



Youth Climbing Series

The Youth Climbing Series is a fun event organised by the BMC, Mountaineering Council of Scotland and Mountaineering Ireland with hosting walls for young climbers born between 1994 and 2002 inclusive (see Rough Guide for details). Only those in the eldest age group lead their routes. Registration for the event is done through your national governing body (BMC, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Mountaineering Ireland). This must be done one week prior to the event at the latest. In exceptional circumstances entry may be accepted on the day of the event. You will be sent venue-specific information on the competition when we receive your application. Competitors will normally be expected to arrive at 9:30am on the day of the event, climbing will start at 10:00am.

Rough Guide to the Youth Climbing Series Rules

The following is a brief summary of the Youth Climbing Series regulations. It is intended to help people gain a quick appreciation of the structure and rules of the series and should not be regarded as a replacement for a full understanding of the official regulations.

The series

- Eleven regional series take place simultaneously and climbers may enter one series only.
- Entrants must enter the series in or nearest to the region in which they live.
- The top 3 climbers in each category qualify for the single British Final event.

The climbers

- There are three age categories:
 - a) Those born in 1994, 1995 and 1996.
 - b) Those born in 1997, 1998 and 1999.
 - c) Those born in 2000, 2001 and 2002.
- There are separate male and female categories.
- All entrants must have some climbing experience.
- All entrants are responsible for providing personal climbing equipment i.e. harness, shoes, chalk bag, helmet. There may be some available from the host venues but remember to check first.

The competitions

- Each event comprises 3 routes and 3 boulder problems for each category.
- There is to be no isolation (competitors can watch each other climb) except in the case of a superfinal or climb-off.
- All routes will usually be demonstrated.
- Those born in 1994, 1995 & 1996 will **lead** routes. Other categories will **top-rope** routes.
- Climbers will have one attempt only at each route.
- Climbers will have up to three turns at attempting each boulder problem.
- There may be a time limit on each attempt at a route or boulder problem.
- The highest (or furthest) hold used, held or touched will determine route points gained.
- An attempt ends if the climber; steps back down to the ground, falls, rests on the rope, uses prohibited holds or features, uses the side edges or top edge of the wall, runs out of time, fails to clip a quickdraw appropriately.
- Problems and top-ropes are not finished until the last hold is held with both hands.
- Scores for all climbs are totalled to give overall scores for the round.
- Regional changes to the format and rules may apply.

Conduct

Each regional round of the Youth Climbing Series is run by volunteers such as parents and local climbers. They are generously supported by the host climbing wall and its staff. Certain regulations (most of which apply equally to competitors, spectators, parents and guardians) help to ensure the smooth running of the event and maintain a good natured, fun atmosphere:

- The instructions of the Category Judge and Chief Judge must be followed at all times.
- Any disagreement with judging decisions must be taken up with the Chief Judge; **NOT** the Category Judge.
- Unsporting or abusive behaviour at any time will not be tolerated.
- Climbers must be ready to take their turn on time.
- Do not distract or interfere with any competitor who is preparing for, or in the process of attempting, a climb.

Technical considerations

- Judging will be along broadly similar lines to the BLCC events (see the BMC website for more details on BLCC events).
- The climbing order for the first climb is random.
- For subsequent climbs the order is rotated so, where possible, the same climbers don't go first again.
- All holds will be marked with tags or tape to aid identification.
- In the case of a tie at the end of a round, the following countback calculations will be considered:
 - a) The number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd places etc.
 - b) Total number of maximum scores (Tops);
 - c) Total number of attempts at boulder problems.
- If a tie still exists after countback, a superfinal will be held.

Prizes

- There will be trophies or awards for the overall winners in each category in each region. There may be additional prizes.

The final

- Entry to the British Final is free.
- The best 3 climbers in each category qualify from each region.
- All three results count when deciding qualifiers for the British Final
- Qualifiers must have attended at least two rounds.
- Climbers may enter individual rounds if they choose.
- The British final will be on Saturday 12 June 2010 at Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho.

Safety

Parents are reminded that wearing helmets in competitions may prevent head injuries that may result from a fall or from being struck by falling objects. Inexperienced climbers should normally wear helmets and even experienced climbers should consider their actions carefully before deciding not to wear a helmet.

Risk and responsibility

Parents and young participants should be aware that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Parents and participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement. The BMC, Mountaineering Council of Scotland and Mountaineering Ireland publish a wide range of publicity and good practice advice and provide training opportunities for their members. A parent, or an adult that a parent has arranged to be responsible for their child, must remain at the event to look after their child.

Support British Climbing - Join Today

British Mountaineering Council: www.thebmc.co.uk or telephone 0161 445 6111

Mountaineering Ireland: www.mountaineering.ie or telephone +353 1 625 1115

Mountaineering Council of Scotland: www.mcofs.org.uk or telephone 01738 493 942