

Competition Rules



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PART 1 – GENERAL

1. GB CLIMBING

Introduction

- 1.1 GB Climbing comprises of a partnership of the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and Mountaineering Scotland (MS)
- 1.2 The British Mountaineering Council (BMC) is the national federation responsible for all aspects of competition climbing in England and Wales.
- 1.3 The BMC is recognised by the British Olympic Association (BOA) and IFSC as representing Great Britain.
- 1.4 MS is the National Federation responsible for all aspects of competition Climbing in Scotland.
- 1.5 Mountaineering Ireland (MI) is the National Federation responsible for all aspects of competition climbing in Ireland.
- 1.6 Each NGB maintains authority in respect to all national climbing competitions in their respective nation. As such, they are responsible for:
 - controlling all technical and other aspects of the sport;
 - organisation of National competitions including but not limited to, National Championships.
- 1.7 The BMC, MS and MI share responsibility for all aspects of competitions which link across the Nations, including the Four Nation Series.
- 1.8 Calendar Events shall at all times be organised, undertaken and executed in strict accordance with these rules and all other relevant regulations published by the respective NGBs including, any supplementary rules, for example, the COVID Addendum.
- 1.9 The organisational structure of the BMC, MS and MI is described in detail in their Statutes and Bylaws.

2. COMPETITION OFFICIALS

- 2.1 The respective NGB may appoint the following officials to any Calendar Event:

Jury President

The Jury President has overall authority within the Competition Area. This authority extends to covering the activities of the media and all persons nominated by the Event Organiser. The overall authority of the Jury President covers all aspects of the running of a competition. Although the Jury President does not normally have a judging role, they may at any time choose to carry out any judging task generally assigned to the other judges should they deem that necessary. The Jury President is responsible for briefing all officiating National Judges on the application of the Rules before the start of a competition. In case of unforeseen absence/illness, the NGB staff will take over the duties of the Jury President.

Chief Route Setter

The Chief Route Setter consults with the members of the route setting team appointed by the Event Organiser to plan and co-ordinate all matters of route setting and route maintenance, including the design of each route or boulder; the installation of holds, protection points and other equipment in accordance with NGB regulations; repair and cleaning of routes and boulders; and the design, installation and maintenance of any Warm-up Area. The Chief Route Setter is responsible for checking the technical standard and safety of each route or boulder, advises the Jury President on all technical matters within the Competition Area, assists in compiling the route sketch of lead routes, and advises the judges on the positioning of video cameras. The Chief Route Setter is required to submit a report to the NGB on the competition and a report on each National Route Setter or other route setter appointed to competitions forming part of the relevant Calendar Event.

The Chief Route Setter will nominate another National Route setter to act in their place in the event of absence/illness.

National Route setter

The Route setter is a route setter appointed by the NGB to assist the Chief Route setter in undertaking all aspects of setting a competition. Additional Route setters may be appointed. The NGB may also appoint additional route setters undergoing training or internship programmes.

All National Route setters must hold an international or a national route setting licence

Judge

The judge a volunteer appointed by the relevant NGB to assist the Jury President in undertaking all aspects of judging a competition. The main role of judges is to judge the performance of the competitors on routes and boulder respectively. Judges should be familiar with the discipline rules and will be briefed on the day by the Jury President and the Chief Route setter.

3. GENERAL RULES

Disciplines

3.1 National climbing competitions under these rules include the following Disciplines:

Roped, in which competitors are ranked based on their progression on one or two routes.

Boulder, in which competitors are ranked based on the number of boulders completed.

Speed, in which competitors are ranked based on the time needed to climb a standard route.

Safety

3.2 The Event Organiser shall be responsible for maintaining safety within the Competition Area and in the public section of the arena, and in relation to all activities connected to the running of any competition.

3.3 Each competitor shall be regarded as entirely and solely responsible for the equipment and clothing that they intend to wear when competing and/or during any competition.

The Jury President, in consultation with the Chief Route Setter, shall have the authority to take decisions in respect to any question of safety within the Competition Area, including declining to give permission to start or continue any part of the competition. Any official or other person deemed by the Jury President to have infringed, or being likely to infringe, on safety procedures shall be subject to removal from their duties and/or dismissal from the Competition Area.

3.4 If the Jury President believes a competitor is unfit to compete, then:

Bleeding: the competitor shall be able to stop the bleeding so as to be sure that they will not put blood on the holds. A white handkerchief applied to the wound (after having put a tape on it) must not show any sign of blood

The Jury President can stop the competitor from competing if the flow of blood cannot be stopped

Under no circumstances shall special provisions be made at the request of any competitor, e.g. descent to the ground from the top of a boulder by a ladder.

Equipment

3.5 Any technical equipment used in any Calendar Event must meet the relevant EN Standard or comparable International equivalent (the “**Applicable Standard**”) unless otherwise specified by the NGB or, in exceptional circumstances, by the Jury President. The Applicable Standards as at the date of issue for these Rules are:

Equipment	Applicable Standard
Belay Devices (Locking)	EN15151-1 (Draft)
Belay Devices (Manual)	EN15151-2 (Draft)
Climbing Harness	EN12277 (Type C)
Climbing Holds	EN12572-3
Climbing Rope	EN892
Climbing Structures	EN12572-1, EN12572-2
Karabiners (Screwgate)	EN12275 (Type H)
Karabiners (Self-Locking)	EN12275 (Type H)
Quickdraw/ Tape Slings	EN566
Quickdraw/ Connector (Karabiner)	EN12275 (Type B, Type D)
Quickdraw/ Connector (Quick link)	EN12275 (Type Q)

The Competition Area

3.6 Once the route setting for the competition has commenced, no competitor will be permitted to enter the venue until the day of the competition, unless it is for registration purposes only. Route setting normally begins on the Tuesday of the week of the competition.

3.7 The Competition Area will be demarcated from any area open to the public.

3.8 No Team Member is permitted to carry or use any electronic communication equipment while in the Competition Area unless the Jury President has permitted such equipment.

Access to the Competition Area

3.9 Only the persons specified below shall be permitted to enter the Competition Area:

NGB Officials;

competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition (as directed by or on behalf of the Jury President);

authorised Team Officials (the Isolation Zone/Warm-Up area only);

other persons specifically authorised by the Jury President. Such persons shall, throughout their stay in the Competition Area, be escorted and supervised by an approved official to ensure the maintenance of security of the Competition Area and prevent any undue distraction of, or interference with, any competitor,

- 3.10 Animals, other than Assistance Dogs, are not allowed in the Competition Area. Exceptions from this rule can be authorised by the Jury President.

Clothing and equipment

- 3.11 All technical equipment used by a competitor shall comply with the relevant Applicable Standard. Competitors:

must wear climbing shoes and (where relevant) a harness during their attempts;

may use:

a chalk bag and commercially available dry or liquid climbing chalk for their hands. No other performance enhancing agents may be used (e.g. resin/rosin);

elasticated compression bandages/wraps (for arms/legs); and/or

kinesiology and similar tape, where necessary for the prevention or management of injury;

a climbing helmet.

are prohibited from wearing or carrying the following when climbing:

audio equipment of any description;

Gloves or Kneepads;

other than where specifically permitted by these Rules.

- 3.12 An alphanumeric bib provided by the Event Organiser shall be displayed prominently on the back of the top of the climber.

Wall maintenance

- 3.13 The Chief Route Setter shall verify that an experienced maintenance team is available throughout each round of competition in order to perform any maintenance and repairs ordered by the BMC Judge in an efficient and safe manner. Safety procedures shall be strictly enforced.

- 3.14 On the instruction of the NGB Judge, the Chief Route Setter shall immediately arrange for any repair work. On completion of a repair, it shall be inspected by the Chief Route Setter who shall advise the Jury President whether the repair results in any unfair advantage or disadvantage to the following competitors. The decision of the Jury President to continue, or to stop and re-start, that round of competition shall be final, and no appeal shall be accepted in respect to this decision.

Results

3.15 The NGB publishes the results of the events on the relevant NGB website.

4. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Introduction

The Jury President has the overall authority over all activities and decisions affecting competition activities within the Competition Area.

4.1 The Jury President shall be authorised to take the following actions in respect to infringements of these rules and with regard to matters of indiscipline by any competitor registered for a competition:

an informal, verbal warning;

an official warning accompanied by the showing of a Yellow Card.

4.2 At the earliest convenient time after issuing a Yellow or Red Card, the Jury President shall:

provide a written statement to the competitor (or where this is not possible, directly to) the person(s) concerned regarding the offence and whether the Jury President proposes to refer the matter for consideration in respect to further disciplinary action in accordance with the rules;

submit a copy of this written statement together with a detailed report of the offence against the rules, any evidence, and any recommendations regarding consideration of additional sanction to the relevant NGB.

