

British Mountaineering Council
177-179 Burton Road
Manchester
M20 2BB
Tel: 0161 438 3313
Fax: 0161 445 4500
e-mail: ycs@thebmc.co.uk

Mountaineering Council of Scotland
The Old Granary
West Mill Street
Perth PH1 5QP
Tel: 01738 493 942
Fax: 01738-442 095
e-mail: info@mcofs.org.uk

Mountaineering Ireland
Irish Sport HQ
National Sports Campus
Blanchardstown
Dublin 15
Tel: (+353 1) 625 1115
e-mail: info@mountaineering.ie

Youth Climbing Series 2023 Regulations

CONTENTS

1.	GENERAL	3
	1.1 Series of Competitions	3
	1.2 Eligibility.....	3
2.	REGIONAL BOULDER COMPETITION	3
	2.1 Format.....	3
	2.2 Scoring.....	4
3.	REGIONAL LEAD AND TOP ROPING COMPETITION	4
	3.1 Format.....	4
	3.2 Technical Incidents.....	5
	3.3 Height Measurement.....	5
	3.4 Scoring.....	5
4.	PROCEDURE ON COMPLETION OF EACH REGIONAL EVENT	6
	4.1 Event Ranking	6
	4.2 Points Awarded for Each Competition Event.....	7
	4.3 Series Climb-off	7
	4.4 Regional Final Format	7
	4.5 Qualification for the Grand Final	7
	4.6 Withdrawal of Finalists	7
	4.7 Publication of results	7
5.	ORGANISERS AND OFFICIALS	7
	5.1 General.....	7
	5.2 Belaying and security.....	7
	5.3 Climbing Wall	8
	5.4 Wall Maintenance.....	8
	5.5 Medical Facilities	8
	5.6 Photographers and Television Camera Crews.....	8
6.	COMPETITORS.....	9
	6.1 Competitors' Climbing Equipment and Clothing	9
	6.2 Preparation Prior to Climbing	9
	6.3 Technical Incidents.....	9
	6.4 Height Measurement.....	9
	6.5 Climb-offs	10
	6.6 Timing Rules	10
7.	DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES DURING COMPETITION.....	11
	7.1 General.....	11
	7.2 Competitors.....	11
	7.3 Other Persons	12
8.	COMPETITION APPEALS.....	12
	8.1 Procedure	12

1. General

1.1 Series of Competitions

- 1.1.1 The Youth Climbing Series shall be organised each year by the National Governing Body (NGB) in each Nation, England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It shall be known as YCS
- 1.1.2 The YCS shall take place across eight (8) regions of the UK, with four events per region, followed by a two-day Grand Final for those qualifying in categories A, B, C and D.
- 1.1.3 There shall be a regional cap on the number of competitors for each region. This will be in accordance with the fire capacity of each host venue.
- 1.1.4 For the regional competitions, there shall be two bouldering-only rounds and two roped-only rounds.
- 1.1.5 The participating National Governing Bodies (NGBs) may agree to allow local variations of the four-round structure to accommodate the Regional Final format (as set out in Section 4.4) or other events.
- 1.1.6 YCS regional competitions shall take place on Saturdays. Organisers will complete each round of the YCS competitions in one (1) day.
- 1.1.7 Each YCS competition approved by the NGB shall include separate categories for boys and girls in five age groups related to years of birth, making ten categories in total.
- 1.1.8 Each YCS competition shall include each category
- 1.1.9 In the roped rounds, competitors in categories A, B and C will lead climb all routes. Competitors in categories D and E will top-rope all routes.
- 1.1.10 All competitors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at each individual regional round.
- 1.1.11 There will be no isolation except in the case of a climb-off or the Grand Final.

1.2 Eligibility

- 1.2.1 All ages are inclusive. Competitors must be no younger than 8 and not older than 17 on the 31st December in the year of the Series.

Year of Event	Year of Birth									
	Youth E		Youth D		Youth C		Youth B		Youth A	
2023	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
2024	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
2025	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
2026	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009

- 1.2.2 Colour-blind competitors must be identified as such to the relevant NGB prior to the registration deadline for the competition. The relevant NGB will inform the Youth Climbing Series Coordinators of any Colour-blind competitors.
- 1.2.3 Competitors can enter any regional round of their choice of the Nation they are resident in, but they must remain in the same region for the entire Series if they wish for their scores to count.
- 1.2.4 Competitors can take part in one of the national series only; England and Wales, Scotland or Ireland.
- 1.2.5 Competitors must be registered within the deadlines published on the relevant NGB website. Payment for the competition cannot be taken on the day and therefore must be made with the competition entry.
- 1.2.6 The YCS competition entry is open to competitors of all nationalities.

