



Australian Young Farmer Challenge HANDBOOK

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1. National Committee

The Australian Young Farmer Challenge is an initiative of the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies.

1.1. Steering Committee

New South Wales Representatives			
Ms Sarah Sanderson	Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales	02 9704 1160	ayfc@rasnsw.com.au
Ms Ashley Wright-Hands	Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales Youth Group		a.wright-hands@hotmail.com
South Australia Representatives			
Mr Peter Angus	Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia	08 8210 5233	pangus@adelaideshowground.com.au
Mr Andrew Hall	South Australia Next Generation Group		andahapast@gmail.com
Victoria Representatives			
Ms Vibeke Pedersen	Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria	03 9281 7473	vibeke.pedersen@rasv.com.au
Ms Laura Hammond	Vic Young Farmers (VYF)		LHammond@impactfert.com.au
Queensland Representatives			
Ms Andrea Crothers	RNA Future Directions Committee		crothers.ab@gmail.com
Western Australia Representatives			
Ms Natalie Raynor	Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia	08 6263 3100	nraynor@raswa.org.au
Northern Territory Representatives			
Ms Cherry Court	Royal Agricultural Society of the Northern Territory	08 8984 3091	ceo@darwinshow.com.au
Australian Capital Territory Representatives			
Mr Garry Ashby	Royal National Capital Agricultural Society	02 6241 2478	ceo@rncas.org.au
Ms Emily Patterson	Canberra Royal Next Gen	0477 131 647	emily.patterson0110@gmail.com
Ms Stephanie Davies	Canberra Royal Next Gen	0437 570 113	steph@listenupsmc.com.au
Tasmania Representatives			
Mr Scott Woodham	Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania	03 6272 6812	scott@hobartshowground.com.au
Mr Dwane Schubert			dschubert@serve-ag.com.au

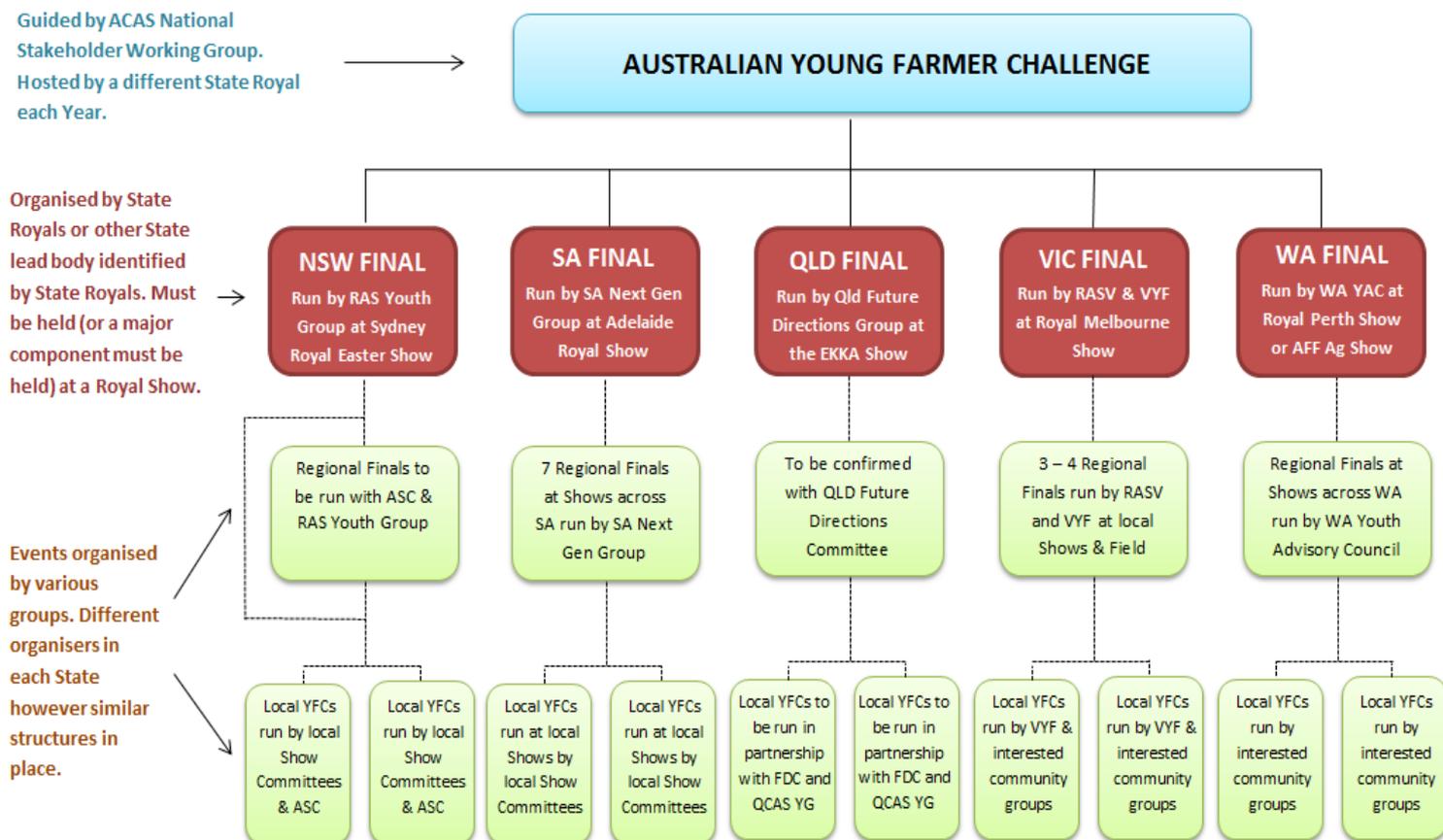
2. Structure, Rules and Regulations of the Australian Young Farmer Challenge

