

# **Rules – 2019 Irish Lead Climbing Championship**

## **1. Eligibility**

- 1.1. The competition is open to members and non-members of Mountaineering Ireland.
- 1.2. All competitors must complete a Mountaineering Ireland Climbing Competition Registration Form.
  - 1.2.1. The form must be printed and signed by all relevant parties.  
The form is available on the competition web-page and at the competition registration desk.
- 1.3. All competitors must complete the online entry prior to the cut-off.
- 1.4. Competitors can compete in only one category.

## **2. Anti-Doping**

- 2.1. Mountaineering Ireland fully subscribes to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) procedures and promotes a drug free sport.

## **3. Safety**

- 3.1. Competitors are personally responsible for their own safety.
- 3.2. Competitors must be competent lead climbers.
- 3.3. Competitors must comply with the safety guidelines of the host venue.
- 3.4. Parental supervision – For competitors under fourteen years of age on the day of the competition a parent or guardian must be present for the entire duration of the competition.
- 3.5. The Category Judge may decide, in consultation with the Chief Route-Setter and with the approval of the Head Judge to have the climbing rope pre-fixed to the first (and, where deemed appropriate, other) protection points.
- 3.6. The Head Judge, Category Judge and Chief Route-Setter shall inspect each route prior to the start of each round of the competition in order to ensure the maintenance of safety standards.
- 3.7. The climbing rope shall be connected to the competitor's harness by a figure of eight knot, secured with a stopper knot.
- 3.8. The Chief Organiser may remove competitors for safety reasons.

## 4. Format

- 4.1. The competition shall consist of two rounds:
  - 4.1.1. A Qualification Round of two routes;
  - 4.1.2. A Final Round of one route.
- 4.2. The table below summarises the format of the competition:

Round	No. Routes	Isolation	Demo	Quota	Time	Starting order
Qualification	Two	No	Yes	No	6:00 Mins	Randomised
Final	One	Yes	No	Five	8:00 Mins	Reverse rank from Qual

- 4.3. Competitor Quotas:
  - 4.3.1. Qualification Round – no quota;
  - 4.3.2. Final Round – top five ranked competitors from the Qualification Round.
- 4.4. If the quota is exceeded as a result of tied competitors, all tied competitors shall qualify for the round.
  - 4.4.1. In the case of tied competitors from the qualifying round the starting order shall be randomized.
- 4.5. Starting Order:
  - 4.5.1. The starting order for the first route of Qualification Round will be randomised;
  - 4.5.2. The starting order for the second route of the Qualification Round shall be based on the first route but with a stagger of 50%;
  - 4.5.3. The starting order for the final round shall be the reverse of the ranking order from the Qualification round.

## 5. Demonstration

- 5.1. A Demonstration of each Qualification Round route shall be made.
- 5.2. This demonstration will take place not less than 15 minutes before the attempts of the first competitor.
- 5.3. The Final Round route will not be demonstrated.

## 6. Climbing

- 6.1. An attempt shall be deemed to have started, and the measurement of the climbing time shall start, when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground.
- 6.2. During the attempt the competitor must clip every quickdraw in sequence.
- 6.3. Un-clipping and re-clipping the last clipped quickdraw is permitted.
- 6.4. If a quickdraw must be clipped from a particular hold (or earlier) the quickdraw and the hold shall be clearly marked with a blue cross.
- 6.5. During the attempt the competitor must remain in a legitimate position. This will be the case if:
  - 6.5.1. The competitor's entire body has not moved beyond the carabiner at the lower end of the next unclipped quickdraw;