- 1.2.7 Anyone route setting for any round of the competition may not compete in the Series.
- 1.2.8 YCS competitions can be entered by athletes of all age categories who are members of the England Regional Talent Squad, England Talent Squad, Scotland Development Squad, Scotland Talent Squad and Irish Youth Squad.
- 1.2.9 GB Team members, Scottish Team members and Irish team members of any age will not be eligible to compete. Ice climbing youth team members and speed climbing development squad members are eligible to compete.
- 1.2.10 Competitors in category E are not eligible for the Grand final.
- 1.2.11 Anyone entering the venue of a round once route setting has commenced and before the day of the competition, except for registration purposes, will not be permitted to compete at that round. Route setting normally begins on the Tuesday of the week of the competition.

2. Regional Boulder Competition

2.1 Format

- 2.1.1 The Competition is a fixed time period event, limited attempts per boulder, and a "flash" format. There will be no demonstration of boulders.
- 2.1.2 Each round shall consist of eight (8) boulders. Each boulder will be allocated a number between 1 and 8 in order of difficulty, e.g. 1/2/3 = Soft, 4/5/6 = Medium, 7/8 = Hard
- 2.1.3 Each category has 2 hours to complete their attempts.
- 2.1.4 The start and end of the competition climbing time will be announced by a loud signal. Competitors will be given a one-minute warning signal, which will mark the upcoming cessation of their competition.
- 2.1.5 Each competitor will choose the order in which they attempt the boulders allocated to their category.
- 2.1.6 A competitor will indicate the next boulder they wish to attempt by handing their scorecard to the relevant Boulder Judge.
- 2.1.7 Competitors shall attempt a boulder in the order in which their scorecards are handed to the Boulder Judge.
- 2.1.8 If a competitor is not ready to attempt a boulder when called by the Boulder Judge, the relevant competitor shall be reassigned to climb last on that boulder. Each competitor shall make no more than five (5) attempts on each boulder.
- 2.1.9 After a competitor has completed an attempt, the boulder judge will record the details and hand the scorecard to the competitor who shall then act in accordance with Articles 2.1.6 and 2.1.7
- 2.1.10 If a technical incident occurs affecting any boulder:
 - a) The boulders affected by a technical incident shall be closed until the problem has been rectified.
 - b) 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, their attempt following restoration of the boulder shall be treated as their first attempt.

2.1.11 If the restoration time is less than or equal to 10 minutes, the affected boulders will be re-opened and no additional time allocated.

2.1.12 If the restoration time exceeds 10 minutes, the relevant boulder shall be cancelled from the competition, unless such cancellation would result in the competition comprising of less than 6 boulders. If this situation arises, the duration of the competition shall be extended by the amount of time taken after the initial 10 minutes to restore the boulder.

2.2 Scoring

2.2.1 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

2.2.2 All points/limbs must be off the floor before the attempt starts; Competitors cannot jump to start except in certain situations identified by the route setter.

2.2.3 Boulders will be marked using a single colour of hold, any holds in a different colour will be considered for judging purposes as if demarcated as 'out of bounds'.

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 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 2.2.1, achieved a standing position on top of the boulder,

2.2.6 The coloured tape used to mark the starting position and the finishing holds shall be the same and a different coloured tape shall be used for the zone holds. Both colours shall be different from the colour used for demarcations (out of bounds)

2.2.7 On each boulder, a zone point will be awarded if the competitor controls the Zone Hold, marked as described in Article 2.2.6. The zone point will be awarded also where a competitor successfully completes the boulder without having controlled the Zone Hold. The Zone Hold shall be considered as "controlled" where a competitor has made use of the hold to achieve a stable or controlled position.

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

- a)** The number of attempts required by that competitor to gain a zone
- b)** The number of attempts required by that competitor to successfully complete the boulder

2.2.9 For the purposes of scoring, an attempt will be counted as such each time the competitor;

- a)** starts the boulder using the designated start holds,
- b)** touches, with hands or feet, holds other than the starting holds.

2.2.10 The competitors shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

- First, in descending order, the number of successfully completed boulders ("TOPS");
- Second, in descending order, the total number of zone points gained by the competitor;
- Third, in ascending order, the total number of attempts to complete these boulders;
- Fourth, in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these zone points.

