# 4 Facilitate Team Belay on any Tower Element

## How to Get a Manager Check-Off

Have the Challenge Center Manager observe you overseeing 2 active lines of team belay.

## Procedure Details

Team belay is utilized on tower elements using participants as belayers and a ground anchored friction device (eye bolts). Participants will team belay with a minimum of three people only after being instructed on how to do so, and under the close supervision of qualified staff.

Team belay is accomplished by three participants maintaining control of the rope by assuming three different roles.

* The first person is the “puller”. He/she pulls the slack from the rope as the climber progresses, and is positioned in front of the belay bolts.
* The second person is the actual belayer. He/she manages the slack from the puller by pulling the rope through the belay bolts.
* The third person is a back-up belayer who is charged with managing the rope as it hits the ground and serves to ensure there are plenty of hands on the rope in the event that the primary belayer fails to perform their duties or gets distracted.
	+ The back-up belayer keeps the rope tight between themselves and the primary belayer, while also being careful not to pull the rope out of the primary belayers’ hands

Special Considerations

* Belayers will always use gloves.
* The puller and the primary belayer maintain a crisp “V” in the rope running on either side of the belay device. Care should be taken to keep the rope from looking like a “U” which indicates slack in the system.
* The Rule of Twos is in effect:
	+ Two feet firmly on the ground.
	+ Two hands on the rope at all times – use the “slide, slide, pull” method as opposed to “hand-over-hand”.
	+ Two eyes on the climber at all times.
* Keep hands two feet away from the belay bolts while a participant is climbing
* This activity is done under the close supervision of staff. This means that the designated staff member is ensuring that participants are maintaining a safe belay (i.e.: the Rule of Twos is being observed, and there is no excessive slack in the system by maintaining a “V” in the rope). Staff should be standing in a position so that team belay can be monitored and the rope can be grabbed if necessary. Staff should be watching the team belayers in addition to monitoring the progress of the climber periodically.
	+ Staff should always wear a harness and gloves while observing Team Belay.
* When lowering the climber the puller will make sure that all possible slack is taken up and the belay team has a tight belay on the climber. The puller will then moves to the rear of the line and become an additional backup belayer. Belayers let the climber down by shuffling/feeding the rope towards the eyebolts (but not letting the rope just run through their hands).