- 6.5.2. The competitor is able to touch the next unclipped quickdraw with a hand;
- 6.5.3. Any movement of a competitor beyond the legitimate position to clip shall not result in a higher score.
- 6.6. If a Z-clip occurs, the competitor shall correct the Z-clip. The competitor is permitted to un-clip and re-clip (if necessary, by down-climbing) any of the quickdraws involved. After correction, all the quickdraws shall be clipped in.
- 6.7. An attempt shall be deemed successful if the route has been climbed in accordance with these rules and if the rope has been clipped into the final karabiner on the route within the fixed time period for the attempt.
- 6.8. An attempt shall be deemed unsuccessful if the competitor:
  - 6.8.1. Falls;
  - 6.8.2. Exceeds the fixed climbing time for the route;
  - 6.8.3. Uses any part of the wall, holds or features demarcated using continuous and clearly identifiable tape;
  - 6.8.4. Uses any hold or feature not included in the route;
  - 6.8.5. Uses with their hands, holes provided in the climbing wall for the placement of bolt-on holds;
  - 6.8.6. Uses the side edges or the top edges of the wall for climbing;
  - 6.8.7. Makes use of the hangers, bolts or quickdraws for climbing;
  - 6.8.8. Fails to clip a quickdraw in accordance with the rules;
  - 6.8.9. Touches the ground with any part of the body after having started their attempt;
  - 6.8.10. Uses any artificial aid.
- 6.9. The Category Judge or Head Judge may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if they decide that further progress on the route would be dangerous.
- 6.10. A competitor may ask at any time during their attempt on a route how much of the fixed climbing time remains.
- 6.11. The Category Judge shall immediately inform the competitor of the remaining time.
- 6.12. When the fixed time has ended, the Category Judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing.

## **7. Belaying**

- 7.1. Belayers appointed by the Chief Organiser will be suitably experienced to belay in the manner appropriate for a lead climbing competition.
- 7.2. Prior to any attempt on a route the belayer shall check that:
  - 7.2.1. The competitor's harness is properly fastened;
  - 7.2.2. The climbing rope is connected to the competitor's harness by a figure of eight knot, secured with a stopper knot;
  - 7.2.3. The climbing rope arranged in such a manner that it is ready for immediate and proper use.
- 7.3. The belayer must at all-times pay careful attention to the progress of the competitor to ensure that:
  - 7.3.1. A competitor's movements are not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose;

- 7.3.2. When the competitor attempts to connect the rope to any protection point, they are not hindered in doing so;
- 7.3.3. If the competitor fails to connect the rope to any connection point that any excessive slack in the rope is immediately taken in;
- 7.3.4. All falls are stopped in a dynamic and safe manner;
- 7.3.5. No excessive falls shall be experienced by a competitor;
- 7.4. The belayer shall leave an appropriate amount of slack in the climbing rope at all times. Any tension on the climbing rope the climbing rope may be deemed as an artificial aid or hindrance to a competitor. The Category Judge shall declare a Technical Incident.
- 7.5. After having connected the rope to the final karabiner or after a fall, the belayer shall lower the competitor to the ground in a safe manner.

## **8. Judging**

- 8.1. The Chief Organiser shall appoint a Head Judge.
- 8.2. The Chief Organiser shall assign a Category Judge to each competition category.
- 8.3. The Category Judge shall have sole responsibility for:
  - 8.3.1. Recording the competitor's progress on the route. Category Judges will be provided with a route topo;
  - 8.3.2. Recording the competitor's time on the route.
- 9. The decision of the Head Judge over rules and may amend the decision of any other judge.

## **10. Timing**

- 10.1. The climbing time for each competitor is the period between the start and completion of the competitor's attempt on a route.
- 10.2. The climbing time is rounded down to the nearest whole second.
- 10.3. The Category Judge shall record the climbing time for each competitor.
- 10.4. The Fixed Climbing time for each competitor per route is:
  - 10.4.1. Qualifying round – 6:00 minutes;
  - 10.4.2. Final round – 8:00 minutes.
- 10.5. If the competitor exceeds the Fixed Climbing Time for the attempt the Category Judge shall verbally inform the competitor. The competitor's attempt is then terminated. The competitor shall then return to the ground without any undue hesitation.