3. Regional Lead and Top Roping Competition

3.1 Format

3.1.1 Each competition shall consist of four (4) routes, which shall be numbered from 1 to 4 in approximate order of difficulty, e.g. 1/2 = Soft, 3/4 = Medium, 4 = Hard.

3.1.2 The competition Format is a fixed period per route, one attempt only on each route in a "flash" format. There will be no demonstration of routes.

3.1.3 The climbing time for each route is six (6) minutes. In cases where the route is ten (10) metres or less in height, the time may be reduced to four (4) minutes per climb at the discretion of the YCSC.

3.1.4 Routes will be marked using a single colour of holds and any holds in a different colour will be considered for judging purposes as if demarcated as 'out of bounds'.

3.1.5 The YCSC in consultation with the chief route setter will announce one of the following routines to govern the order in which competitors attempt their routes:

- a)** A start list and schedule prepared by the YCSC for each route.
- b)** Individual competitors decide the order of their attempts. In this case;
 - i) Each competitor will indicate they wish to start their attempt by handing their scorecard to the relevant Route Judge.
 - ii) Competitors shall attempt a route in the order in which their scorecards are handed to the Route Judge.

3.1.6 If a competitor is not ready to attempt a route when called by the Route Judge, the relevant competitor shall be reassigned to climb last on that route. Each competitor shall make no more than one (1) attempt on each route.

3.1.7 An attempt on a route shall be considered successful if the route has been climbed in accordance with these rules and if;

- a)** in the case of a lead route, the rope has been clipped into the final karabiner of the route from a legitimate position within the fixed time period for the route and all the quickdraws have been clipped in order
- b)** in the case of a top-rope route, the judge has signalled or announced "OK", having determined that the competitor has controlled the marked finishing hold of the route with both hands.

3.1.8 During an attempt on a route:

Youth Climbing Series 2023 Regulations

- a) The competitor must clip all the quickdraws in sequence.

Note: The first quickdraw shall be pre-clipped by the belayer if requested to do so by the competitor, however once this has been done once, this must be completed for all subsequent competitors on said route.

Note: A competitor shall be allowed to un-clip and re-clip the last clipped karabiner.

- b) The competitor must be in a legitimate position at all times.

3.1.9 Any movement of a competitor beyond the legitimate position to clip shall not result in a higher score.

3.1.10 If a competitor clips the rope into a karabiner, but a "Z-clip" has occurred, 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 karabiners involved. After correction, all the protection points shall be clipped in sequence.

3.1.11 The Judge may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if they decide that further progress on the route would be dangerous.

3.1.12 A competitor may ask at any time during their attempt on the route how much of the fixed climbing time remains, and the Judge shall immediately inform, or give instruction to inform, the competitor of the remaining time.

3.1.13 When the fixed climbing time has ended, the Judge shall instruct, or give instruction to instruct the competitor to stop climbing.

3.1.14 A competitor who fails to obey the Judge's instruction to stop climbing shall be liable to disciplinary action in accordance with Section 7.

3.1.15 The attempt of a competitor on a route shall be considered unsuccessful if the competitor:

- a) Falls;
- b) Exceeds the fixed climbing time for the route;
- c) Uses any part of the wall, holds or features demarcated as out of bounds by a continuous and clearly identifiable black tape;
- d) Uses with their hands any holes provided for the placement of bolt-on holds, excluding any such hole on a bolt-on hold;
- e) Uses any advertising or informational placard affixed to the wall, or any part of such material;
- f) Uses the top edges of the wall for climbing;
- g) Makes use of hangers (including their bolts) or quickdraws for climbing;
- h) Fails to clip a quickdraw in accordance with the rules;
- i) Returns to the ground with any part of the body after having started their attempt;
- j) Uses any artificial aid; or
- k) Is instructed to stop climbing by the category judge.

3.2 Technical Incidents

3.2.1 Section 6.3 below also applies to Regional Lead and Top Roping Competitions.

3.3 Height Measurement

3.3.1 Section 6.4 below also applies to Regional Lead and Top Roping Competitions.

3.4 Scoring

3.4.1 The scoring for all routes will be in line with the GB Climbing competition rules. These rules must be also read in conjunction with the current IFSC international lead climbing and bouldering competition rules.

