



## **JUNIOR BRITISH BOULDERING CHAMPIONSHIPS RULES and REGULATIONS**

These rules and regulations shall be read in conjunction with the International Rules and Regulations for Competition Climbing

### **1. GENERAL**

1.1.1 Bouldering competitions shall take place on short climbing routes, called boulders, climbed without ropes, constructed on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls.

1.1.2 Bouldering competitions shall normally consist of:

- a) A Qualification round with a course of five (5) boulders for each Category;
- b) A Final round with a course of four (4) boulders for each Category.

1.1.3 In exceptional circumstances, the Jury President may decide:

- a) to cancel at most one boulder within a round;
- b) to cancel a round of the competition, in which case the results of the remaining rounds shall determine the ranking of competitors for the competition.

### **1.2 CLIMBING STRUCTURE**

#### ***The Climbing Structure***

1.2.1 All problems shall be secured with landing mats. It is the responsibility of the route-setter to manage the size and the position of the mats.

1.2.2 The climbing structure shall normally allow for the construction of at least ten (10) independent boulders in order to accommodate parallel courses for each round.

1.2.3 All boulders shall be constructed on an elevated platform and aligned in such a way that they are visible from any point in the public arena. Each boulder shall include a clearly marked area from which the competitor can see the boulder, and which shall include the safety matting.

#### ***Design of boulders***

1.2.4 If pursuant to Article 1.7.11b) or c) the Qualification round for any Category is to take place with two (2) Starting Groups and courses, then the boulders on each course shall be constructed with similar character (profile and style) and each course shall have similar overall difficulty.

1.2.5 Each boulder shall have 4 clearly marked starting holds that are required to be held in control before moving and which shall consist of

- a) marked handhold(s) for both hands; and

b) marked footholds for both feet.

*The use of taped "flashes" to mark as the start a blank or unbounded area of the wall is not permitted.*

c) at the discretion of the Chief Judge the starting holds may be labelled left and right to denote a specific required starting position.

d) A combination of holds can be considered and marked as a single hold

1.2.6 Each boulder shall have a clearly marked finish which shall be either:

a) A designated finishing hold; or

b) A defined standing position on top of the boulder.

1.2.7 Each boulder shall have a clearly marked "Zone Hold". The positioning of this hold should aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance and will be at the Route-Setter's discretion.

1.2.8 The markings used in relation to Articles 1.2.5, 1.2.6 and 1.2.1 shall be the same for the entire duration of a competition. The colours used to mark the starting position and the finishing holds shall be the same and a different colour shall be used for the bonus holds. Both colours shall be different from the colour used for demarcations in accordance with Article 1.9.5b). An example of these markings shall be installed within the Isolation Zone.

1.2.9 The maximum number of handholds for one boulder shall be twelve (12) and the average number of handholds per boulder in any round shall be between four (4) and eight (8).

### **1.3 SAFETY**

1.3.1 Each boulder shall be designed:

a) In such a way that the lowest part of the body of the competitor shall never be higher than three (3) metres above the landing mat; and

b) So as to avoid the danger of a competitor's fall injuring the competitor, or injuring or obstructing any other competitor or third party; and

c) Without any downward jumps.

1.3.2 Landing mats shall protect each boulder. It is the responsibility of the Chief Route-Setter to position the mats provided by the organiser, and to adjust the number and character of the boulders to the mats available. If mats are joined, the gaps shall be covered in order to avoid that competitors can fall in between them.

#### ***Personal Equipment***

1.3.3 Competitors are not permitted to carry or use any audio listening equipment during observation or whilst climbing.

#### ***Safety Checks***

1.3.4 The Jury President and the Chief Route-Setter shall inspect each boulder and the safety matting for that boulder prior to the start of each round in order to ensure the maintenance of safety standards. In particular the Chief Route-Setter shall ensure that all boulders comply with the requirements of Articles 1.3.1 and 1.3.2.

## **1.4 SCORING AND TIMING**

1.4.1 The jury for each boulder shall be a Boulder Judge who shall be at least a National Judge.

### ***Scoring***

1.4.2 On each boulder, a bonus point will be awarded if the competitor controls the Zone Hold, marked as described in Article 1.2.8. The bonus point will be awarded also where a competitor successfully completes the boulder without having controlled the Zone Hold.

1.4.3 For each competitor attempting a boulder, the Boulder Judge will record:

- a) The number of attempts required by that competitor to gain a bonus point in accordance with Article 1.4.2; and
- b) The number of attempts required by that competitor to successfully complete the boulder in accordance with Article 1.9.4.