Yellow Card warnings

4.3 A Yellow Card warning may be issued for any of the following infringements of the rules:

infringements committed in the Competition Area by any Team Member:

unsporting behaviour of a relatively minor nature; or

use of obscene or abusive language or behaviour of a relatively mild nature.

regarding instructions from any Official appointed to the competition, including but not limited to:

undue delay in returning to the Isolation Zone/Warm-up Area following the instruction of the Judge or the Jury President;

undue delay in leaving the Call Zone and entering the Competition Zone when instructed to do so;

failure to start in accordance with the Judge's instruction.

regarding equipment and ceremonies:

failure to comply with the rules and regulations governing equipment and clothing;

failure to wear the bib provided by the Event Organiser;

Non-participation of the medallists in the award ceremony;

Disqualification (DSQ)

4.4 The Jury President is authorised to Disqualify any competitor registered for a competition. A Disqualification will be accompanied by the showing of a Red Card.

4.5 The following infringements of the rules will result in immediate Disqualification of the person from the relevant Calendar Event:

the use of non-approved equipment;

unauthorised use while in the Competition Area of any device capable of communicating or receiving communication;

in respect of any round conducted under Isolation Conditions, gathering or providing information other than as contemplated by the definition of Isolation Conditions, including but not limited to:

from any person outside the Competition Area;

from any person who has already attempted a relevant route/boulder.

For the avoidance of doubt, in competition rounds where Isolation Conditions do not apply, competitors may receive information from other team members who are outside the Competition Zone both prior and during their attempts;

Disqualification for Behaviour (DQB)

4.6 The Jury President is authorised to Disqualify for Behaviour any competitor registered for a competition. Any Disqualification for Behaviour will be accompanied by the showing of a Red Card and will have effect for all competitions at the relevant Event.

4.7 The following matters will result in immediate Disqualification for Behaviour:

failing to comply with the instructions of the judges, Event Organiser or officials when in the Competition Area;

distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for or is attempting a route;

the issue of two (2) Yellow Cards to the same person in one Event.

Consequences of disciplinary actions

4.8 A competitor who is either Disqualified or Disqualified for Behaviour in respect of any competition will be unranked in all competitions forming part of the relevant Event, e.g. if disqualification occurred in the All Nation Lead Series then the competitor is unranked in all the lead events.

4.9 The issue of three (3) Yellow Cards to the same person in the same year will result in one of the following:

if the person is already registered for the next Calendar Event in that year, then the person will be deleted from the registration list for that Calendar Event; or

if A) is not applicable, then the person shall be ineligible for registration in the next Calendar Event.

Other persons

- 4.10 The Jury President is authorised to demand the immediate dismissal from the Competition Area of any person in contravention of the rules and, if necessary, suspend any competition activities until this demand has been complied with.

5. ANTI-DOPING

- 5.1 The NGBs have adopted the World Anti-Doping Code (the “Code”).

Application

- 5.2 The Code applies to all Calendar Events.
- 5.3 Any person who enters, prepares for or participates in any manner – as competitor, coach, trainer, official, medical or para-medical personnel – in such competitions is deemed to have agreed to comply with and be subject to the Code.

Violations and sanctions

- 5.4 Doping violations will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant NGB Anti-Doping Policy and Procedure, and the relevant NGB Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

6. APPEALS

General

- 6.1 An Appeals Jury shall be appointed for each Calendar Event organised under these Rules and should comprise:

the NGB Official; and

the Jury President (or a Judge if the Appeal concerns a decision made by the Jury President).

- 6.2 All Appeals, and all responses to Appeals, must be made in English.

- 6.3 All Appeals must be presented to either:

a member of the Appeals Jury; or

a Judge, who shall refer the matter to the Appeals Jury.

Safety Appeals

- 6.4 Regardless of any other provision in these Rules, an appeal may be submitted where a serious safety issue may exist (a “Safety Appeal”). A Safety Appeal must be:

made in writing and no Appeal Fee will be applicable;

signed by three (3) separate persons,

and the Appeals Jury must without delay determine and implement a course of action to remedy the identified issue.

Management of Appeals

- 6.5 On receipt of an Appeal, the Appeals Jury shall assess whether the relevant Appeal is:
- “Invalid”, in which case any Appeals Form will be returned and no Appeal Fee invoiced, with the Appeal Form marked as such; or
 - “Valid”, in which case the Appeal Jury shall proceed to determine the Appeal.
- 6.6 To be considered Valid, an Appeal must, unless specifically stated to the contrary in these Rules:
- be made in writing using the form available on the relevant NGB website (or on a sheet comprising the same information), signed by either:
 - the relevant Coach, Parent, or
 - where no such person is registered for a competition, the relevant competitor;
 - acknowledge the relevant Appeal Fee; and
 - state:
 - the specific article of the Rules on which the Appeal is based; and
 - the competitor or class of competitors affected by the Appeal.
- 6.7 Notwithstanding Article 6.6, the Appeals Jury may rule as Invalid any Appeal which:
- is made outside any relevant time limits specified in these Rules;
 - proposes a matter not relevant to any article of the Rules; or
 - the Appeals Jury agrees is otherwise invalid.
- 6.8 In respect of any Valid Appeal concerning some non-compliance with these rules, or some decision in relation to a competition (the “**Original Decision**”):
- if the Appeal concerns the Official Results, the Jury President will:
 - mark the published results as ‘Protested’ or ‘Under Appeal’, noting which results are the subject of the Appeal;
 - have the Event Organiser broadcast an announcement to the public that the results are ‘Protested’ or ‘Under Appeal’.
 - the Appeal Jury shall determine the Appeal:
 - as soon as is practical with regard to the timetable of the competition;
 - using all personnel and facilities at their disposal.
 - if:
 - the available evidence is inconclusive, or the Appeal Jury is unable to reach a unanimous verdict, then the Appeal shall be “**Undetermined**”, the Original Decision will stand and no Appeal Fee will be invoiced.

the available evidence is conclusive and the Appeal Jury reaches a unanimous verdict, then the Appeal will be determined as either:

“Successful”, in which case no Appeal Fee will be charged and the Original Decision changed; or

“Unsuccessful”, in which case an Appeal Fee will be charged and the Original Decision will stand.

the determination of the Appeal shall be made in writing and handed by a member of the Appeals Jury to the person who officially lodged the Appeal.

Consequences of Appeals

6.9 Any formal determination of the Appeals Jury shall be final and not subject to further Appeal

PART 2 – DISCIPLINE RULES

7. ROPED

General

7.1 Roped competitions shall:

take place on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls and permitting the construction of routes:
with a minimum width of three (3) metres (unless a specific exemption is agreed by the Jury President).

be climbed with the competitor belayed from below either:

for the Open Sport Class, using a Single Rope secured by clipping the rope to a series of Protection Points along the route; or

for any Para Sport Class, using either:

a Single Rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route; or

Twin Ropes secured through an anchor at the top of the route and an intermediate anchor along the route.

for Youth D category, using a single rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route

be organised with:

A Qualification round consisting of two (2) non-identical routes (“A” and “B”) for each Starting Group, attempted after demonstration; and

Final and/or Semi-Final round(s) consisting of a single route for each Category, attempted without demonstration,

7.2 Design of routes:

Each route shall be designed:

to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor;
without any downward jumps.

The Jury President may authorise:

the climbing rope pre-fixed to one or more Protection Points; and

use of a “spotter” to provide additional security for the lower part of the route,

but wherever possible the design of the route should make such precautions unnecessary.

Safety

7.3 The Jury President:

together with a Judge and the Chief Route Setter, shall inspect each route prior to the start of each round. The Chief Route Setter may rule that a Protection Point must for reasons of safety be clipped from a particular hold (a “**Safety Hold**”) or earlier, in which case such hold(s) and the relevant Protection Point(s) shall be clearly marked with a blue cross and pointed out during the route observation.

shall decide whether the climbing rope should be replaced at any time during a competition.

7.4 Each competitor shall wear a harness. The Jury President shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor’s harness is unsafe.

7.5 The climbing rope shall be controlled from the ground by one (1) belayer for each rope, preferably assisted by a second person. Each belayer:

shall use a Belay Device they are comfortable using;

prior to any attempt on a route, shall check that:

the competitor’s harness is properly fastened;

the rope is connected to the competitor’s harness using, where the route is attempted:

without the rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route, a “Figure 8” knot secured with a “safety knot”; or

with the rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route, two (2) Screwgate or Self-Locking Karabiners arranged in opposition with the rope attached to these using a Figure 8 knot, secured with a safety knot or tape, and

the climbing rope is coiled or arranged in a manner ready for immediate and proper use;

during any attempt on a route, shall pay attention to the competitor to ensure that there is an appropriate amount of slack in the climbing rope at all times, such that:

the competitor is not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose;

any fall is stopped in a dynamic and safe manner; and

the competitor is safely lowered to the ground.