2.1. Competition Structure

The competition structure agreed to by the Australian Young Farmer Challenge Working Group can be found below in Figure 1.

Tasmania, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory are still in a development phase and will be added to the structure once confirmed.

Figure 1: Australian Young Farmer Challenge Competition Structure agreed to by ACAS Executive Committee - March 2013 (NSW Finals information edited August 2015)



2.1.1. New South Wales Young Farmer Challenge Structure

The RAS of NSW Youth Group run the State Final at the Sydney Royal Easter Show each year.

Regional Young Farmer Challenges will be run by the RAS of NSW at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, prior to the state final. The four top-qualifying teams will progress through to the State final held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Local Young Farmer Challenges are open to be run by local show societies and Agricultural Societies Council representatives (ASC). Teams must win an event held at a local show to be eligible to compete in the regional and state finals. Any team that wins a local show is able to enter regional finals with places in the regional available on a first-come first-served basis.

2.1.2. South Australia Young Farmer Challenge Competition Structure

The SA Next Gen Group work with Adelaide Show organisers and SA Rural Services to run the Young Farmer Challenge State Final at Adelaide Show. All aspects of the Young Farmer Challenge will be held at the Adelaide Show including any new aspects that may be included in the future (e.g. theory based component).

The SA Next Gen Group will also aim to run the seven regional finals across the state each year in the seven different regions of South Australia. The shows who host the regional finals will change each year (as long as the local show Committee is capable of running the competition). Winning teams of the regional finals will qualify for the State Final at Adelaide Show.

Local Young Farmer Challenges will be run at local shows by local show Committees with support from the SA Next Gen Group. In general, if the SA Next Group attends a local Show to assist in starting up the competition, the SA Next Gen Group should not need to return to that show to assist in future years unless a regional final competition is taking place.

2.1.3. Queensland Young Farmer Challenge Competition Structure

The Queensland Future Directions Committee (FDC) has been in contact with the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies (QCAS) Next Gen Committee. Whilst members have not had an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting, progressive discussions have been made and both parties are very interested in working together in creating a State Young Farmer Challenge competition.

The FDC suggested the idea of creating a Queensland team for the first Australian Young Farmer Challenge in Sydney (30 March), involving its members and QCAS members, rather than submitting last year's winning QLD team. The reason behind this is that there is no current budget funding to send a winning team. However, it is likely that funding will be provided to endorse members of the FDC to travel to the Royal Sydney Show. By sending FDC members and joining forces with QCAS to make up a team for the competition, it will provide an opportune time to meet, engage and establish greater bonds between the two groups.

The FDC has proposed to meet to discuss the Queensland chapter with QCAS at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

2.1.4. Victoria Young Farmer Challenge Competition Structure

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV) is working with the Victorian Young Farmers (VYF) to develop and deliver the Young Farmer Challenge in Victoria. The RASV and VYF will collaborate to run the State final at the Royal Melbourne Show each year.