3.4.2 The first handhold on the route will be scored as "1", the second as "2" and so on.

3.4.3 On each route, competitors shall be scored as follows:

- a) Any competitor who has successfully completed the route, shall be scored as such by indicating "TOP";
- b) In respect of any competitor who has fallen or had their attempt on the route terminated, the furthest hold held in the line of the route shall determine the competitor's score as set out in Articles 3.4.4 to 3.4.5.
- c) Where a competitor has not attempted a route, they will score zero (0) for that route.

3.4.4 For the purposes of scoring:

- a) Only holds used by the hands shall be deemed as scoring holds:
 - i) By the Chief Route-Setter before the start of a round of the competition; or
 - ii) Following positive use by more than one competitor; and
 - iii) shall be marked on the route sketch used by the Route Judge(s), numbered in sequential order along the line of the route, as defined by the Chief Route-Setter.
- b) Only such parts of an object that are usable for climbing shall be considered.
Note: If a competitor touches a point where there are no holds (as determined by the Chief Route-Setter), then this point shall not be considered when determining the competitor's score.

3.4.5 For the purposes of scoring:

- a) 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 map without any suffix;
- b) 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 map with a plus (+) suffix. This score is better than the score for controlling the same hold. The awarding of a plus (+) is open to interpretation by the Category Judge, but must be consistent with every competitor. The Category Judge's decision is always final.
Note: A controlled climbing movement may be either "static" or "dynamic" in nature and in general will be evidenced by:
 - i) a significant positive change in position of the competitor's centre of mass; and
 - ii) the movement of at least one hand in order to reach either
 - (a) the next hold along the line of the route;

- or
- (b) any other hold further along the line of the route which has been successfully controlled by another competitor from the hold from which the climbing movement has been made.

Note: In accordance with Article 3.1.11 no 'plus' shall be awarded for any climbing movement that results in the competitor moving out of a legitimate position.

- 3.4.6** On any route, each competitor attempting the route shall be ranked using the following criteria:
- a) First, all competitors scored as "TOP" in accordance with Article 3.4.3a)
 - b) Following a), all competitors who have fallen or had their attempt on the route terminated pursuant to Articles 3.1.9, 3.1.11, 3.1.14 and 3.1.15, in descending order of the score awarded to each competitor pursuant to Articles 6.4.4 to 6.4.5.
- 3.4.7** Each competitor participating in the category shall be awarded Ranking Points for each route as follows:
- a) Where the competitor has a unique ranking on the route, equal to the ranking of the competitor in their category; or
 - b) Where two or more competitors are tied on the route, equal to the average ranking of the tied competitors in their category.
Example: Where there are 6 ties at 1st place then the Ranking Points awarded to each tied competitor will be equal to
 $(1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6) / 6 = 21 / 6 = 3.50$
Example: Where there are 4 ties at 2nd place then the Ranking Points awarded to each tied competitor will be equal to
 $(2 + 3 + 4 + 5) / 4 = 14 / 4 = 3.50$
- 3.4.8** The ranking of competitors within their category for the event shall be in ascending order of the Total Points awarded to each competitor (lower Total Points is better), calculated according to the following formula:
TP = Fourth root of $(R_1 \times R_2 \times R_3 \times R_4)$
where:
TP = Total Points
 R_1 to R_4 = Ranking Points on routes 1 to 4 respectively in accordance with Article 3.4.7.
- 3.4.9** Points and ranking data presented on the Official Results list shall be presented to two (2) decimal places.

4. Procedure on Completion of Each Regional Event

4.1 Event Ranking

- 4.1.1** After each event of the competition Series, the competitors shall be ranked.
- 4.1.2** In the case of lead and top-roping events only:
- a) If a tie exists for **first, second or third place** after the final climb, a count-back procedure shall be used such that the results of the individual in that event shall be considered in separating tied competitors. The winner will be the tied competitor to have gained the greatest number of first place results, or if this is the same, second place results, etc.

- b) If after applying the procedure described in Article 4.1.2a), there exists **a tie for first, second or third place**, those competitors shall be deemed equal.

4.2 Points Awarded for Each Competition Event

4.2.1 At the end of each event, the first thirty (30) competitors in each category shall be awarded the following points:

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

4.2.2 Where competitors are tied in a category, each will be awarded the average of ranking points shared by the tied group.

Example 1: If three competitors are tied in third place they are 'occupying' third, fourth and fifth places which would be a total of 65 + 55 + 51 = 171 ranking points so each competitor would be awarded $171 \div 3 = 57$ points.