Starting orders and quotas

7.6 The Qualification round may be organised with one (1) or two (2) Starting Groups for each Category:

the number of Starting Groups shall be determined as follow:

Registered competitors	Number of Starting Groups
< 80	1
> 79	1 or 2

where two (2) Starting Groups are used:

competitors shall be allocated to the groups as follow:

any competitors having a relevant Ranking shall be allocated to a Starting Group as follow:

Starting Group A	Starting Group B
1 st	2 nd
4 th	3 rd
5 th	6 th

unranked competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups at random,

such that a near equal number of competitors are allocated to each Starting Group.

- 7.7 The quota for each round following Qualification will be filled with the best ranked competitors from the previous completed round. If the relevant quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors qualify for the next round.

The quota for the Semi-Final round (only applicable if the event has a semi-final round) will be determined by the number of registered competitors in the relevant Sport Class Category:

Registered competitors	Roped	Para Sport Classes
N	16	-

If there are two Starting Groups in any Category, the quota for the Semi-Final round shall be equally divided and applied to both groups.

The quota for the Final round will be determined by the number of registered competitors in the relevant Sport Class Category:

Registered competitors	Roped	Registered competitors	Para Sport Classes
$n \leq 10$	4	$n \leq 6$	3
$10 < n < 21$	6	$6 < n < 15$	4
$n \geq 21$	8	$n \geq 15$	6

- 7.8 The starting order:

within each Starting Group in Qualification shall be determined as follow:

for route A, by random selection; and

for route B, in the same order of the route A with a stagger of 50%. e.g. where the Starting List includes 20 or 21 competitors, the competitor starting 11th on route A will start 1st on route B;

for each subsequent round, shall be the reverse of the ranking from the relevant preceding round of the relevant event, i.e. the best ranked starts last. Where competitors are tied, their starting order shall be:

where the tied competitors each have a Ranking, in descending order of their Ranking, i.e. best ranked starts last;

where the tied competitors are each unranked or have the same Ranking, randomised; and

where competitor(s) having a Ranking and unranked competitor(s) are tied, the unranked competitor shall start first, and in each case will be published in an Official Start List.

Competition procedure

7.9 Competitors eligible to compete in the Semi-Final or Final rounds of a competition must report to the Isolation Zone by the time stated on the Official Start List for that round, competitors who have not reported to the Isolation Zone or who are not present in the Isolation Zone at such time will not be eligible to start the round. The Semi-Final and Final rounds of Roped competitions shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions.

7.10 There shall be a minimum time gap:

of not less than 50 minutes between the completion of a competitor's attempt on their first qualification route and commencing their second qualification route; and

where consecutive rounds of the competition take place on the same day, of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round.

7.11 Each competitor shall start their attempt on any route in the order set out on the relevant Official Start List. If a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time, no rescheduling shall be permitted.

7.12 In any round where, the number of starters is greater than 22:

the holds on each route shall be cleaned at intervals evenly distributed during the round. The cleaning interval should not exceed 20 and shall not exceed 22.

the cleaning schedule shall be marked on the Starting List.

7.13 The Final round:

shall be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round;

shall have a duration not exceeding 90 minutes for any one Category.

Observation procedure

7.14 Observation:

each Qualification route shall be demonstrated by forerunners:

on a video recording accessed online via an email link sent to all registered competitors, starting not later than 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the round i.e. the time the first competitor starts climbing; or

where video recordings are not possible, making a live demonstration not less than 30 minutes before the attempt of the first competitor.

Semi-Final and Final rounds shall be preceded by a six (6) minute collective observation period for competitors.

During this period, competitors may:

touch (only) the first holds on the route without leaving the ground.

use binoculars to observe the route;

make hand-drawn sketches and notes, but shall not use any recording equipment.

At the end of this period, competitors shall return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by Competition Officials.

Climbing procedure

7.15 Attempt Periods within each round shall allow a Preparation Period of 40 seconds during which a competitor may prepare for their attempt after entering the field of play and a Climbing Period of six (6) minutes. Each competitor may make one (1) attempt on any route, other than where supplementary attempts are permitted following an Appeal or Technical Incident. In certain circumstances, a separate practice period may be defined where a competition is “after-work” during which competitors may make additional attempts on the route with or without the use of Artificial Aid.

7.16 A competitor’s attempt shall be deemed to have:

Started, and measurement of the climbing time shall start, when every part of the competitor’s body has left the ground. For the avoidance of doubt, the route judge has discretion to determine whether a competitor is starting or adjusting their position prior to starting. During their attempt, competitors:

are not permitted to clean holds; and

where the route is attempted without the rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route, must clip the Protection Points in sequence, provided that:

the competitor may un-clip and re-clip the last clipped Protection Point at any time; and

the competitor must correct any “Z-Clip” and to do so may un-clip and re-clip any of the Protection Points involved, provided that after correction all Protection Points must be clipped.

Finished when:

where the route is attempted:

without the rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route, they have clipped the final Protection Point on the route;

with the rope secured through an anchor at the top of the route, they have Controlled the hold marked as “Top”;

they have fallen; or

the attempt has been terminated by the Judge.

7.17 The Judge:

shall order that a competitor’s attempt be terminated if:

they reasonably believe that further progress on the route would be dangerous; or

the:

competitor’s climbing time has exceeded the climbing period allowed for the route;

competitor has returned to the ground after starting the route.

may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if:

the competitor is no longer in a Legitimate Position; or

a Technical Incident has occurred.

Judging and scoring

7.18 A Topo shall be prepared by the Chief Route Setter in consultation with the Jury President before the start of each round of a competition;

7.19 Each route shall be judged by at least one (1) Judge assisted by a Time Keeper, who shall record for each competitor:

their climbing time to the nearest (lower) second;

their achieved score, which shall be either:

where the competitor has remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt:

"TOP", where the competitor has clipped the final Protection Point on the route within the fixed climbing period; or

the scoring value on the Topo for the last hold Controlled or Used by the competitor prior to their:

falling; or

attempt being terminated; or

where the competitor has not remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt, the scoring value on the Topo for the last hold Controlled by the competitor whilst in a Legitimate Position,

and in each case:

only holds used by either hand will be considered for scoring purposes, where the scoring value for Using a hold (designated by the postfix "+") will be better than that for Controlling the same hold; and

scoring of a competitor's attempt will be paused at the last hold marked on the Topo from which the Chief Route Setter has deemed it possible to clip any unclipped Protection Point when the competitor Controls (or passes) this hold, unless or until the relevant Protection Point has been clipped.

Ranking

7.20 Each competitor attempting a route will be ranked on that route in the following order:

all competitors scored as TOP;

all other competitors in descending order of the score awarded to that competitor,

7.21 Qualification Ranking:

any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start both routes in their Starting Group will be unranked in the round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

each competitor starting at least one route in the Qualification round shall be awarded ranking points for each Qualification route equal to their *fractional ranking* on the relevant route.

the ranking of competitors within their Starting Group will be calculated in ascending order of the Qualification Points awarded to each competitor (i.e. lower Qualification Points is better) according to the following formula

$$QP = \sqrt{(P1 * P2)}$$

where:

QP = Qualification Points, rounded to three (3) decimal places.

P1 = Ranking points on first route.

P2 = Ranking points on second route.

points data presented on the Official Results shall be presented rounded to two (2) decimal places.

7.22 Semi-final & Final rankings.

any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the route will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM

in relation to the Semi-Final round, if any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Article 7.20, their relative ranking shall be determined by count-back to their Qualification Ranking (unless the Qualification round was held with two Starting Groups).

in relation to the Final round, if any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Article 7.20, their relative ranking shall be determined:

by count-back to their rankings from the preceding round; and

if following count-back, any competitors are tied in joint first, second or third place, these places shall be determined by the climbing time for each competitor (lower times are better).

7.23 General Ranking

The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and

where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking, in that order; and

competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order, provided that where the Qualification round takes place with two Starting Groups, their General Ranking shall be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied.

Technical Incidents and Appeals

7.24 At the discretion of the Jury President any available recording of the competitor and that competitor only, may be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals, if the event organiser is unable to provide such footage (Parents/coaches are only permitted to film their athlete). If deemed appropriate to the appeal by the Jury President. Any appeal using “unofficial” footage must be accompanied with an appeal form, clearly explaining the circumstances of the appeal and the specific rule subject of the appeal. During the review the footage will be viewed by the Jury President without further discussion with the appellant or associated coach. Having viewed the footage, the decision of the Jury President is final and no further appeal is permitted.