The RASV and VYF have agreed that there will be three to four Regional Young Farmer Challenge finals across Victoria each year, with winning teams from the regional finals progressing to the State competition at the Royal Melbourne Show. VYF has agreed to run these three to four Regional Young Farmer Challenge finals; RASV is not a part of this.

Young Farmer Challenges at a local level will be managed by the VYF, with local organisations/events, such as local shows and field days, encouraged to participate and host events.

2.1.5. Western Australia Young Farmer Challenge Competition Structure

The Western Australian State Final will be run by the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia (RASWA) Youth Advisory Council. Whilst RASWA will endeavor to run the Young Farmer Challenge at the Perth Royal Show, space availability will likely see the event being held out of show time on the Perth Showground or at another major agricultural show (such as Wagin and Dowerin Show).

The RAS WA Youth Advisory Council may also run Regional Young Farmer Challenges Finals. Those teams that win at a regional level will progress to the State final.

Local groups, particularly local agricultural shows, will be encouraged to hold Young Farmer Challenges. Winners of the local Young Farmer Challenges will gain entry into the Regional Finals.

2.2. General Rules and Regulations for Young Farmer Challenges

2.2.1. To be eligible the Competitors must:

- Must be aged between 18 and 35 years of age on the day the National competition takes place. Competitors may be required to provide proof of age. No competitor must be older than 35 years of age of the State final.
- Must have won their State competition in the year preceding the National competition. If the winning team is unavailable to attend, the second place team may compete in their place.
- Have not previously contested another State Final in the same competition year.
- Competitors must reside in the State they are representing for the National competition, or be within 50km of their State's border
- One reserve competitor may be nominated by each team at the time of the State competition. This reserve competitor may act as a substitute for the National competition in the event a competitor is unable to attend the National competition. Substitutions must be passed by the National Steering Committee for a National competition.

2.2.2. The Competitors:

- Compete at their own risk.
- Must undertake all Competition activities in a safe manner.
- Must not be immediate family members or partners of:
 - Competition Officials
 - National Young Farmer Challenge Steering Committee members
 - Australian Council of Agricultural Societies Committee members
- If this situation arises, the competitor must declare this conflict of interest to the competition organisers which will then be taken to the National Steering Committee for discussion.
- Are required to wear clothing outlined in section 3.4.1.

2.2.3. Teams for Young Farmer Challenges

- The Young Farmer Challenge is open to teams of 4 people.
- Competitors in each team must include both male and female competitors. All female or all male teams are not eligible to enter.
- One member of each team is required to meet each of the following criteria for entry:
 - Hold a current drivers licence recognised by an Australian State or Territory.
 - Be capable of hitching a trailer to a car and backing the trailer
 - Be competent at driving a tractor
 - Have experience in driving an all-terrain vehicle (ATV)
 - Be experienced in using a chainsaw
 - Be competent at handling livestock, including horses, sheep and cattle
- Should a team have concerns that any of their members cannot meet the above criteria, they should refer their entry to their State representative (see section 1.1).

2.2.4. Animal Welfare

If hosting a YFC event, be aware of and adhere to the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, notably but not restricted to the Land Transportation of Livestock and Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals.

In addition, the State and Regional Finals will adhere to the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Young Farmer Challenge Guidelines for use of live animals in challenges, as per below:

RAS of NSW Young Farmer Challenge Guidelines for use of live animals

The Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales recognises that animals are used for human purposes, such as food, fibre, companionship, recreation and research conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals. In designing and running agricultural competitions involving animals, it is the responsibility of the organisers, entrants, exhibitors and suppliers of animals to consider the welfare of animals in such use, which encompasses:

- Appropriate housing
- Management
- Nutrition
- Humane handling
- Veterinary treatment

a) Housing

- i) Provide your animals with adequate shelter when they are to remain in one position for more than 10-15 minutes within a challenge, as necessary, depending on the weather. This may mean providing shade or shelter from wind or rain. If conditions are mild, shelter may not be necessary. Animals should be provided with appropriate shelter when not directly involved in a challenge.

b) Nutrition

- i) Provide your animals with adequate food and fresh water when not directly involved in a challenge task. Dispose of waste feed appropriately.

c) Challenge design and animal handling

- i) Challenges should not cause physical pain to animals.
- ii) Use appropriate animal handling techniques to reduce stress on your animals. Animals that are not trained to lead should be held in secure yards during challenges. For any challenge involving animal restraint, the use of halters is only appropriate for animals that are halter trained.

d) Transport

- i) Transport animals to and from the event site in a utility, trailer, van or truck with a fixed crate, or on a lead with the aid of a secure halter. If animals are to be moved within a challenge they are to be quietly drafted (for example sheep) or lead with the aid of a secure halter. Animals should not be picked up and carried, unless this is a part of normal husbandry practices for that species, for example poultry.