Example 2: If two competitors are tied in second place they would each be awarded $(80 + 65) \div 2 = 72.5$ points.

4.2.3 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 event of the Series.

4.2.4 At the end of the last regional round each competitor's Series score shall be the aggregate of their three (3) best ranking points results in the Series.

4.2.5 The top three (3) competitors in each category in each region at the end of the regional Series who have competed in at least three (3) rounds will qualify to enter the Grand Final.

4.2.6 If, upon completion of the regional rounds, a Series tie for first, second or third place exists, a count-back procedure will be used, whereby the results of the individual rounds in which all tied climbers competed will be compared and ranked according to the greatest number of first place results, or if this is the same, second place results and so on, until the tied competitors' results can be separated.

4.3 Series Climb-off

4.3.1 Not used

4.3.2 If a Series tie still exists, after the application of Article 4.2.6, a climb-off will be held immediately as set out in Articles 6.5 and 6.6.

4.3.3 All competitors involved in the tie must make themselves available for the climb-off at the Judge's discretion.

4.3.4 If a competitor is not available to take part in the climb-off, for whatever reason, the climb-off will take place without them and they will be scored last in the climb-off.

4.4 Regional Final Format

4.4.1 A region may be authorised to divide into more than one sub-region during first three the rounds followed by a Regional Final in place of the fourth round.

4.4.2 For the purposes of eligibility (see Article 1.2 above), each sub-region will be considered as a region in its own right during preceding regional rounds.

4.4.3 The results of the first three rounds in each sub-region shall be processed as described in Article 4.1, Article 4.2 and Article 4.3.

4.4.4 At the end of round three (3), the five (5) competitors with the highest aggregate points score in each category from each sub-region will qualify to enter the Regional Final.

4.4.5 The Regional Final shall adopt the format of earlier roped rounds with the following exceptions:

- a) Ranking points accrued at earlier rounds in the Series shall not be carried forward to the Regional Final nor shall ranking points be awarded.
- b) The top three (3) competitors in each category at the end of the Regional Final will qualify to enter the Grand Final.

4.4.6 In the event of a tie spanning the boundary between third and fourth place at the end of the Regional Final, this shall be resolved in accordance with Articles 4.2.6 and, if necessary, Section 4.3.

4.5 Qualification for the Grand Final

4.5.1 The top three (3) competitors in each category at the end of the regional Series who have competed in at least three (3) rounds will qualify to enter the Grand Final.

4.5.2 The specific rules for the Grand Final can be found in the document titled; YCS Grand Final Rules.

4.6 Withdrawal of Finalists

4.6.1 A qualifying competitor may withdraw from taking part in the Grand Final. No replacement competitor will be sourced.

4.7 Publication of results

4.7.1 Results shall be confirmed and published online by 5:00pm on the first Monday after each regional event and the Grand Final.

5. Organisers and Officials

5.1 General

5.1.1 The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator shall arrange a judging team, specifically responsible for providing a height measurement, time keeping and results.

5.1.2 The results will be displayed to the competitors at the end of the competition and sent to the NGB for publication as set out in Article 4.7.

5.1.3 A results service will be provided if possible.

5.1.4 The Route-Setters will provide judges with route maps, where the hand holds for each route have been marked and a score allocated to each hold.

5.2 Belaying and security

5.2.1 All competition routes shall be climbed with the competitor belayed from below.

5.2.2 Prior to the start of each attempt on a lead competition climb, the rope shall be clipped through the first protection point (quickdraw) if requested by the route setter or competitor.

5.2.3 The Chief Judge shall, in consultation with the Route-Setter, decide whether additional security is required in the form of:

- a) Clipping the second protection point (quickdraw) on a route.
- b) In exceptional circumstances, clipping the third protection point (quickdraw) on a route.