7.25 If a competitor, a Team Official, belayer, or route judge considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the Judge immediately. The Judge, if necessary in consultation with a National Route setter, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. If the Judge determines that a Technical Incident has occurred:

which has afforded the competitor an unfair advantage, the Judge may either:

terminate the attempt; or

allow the competitor to continue climbing with the result subject to review (and in this case no further attempt shall be permitted if the Technical Incident is subsequently confirmed);

which has afforded the competitor a disadvantage, and the competitor:

is not in a Legitimate Position, the Judge shall terminate the attempt;

is in a Legitimate Position, the Judge shall offer the competitor the opportunity to continue with their attempt or to have the attempt terminated. If the competitor elects to continue their attempt, the Technical Incident shall be deemed remedied and no subsequent claim may be made for a Technical Incident.

7.26 Where a competitor has fallen or attempt has been terminated as the direct result of an agreed Technical Incident,

they shall be escorted to a separate Transit Zone with access to warm-up facilities to await the determination of the Technical Incident and for the duration of any subsequent recuperation period. The competitor shall not be permitted to communicate with any person other than Officials and the Event Organiser’s staff during this period; and

the Jury President should:

agree a recuperation period with the competitor, nominally calculated as one (1) minute for each handhold used prior to the Technical Incident, with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes;

schedule the repeat attempt following the agreed recuperation period. All competitors yet to climb shall be informed about this decision,

provided that if the affected competitor is ranked first at the end of the round, they shall not be allowed a new attempt on the route.

7.27 Where, following the occurrence of a Technical Incident, the relevant competitor:

chooses to continue their attempt in the circumstances described in Article 0, the result of this attempt shall stand;

is afforded a further attempt on the route pursuant to Article 0, the competitor's result shall be the best result from their attempts on the route

7.28 An Appeal:

relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt:

if made by the relevant competitor, may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable;

if made by a Parent/Coach/Guardian, must be made in writing,

and must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt. The affected competitor shall be treated as though the subject of a Technical Incident until the Appeal is sentenced.

relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor, must be made in writing and:

in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final rounds, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or

in respect of the Final round, immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result (or where no Provision Result is displayed, the Official Result),

and where an Appeal is made concerning the scoring of any competitor in relation to a particular hold, the Appeals Jury should review the result for that competitor only.

8. BOULDER

General

8.1 Boulder competitions shall:

take place on short routes ("boulders") constructed on purpose-designed artificial climbing walls, climbed without ropes;

be organised with:

A Qualification round consisting of:

a single course of five (5) boulders for each Starting Group; or

eight (8) or ten (10) Boulders for each Starting Group with a maximum of five (5) attempts on each boulder in a maximum time limit of two and a half (2.5) hours; and

A Final and/or Semi-Final round(s) each consisting of a single course of four (4) boulders for each Category,

in exceptional circumstances the Jury President may cancel up to one (1) boulder in any round.

8.2 Design of boulders:

each boulder shall be designed:

to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor;

without any downward jumps.

the maximum number of handholds on one boulder should be 12 and the average number of handholds per boulder in any round should be between four (4) and eight (8).

each boulder shall be clearly marked to identify:

“**Starting Holds**” for both hands and both feet which shall not include blank or unbounded parts of the Climbing Surface. The Starting Holds should not be marked with specific positions for the hands.

a “**Zone Hold**”, which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance.

a “**Top**”, which shall be either:

a marked finishing hold (the “**Top Hold**”); or

a standing position on top of the boulder,

the markings used on each boulder shall indicate:

the Starting Holds/Top in the same colour;

the Zone Hold using a different colour,

in each case using a different colour to any other demarcation on the Climbing Surface.

8.3 A timing system shall be used in each round to display the time remaining within each Rotation Period. The timing system shall:

be visible to all competitors on the Field of Play and in each Transit Zone;

show the time remaining within the Rotation Period, rounded up to whole seconds;

provide audio signals to announce:

when one (1) minute remains within each Rotation Period

the beginning and the end of each Rotation Period.

Safety

8.4 Safety matting shall be used to protect each boulder:

the Chief Route-Setter shall adjust the number and character of the boulders to the safety matting available. If mats are joined, gaps shall be covered in order to avoid competitors falling in between them.

the Jury President and the Chief Route-Setter shall inspect each boulder and the safety matting prior to the start of each round to identify and address any safety risks.

Starting order and quotas

8.5 The qualification round may be organised with one (1) or two (2) Starting Groups for each Category:

the number of Starting Groups in each Category shall be determined as follow:

Registered competitors	Number of Starting Groups
≤ 40	1
41 – 60	1 or 2
> 60	2

where two (2) Starting Groups are used:

each course should have similar overall difficulty and the boulders on each course should be constructed with similar character (profile and style).

competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups as follow:

any competitors having a Ranking for Boulder on the day of the Technical Meeting shall be allocated to a Starting Group in the manner shown in the following example:

Starting Group A	Starting Group B
1 st	2 nd
4 th	3 rd
5 th	6 th

unranked competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups at random,

such that a near equal number of competitors are allocated to each Starting Group.

8.6 The quotas for the Semi-Final (where applicable) and Final round shall be twenty (20) and six (6) respectively:

if there are two Starting Groups in any Category, the quota for the following round shall be equally divided and applied to both groups.

the quota for each round shall be filled with the best ranked competitors from the previous completed round. If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall qualify.

8.7 The starting order:

within each Starting Group in Qualification shall be determined as follow:

first, any competitors having a Ranking, in ascending order of this ranking (i.e. the best ranked competitor starts first); and

second, all unranked competitors in random order.

for each subsequent round, will be the reverse of the ranking from the preceding round, i.e. the best ranked starts last. Where competitors are tied, their starting order will be:

where the tied competitors each have a Ranking, in descending order of their Ranking. i.e. best ranked starts last;

where the tied competitors are each unranked or have the same Ranking, randomised;

where competitor(s) having a Ranking and unranked competitor(s) are tied, the unranked competitor shall start first,

and in each case will be published in an Official Start List.

Competition procedure

- 8.8 Competitors eligible to compete in any round of a competition must report to the Isolation Zone by the time stated on the Official Start List for that round, competitors who have not reported to the Isolation Zone or who are not present in the Isolation Zone at such time will not be eligible to start the round.
- 8.9 Where consecutive rounds of a competition take place on the same day, there will be a minimum time gap of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round.
- 8.10 The Qualification and Semi-Final rounds will be organised as a series of rotations each equal in duration to the Attempt Period for the round, each competitor participating in the round:
- will start their attempts on each boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time.
 - will attempt each boulder of the relevant course in the prescribed order;
 - will have a resting period equal to the Rotation Period in between their attempts on each successive boulder.
 - at the end of each Rotation Period, the competitors:
 - that were climbing, shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any boulder not yet attempted.
 - that were resting, shall commence their attempts on the next boulder in succession or having finished the course, leave the Competition Area. The Jury President should ensure that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the Rotation Period.
- 8.11 The Final round:
- shall be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round:
 - for each Category in a standard final:
 - there will be a viewing period of eight (8) minutes, two (2) per boulder;
 - each boulder will be attempted by all competitors in the order set out on the Official Start List;
 - once a competitor has finished their attempts, they will return to a separate Transit and the next competitor will start;
 - once all competitors have completed their time on a boulder, the competitors will move on to the next boulder as a group;
 - for each Category in a youth and/or Junior Final:
 - there may be a viewing period of eight (8) minutes, two (2) per boulder, at the discretion of the Chief Setter and Jury President;
 - each boulder will be attempted by all competitors in the order set out on the Official Start List;

once a competitor has finished their attempts, they will return to a separate Transit and the next competitor will start.

Observation procedure

8.12 Observation

there will be no separate observation period for the Qualification and Semi-Final rounds.

the Final round shall be preceded by a collective observation for period of two (2) minutes per boulder.

during this period, competitors may touch (only) the marked Starting Holds and are prohibited from using any recording equipment.

at the end of this period, competitors will return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by the Officials.

Climbing procedure

8.13 The Rotation Period for:

the Qualification and Semi-Final rounds shall be five (5) minutes;

for scramble format, two and a half hours (2.5 hours);

the Final round shall be four (4) minutes, and each competitor may make unlimited attempts on any boulder within the relevant Rotation Period and five attempts (5) per boulder in the scramble format. In certain circumstances, a separate practice period may be defined where a competition is "after-work", during which competitors may practice or "work" on boulders. Other than during such practice periods, each boulder must be attempted in its entirety and competitors must not practice or "work" any part of a boulder during any Rotation Period.

8.14 Competitors may at any time:

clean any part of the boulder that they can reach without making use of any hold and without their feet leaving the ground;

request that any part of the boulder be cleaned and use their own brush or any brushes supplied by the Event Organiser

8.15 A competitor's attempt will be deemed to have:

Started when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground.

