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The BMC Leading Ladder 2013 - 2014 Rules

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1. GENERAL

1.1 Series of Competitions

- 1.1.1 A Grand Final shall take place at the conclusion of the Series.
- 1.1.2 There shall be no isolation in any of the series or the Grand Final, unless there needs to be any super finals.

1.2 Eligibility

- 1.2.1 All ages are inclusive. Climbers must be no less than 11 years old on December 31st 2013.
- 1.2.2 The competition is open to climbers of all nationalities.
- 1.2.3 Any climber who has route set at one of the competitions will not be allowed to accrue points at that competition.

2. CLIMBING PROCEDURE

2.1 Competitions

- 2.1.1 Each competition shall take place at the host climbing wall over a period of 16 consecutive days.
- 2.1.2 Climbers may attempt the routes only during the competition period allocated to that host climbing wall.
- 2.1.3 No allowance will be made for periods when the host climbing wall is closed.

- 2.2.2 The climber shall choose the belayer.

- 2.2.3 Different belayers are permitted for each attempt and for each route.

2.3 Climbers

- 2.3.1 Climbers will pay the normal host climbing wall entry fee plus £1 for their scorecard.
- 2.3.2 Prior to competing at each competition, a climber shall register their involvement by purchasing a Scorecard from the host climbing wall and completing Part A.

2.2 Belayers

- 2.2.1 Belayers will pay the normal host climbing wall entry fee.

- 2.3.3 Each climber is responsible for providing their harness, rope and any other personal equipment for their attempts.

2.4 Ability & Age Categories

- 2.4.1 There are four age/gender categories: male under 16 / male 16+ / female under 16 / female 16+.
- 2.4.2 Competitors must be no less than 11 years old on 31st December 2013.
- 2.4.3 Competitor rankings from each round of the series will be published after each round has finished. No scores will be published with the rankings. This is to stop competitor score-manipulation in order to stay in a particular ability category.
- 2.4.4 Scores will be published at the end of the series when each age/gender category will be split into three ability categories: Elite, Intermediate and Novice. The split will be based on the number of climbers in each age/gender category. Each of the ability categories will contain approx. 1/3 of the competitors from each age/gender category.
- 2.4.5 The size and score range of each ability category is decided at the discretion of the BMC Competitions Officer and cannot be questioned once set.
- 2.4.6 A climber's final result will be their average score over the number of rounds they have entered.
- 2.4.7 Subsequently competitors will be invited to the Grand Final based on these results.
- 2.4.8 To be considered for the Grand Final a climber must compete in a minimum of 2 rounds in the BMC Leading Ladder 2013 - 2014.
- 2.4.9 The ten highest scoring climbers from each ability category will qualify for the Grand Final. If a category quota is not full there will be no substitutions for climbers who have not completed at least 2 rounds.
- 2.4.10 If a British Climbing Team member qualifies for the Grand Final they will automatically be put into the Elite category.

2.5 Scoring & points

- 2.5.1 Points shall be awarded for the first successful attempt only.
- 2.5.2 Points shall be awarded in accordance with the following table:
- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| First attempt | 20 pts |
| Second attempt | 15 pts |
| Third attempt | 11 pts |
| Fourth attempt | 8 pts |
| Fifth attempt | 6 pts |
| Sixth attempt | 5 pts |
- 2.5.3 One point shall be awarded if the climber succeeds on their seventh or subsequent attempt.
- 2.5.4 If the climber is unsuccessful on any of the first six attempts, the belayer must immediately mark the relevant section of part B on the scorecard.
- 2.5.5 The belayer of a successful attempt must complete the relevant sections of part B and part C on the climber's scorecard.

2.6 Routes

- 2.6.1 Each competition shall consist of 10 routes graded F5+, F6a, F6a+, F6b, F6b+, F6c, F7a, F7b, F7c and F8a.
- 2.6.2 The same routes shall be used by all ability, age and gender categories.**
- 2.6.3 Each route shall be indicated by a Route Label, which provides information specific to that route.
- 2.6.4 Prior to starting an attempt and providing the climber does not use any holds on the route, the rope may be pre-clipped into the first quickdraw.
- 2.6.5 All routes start from the ground and must be lead, clipping in all quickdraws in the correct order.
- 2.6.6 An attempt by a climber shall be deemed to have started when both feet have left the ground.
- 2.6.7 All routes must be climbed on-sight.** A climber cannot accrue points on a route once he or she has practiced that route.
- 2.6.8 In the event of an unsuccessful attempt, the climber shall immediately return to the ground.
- 2.6.9 Climbers shall be allowed any number of attempts at each route.
- 2.6.10 Each climb shall be attempted on lead.**
- 2.6.11 The climber shall clip each quickdraw in sequence.
- 2.6.12 The side edges and top edges of the wall are out of bounds unless otherwise stated on the Route Label.
- 2.6.13 Quickdraws, bolt heads, hangers, chains and the lower-off shall not be used as footholds or handholds on the route before the lower-off is clipped.
- 2.6.14 A climber shall be deemed to have successfully completed a climb if he/she clips the lower-off whilst in an allowed position on the route.
- 2.6.15 A climber shall be deemed to have unsuccessfully completed an attempt on a climb if he/she:
- Falls;
 - Touches any part of the wall surface beyond the marked boundaries of the climb;
 - Makes illegitimate use of any non-legitimate hold or the side-edges or top-edges of the wall;
 - Fails to clip a quickdraw in accordance with regulations governing the competition;
 - Once having started, touches the ground with any part of the body;
 - Uses any artificial aid.

2.7 Technical Incidents

- 2.7.1 A technical incident is defined as:
- A tight rope which either assists or hinders a climber;
 - A broken or loose hold;
 - An improperly positioned quickdraw or karabiner;

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- d) Any other occurrence that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a climber which is not the result of an action on the part of the climber.
- 2.7.2 The belayer must leave an appropriate amount of slack in the rope at all times. Any tension on the rope may be deemed as an artificial aid or hindrance to the climber and a technical incident may result.
- 2.7.3 Only the belayer or the climber may declare a technical incident.
- 2.7.4 Declaration of a technical incident shall be resolved through discussion between the belayer and the climber.
- 2.7.5 Following the declaration of a technical incident, resolution can take one of the following forms:
 - a) The climber's attempt is deemed void and the climber can make the attempt again, starting from the ground.
 - b) The declaration of a technical incident is deemed void and the climber's attempt is considered valid.

3. GRAND FINAL

3.1 Eligibility for the Grand Final

- 3.1.1 You must be a BMC Member to take part in the Grand Final on 22 March 2014 – venue TBC.
- 3.1.2 You must compete in a minimum of two rounds of the series to be considered for the final.
- 3.1.3 A climber's scorecard must be returned to the host climbing wall before the end of the competition for their score to be considered for inclusion in their Series total.
- 3.1.4 At the end of the Series, the BMC shall invite a quota of climbers in each category with the highest scores who have also attended at least two competitions to compete in the Grand Final.

- 3.1.5 The Grand Final quota for each category will be no fewer than 5 and no greater than 20.
- 3.1.6 The Grand Final quotas will be announced at the end of the series.
- 3.1.7 In the event that one or more climbers are unable to attend the Grand Final, the BMC may choose to substitute the next eligible climber(s) in the category, as long as they have competed in at least 2 events in the series.

3.2 Format of the Grand Final

- 3.2.1 The Grand Final shall be in keeping with the spirit and format of the Leading Ladder Series.
- 3.2.2 Details of the format of the Grand Final shall be released after the last round of the series.