1.4.4 For the purposes of scoring, an attempt will be counted each time a competitor:

- a) Starts the boulder in accordance with Article 1.9.3;
- b) Touches, with hands or feet, or chocks holds other than the starting holds;
- c) Adds any "tick marks".

### ***Timing***

1.4.5 An electronic timing system shall be used in each round to display the climbing time remaining for each competitor's attempts. The timing display(s) should show time remaining to the nearest second. The timing display(s) shall be of a number, position and size so that all competitors in the Competition Zone can see the display.

1.4.6 The beginning (and the end) of every Rotation Period in the Qualification and Semi-Final rounds shall be announced by a loud and clear signal. When one minute remains of the Rotation Period, this will be announced by a different signal.

## **1.5 QUOTA FOR EACH ROUND**

1.5.1 The quota of competitors qualifying for the Final is six (6) competitors respectively.

1.5.2 If in any Category there are two (2) Starting Groups in the Qualification round, the quota for the next round shall be equally divided and applied to both groups.

1.5.3 The quota for the Final round shall be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the previous round. If the quota is exceeded as a result of tied competitors, all tied competitors shall qualify for the next round of the competition.

## **1.6 STARTING ORDER**

### ***Qualification***

1.6.1 Where the Qualification round uses one Starting Group the starting order for the Qualification round shall be as follows:

- a) First, any competitors having a Current British Ranking, in ascending order of their Current British Ranking (i.e. the highest ranked competitor starts first); and

- b) Second, all un-ranked competitors in random order.
- c) In the event that a current British Ranking is not available, all competitors will be ranked in a random order.

### ***Final***

1.6.3 The starting order for the Final round shall be the reverse of the ranking order from the previous round, i.e. the highest ranked competitor shall start last. In the case of tied competitors from a previous round, the starting order between them shall be:

- a) Where the tied competitors each have a Current British Ranking, in descending order of their Current British Ranking (i.e. highest ranked starts last);
- b) Where the tied competitors are each unranked or have the same Current British Ranking, randomised; and
- c) Where competitors(s) having a Current British Ranking and unranked competitor(s) are tied, the unranked competitor shall start first.

## **1.7 COMPETITION PROCEDURE**

### ***General***

1.7.1 Where consecutive rounds of a Boulder competition take place on the same day, there shall 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.

### ***Isolation Rules***

1.7.2 Articles 1.7.3 to 1.7.6 (the "Isolation Rules") shall apply only to the Final round of this Boulder competition.

1.7.3 Once the closing time for the Isolation Zone has passed, Competitors and/or Team Officials must remain within the Isolation Zone unless otherwise instructed.  
*Note: Competitors/Team Officials or other persons authorised by the Jury President to enter the Isolation Zone may choose to leave the Isolation Zone at any time, but having left the Isolation Zone they may not then return once the closing time has passed, and must leave the Competition Area, unless specifically authorised to remain by the Jury President.*

1.7.4 The Isolation Zone closing time for any round of the competition shall not be earlier than one (1) hour before the competitor first on the starting list is scheduled to commence climbing or in the case of the final round, the time scheduled for the presentation of the finalists.

*Note: Competitors may view boulders visible from outside the Competition Area at any time prior to the closing time for the Isolation Zone.*

1.7.5 Competitors shall have no knowledge of the boulders other than that obtained during the official observation period or that communicated to them by the Jury President or the judges. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to fully inform themselves with respect to all instructions regarding the boulders. For the avoidance of doubt:

- a) Whilst in the Competition Area, competitors are not permitted to seek any information from persons outside the Competition Area, unless specifically authorised to do so by the Jury President;

b) Competitors who have completed their attempt(s) on a boulder and who for any reason remain in the Competition Area must not pass any information concerning that boulder to any competitor who has not yet attempted that route/boulder.

1.7.6 Failure to comply with the Isolation Rules when in force shall result in disciplinary action in accordance with BMC Disciplinary Procedures.

### ***Preparation prior to Climbing***

1.7.7 After having received an official instruction to leave the Isolation Zone/Warm-Up Area and proceed to the Call Zone, competitors shall not be accompanied by any person other than authorised officials.

1.7.8 On arrival in the Call Zone, each competitor shall make all final preparations for their attempt, such as putting on their climbing shoes, as relevant to the type of competition.