Finished when:

Successful;

they have fallen or touched the ground after starting; or

the attempt has been terminated by the boulder judge or an Official as:

Unsuccessful; or

if a Technical Incident has occurred.

Judging and scoring

8.16 Each boulder shall be judged by at least one (1) Judge who shall record:

the number of attempts made by each competitor. An attempt will be counted each time the competitor:

makes either a Correct or Incorrect start;

prior to starting, touches or makes use of any Artificial Hold or Structure other than:

the Starting Holds, or

any Artificial Hold or Structure which is fixed or positioned so as to modify the usable part(s) of any Starting Hold (a "**Blocker Hold**");

adds any "tick marks",

and in respect of (2) and (3), a disciplinary sanction may also be applied.

on which attempts the competitor Controls or Uses the Zone Hold;

on which attempt the competitor Successfully completes the boulder.

8.17 A competitor's attempt will be:

Judged Unsuccessful;

the competitor has made an Incorrect start;

the competitor has touched the safety matting after leaving the ground;

the Rotation Period has expired;

the competitor has made use of any Artificial Aid,

and where a competitor makes an Unsuccessful attempt, the boulder judge shall order the relevant attempt terminated, and

otherwise judged "**Successful**" where the competitor is in a Controlled position:

with both hands matched on the Top Hold; or

standing on top of the boulder,

and in each case the boulder judge has raised a hand and announced "OK".

8.18 A competitor's start will be judged:

"**Correct**" where the competitor achieves a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds without Controlling or Using any other Artificial Holds or Structures. For the avoidance of doubt, when starting a boulder, a competitor may:

touch, Control or Use any part of the Climbing Surface in order to attain the Starting Holds; and/or

touch any Blocker Hold(s).

“Incorrect” where the competitor

Fails to achieve a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds; or

Controls or Uses any Artificial Holds or other Structures not marked as Starting Holds before achieving a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds.

Ranking

8.19 On each course of boulders:

any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the course will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked with the appropriate IRM.

each competitor starting the course shall be ranked using the following criteria:

in descending order, the number of Successfully completed boulders (“Tops”);

in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:

Controlled or Used (in either case, with one or other hand) the Zone Hold; or

successfully completed the boulder without having Controlled or Used the Zone Hold,

this number being the “Zone Points” awarded;

in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Tops;

in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Zone Points;

8.20 Semi-Final & Final rankings

If any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Article 8.19, their relative ranking shall be determined:

by count-back to their rankings from the previous round (unless the previous round was held with two Starting Groups);

if, in respect of the Final round (or where the Final round was cancelled, the Semi-Final round), any competitors are tied in equal 1st, 2nd or 3rd place following count-back, the relative ranking of these competitors will be determined by comparing the best results for each such competitor:

starting with the number of Tops attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Tops attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on; and

where the comparison in (a) cannot break any tie, by comparing the number of Zones attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Zones attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on,

where competitors remain tied following (1) and (2), the results of such competitors shall be considered equal.

8.21 General ranking:

The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and

where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking, in that order; and
competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order, provided that where the Qualification round takes place with two Starting Groups, their General Ranking shall be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied.

Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 8.22 At the discretion of the Jury President any available recording of the competitor and that competitor only, may be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals, if the event organiser is unable to provide such footage (Parents/coaches are only permitted to film their athlete). If deemed appropriate to the appeal by the Jury President. Any appeal using “unofficial” footage must be accompanied with an appeal form, clearly explaining the circumstances of the appeal and the specific rule subject of the appeal. During the review the footage will be viewed by the Jury President without further discussion with the appellant or associated coach. Having viewed the footage, the decision of the Jury President is final and no further appeal is permitted.
- 8.23 If a competitor or boulder judge considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the Judge prior to commencing any further attempts. No Technical Incident shall be considered where notification is made following the start of the next rotation period.
- 8.24 The Judge, if necessary in consultation with a Route-Setter, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. For the avoidance of doubt, the following matters shall not be considered as Technical Incidents:
- the interruption of a competitor’s attempts to stop bleeding;
- 8.25 An Appeal which if upheld:
- would entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s):
 - if made by the relevant competitor, may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable;
 - if made by a Parent/Coach, must be made in writing,
 - and in each case must be made:
 - in respect of the Qualification or Semi-Final rounds, before the finish of the next following rotation period; or
 - in respect of the Final round, prior to the next competitor starting their attempts.
 - would not entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s), must be made in writing and:
 - in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final rounds, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
 - in respect of the Final round, upon the display of the relevant competitor’s Provisional Result (or where no Provision Result is displayed, the Official Result).
- 8.26 Where a confirmed Technical Incident or an Appeal covered by Article 0:
- can be resolved/determined prior to the commencement of the next rotation period, the relevant competitor shall be offered the opportunity to continue their attempts:

if the competitor chooses to continue, then the incident will be considered concluded.

if the competitor chooses not to continue, then the competitor shall resume their attempts at a time determined by the Jury President, having due regard to:

any recuperation period appropriate for the affected competitor;

minimising the impact on other competitors;

the overall competition schedules.

cannot be resolved/determined prior to the commencement of the next rotation period:

in the case of a Technical Incident only, the round shall be suspended for the affected competitor and for all competitors on preceding boulders until the matter is resolved/determined; and

the affected competitors shall resume their attempts as directed by the Jury President once the matter is resolved/determined,

and in each case, the affected competitors will act as directed by the Jury President. For the avoidance of doubt, any competitor who leaves the Competition Area prior to the matter being resolved/determined will not be permitted to resume their attempts.

8.27 When a competitor who has suffered a Technical Incident or who has been the subject of an Appeal resumes climbing:

they shall be allowed the time remaining when the relevant incident occurred, with a minimum of two (2) minutes; and

their next attempt:

in the case of a Technical Incident, shall be deemed a continuation of the prior attempt; and

in the case of a determined Appeal, may be deemed as either:

a continuation of the prior attempt; or

as a new attempt,

in each case as the circumstances dictate.

9. SPEED

General

9.1 Format

Speed competitions shall:

take place:

on artificial structures designed to the specification set out in the IFSC Speed Licence Rules;

using an automatic timing system; and

with the competitor secured from above using an automatic belay system,

In exceptional circumstances, the Jury President may instead require a top-rope to be used, controlled from the ground by two belayers situated to the side of the climbing lanes.

be organised with:

a Qualification round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and

where the number of competitors recording a valid qualifying time is four (4) or more, a Final round consisting of between two (2) and four (4) elimination stages.

should have a practice period preceding the Qualification round. Where a practice period is organised, the time and arrangements for this practice period shall be announced at the Technical Meeting.

9.2 The BMC recognises British records for the following Categories:

Male (aged 16 or over in the year of the relevant Calendar Event)

Female (aged 16 or over in the year of the relevant Calendar Event)

9.3 A record may be set only during scoring races (i.e. not during any practice period or any race which is abandoned or cancelled) and where:

the climbing surface, holds, timing system and autobelay system have been certified to meet the requirements for a World Record;

the competition forms part of a Calendar Event;

9.4 Subject to Article 9.3, when a record-setting time is first recorded:

the time will be designated as an event and/or British record (as appropriate) and the Jury President will record the competition, the round in which the race took place, the name, Category and nationality of the competitor and the date/time of the race;

if multiple competitors in the same race each record a record-setting time:

where the relevant competitors record different times when measured to the nearest 1/1000s, the British Record will be held by the race-winning competitor; or

where the relevant competitors record the same time when measured to the nearest 1/1000s, the British Record will be held jointly by each of the competitors,

provided that where either:

i) the relevant competitor is Disqualified or Disqualified for Behaviour at, or in relation to any breach of the WADA Code only, following the relevant competition; or

ii) the timing system in use is ruled faulty during the course of the competition, then

the relevant result will be struck down, the Jury President recording the same.

Safety

9.5 Each competitor shall wear a harness. The Jury President shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor’s harness is unsafe. Competitors may wear elbow and/or knee pads wear to reduce the risk of blood injury.

Starting orders and quotas

9.6 The quota for the Final round shall be determined as follow:

Competitors with a valid qualifying time	Final quota
4 – 7	4
8 – 15	8
> 15	16

9.7 The starting order:

for the Qualification round shall be determined as follow:

for Lane A, by random selection; and

for Lane B, in the same order as Lane A with a stagger of 50%. e.g. where the Starting List includes 20 or 21 competitors, the competitor starting 11th on Lane A will start 1st on Lane B.

for each stage of the final round shall be as set out Annex 4, which also sets out the lane allocation for each race. If two or more competitors are tied following the Qualification round, their starting order in the first stage of the Final round shall be determined by random selection.

Competition procedure

9.8 A Each route will be cleaned between following the completion of the Practice Period, and following the completion of the Qualification round for each Category.