- 5.2.4** At the start of each attempt on a competition climb:
- a) Each competitor shall be equipped in accordance with the Article 6.1 governing equipment;
 - b) The climbing rope shall be tied to each competitor's climbing harness using a figure of eight knot and a stopper knot.
 - c) Before the competitor begins their attempt on a route, the belayer shall check that the rope is secured to the competitor's harness in accordance with the above, and that the harness is properly fastened;
- 5.2.5** The belayer must pay careful attention to the competitor throughout their attempt on the route to ensure:
- a) That the competitor's movements are not assisted or hindered in any way by the rope being too tight;
 - b) That when a leading competitor attempts to connect the rope to any protection point, they are not hindered in doing so or, if failing to make the connection of the rope into the protection point, any excessive slack in the rope is immediately taken in;
 - c) That all falls are stopped in a dynamic and safe manner;
 - d) That no excessive falls shall be experienced by the competitor being belayed;
 - e) That great care be taken to ensure that in stopping a fall a competitor shall not be exposed to injury caused by the edge of an overlapping section or any other feature of the climbing wall.
- 5.2.6** On successfully completing a route or in having stopped a fall, the competitor shall be lowered to the ground. Care shall be taken to ensure that the competitor does not come into contact with any ground-based equipment.
- 5.2.7** Whilst a leading competitor is untying the rope from their harness, the belayer shall pull the rope down in as fast a manner as is consistent with the quick-draws not being unduly disturbed. It is the responsibility of the belayer to ensure that the competitor vacates the climbing zone as quickly as possible.
- 5.2.8** The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator may replace any belayer at any time during the competition. If replaced, a belayer shall not be permitted to perform that role for any further competitor at that event.
- 5.3 Climbing Wall**
- 5.3.1** The top-edge of the wall shall not be used for climbing unless specifically marked.
- 5.3.2** If there is a need to demarcate a climb on the wall in order to clearly separate it from another, the demarcation shall be made using clearly identifiable colouring and marking of holds.
- 5.3.3** The starting position for each climb must be clearly marked.

5.4 Wall Maintenance

- 5.4.1** The Host Venue shall ensure that an experienced and practised maintenance team is available throughout each round of the competition in order to perform any maintenance and repairs ordered by the Chief Judge in an efficient and safe manner. Safety procedures shall be strictly enforced. The Chief Judge shall be authorised to demand the dismissal from the competition area of any person who fails to observe safety procedures.
- 5.4.2** Repair of holds: On the instruction of the Chief Judge, the Host Venue shall immediately arrange for any repair work. On completion of a repair the Host Venue shall advise the Chief Judge whether the repair results in any unfair advantage or disadvantage to the following competitors. The decision of the Chief Judge to continue, or to stop and re-start, that climb of the competition shall be final and no appeal shall be accepted in respect to this decision.

5.5 Medical Facilities

- 5.5.1** The climbing wall shall arrange for qualified first aiders to be available throughout the whole of the competition. During every competitor's attempt on a climb, at least one qualified, experienced and equipped member of staff should remain within, or in very close proximity to, the competition area in order to provide a rapid response following any injury or need for medical attention.

5.6 Photographers and Television Camera Crews

- 5.6.1** With the approval of the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge, photographers and television camera crews may be permitted to operate in the competition wall area. They shall be allowed to do so on the understanding that:
- a) All photographers obtain authorisation from the YCSC and sign the register of photographers;
 - b) They do not distract or interfere with a competitor during their preparation for, or their attempt on, a climb;
 - c) They do not distract or interfere with any belayer and their assistant;
 - d) Any mechanical equipment used to support camera crews and equipment does not interfere with the competitors and/or belayers. Special care shall be taken to ensure that any fall does not result in a competitor coming into contact with any camera crew personnel, cameras or associated equipment.
 - e) All camera crew personnel obey immediately any instruction given to them by an official event Judge;
- 5.6.2** Photographers and television camera crews may operate from the top of the wall subject to the approval of the Chief Judge. No use of excessive or changing lighting patterns, or any activities which might interfere with a competitor during their attempt on a climb, shall be permitted.

6. Competitors

6.1 Competitors' Climbing Equipment and Clothing

6.1.1 All equipment used by a competitor in a competition shall comply with CE standards unless otherwise specified by the IFSC and be in good serviceable condition. Each competitor shall be free to use whatever CE-marked make of harness (*NOTE: the wearing of a seat/hip or full-body harness is compulsory*), climbing shoes, chalk bag, climbing helmet (where the competitor chooses to do so), and clothing he/she prefers in accordance with the regulations specified in 6.1.

6.1.2 It is compulsory to wear the competition t-shirt if one is provided by the Competition Organisers for the use of competitors while competing in the Series, any part of the Series or the Grand Final.

6.1.3 Failure to comply with these regulations shall result in disqualification from the competition.

6.2 Preparation Prior to Climbing

6.2.1 All climbing equipment and the knot used shall be inspected and approved by an authorised official both for safety and compliance with other regulations before the competitor shall be permitted to proceed to their attempt on their climb.