1.7.9 Each competitor shall be ready to leave the Call Zone and enter the Competition Zone when instructed to do so. Any undue delay in this regard may result in the issuing of a Yellow Card. Any further delay shall result in disqualification in accordance with BMC Disciplinary Procedures.

### ***Cleaning***

1.7.10 The Boulder Judge or organising staff shall clean all holds on a boulder before each competitor begins their first attempt. A competitor may also request that holds be cleaned before any attempt on the boulder. Competitors may clean holds that they can reach from the ground. Only brushes or other materials that are provided by the organisation shall be used for this purpose.

1.7.11 Article 1.7.10 is suspended during the Global Pandemic. Brushes will be available and will be cleaned between each competitor. The competitor can brush the holds they can reach from the ground.

### ***Qualification***

1.7.11 The Qualification round for each Category shall take place:

- a) Where the number of competitors registered for the competition in that Category is less than 40, on one (1) course of boulders with the competitors in one (1) Starting Group; or
- b) Where the number of competitors registered for the competition in that Category is between 40 and 59, on either one (1) or (2) courses of boulders with the competitors in an equal number of Starting Groups, as decided by the BMC organiser in consultation with the Chief Route-Setter; or
- c) Where the number of competitors registered for the competition in that Category is 60 or greater, on two (2) courses of boulders with the competitors in two (2) Starting Groups, one on each course.

1.7.12 In the Qualification rounds, each competitor participating in the round:

- a) Shall attempt each boulder of the relevant course in the prescribed order, with a fixed time period (the "Rotation Period") of five (5) minutes for each boulder;
- b) Shall 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 are climbing shall stop climbing and enter a designated resting area. This area shall

not allow observation of any boulder. The competitors who have finished their resting period shall move on to their next boulder.

### ***Final***

1.7.14 The Final round shall take place on one (1) course of boulders for each Category. Both Categories shall normally compete simultaneously with competitors paired by their ranking after the Qualification round and/or their Starting Order for the final. e.g. the competitors ranked first after the Qualification within each Category shall normally start each boulder at the same time. *Note: Any unpaired competitors (i.e. where the number of finalists in each Category is different) shall compete first.*

1.7.15 The Final round shall be preceded by a presentation of the competitors eligible to participate in the round.

1.7.16 For each Category:

- a) Each boulder in the Final round shall be attempted by all competitors in the order set out in Article 1.6.3.
- b) Once a competitor has finished their attempts, they shall return to a separate isolation area and the next competitor shall start their climbing period immediately;
- c) Once all competitors have completed their attempts, the competitors shall move on to the next boulder as a group;

1.7.17. The climbing period during the Final round shall be four (4) minutes for each competitor.

### ***Tie-Break boulder***

1.7.18 In the circumstances described in Article 1.10.4a), tied competitors shall make attempt a "Tie-Break" boulder:

- a) The starting order for attempts shall be the same as that for the Final round
- b) If two or more competitors remain tied for first place after having attempted this "Tie-Break" boulder, then these competitors may make further attempts on the boulder (up to a maximum of six attempts in total).
- c) If a tie still exists after six (6) attempts, then the relevant competitors will be given an equal ranking.

## **1.8 OBSERVATION PROCEDURE**

1.8.1 Team Officials shall not be permitted to accompany the competitors during the observation period. While in the observation area, all competitors remain under the Isolation Rules. Competitors shall remain within the designated observation zone during the observation. They are not permitted to climb on the climbing wall or stand on any equipment or furniture. They may seek clarification only from the Jury President, or the Boulder Judge assigned to the boulder.

1.8.2 During the observation period, competitors are allowed to touch only the marked starting holds, without leaving the ground with both their feet. No recording equipment shall be permitted.

### ***Qualification***

1.8.3 In the Qualification round, the observation period is part of the Rotation Period.

## ***Final***

1.8.4 A collective observation period of two (2) minutes per boulder shall be held immediately prior to the commencement of the Final round.

## **1.9 CLIMBING PROCEDURE**

### ***The Start***

1.9.1. Competitors shall normally start each boulder in accordance with 1.2.5 a-b.

1.9.2 If a competitor cannot reach the starting holds from the ground, they shall be permitted to start the boulder by jumping for the starting holds.

1.9.3 An attempt shall be deemed to have started when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground.

### ***Completion of Attempt***

1.9.4 An attempt on a boulder shall be considered successful when the Boulder Judge has announced “OK”, having determined that the competitor has either:

- a) Controlled the marked finishing hold of the Boulder with both hands; or
- b) Where the top of the boulder is indicated as set out in Article 1.2.6b), achieved a standing position on top of the boulder, in each case within any fixed time period defined for the competitor's attempts.