9.9 Where a Practice period is held, competitors should be entitled to one practice run on each route. Competitors will not be stopped in the event of a False Start. The Practice period:

should include a demonstration of the false start signal and of the timing equipment; and

should take the form of a pre-run of the Qualification round, each competitor eligible to participate in the Qualification round making their attempts in the starting order published for the Qualification round. The Jury President may vary the timing and format of any Practice period to reflect circumstances specific to a competition.

9.10 In the Qualification round:

each competitor may make one attempt on each lane, other than:

where a re-run is required following a False Start or a Technical Incident, in which case an additional attempt shall be permitted; or

where they fail to report to the Call Zone when called, in which case the relevant race shall proceed without them.

each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the Jury President until they have completed their attempts on both lanes.

a competitor making a False Start on their first scheduled race will not be eligible to start their second scheduled race. In all cases where a False Start occurs, the competitor who has not made the False Start may re-run, in which case they will run alone. This re-run should take place before the next scheduled race.

9.11 The Final round:

shall take place as a series of stages each consisting of a number of "elimination" races, the winner of a race in any stage proceeding forward to the next stage. The number of stages and races in each stage will be determined by the quota for the Final round.

in any race in the Final round, winner shall be determined as follow:

where both competitors record a valid time, the competitor who records the lowest valid time;

where one competitor is determined to have made a False Start, the other competitor;

where both competitors each record the same Valid Time or no Valid Time (other than where a False Start has occurred), the relevant race will be re-run. If following this the competitors remain tied, the tie will be broken by comparing the competitors' qualification ranking. For the avoidance of doubt, no re-run will take place where both competitors fail to start;

where any competitor fails to report to the Call Zone when called, the other competitor;

a presentation of all Semi-Finalists shall be made before the first race of the Semi-Final stage.

the losers of the Semi-Final races will compete for 3rd and 4th place in a "**Small Final**".

the winners of the Semi-Final races will compete for 1st and 2nd place in a "**Big Final**", which will follow the completion of the Small Final (or where multiple Categories are competing in parallel, following the completion of all Small Final races). If a False Start occurs in any Big Final, the winning competitor may elect to race alone for the purpose setting a World or, where applicable, any championship record.

each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the Jury President until eliminated.

Climbing procedure

9.12 All races shall be started with a clearly audible signal initiated by an assigned Starter, who shall not be an Official. The Starter shall select a position where he is not visible to the competitors. The source of the starting signal should be positioned as near possible equidistant from all competitors.

9.13 Each race shall use a common starting protocol:

on being called to the start of a route, each competitor:

should, within 10 seconds of being called, position the starting pad as appropriate for their preferred starting position. During this period competitors may touch (only) the first holds on the route without leaving the ground;

will present themselves to the belayer, who shall confirm that

the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and

the competitor's harness is safely connected to the automatic belay system or top- rope.

will take up an assembly position as designated by the Starter, not more than two (2) meters in front of and facing away from the wall.

at the command 'At your marks', each competitor will without delay take a position with both hands and one foot on their preferred starting holds, and one foot on the starting pad.

once all competitors are motionless in their starting positions, the Starter shall announce 'Ready' and following this will initiate the timing system.

if for any reason following the command 'At your marks' but prior to the Starter announcing 'Ready':

the Starter is not satisfied that the race can proceed; or

a competitor raises a hand to indicate that they are not ready to start,

the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position.

if a competitor fails to comply with (A) or (B), or by any action disturbs other competitors, the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position. The Jury President may issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

9.14 False Starts

where in any race, following the Starter declaring 'Ready!':

one competitor has a Reaction Time less than 0.100s, that competitor shall be recorded as having made a False Start;

both competitors have a Reaction Time less than 0.100s:

the competitor with the lowest (fastest) reaction time shall be recorded as having made a False Start; and

if both competitors have the same Reaction Time, the relevant race shall be re-run and no False Start shall be recorded.

in addition to any recall signal made by the timing system following a False Start, the Starter shall also declare 'Stop!' as soon as possible.

No Appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time recorded by an automatic timing system.

9.15 A result will be recorded as:

a "Valid Time" where the relevant competitor:

has struck the top timing pad/switch; and

stopped the timer,

except where a False Start has been made by any competitor in the relevant race; or

a "Fall" where the relevant competitor, in the course of an attempt:
fails to stop the timer;
arrests any fall/slip other than using the highest hold Controlled/Used prior to the fall/slip;
uses the side edges or the top edges of the wall for climbing; or
touches the ground with any part of the body after having started.

9.16 Other than following a False Start, competitors shall be afforded a minimum resting time of five (5) minutes between attempts on the route(s).

Judging and scoring

9.17 The climbing time for each competitor shall be defined as the period between the Starting Signal and the completion of the competitor's attempt. The timing system shall:

record and display the climbing time for each competitor separately.

be capable of measuring times to an accuracy of at least 1/1000s.

times shall be recorded to the nearest 1/1000s for the purposes of ranking;

displayed on the Official Results rounded down to the nearest 1/100s other than where necessary to show a tie-break.

Ranking

9.18 Qualification ranking:

each competitor who fails or is ineligible to start both their scheduled races will be unranked in the round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

each competitor who has made a False Start on either their first or second scheduled race will be ranked equal last in the round.

subject to (A) and (B) above, each competitor who has otherwise failed to record a Valid Time in one or both scheduled races will be ranked equal, ahead of any competitors who have made a False Start.

subject to (A), (B) and (C) above, each competitor who has recorded a Valid Time in at least one of their scheduled races will be ranked in ascending order of their best (or only) Valid Time, measured to 1/1000s. Where any two competitors have the same best (or only) Valid Time, their relative ranking will be determined as follow:

where both competitors have a second Valid Time, by comparison of these times;

where only one athlete has a second Valid Time, they will be ranked ahead of the competitor with no second Valid Time;

where neither competitor has a second Valid Time, the two competitors will be ranked equal.

if, following the above ranking procedure, the quota for the Final round is exceeded as a result of ties, the tied competitors shall re-run on Lane A until all relevant ties are broken. The times recorded in these attempts will be used only to determine which competitors qualify for the Final round and for no other purpose.

9.19 Final ranking:

any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start their first scheduled race will be unranked in the round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

Competitors will be ranked in the Final round in order of the last stage in which they competed and within each stage in the following order:

the race winners in that stage; and

the race losers in that stage, ranked relative to each other in order of their times in that stage (competitors having a valid time being ranked ahead of competitors without) and using the times from successively preceding stages and/or the Qualification round if necessary to break continuing ties.

9.20 General Ranking:

The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and

competitors not having a Final ranking, in order of their Qualification ranking,

where any stage in the Final round is cancelled, the competition will be considered concluded and the General Ranking will be calculated after the last completed stage, the race winners in the last completed stage being ranked relative to each other based on their respective times (using times from successively preceding stages and/or the Qualification round if necessary to break continuing ties).

Technical Incidents and Appeals

9.21 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:

the starting position for both lanes;

the top timing pad/switch for both lanes; and

the attempt of each pair of competitors in each race.

9.22 If a participating competitor or Parent/Coach/guardian considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the Jury President before the start of the next race.

9.23 A claim for a Technical Incident in relation to the performance of the timing system may be made only in relation to some evident or systematic error.

9.24 The Jury President shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred:

in order to make this determination, the Jury President shall as necessary:

review the official video recordings;

require the system to be tested;

require a Route setter to climb the relevant route and strike the top timing pad/switch.

where the Technical Incident:

can be remedied and is considered to have affected a single race, the competitors directly affected by the failure shall re-run their attempts; or

cannot be remedied or is considered to have affected all competitors in the relevant stage, the Jury President shall either:

cancel the affected and all subsequent stages; or

abandon and restart the stage

9.25 An Appeal concerning:

the judgment of:

a competitor's attempt in any race; or

the result of any race in the Final round,

must be made prior to the start of the next race. The next race shall not commence until the Appeal has been decided. Such appeals may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable.

the published result or ranking of a competitor, must be made in writing and:

in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification round, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or

in respect of the Final round, upon publication of the relevant result/ranking.

PART 3 – EVENT RULES

10. FOUR NATION SERIES

- 10.1 The Four Nation Series is a series of four Boulder events and four Lead events held in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- 10.2 All events consist of a Qualification round and a Final round only.
- 10.3 The Qualification round at Boulder events will follow the Scramble format described below.
- 10.4 The events are also stand-alone events. As such the winner of each event will be crowned the Champion of said event. For Example, the winner would be crowned Welsh Boulder Champion 2023 regardless of their nationality.
- 10.5 Participation in three events, will result in an overall series ranking. The competitors lowest score in the Series will be dropped, i.e. three (3) out of the four (4) rounds count for the overall series rank, unless the number of rounds is reduced to less than four.
- 10.6 Each individual event will follow the relevant discipline rules contained within this document

Eligibility

- 10.7 No competitor under the age of 15 years (you must be turning 16 in the year of the competition) shall be permitted to compete in a senior category the competition.
- 10.8 Categories include: Youth D, Youth C, Youth B, Youth A, Senior (16 in the year of competition)
- 10.9 Series entry is open to competitors of all nationalities.