6.2.2 The approved knot is the "figure of eight" knot with a stopper knot.

6.2.3 Each competitor shall be regarded as entirely and solely responsible for the equipment and clothing that he/she intends to wear during his/her attempt on a climb in line with 6.1.1.

6.2.4 Use of non-approved equipment, knots and/or clothing, or any non-approved modification of any climbing t-shirt provided, or any infringement of any part of the regulations shall make the competitor liable for immediate disqualification.

6.3 Technical Incidents

6.3.1 A technical incident is defined as:

- a) A tight rope which either assists or hinders a competitor;
- b) A broken or loose hold;
- c) An improperly positioned quickdraw or karabiner;
- d) Any other 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;

6.3.2 The belayer must leave an appropriate amount of slack in the rope at all times. Any tension on the rope may be deemed as an artificial aid or hindrance to a competitor and a technical incident shall be declared by the Category Judge.

6.3.3 A technical incident shall be dealt with as follows:

- a) If a technical incident is indicated by the Category Judge:
 - i) If the competitor wishes, and is still in a legitimate position, he/she may choose to continue to climb or accept the technical incident. If the competitor chooses to continue to attempt the climb no further appeal connected with that technical incident shall be accepted;
 - ii) If the competitor is in a non-legitimate position due to the technical incident, the

Category Judge shall make an immediate decision on whether to declare a technical incident and thereby terminate the competitor's attempt on the climb (and in accordance with the rules governing technical incidents, permit the competitor a subsequent attempt).

- b) If a technical incident is indicated by a competitor:
 - iii) While the competitor is climbing, the competitor must specify the nature of the technical incident and, with the agreement of the Category Judge, may continue or cease climbing. If the competitor is in a non-legitimate position due to the incident the Category Judge shall make an immediate decision and that decision shall be final. If the competitor elects to continue to climb, no subsequent appeal shall be accepted in respect to that technical incident.
 - iv) If a competitor falls and claims that a technical incident precipitated the fall, the Route-Setter shall immediately check (and where appropriate correct) the claimed technical incident and report to the Route-Setter, Category Judge and the Chief Judge. The decision of the Chief Judge (having considered the technical incident and any misuse of a hold by a competitor) shall be final and no appeal shall be accepted in respect to this decision.
- c) The competitor subject to a confirmed technical incident shall be allowed a recuperation period. The competitor must decide immediately when he/she wishes to start his/her next attempt on the climb which must be after the immediately following competitor and before the fifth following competitor. The competitor shall be allowed a minimum of 20 minutes between attempts on the climb;
- d) On completion of a legitimate attempt on a climb, a competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of their permitted attempts on the climb.

6.3.4 A climb shall be considered successfully completed if it is climbed in accordance with the regulations and rules and;

- a) in the case of a lead, if the competitor safely clips the rope into the karabiner on the final quickdraw from an allowed position,
- b) in the case of a top-rope or boulder, if the competitor 'holds' the last marked hold from a legitimate position with both hands.

6.4 Height Measurement

6.4.1 In the event of a fall or the Category Judge instructing a competitor to stop climbing, the highest handhold held (or in the case of a traverse or roof section of a climb, the furthest handhold held), in the line and in the climbing sequence of the climb as determined by the Route-Setter, shall be measured. Each handhold shall be deemed as such by the Route-Setter before the start of the competition or following positive use by a competitor during the competition.

