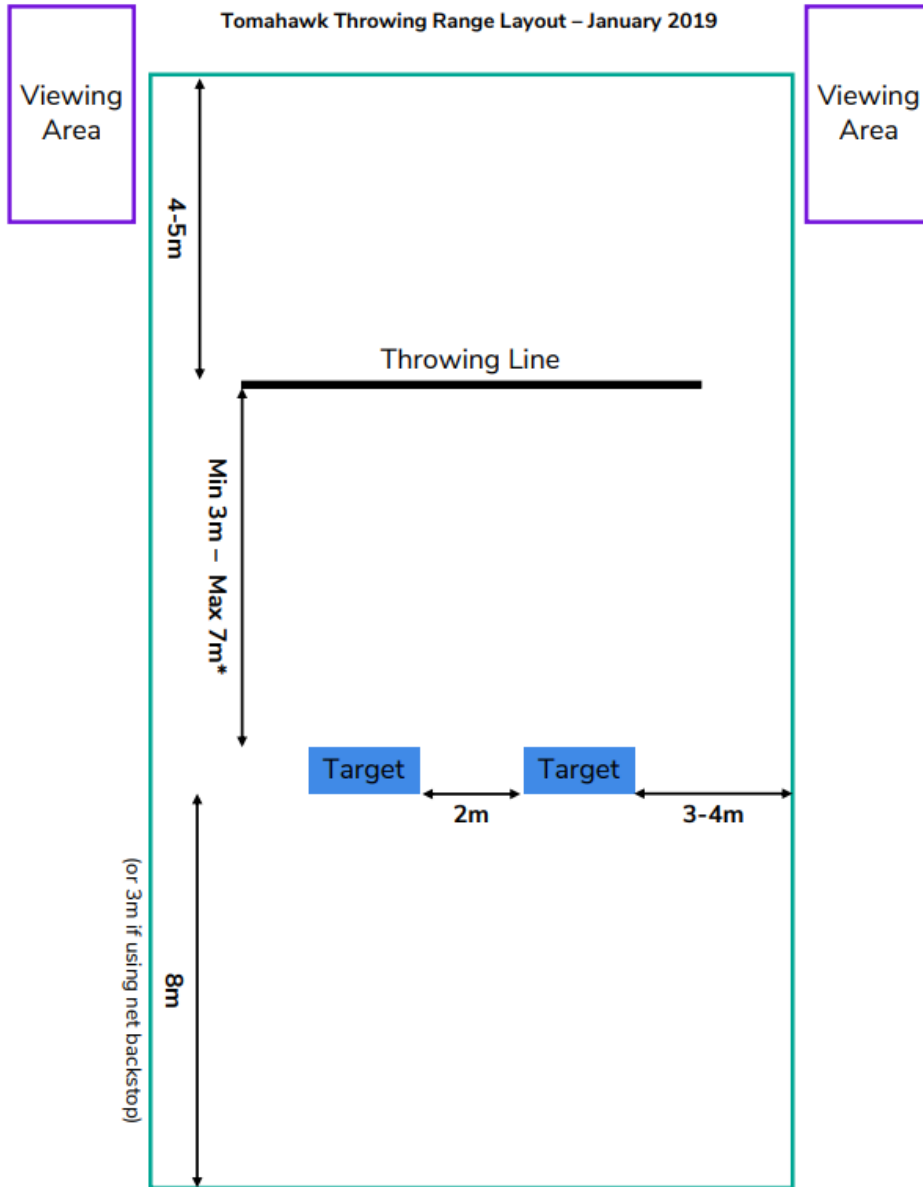


Diagram not to scale.

*3m or 5m for Small Hawks. 4m or 7m for Tomahawks.