Starting orders

- 10.10 The starting list of the qualifying round shall be compiled and announced after registration for the events has closed.
- 10.11 At lead events the starting order for the opening round of a competition shall be determined by random selection.
- 10.12 Starting order for the final round: except as specified below, the starting order shall be determined by the reverse order of the ranking of the qualifying round (i.e. the first shall start last). In the case of tied competitors from the qualifying round, the starting order between them shall be made through random selection.

Scramble format

- 10.13 The Scramble format is a fixed period, limited attempts, “flash” format, conducted without demonstration.
- 10.14 Each course shall consist of eight (8) boulders, which shall be numbered from 1 to 8.
- 10.15 The climbing time shall be 150 minutes (2 hours and 30 minutes).
- 10.16 The start and end of the climbing time shall be announced by a loud signal. The end of the round shall be preceded by a warning signal when one minute of time remains.

- 10.17 Boulders may be marked using a single colour of holds and shall be marked accordingly. Where this is the case, any holds of a different colour shall be considered for judging purposes as demarcated as ‘out of bounds’.
- 10.18 Colour-blind competitors must be identified as such to the National Governing Body and to the Event Organiser prior to the registration deadline for the competition.
- 10.19 Competitors may attempt the boulders in any order:
- 10.20 Competitors shall indicate the next boulder they intend to attempt by handing their scorecard to the relevant Judge.
- 10.21 For each Boulder:

Competitors shall attempt the boulder in the order in which their scorecards are handed to the Judge.

If, after an attempt, a competitor intends their next attempt to be on the same boulder, the Judge shall assign the competitor to climb last on that boulder.

If a competitor is not ready to attempt a boulder when called by the Judge, the relevant competitor shall be reassigned to climb last on that boulder.

10.22 Each competitor shall make no more than five (5) attempts on each boulder.

10.23 If a technical incident occurs affecting any boulder:

the boulders affected by a technical incident shall be closed until the incident is cured.

any competitor directly affected by the technical incident shall have the relevant attempt discounted.

e.g. if a technical incident occurs on the competitor’s first attempt on the relevant boulder, their attempt following restoration of the boulder shall be treated as their first attempt.

If the restoration time is less than or equal to 10 minutes, the affected boulders shall be re-opened and no additional time allocated. If the restoration time is more than 10 minutes, the relevant boulders shall be cancelled, unless such cancellation would result in the course comprising less than 6 boulders. In such circumstances, the duration of the round shall be extended by the amount by which the restoration time exceeds 10 minutes.

Results and ranking

10.24 At the end of each competition, the first thirty (30) competitors in each category not excluded under Articles 10.7, 10.8 or 10.9 shall be awarded the following points:

1 st	100 points	11 th	31 points	21 st	10 points
2 nd	80 points	12 th	28 points	22 nd	9 points
3 rd	65 points	13 th	26 points	23 rd	8 points
4 th	55 points	14 th	24 points	24 th	7 points
5 th	51 points	15 th	22 points	25 th	6 points
6 th	47 points	16 th	20 points	26 th	5 points
7 th	43 points	17 th	18 points	27 th	4 points
8 th	40 points	18 th	16 points	28 th	3 points
9 th	37 points	19 th	14 points	29 th	2 points
10 th	34 points	20 th	12 points	30 th	1 point

- 10.25 In the case of tied places in a final round, a countback procedure shall be used such that the results of the qualifying round shall be considered in separating tied competitors.
- 10.26 Superfinal: If, after applying the countback procedure at the end of the final round of the competition, there exists a tie for the first place a superfinal shall be held. If a tie exists at the end of a superfinal, the competitors that remain tied shall be deemed equal and the competition will be terminated.
- 10.27 The aggregate points shall be recalculated after each competition and the competitors having points shall be ranked in descending order of points accumulated. The ranking shall be made available after each round of the series.
- 10.28 The maximum number of points a competitor can accumulate towards the final ranking of the Series shall be those gained from the three (3) best results, unless the number of rounds is reduced to less than four.
- 10.29 If a tie between two competitors for the first place in the Series exists at the completion of the final competition of the year, the tied competitors shall be assessed with a view to breaking the tie by comparing the individual rankings in those competitions in which the competitors have been in direct competition with each other- i.e. the number of 'better' places in competitions in which they have competed against each other. If a tie remains unbroken following this assessment, the competitors shall be regarded as tied and a joint Champion shall be declared.

GLOSSARY

Interpretation

1. The following terms shall apply throughout these Rules:

Shall, and the alternative **must**, states a mandatory requirement;

Shall not, and the alternative **must not**, states a prohibition;

Should and **should not** state recommendations, there may be reasons to ignore a recommendation but the full implications must be understood and the case carefully weighed before choosing a different course;

May references a discretionary matter;

2. The following definitions shall apply throughout these Rules:

Applicable Standards has the meaning given in Article 3.5 of these Rules;

Appeal Fee means the amount published by the BMC in relation to making in-competition appeals regarding compliance with and interpretation of these Rules;

Artificial Aid means Controlling or Using any of the following:

- a) any "T-Nut" placements provided for the fixing of artificial holds;
- b) any part of the Climbing Surface demarcated as out of bounds by the use of continuous black tape;
- c) any advertising or informational placards fixed to the Climbing Surface;
- d) any open edges to the Climbing Surface;
- e) any bolt hanger fixed to the Climbing Surface; or
- f) any Protection Point or the climbing rope;

Artificial Hold means a manufactured climbing hold attached to the Climbing Surface by means of screws or bolts;

Assistance Dog means a dog which aids a disabled person, and is task-trained to help mitigate the handler's disability;

Calendar Event means a national event at which competitions are held in one or more of the Disciplines recognised by the BMC and governed by these rules.

Call Zone means any designated area to which competitors must report prior to commencing their attempt(s) any round of competition;

Category means a group of competitors within one specific Sport Class, Discipline, gender and age group;

Championship refers to the highest tier individual event(s) authorised by the BMC in each of the Boulder, Lead and Speed Disciplines and listed on the calendar of events published by the BMC. Championships may carry the following additional designations:

- a) "Climbing", organised exclusively for competitors in the Open Sport Class;
- b) "Paraclimbing" organised exclusively for competitors in one or more Para Sport Classes
- c) "Youth", organised for competitors in the U20, U18 and U16 age groups;

Climbing Surface means the usable surface of a climbing wall:

Competition Area means that part of the event venue allocated for sporting activities forming part of a

competition, including:

- a) Any Isolation Zone or Warm-up Area(s);
- b) Any Call/Transit Zone(s);
- c) Any Competition Zones, including:
 - i) the Climbing Surfaces(s) used within any round of a competition;
 - ii) the area immediately in front of and next to the climbing wall(s), and
 - iii) any other area assigned specifically for the safe and fair conduct of a competition, such as additional areas needed for video recording or playback;

Control means, for the purposes of judging and scoring, that a competitor has made use of some object/structure to:

- a) achieve or change a stable body position; or
- b) successfully brake any dynamic movement,

Ranking means the continuously updated ranking published by the BMC in accordance with Article 10.27 of these Rules to determine the overall winner of a Series for the relevant Sport Class Category;

Ranking Points means the points awards to qualifying competitors following the completion of any relevant event for the purposes of determining the overall ranking of competitors in a series;

Discipline means a specific format for competition climbing which conforms to specific rules and standards;

Did Not Start or **DNS** means:

- a) in respect of any specific boulder, route or race within any round or stage of a competition, that a competitor failed to attempt that boulder, route or race, recorded alternatively as Not Started; and
- b) in respect of any round or stage of a competition, that a competitor either:
 - i) where that round of the competition is conducted under Isolation Conditions, failed to report to the Isolation Zone by, or was not present within the Isolation Zone at, the time set out on the Start List for that round;
 - ii) failed to report to the Call Zone when called for that round or stage; or
 - iii) was otherwise recorded with a Did Not Start IRM pursuant to the relevant provisions of Part 2 of these rules, and will be recorded as such on the relevant results. Competitors recorded as Did Not Start in any round or stage will not be eligible to compete any subsequent round or stage of the same competition;

Disqualified or **DSQ** means a disqualification from competition for breach of these rules;

Disqualified for Behaviour or **DQB** means a disqualification from competition for a violation of the