## **11. Scoring**

- 11.1. Any competitor who successfully completes the route in accordance with the rules shall be scored as such by indicating 'Top'.
- 11.2. An attempt is considered successful if the route has been climbed in accordance with the rules and if the rope has been clipped into the carabiner at the anchor of the route within the time limit.

- 11.3. In respect of any competitor who has fallen or had their attempt on the route terminated, the furthest hold Controlled or Used in the line of the route shall determine the competitor's score.
- 11.4. For the purpose of scoring each hold shall be deemed as such by the Chief Route-Setter before the start of a round of the competition.
- 11.5. Only holds used by the hands shall be considered.
- 11.6. Only such parts of an object that is usable for climbing shall be considered.
- 11.7. As determined by the category judge:
  - 11.7.1. A hold shall be considered as 'controlled' where a competitor has made use of the hold to achieve a stable or controlled position.  
The score of a competitor controlling a hold shall be the number assigned to that hold on the route sketch without any suffix;
  - 11.7.2. A hold from which a competitor has made a controlled climbing movement in the interest of progressing along the route shall be considered as 'used'.  
The score of a competitor using a hold shall be the number assigned to that hold on the route topo with the addition of the suffix '+'.
- 11.8. A controlled climbing movement may either be 'static' or 'dynamic' in nature and in general will be evidenced by:
  - 11.8.1. A significant change in position of the competitor's centre of mass;
  - 11.8.2. The movement of at least one hand in order to reach the next hold along the line of the route.
- 11.9. It is at the Category Judge's discretion to set the limit between Held and Used for each hold in order to separate competitors with markedly different performance.

## 12. Ranking – Qualification Round

- 12.1. On the Qualification routes, each competitor attempting the routes shall be ranked using the following criteria:
  - 12.1.1. First, all competitors scored as 'Top';
  - 12.1.2. Following, all competitors who have fallen on the route or have had their attempt terminated, in descending order of the score awarded to that competitor.
- 12.2. Each competitor participating in the Qualification Round shall be awarded Ranking Points for each route as follows:
  - 12.2.1. Equal to the ranking position where the competitor has a unique ranking on the route;
  - 12.2.2. Where two or more competitors are tied on the route, equal to the average ranking of the tied competitors in the group.
  - 12.2.3. The ranking of competitors for the Qualification round shall be in ascending order of the Total Points awarded to each competitor, calculated according to the following formula:  

$$TP = \sqrt{R1 * R2}$$
 where:  
 TP = Total Points.  
 R1 = Ranking points on the first qualification route.

R2 = Ranking points on the second qualification route.

### **13. Ranking - Final Round**

- 13.1. On the Final route, each competitor attempting the route shall be ranked using the following criteria:
- 13.2. First, all competitors scored as 'Top';
- 13.3. Following, all competitors who have fallen on the route or have had their attempt terminated, in descending order of the score awarded to that competitor.
- 13.4. If any competitors are tied following the ranking calculation, then the ranking of these competitors from the previous round shall be used to break the tie ('countback').
- 13.5. If following the 'countback' procedure competitors are still tied, the relative rankings of these competitors shall be determined by their climbing time.

### **14. Isolation**

- 14.1. The 'Isolation' rules shall to the Final round of the competition.
- 14.2. Once the closing time for the Isolation Zone has passed, Competitors and/or Team Officials must remain within the Isolation Zone unless otherwise instructed.
- 14.3. The closing time for Isolation is 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the first competitor in the final round of the competition.
- 14.4. When the Isolation Rules apply, competitors shall have no knowledge of the routes other than that obtained during the official observation period or that communicated to them by the Chief Judge or Category Judge.
- 14.5. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to fully inform themselves with respect to all instructions regarding the routes.

