

Youth Climbing Series 2021

An addendum to the YCS Rules to be used during the COVID Pandemic

IMPORTANT

This addendum must be read in conjunction with
Youth Climbing Series 2021 Regulations

The aim of this addendum to the current rules is to define some measures to be adopted at all Youth Climbing Series (YCS) events during corona virus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Due to the fast-evolving nature of the pandemic this Addendum will be reviewed and the latest version of the file will be available on the YCS page of the Mountaineering Ireland website.

1. GENERAL STATEMENT

1.1. EVENT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLANS

The main point is understanding of the overview of the current COVID-19 situation by Mountaineering Ireland staff, in the months, week preceding the event. We will regularly check and analyse:

- the latest available guidance on the COVID-19 outbreak;
- the global and local daily situation reports;
- the risks and transmission routes of COVID-19;
- the steps that event attendees can take to limit spread;
- the recognized best practices (including respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene, physical distancing, etc.).

If we have to cancel any YCS regional rounds or the Grand Final, it will be done in response to the current Government guidance.

1.2. GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIALS, STAFF AND ALL PERSONNEL

Prior to the competition:

- 24 hours before - take a lateral flow test
- Respect social distancing, wash hands frequently and wear a mask as and when required
- Do not attend the competition if your lateral flow test is positive or you have recognised COVID symptoms.

At the Competition:

- Respect social distancing, wash hands frequently and wear a mask as and when required
- Do not congregate. Leave the centre once climbing has been completed.

1.3. VENTILATION

COVID-19 viral particles spread between people more readily indoors than outdoors. When outdoors, the concentration of viral particles rapidly reduces with the wind, even a very light wind. When indoors, ventilation mitigation strategies help to offset the absence of natural

wind and reduce the concentration of viral particles in the indoor air. The lower the concentration, the less likely some of those viral particles can be inhaled into your lungs; contact your eyes, nose, and mouth; or fall out of the air to accumulate on surfaces. Protective ventilation practices and interventions can reduce the airborne concentration, which reduces the overall viral dose to occupants.

Venues must consider increasing ventilation by addressing any or all of the following actions for any indoor space of the competition venue:

- Increase outdoor air ventilation.
- When weather conditions allow, increase fresh outdoor air by opening windows and doors.
- Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and provide acceptable indoor air quality for the current occupancy level for each space.
- Increase airflow to occupied spaces when possible.

1.4. RESPONSE PROTOCOL IN CASE OF (SUPPOSED) POSITIVITY

In the case of a person developing symptoms during the event, or if a person has a positive test while at the event, they will be sent home immediately or isolated until they can be collected by their parent or carer.

999 will be called if they are seriously ill or injured or their life is at risk.

In the case of an athlete who needs to be supervised before being collected:

- A window will be opened in the room to allow for fresh air ventilation
- If a distance of 2 metres can't be maintained, supervising staff will wear a suitable face mask
- If contact is necessary, supervising staff will also wear disposable gloves and a disposable apron
- If there's a risk of splashing to the eyes, such as from coughing, spitting or vomiting, supervising staff will also wear eye protection

Supervising staff will wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after the person or athlete has been picked up.

Examples of close contact include:

- face-to-face contact under 1 metre for any length of time – including talking to them or being coughed on
- being within 1 metre of each other for 1 minute or longer
- being within 2 metres of each other for more than 15 minutes in total in 1 day

A deep clean will take place in the areas that the symptomatic person who has tested positive has been, and PPE will be disposed of properly, following decontamination guidance.

1.5. SCHEDULE

The timetable for each round will be emailed to participants by no later than the Tuesday prior to that round taking place;

Round 1 - Tuesday 14 September 2021

Round 2 - Tuesday 28 September 2021

Round 3 - Tuesday 19 October 2021

Round 4 - Tuesday 2 November 2021

No special arrangements for siblings can be made with regards to the competition schedule.

1.6. OFFICIAL BOARD

There will be no official information board at the competition venue. Results will be emailed to the email address provided at registration. The standard appeals window will remain in place.

2. ATHLETES' COMMON AREAS

Volunteers working in common areas (isolation area, call zone, after climbing area, etc...) shall always wear a mask. Athletes shall wear mask in the isolation area when social distancing measures cannot be applied.

2.1. ISOLATION/HOLDING AREA

Isolation / holding area shall guarantee a minimum of 7.5 square meters per person.

After having been checked all athletes shall wash their hands using an alcohol-based gel.

To prevent anybody get in touch with someone else's sweat, every athlete must have their personal towel to be put on the mat and/or the chair when seating in common areas.

All the persons inside isolation (athletes, volunteers, officials etc.) will respect social distance (1 meter minimum).

At the end of the round, points that are touched frequently (i.e. doors, chairs, WC etc.) shall be cleaned with alcohol or disinfectant by Event staff.

3. COMPETITION AREA

3.1. ROPED ROUNDS

For lead climbers only, it is recommended that every athlete will climb using their personal rope. Every rope shall have a 9-10 mm diameter and 60 meters length and shall be in rope bag clearly identifying the name of the athlete.

It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure the rope is fit for purpose. If the Belayer isn't happy with the condition of the rope, an alternative will be sourced.

Belayers shall wear a mask.

A time limit of two hours has been introduced to the roped rounds.

The running order of competitors will be left to the Youth Climbing Series Coordinators discretion for each regional round.

3.2. BOULDER ROUNDS

Event Organiser shall provide alcohol-based gel dispensers in rest area, to be used before and after the boulder round.

No brusher will be allowed on the mat: athletes shall brush the holds they can reach from the ground by themselves.

The number of boulders has been reduced to 8 per category.

Each athlete's time limit to complete the round is reduced to two hours.

3.3. VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers will need to follow the same rules and regulations as participants.

Follow social distancing measures and wear a mask at all times whilst indoors.

4. AWARDING CEREMONY

There will be no awarding ceremony at the regional rounds of the YCS.

The protocol used at the awarding ceremony of the Grand Final will be the usual protocol with some small modifications:

- Athletes shall wear the mask during all the awarding ceremony
- Prizegivers shall wear a mask
- Medals will be directly picked up from the tray by the athletes
- No handshakes, no hugs from athletes shall be allowed

5. SPECTATORS

All competitors must be accompanied by one parent/guardian **only** at each round.

Parents or guardians must complete a signed parental consent at the time of booking via the online form. Your child will **NOT** be able to compete without one.

An additional parent/guardian or spectator can attend if they are fulfilling a volunteer role only.

There are no guarantees, any parent/guardian will be able to watch the climbing on the day.

6. RESULTS AND RANKING

6.1. GRAND FINAL ELIGIBILITY

In the unlikely event one or more rounds have to be cancelled due to the Pandemic, the following will apply:

- All scores at all completed rounds will count.
- Where possible, the rules applied to series ties at the end of round 4 will be applied after the last completed round.

If we have to cancel the Grand Final, we will treat the completed rounds as a number of centrally organised series for each YCS region.

Individual rounds may be cancelled due to a number of reasons:

- Changes to local, regional, national or UK coronavirus restrictions
- host venue withdrawal.