World Anti-Doping Code (or, where applicable, the Olympic Charter), or any other serious breach of applicable regulation issued by the BMC including but not limited to:

- a) serious unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance; and
- b) abusive, threatening or violent behaviour to any person;

Eligible Impairment has the meaning given in the Classification Rules for IFSC Paraclimbing;

Event Organiser means the body responsible for the organisation and preparation of any Calendar Event;

Event Period means, for a Calendar Event, the period commencing 12 hours prior to the scheduled start of

the first round of competition and finishing at 24:00 hours (local) of the day on which the last round of competition is scheduled to take place;

Gloves means any hand-made or manufactured glove, whether or not designed and sold for the purposes of climbing. For the avoidance of doubt, tape applied to the hands by the athlete themselves is not be considered to be a Glove;

Official means any and all of the officials listed in paragraph 1.10, appointed by the BMC at a relevant Calendar Event;

IFSC Format means the competition follows the IFSC format for each element of the competition

Invalid Results Mark or **IRM** means a non-scoring result, such as: Did Not Start, Disqualified or Disqualified for behaviour. Competitors assigned an Invalid Results Mark applicable to:

- a) any individual race, boulder or route within a stage/round (where the relevant stage/round comprises more than one race, boulder or route), will have no result on that race, boulder or route; or
- b) any stage/round of completion, will be unranked within the applicable stage/round (and where relevant, the competition);

Isolation Conditions means that competitors within any given round of a competition are to make their attempts on any route/boulder in that round with knowledge of the relevant route/boulder limited to such information:

- a) as may be gathered by observation from outside the Competition Area prior to the closing of the Isolation Zone for the relevant Category;
- b) obtained during any collective observation period for the relevant route/boulders, from the area designated for such collective observation, including such information as may be shared between competitors participating in that collective observation period (and only where such competitors have not yet made their attempts, or have each completed their attempts); or
- c) obtained during the competitor's attempt(s) on the relevant route/boulders;

Isolation Zone means a Warm-up Area for which access is controlled and limited to:

- a) competitors qualified for the relevant round of competition;
- b) accompanying Team Officials.

Junior (otherwise referred to as Under 20 or "U20") means the age group comprising competitors who are or will be 18 or 19 years of age in the year of the relevant Calendar Event;

Kneepad means any hand-made or manufactured covering for the knee made from or incorporating rubber or other similar materials, the purpose or effect of which is to provide increased friction or otherwise facilitate the use of kneebars whilst climbing;

Legitimate Position means, for the purposes of Lead competitions, that a competitor in the course of their attempt on a route:

- a) has not used any Artificial Aid;
- b) has clipped each preceding Protection Point in sequence; and
- c) where the next Protection Point has not yet been clipped, the competitor has not yet reached, or has not made any climbing movement to pass beyond any Safety Hold designated by the Chief Route Setter;

Locking Belay Device means a device meeting the EN-15151-1 standard.

Manual Belay Device means a device meeting the EN-15151-2 standard.

Official Results means the results published by the BMC at the conclusion of a competition (or any round of that competition) which must be marked as “Official” and signed by the appropriate BMC Official;

Original Decision has the meaning given in Article 6.8 of these Rules;

Para Sport Class means a class of athletes having been classified by the IFSC as having some Eligible Impairment;

Provisional Results (alternatively referred to as Unofficial Results) means any results published or circulated by the BMC prior to the publication of the Official Results for any competition, or any route/round within that competition;

Protection Point means an assembly comprising:

- a) A Quick-Link connector, connected to a bolt fixed to the load-bearing structure of the Climbing Surface;
- b) A Karabiner into which a competitor can clip the rope when climbing. The orientation of this karabiner shall minimise the possibility of cross loading; and
- c) A single continuous machine-sewn sling of appropriate length (as determined by the Chief Route setter) connecting (a) and (b).

Ranking means the relationship between a set of results such that, for any two items, the first is either 'ranked higher than', 'ranked lower than' or 'ranked equal to' the second. All Rankings referred to in these rules are calculated using the *standard competition ranking* scheme unless stated to the contrary;

Registration Date means, in respect of any Calendar Event;

Reaction Time means the difference between the time at which a competitor leaves the Starting Pad and the commencement of the Starting Signal, measured to at least 1/100s, and may be zero, positive or negative;

Safety Hold has the meaning given in paragraph 7.3;

Seeding means the preliminary ranking of a competitor used for the purpose of fixing their position in the initial Starting List for a competition;

Scramble Format means the athlete can choose the order in which they attempt each bloc. There is a specified time limit to complete all attempts on each bloc.

Single Rope means a climbing rope meeting the EN-892 standard;

Sport Class has the meaning given in the Classification Rules for IFSC Paraclimbing;

Sport Class Status has the meaning given in the Classification Rules for IFSC Paraclimbing;

Starting Group means some subdivision of the competitors participating in a round of competition who all compete on the same routes/boulders;

Starting List means a list of all competitors eligible to start a competition round or some subdivision of that round, at the time noted on the document. Each Starting List will show:

- a) the relevant Category and round;
- b) the starting order;
- c) the name and IOC Country Code of each competitor;
- d) the time:
 - i) at which the Isolation Zone and/or any Warm-up Area will be opened and closed;
 - ii) of any observation or demonstration; and

iii) for the start of the round.

Starting Signal means a unique tone broadcast by the automated timing system to indicate the start of a measured climbing time;

Structure means any hollow or solid object providing either a single or multiple holds for either hands or feet and which is attached to the Climbing Surface for the duration of at least one round.

Superfinal means an additional round held to resolve one or more ties after the final round of a competition. The Superfinal shall start no less than 30 minutes after the last tied competitor completed their attempt(s) in the final round. Tied competitors attempt a single route or boulder. The procedure for conducting the final shall be followed.

Technical Incident means any event or circumstance that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor and which is not the result of that competitor's action(s).

Top Hold has the meaning given in Article 8.2 of these Rules;

Topo means a symbolic map of a route, marking the scoring value for each handhold on a route;

Transit Zone means a specific area(s) within the Competition Area arranged to permit competitors to prepare for (or recover from) their attempts on a boulder/route.

Use means, for the purposes of judging and scoring, that a competitor has made use of some object/structure to effect both a progressive movement of their centre of mass or hips; and a movement of either or both hands toward:

- a) the next sequential handhold along the line of progression; or
- b) any other handhold further along the line of progression which has been successfully Controlled by another competitor from the same handhold; or

and the terms "Used", "Uses" and "Using" will be interpreted in this context.

Valid Appeal has the meaning given in Article 6.5 of these Rules;

Valid Results Mark or **VRM** means a scoring result;

Warm-up Area means any part of the Competition Area designated and equipped for the purposes of athletic preparation;

Youth A (otherwise referred to as Under 18 or "U18") means the age group comprising competitors who are or will be 16 or 17 years of age in the year of the relevant Calendar Event;

Youth B (otherwise referred to as Under 16 or "U16") means the age group comprising competitors who are or will be 14 or 15 years of age in the year of the relevant Calendar Event;

Youth C means the age group comprising competitors who are or will be 12 or 13 years of age in the year of the relevant Calendar Event;

Youth D means the age group comprising competitors who are or will be 10 or 11 years of age in the year of the relevant Calendar Event;

Z-Clip means a situation where the climbing rope is connected to two Protection Points out of sequence;

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ANNEX – RACE/LANE PAIRING (SPEED)

16 starters

1/8 stage

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #16

2	A	Qualifier #8
	B	Qualifier #9

3	A	Qualifier #4
	B	Qualifier #13

4	A	Qualifier #5
	B	Qualifier #12

5	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #15

6	A	Qualifier #7
	B	Qualifier #10

7	A	Qualifier #3
	B	Qualifier #14

8	A	Qualifier #6
	B	Qualifier #11

1/4 stage

9	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Winner Race 2

10	A	Winner Race 3
	B	Winner Race 4

11	A	Winner Race 5
	B	Winner Race 6

12	A	Winner Race 7
	B	Winner Race 8

1/2 stage

13	A	Winner Race 9
	B	Winner Race 10

14	A	Winner Race 11
	B	Winner Race 12

Final stage

15	A	Loser Race 13
	B	Loser Race 14

16	A	Winner Race 13
	B	Winner Race 14

8 starters

1/4 stage

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #8

2	A	Qualifier #4
	B	Qualifier #5

3	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #7

4	A	Qualifier #3
	B	Qualifier #6

1/2 stage

5	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Winner Race 2

6	A	Winner Race 3
	B	Winner Race 4

Final stage

7	A	Loser Race 5
	B	Loser Race 6

8	A	Winner Race 5
	B	Winner Race 6

4 starters

1/2 stage

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #4

2	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #3

Final stage

3	A	Loser Race 1
	B	Loser Race 2

4	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Winner Race 2