### **15. Observation**

- 15.1. A collective Observation Period lasting six minutes shall be held immediately prior to the start of the Final Round.
- 15.2. Only competitors competing in the final are allowed in the Competition Zone during observation.
- 15.3. Competitors are allowed to touch the first hold(s), without leaving the ground with both their feet.
- 15.4. Competitors are allowed to use binoculars to observe the route, and make hand-drawn sketches and notes.  
No other observation or recording equipment shall be permitted.
- 15.5. At the end of the Observation Period, competitors shall immediately return to the isolation zone.

## 16. Technical Incidents

- 16.1. A technical incident is defined as any occurrence that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor.  
Technical incidents include:
- 16.1.1. Broken or loose holds;
  - 16.1.2. An improperly positioned quickdraw or karabiner;
  - 16.1.3. A tight rope, which either assists or hinders a competitor.
- 16.2. The Category Judge, if necessary in consultation with the Chief Route-Setter shall make the confirmation or non-confirmation of a Technical Incident.
- 16.3. Generally, a Technical Incident shall be dealt with as follows:
- 16.3.1. If a competitor is in a non-legitimate position due to a possible Technical Incident, the competitor's attempt shall be terminated.  
The Category Judge shall take an immediate decision on whether to declare a Technical Incident and permit the competitor a further attempt on the route.
  - 16.3.2. If the competitor is still in a legitimate position:
- 16.4. Following a Technical Incident indicated by the Category Judge, the competitor may choose either to continue or cease climbing.  
If the competitor chooses to continue to climb, no Technical Incident may be claimed later and no appeal in relation to that Technical Incident shall be allowed;
- 16.5. Following a Technical Incident indicated by the competitor, the competitor shall specify the nature of the Technical Incident and, with the agreement of the Category Judge, may continue or cease climbing.  
If the competitor chooses to climb, no Technical Incident may be claimed later and no appeal in relation to that Technical Incident shall be allowed.
- 16.6. If a competitor falls and claims that a Technical Incident has caused the fall, the competitor shall be immediately escorted to the Isolation Zone to await the outcome of the investigation of the claimed Technical Incident.
- 16.7. If the technical incident is confirmed the competitor shall remain in the Isolation Zone for the duration of the Recuperation Period.
- 16.8. The Recuperation Period shall be approximately equal to one minute for every handhold used prior to the Technical Incident, subject to a maximum of twenty minutes.
- 16.9. The Head Judge will make the decision on when the next attempt of the competitor shall be slotted into the starting order, based on the competitor's Recuperation Time. All concerned competitors shall be informed about the re-slotting.
- 16.10. If a new attempt is, or would be slotted after the last competitor in any round of the competition and the competitor who has suffered the Technical Incident have already been placed first in the round, then the competitor shall not be allowed a new attempt on the route.
- 16.11. Where a technical incident occurs the competitors score shall be affected as follows:
- 16.11.1. Where competitor chooses to continue with their attempt, the result of this attempt shall stand;

- 16.11.2. Where the competitor is given a further attempt the competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of their attempts on the route.

## **17. Appeals**

- 17.1. All appeals shall be submitted to the Head Judge in writing using an Appeals Form. Appeal Forms are available from the registration desk.
- 17.2. The Head Judge will consult with the parties concerned and following consideration of the appeal will make a final judgement.
- 17.3. A time limit of ten minutes from the time results are posted applies for the lodgement of all appeals.

## **18. Results**

- 18.1. Provisional results will be posted on the Competition Notice Board as soon as possible after the finish of the attempt of the final competitor in a category.
- 18.2. The Chief Organiser will notify competitors that the results are posted.
- 18.3. If no appeals are lodged the provisional results are ratified by the Head Judge and become the official results.
- 18.4. Official final results will be published on the Mountaineering Ireland website.

## **19. Trophies, medals & Prizes**

- 19.1. A perpetual trophy may be awarded to the top ranked competitor in each competition category.
- 19.2. Medals may be awarded to the top three ranked competitors in each competition category.
- 19.3. Prizes may be awarded to the top three ranked competitors in each competition category.