1.9.5 An attempt on a boulder shall be considered unsuccessful if the competitor fails to control with both hands the marked finishing hold or, if relevant, achieve a standing position on top of the boulder; or the competitor:

- a) Fails to start the boulder in accordance with Articles 1.9.1 and 1.9.2;
- b) Uses any part of the wall, holds or features demarcated using continuous and clearly identifiable black tape (or if another colour is required to be used, as specified by the Jury President in a technical briefing to competitors);
- c) Uses with their hands any holes provided in the climbing wall for the placement of bolt-on holds;
- d) Uses the side edges or the top edges of the wall for climbing;
- e) Touches the ground with any part of the body; or
- f) If a fixed climbing period has been defined, fails to complete their attempt before the end of that period;

1.9.6 In case of infractions related to 1.9.5a) to f), the Boulder Judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing.

## **1.10 RANKING AFTER EACH ROUND**

### ***General***

1.10.1 After each round of the competition, each competitor participating in that round shall be ranked within their Category using the following criteria:

- 1) in descending order, the number of successfully completed boulders (“Tops”);
- 2) in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:
  - a) Controlled or Used (in either case, with one or other hand) the Zone Hold;
  - or
  - b) Successfully completed the boulder without having Controlled or Used the Zone Hold,
- 3) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Tops;

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

<i>Example:</i> <b>Rank</b>	<b>Tops</b>	<b>Zones</b>	<b>Tops- Attempts</b>	<b>Z- Attempts</b>
1	4	5	4	5
2	4	5	5	6
3	4	4	5	7
4	3	3	5	5

If a competitor eligible to participate in a round fails to start:

- a) In the Qualification round, they shall not be ranked;
- b) In any other round, they shall be ranked last in that round.

1.10.3 If any competitors are tied following the ranking calculation of Articles 1.10.1 and 1.10.2, then the ranking of these competitors from the preceding round shall be used to break the tie (“countback”). Tied competitors shall be ranked relative to each other in ascending order of their ranking from the preceding round.

*Note: No countback to the results of the Qualification round shall be made where competitors were separated into two Starting Groups for the Qualification round.*

### **Qualification Round (Two Starting Groups)**

1.10.5 If the Qualification round takes place on two courses with two Starting Groups, the consolidated ranking for the Qualification round shall be determined by merging the rankings for each Starting Group, treating competitors having equal rankings as tied.

*e.g. Any competitors ranked 1st in Starting Group A and any competitors ranked 1st in Starting Group B shall each be ranked 1st in the consolidated ranking.*

## **1.11 TECHNICAL INCIDENTS**

1.11.1 A Technical Incident is defined as any occurrence that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor, which is not the result of an action on the part of the competitor.

1.11.2 The Jury President, if necessary in consultation with the Chief Route-Setter shall make the confirmation or non-confirmation of a Technical Incident.

### **Procedure following a Technical Incident**

1.11.3 The first attempt made by the competitor who has suffered a Technical Incident, on the same boulder, after the attempt in which the Technical Incident occurred shall be deemed a continuation of that attempt.

1.11.4 When the competitor who has suffered the Technical Incident resumes their attempts after repairing or fixing, the competitor shall be allowed the time remaining at the moment when the Technical Incident occurred, with a minimum of two (2) minutes.

1.11.5 If a confirmed Technical Incident occurs during the Qualification or Semi-Final rounds:

- a) If the Technical Incident can be repaired or fixed before the end of the current Rotation Period, the competitor involved will be offered the opportunity to continue with their attempts:



- i) If the competitor chooses to continue, then the Technical Incident is finished and no further appeals shall be allowed.
  - ii) If the competitor chooses not to continue, then the competitor will resume their attempts in a Rotation Period to be decided by the Jury President.
  - b) If the Technical Incident cannot be repaired or fixed before the end of the current Rotation Period, then at the end of the Rotation Period:
    - i) The Jury President will suspend the round for the competitor who has suffered the Technical Incident and all competitors on the preceding boulders; and
    - ii) For all the other competitors, the round shall continue.
- Once the Technical Incident has been repaired or fixed, the competitor who has suffered the Technical Incident shall resume their attempts. Any other competitors whose round was suspended shall restart at the first full Rotation Period afterward.

1.11.6 If a confirmed Technical Incident occurs during the Final round, the competitor suffering the Technical Incident shall return to separate isolation in the Transit Zone and await the repair. When the Technical Incident has been repaired or fixed, the affected competitor shall re-commence their attempts.