- e) Animal selection
 - i) Fit and healthy animals should only be selected for use in challenges.
 - ii) Adult or mature animals should only be selected for use in challenges; however, gestating or geriatric animals should not be selected. This is to avoid unnecessary stress to immature animals that are not used to handling and husbandry procedures.
- f) Veterinary supervision
 - i) It is recommended that a Veterinarian is available to provide Veterinary treatment if required as a result of the use of animals in challenges.

*Written by Dr B Sharpe, Dr M Westwood & Dr A Wright-Hands for the RAS Youth Group February 2014
Approved by the Veterinary Committee of the RAS 2015*

The RAS of NSW promotes high standards of animal care and also promotes the safety of people involved with animal handling. If you would like further information or advice regarding challenge design and the use of animals you can contact the RAS Youth Group: ayfc@rasnsw.com.au

2.3. Hosting a National or State Competition

2.3.1. Hosting a National Competition

- A National competition must be hosted by a Royal Agricultural Society affiliated with the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies each year.
- A National competition must be held at a Royal Show affiliated with the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies each year.
- The hosting of the National competition will be shared among Australian States and Territories on a round robin timetable allowing all States and Territories the opportunity to host a National Competition.

2.4. National Competition Rules and Regulations

Each year the National competition will be held in accordance with this Australian Young Farmer Challenge Handbook and the Young Farmer Challenge General and Special Regulations of the host State. Where there are discrepancies between the host State's regulations and the Australian Young Farmer Challenge Handbook, the Australian Young Farmer Challenge Handbook regulations will prevail.

2.5. State Competition Rules and Regulations

The development and implementation of State Young Farmer Challenge competition rules and regulations are the responsibility of each individual State. States should consider the rules and regulations set out in the Australian Young Farmer Challenge Handbook when developing their State's regulations to ensure their representing State Team is eligible for the National level of the competition.

2.6. Regional and District Competitions

The provision of regional and district qualification competitions for State competitions are at the discretion of each individual State and Territory. Please contact your State representative (see section 1.1) for more information about qualification competitions specific to each State and Territory.

3. Competition Organisation

3.1. Notes for Officials

3.1.1. Judges

A judge is responsible for monitoring each team's progress through the challenges. The judge will determine if each challenge was completed in accordance with the competition rules. Each team must be assigned a judge. Judges must oversee a maximum of one team at any time.

Judges must be provided a list of challenges prior to the event and attend a full briefing (including safety briefing) prior to the competition. Judges should also be encouraged to attend the competitor briefings where possible.

3.1.2. Stewards

A steward is responsible for a variety of tasks, including monitoring team progress (assisting judges), setting up of challenges and resetting equipment where necessary. Stewards must attend a full briefing (including safety briefing) prior to the competition.

3.1.3. Safety Stewards

At least one Safety Steward must be nominated for each young Farmer Challenge competition. The Safety Steward must be in attendance for the entirety of the competition and oversee all safety aspects of the competition. For more information on the roles and responsibility of Safety Stewards, please see section 3.3.

3.2. Competition Compulsory Inclusions

3.2.1. National Final Compulsory Challenge Inclusions

- The National Final must include a theory-based section to test competitor knowledge. The type of theory based challenge is at the discretion of the host State.
- The National Final must include a minimum of 7 challenges run consecutively
- The National Final may include the following types of machinery:
 - Tractors
 - Chainsaws
 - Motorbikes or ATV's (two-wheel or four-wheel)
- The following agricultural sectors must be reflected in the challenges of a National Final
 - An animal industry
 - Grains or Horticulture Industry

3.2.2. State Competition Compulsory Challenge Inclusions

Whilst the inclusion of certain machinery and agricultural sectors is not compulsory for a State competition, it is encouraged to ensure the calibre of competitors for the National Final is of a high standard.

3.3. Competition Prize Money

- At local, regional and State level, the total cash prize money must not exceed \$500 per competitor
- There is no limit to cash prize money for the National Final
- There is no limit to in-kind prizes (such as travel, product prizes and education bursaries) at any level.

