



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

For Office Use Only: ULREC No: ____/____

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM – PROCEDURES INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

Procedure No

SS073

Title of Procedure

Balance Stabilometer

Name of Assessor(s)

Dr. PJ Smyth

Assessment Date

/ /

Does this procedure already have ethical approval? (Delete as appropriate)

NO

If **YES**, enter ethical number and expiry date

Approval No:

Expiry Date:

/ /

1 Please provide a brief description of the procedure

The balance platform of the Stabilometer is made of plywood (32 X 22 X 3/4 of an inch). The topside of the platform is covered with a rubber mat to prevent the subject slipping. The balance platform is supported by 2 X 4 foot beams along its length, notched in the centre to allow for the passage of the metal axle. Micro switches are placed under the platform to facilitate the timer mechanism. The participant is required to place their feet on the platform endeavouring to keep the platform horizontal for as long as possible. When the platform is out of balance the timer runs/stops. Participants balance on the stabilometer in trials for set periods of time decided by the researcher (e.g. 30 to 90 seconds).

2 Location in which the procedure may take place

PESS Psychology Lab (P1038)

PESS Sports Hall

Others, please specify

PESS Gym

UL Arena

3 Eligibility of subject(s) to be used

PESS student (U.G. or P.G.)

University staff or campus personnel

Members of the general public (primary & post primary children & adults) engaged in research projects granted ethical approval.

4 Potential risks. To be explained before obtaining consent

Minimal discomfort only

5 Action to be taken in the event of an foreseeable emergency

If the subject shows any signs of distress, the procedure will be terminated immediately.
 In the case of dizziness or fainting, subjects will be placed in the supine position with legs raised.
 Windows will be opened for fresh air and any restrictive clothing slackened.

If the subject feels nauseous, a suitable receptacle should be provided. The subject should be kept as comfortable as possible, until fully recovered.
 If a minor physical injury occurs (e.g. minor cut, sprain, or strain), the subject will be kept comfortable and recommended to seek medical treatment as soon as possible.

In the case of more serious situations (e.g. fractures, dislocations), or should the subject fail to respond, help would be summoned immediately:

1. During normal working hours 9am-5pm, use nearest internal telephone to contact the Student Health Centre on extension **2534** (or **061 202534** if an external phone/mobile phone is used)
2. Outside of normal working hours, or if the Student Health Centre number is engaged/busy, use the nearest telephone to dial **3333** (or **061 213333** if an external phone/mobile phone is used) for UL security personnel who will then contact the ambulance service.
 When contacting the location of the incident and description of what happened will be explained.
3. If necessary, personnel should attempt CPR.

6 Level of supervision required for procedure

PESS Undergraduate Student

PESS Postgraduate Student

Others, please specify

PESS Faculty

7 Other documentation required for this assessment?

Pre-test subject questionnaire

Informed Consent

FOR COMPLETION BY HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM – PROCEDURES INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS

In the Department of : Physical Education and Sport Sciences

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SS073

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PJ Smyth

Assessment Date

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8 Approval of procedure

Granted by ULREC June 14th 2007

Subject to conditions (see below)

Others, please specify

Refer to Medical Ethics

Comments/conditions

Informed consent must be completed.

Signed: _____
(Head of Department)

Date: _____