## **1.12 USE OF VIDEO RECORDING in Finals**

1.12.1 Official Video Recordings shall be made of all competitors' attempts.

1.12.2 Official Video Recordings shall be made using at least two (2) video cameras in fixed positions for each course of boulders, which together must show:

- a) The starting position for each boulder in the course; and
- b) The Bonus Hold for each boulder in the course;
- c) The finishing hold or position for each boulder in the course; and
- d) Any demarcations made pursuant to Article 1.9.5b)

1.12.3 Prior to the round, the BMC Judge shall brief any camera operators on the appropriate techniques and procedures. The Jury President shall determine the position of the video cameras.

*Note: Particular care shall be taken to ensure that the camera operators are not disturbed in carrying out their duties and that no one is allowed to obscure the camera view.*

1.12.4 A playback monitor connected to a video playback system shall be provided for review of any incident for judging purposes. The playback monitor shall be placed such that the judges can observe the Official Video Recordings and discuss any incident without the video being seen by any unauthorised person and without the judges being overheard or interrupted during their discussions, but conveniently close to the judges' table.

1.12.5 Judging decisions (including Appeals) shall not consider any video evidence other than the following:

- a) The Official Video Recordings; and
- b) At the discretion of the Jury President, any official broadcast video recording. e.g. "Live Stream" video.

1.12.6 At the end of each round, copies of the Official Video Recordings shall be provided to the Jury President if requested.

## **1.13 APPEALS**

1.13.1 All verbal and written appeals and official responses to appeals shall be made in English and referring to the specific article of these rules in respect of which the appeal is being submitted.

1.13.2 Excluding appeals made under Articles 1.13.3 and 1.13.1, an appeal shall only be accepted if accompanied by the official appeals fee. The appeals fee payable shall be in accordance with the list of fees published annually by the BMC. If an appeal is upheld, the appeals fee shall be returned. If an appeal is rejected, the appeals fee shall not be returned.

1.13.3 Appeals are to be made by the athletes.

### ***Safety Appeals***

1.13.3 A Safety Appeal may be submitted if the coaches from at least three different teams are of the opinion that safety is seriously jeopardized. The Jury President shall consider the matter and, if applicable, take the necessary actions.

### ***Appeals Process***

1.13.4 In the case of a verbal or written appeal, the Jury President shall convene an Appeals Jury. The members of the Appeals Jury will be the Jury President and the BMC Organiser.

1.13.5 On receipt of a verbal or written appeal regarding the Official Results, the Jury President will ensure that an announcement is made that the Official Results are "Under Appeal", noting which results are the subject of the appeal.

1.13.6 If the Jury cannot come to a unanimous decision on the appeal, the original decision shall stand and the appeal fee shall be returned. A decision shall be made as rapidly as circumstances allow. In the case of written appeals, the decision of the Appeal Jury shall be made in writing and handed by the Jury President to the person who officially lodged the appeal.

1.13.7 An appeal concerning the judgment of a competitor's attempt (for example concerning a faulty start) must be made immediately and in any case:

- a) In the case of the Qualification round, within the current rotation period; or
- b) In the case of the Final round, before the start of the following competitor's attempts, and the relevant Route Judge shall immediately refer the matter to the Jury President. No fee shall be payable in respect to such appeals.

1.13.8 An appeal against the ranking of a competitor:

- a) Concerning the Qualification round, shall be made:
  - (i) where a live results system is in use, within five (5) minutes of the completion of all competitors' attempts during the round; or otherwise
  - (ii) within thirty (30) minutes of the publication of the Official Results list.
- b) Concerning the Final round, shall be made:
  - (i) where a live results system is in use, within two (2) minutes of the completion of all competitors' attempts during the round; or otherwise
  - (ii) within fifteen (15) minutes of the publication of the Official Results list.

and in each case such appeal must be made in writing.

1.13.9 An appeal fee of £25 is payable for each appeal made.

***Consequences of Appeals***

1.13.10 A decision of the Appeals Jury shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

1.13.11 An appeal in relation to the consequences of a decision made by the Appeals Jury (an "Original Decision") must be lodged:

- a) In respect of appeals concerning the Qualification round, within thirty (30) minutes after the publication of the Original Decision; or
- b) In respect of appeals concerning the Final round, immediately after publication of the Original Decision.

No appeal in relation to the consequences of an Original Decision can be made outside the above period.