3.4. Safety

Safety of competitors is of the upper-most importance to the Australian Young Farmer Challenge. To allow for the provision of good safety measures, the following safety measures apply to ALL Young Farmer Challenge Competitions:

- A Safety Steward must be nominated for each Young Farmer Challenge competition. The Safety Steward must be in attendance for the entirety of the competition and oversee all safety aspects of the competition.
- Safety briefings for each challenge must take place prior to each competition and preferably by the nominated Safety Steward.
- Competitors are expected to understand the safe use of machinery identified in section 2.2.3 prior to taking part in the competition.
- A risk assessment must be carried out on each individual challenge in the competition. Pre-prepared risk assessments for some challenges can be found in section 3.5.

3.4.1. Clothing

- All competitors must wear a shirt with sleeves (short or long), long pants and closed toe shoes suitable for on-farm practical skills.
- Personal Protective Equipment must be worn for all challenges where required.

3.4.2. Safety Breach Procedure

In the event of a safety breach, the following rules apply:

- *YELLOW FLAG*: First Safety Breach – 10 second hold up penalty applies
- *YELLOW FLAG*: Second Safety Breach – 20 second hold up penalty applies
- *ORANGE FLAG*: Third Safety Breach – Elimination of offending competitor from the remainder of the competition. The eliminated competitor must be the competitor who conducts the third safety breach.
- *RED FLAG*: Fourth Safety Breach – Team Elimination
- A competitor or a team may receive an immediate ORANGE or RED flag (without the two YELLOW warning flags) for reckless or dangerous activity that may have affected Competitors, Officials or spectators.

3.5. Competition Challenges

3.5.1. List of suggested Competition Challenges

A list of tested challenges can be found in Table 1.

Table 1: List of suggested competition challenges

Origin	Challenge Name	Challenge Description	Equipment Required
NSW	Tractor Challenge	Competitors to attach Bale Spear to front of tractor. The front end attachment must be attached correctly. One competitor to drive the tractor through a course, Collect hay bale then head for home.	4 x Tractor 4 x Front end attachment 4 x Front End Bale Spear Witches hats Hay Bales
NSW	Know your meat cuts	Teams are to draw the different meat cuts on to the cow silhouettes. List will be provided.	4 x Cow Carcass silhouette Chalk
NSW	Trailer Challenge	One competitor is to jump in the Ute and reverse to trailer load point whilst being guided by remaining team mates. All competitors are to help hitch trailer to Ute.	4 x Ute 4 x Trailers
NSW	Wool Bale Run	Each team is to roll the Wool Bale off the back of the ute roll it to their designated coloured tarp. Run to next challenge.	4 x Ute 4 x Wool Bale
NSW	First Aid Challenge	THE BERRY PHARMACY CHALLENGE Participants must correctly treat and transport victim safely before moving onto the next challenge. Injury could be a broken leg or a snake bite	4 x Stretchers Bandages Splint (other First Aid equipment as required)
VIC	Using quad bikes move 4 small square bales of hay	The quad bike needs to be reversed back to the hay stack and one bale loaded at a time by the quad bike rider and driven to the other end where the 2 nd team member unloads the bales and stacks them. When all bales are stacked the next challenge can be started.	4 x quad bikes 4 x bike helmets 16 small square hay bales 8 x markers / witches hats
VIC	Pipe fitting - cut & join	A piece of poly pipe 40cm long will be required to be cut through, allowing the fitting of a joiner to be put into place. The 1 st team member holds the pipe while the 2 nd team member cuts it and then puts the joiner in place. Once the joiner is attached the next challenge can be started.	4 x hacksaws 8-10 joiners & lengths of polypipe
VIC	Put on CFA overalls & put out fire (empty cans) by fire extinguisher	A pair of CFA pants and overcoat must be put on correctly, along with gloves and eyewear. The team member then must grab the extinguisher and knock off the 5 individually positioned cans from the railing from 5m away. When all the cans have been knocked of the rail the next challenge can be started.	6 x full fire extinguishers (2 spare) Access to water to refill 20 x empty drinking cans 4 x Wooden planks or tables
VIC	People on two wheeled trolleys with obstacle course	The 1st team member stands on the two wheeled trolley while the 2nd team member pushes the two wheeled trolley around the obstacle course as quick as possible. When the 1 st team member has reached the end of the course (they must stay on the two wheeled trolley for the whole time) the next challenge can be started. Should they fall off at any time, they must start again.	4 x two wheeled trolleys 4 x wooden planks 20 x markers/witches hats
VIC	Lead an alpaca	The 1st team member put the halter on the alpaca and then leads it around a course. The 2nd team member assists.	16 x markers/ witches hats 4 x alpaca
VIC	Setting up a portable electric fence	The 1st team member pushes in 6 white tread ins and rolls out the reel of wire. The 2nd team member assists with the roll out of wire and with putting it into place. The 1st and 2nd team member puts the 'strainer posts' in at each end. Once the fence is constructed the next challenge can be started.	4 x portable fencing reels with 30m of poly wire rolled on 40 x tread in fence droppers

3.5.2. Insurance for Challenges

Attainment of insurances and competitor waivers for a Young Farmer Challenge is the responsibility of individual competition organisers. For assistance in understanding insurances involved in the running of a Young Farmer Challenge please contact your State representative noted in section 1.1.

3.6. Risk Assessments

It is essential a risk assessment be carried out on all challenges included in a Young Farmer Challenge. Control measures identified to minimise risks must be adopted. An example risk assessment template can be found in section 3.6.1. Please contact your State representative to ensure the risk assessment procedure is followed in your State.

3.6.1. Risk Assessment Example Template

To be used as a guide only.

Date:		Event Title:		Contributor/s:						
HAZARD TYPE <i>Refer to table below</i>	RISK <i>Describe injuries Eg. Death, cuts</i>	PERSONS AT RISK <i>eg. Staff, public</i>	CURRENT CONTROLS	CALCULATE RISK <i>Use the Risk Score Calculator</i>			CONTROLS <i>Determine control measures to minimise risk. Use Hierarchy of Risk Control</i>	RESIDUAL RISK	Approved (Y/N)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
				Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Score				
CB	EXAMPLE: Person caught between car and trailer when attempting to hitch trailer onto vehicle	Crush, fracture, sprain/strain	Competitor	Detailed briefing which includes how to use the equipment. Judges familiar with the equipment and the challenge and will stop activity if being performed unsafely Pre-event questionnaire to gauge competitor's skill levels prior to challenge.	Major (10)	Unlikely (2)	Medium (20)	Elimination: Competitors/Person must not stand behind the car when the engine is on Admin: Competitors to be briefed about the risks of hitching a trailer Driver to adhere to speed limit of under 10km/hr. Spotter to be used to provide driver guidance PPE: Competitors to wear high visibility clothing to aid in visual identification	0 10 (10x1) 10 (10x1)	Paige Cape

Hazard Types						
CONTACT WITH (CW) – A person or part of a person contacts a source of energy that may exceed the body's threshold. Cold, Heat, Pressure, Energy, Chemical, Noise, Radiation.	CAUGHT BETWEEN (CB) – A person, or part of a person can be pinched, crushed or otherwise caught between either a stationary object and a moving object or between two moving objects	STRUCK AGAINST (SA) - A person can forcibly strike an object. The force is provided by the person.	STRUCK BY (SB) – A person can be forcibly struck by an object. The force of contact is provided by the object.	FALL TO BELOW (FB) - A person can fall to a level below the level that they are standing or walking on.	FALL TO GROUND (FG) – A person can fall to the surface they are standing or walking on.	OVERSTRESS (O) – A person can exceed their mental or physical capacity.

Hierarchy of Controls	Elimination	Score	Requirements
	Substitution	100	Operations must stop immediately and fix issue
	Engineering	30 - 80	Actions must be completed within 1 month
	Administration	10 - 24	Actions must be completed within 3 months
	Personal Protective Equipment	2 - 9	Actions must be completed within 6 months

Signed (Accountable Manager):	
Date:	

Monitor It: Are the Control Measures effective?		YES	NO
Signed:			
Date:			

Consequence → Likelihood ↓	Catastrophic (20)	Major (10)	Moderate (6)	Minor (3)	Insignificant (2)
Almost Certain (5)	Extreme (100)	High (50)	High (30)	Medium (15)	Medium (10)
Likely (4)	High (80)	High (50)	Medium (18)	Medium (15)	Low (10)
Possible (3)	High (60)	High (30)	Medium (18)	Medium (9)	Low (6)
Unlikely (2)	High (40)	Medium (20)	Medium (12)	Medium (6)	Low (4)
Rare (1)	Medium (20)	High (10)	Medium (6)	Medium (3)	Low (2)