Youth Climbing Series 2023 Regulations

- 6.4.2** Note: If a competitor touches a point where there are no holds (as determined by the Chief Route-Setter), then this point shall not be considered when determining the competitor's score.
- 6.4.3** If a lead competitor takes hold of the final quickdraw before the rope is safely clipped into the final karabiner this shall be considered as an artificial aid and the competitor's attempt on the route shall be terminated and measured in accordance with Article 6.4.1
- 6.4.4** For the purposes of scoring:
- Each hold shall be deemed as such either:
 - By the Chief Route-Setter before the start of a round of the competition; or
 - Following positive use by a competitor,
 - and shall be marked on the route sketch used by the Route Judge(s), numbered in sequential order along the line of the route, as defined by the Route-Setter.
 - Only holds used by the hands shall be considered.
 - Only such parts of an object that are usable for climbing shall be considered.
- 6.4.5** For the purposes of scoring:
- A hold shall be considered as "controlled" where a competitor has made use of the hold to achieve a stable or controlled position.
 - 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".
- 6.4.6** Note: A controlled climbing movement may be either "static" or "dynamic" in nature and in general will be evidenced by:
- a significant positive change in position of the competitor's centre of mass; and
 - the movement of at least one hand in order to reach either:
 - the next hold along the line of the route; or*
 - any other hold further along the line of the route which has been successfully controlled by another competitor from the hold from which the climbing movement has been made.*
- 6.4.7** Note: In accordance with Article 3.1.13 and 3.1.11, no 'plus' shall be awarded for any climbing movement that results in the competitor moving out of a legitimate position.
- 6.5** **Climb-offs**
- 6.5.1** Definition: A Climb-off will only take place at the end of round four (4) of the regional phase in order to resolve a Series tie in first, second or third place.
- 6.5.2** A Climb-off must take place on an appropriate roped route (i.e. not a boulder).
- 6.5.3** All tied competitors must enter the Isolation Zone before it closes.
- 6.5.4** When in the Isolation Zone and during the observation period, competitors and/or officials must remain within the Isolation Zone unless otherwise instructed.
- 6.5.5** No communication equipment will be allowed in the isolation zone. i.e. mobile phones, tablets, laptops. Competitors and any other persons, who have the permission of the Chief Judge must be in when the isolation zone is closed by the Jury President.
- 6.5.6** Competitors not in the isolation zone at this time, will not be allowed to enter, will take no further part in the competition and will be scored accordingly.
- 6.5.7** Other than for supplementary attempts required following an Appeal or Technical Incident, each competitor eligible to compete in the Climb-off shall make one attempt on the route for their Category.
- 6.5.8** The starting order in the Climb-off shall be random.
- 6.5.9** A collective observation period shall be held immediately prior to the commencement of the Climb-off. The observation period shall be decided by the Chief Judge in consultation with the Route-Setter and shall not exceed six (6) minutes.
- 6.5.10** No other persons shall be permitted to accompany the competitors during the observation period. While in the observation area, all competitors remain under the Isolation Rules (As explained in 6.5.4, 6.5.5 and 6.5.6). Competitors shall remain within the designated observation area during the observation period. Competitors are not permitted to climb on the climbing wall or stand on any equipment or furniture. They may seek clarification only from judges.
- 6.5.11** Competitors are allowed to touch the first hold(s), without leaving the ground with both their feet. Competitors may use binoculars to observe the route and make hand-drawn sketches and notes. No other observation or recording equipment shall be permitted.
- 6.5.12** At the end of the observation period, competitors shall immediately return to the Isolation Zone.
- 6.5.13** Immediately prior to taking their turn, a competitor shall be escorted from the Isolation Zone to the Competition Area by a competition official.
- 6.5.14** The competitor's attempt on the route shall be timed in accordance with Section 6.6.
- 6.5.15** After completion of all competitors' attempts on the Climb-off route, they shall be ranked in accordance with Article 3.4.
- 6.5.16** If any competitors are tied following the ranking calculation of Article 3.4, the relative ranking of these competitors will be determined by the climbing time for each (lower times are better).
- 6.5.17** Any competitors remaining tied after the application of Article 6.5.16 shall be given an equal ranking.
- 6.6** **Timing Rules**
- 6.6.1** Articles 6.6.2 to 6.6.6 shall apply only to Climb-offs (as defined in Section 6.5) and route finals at the Grand Final.
- 6.6.2** The climbing time for each competitor is the period between the start and completion of the competitor's attempt on a route.
- 6.6.3** The climbing time for each competitor shall be measured using a manually operated electronic timer with digital readouts (a "stopwatch").
- 6.6.4** At least one (1) Route Judge shall act as an official Timekeeper on each route and shall record the time for each competitor. Each Timekeeper shall act independently and without showing their watch to, or discussing their time with, any other person.

- 6.6.5** The climbing time for each competitor is recorded as the time between:
- a) when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground.
 - b) when the competitor is either;
 - i) successful on the route in accordance with Article 6.3.4;
 - or
 - ii) unsuccessful on the route in as set out in Articles 3.1.11, 3.1.13, 3.1.14 and 3.1.15.
- 6.6.6** In each case, unless the calculated climbing time is an exact second, times shall be recorded to the next lower second (i.e. rounded down).

7. Disciplinary Procedures During Competition

7.1 General

- 7.1.1** The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge shall have overall authority for all activities and decisions affecting the competition within the competition zone; i.e. the competition registration area, the competition area immediately in front of the climbing wall and on the climbing wall, excluding any differences covered by the wall's representative in the Youth Climbing Series contract.

7.2 Competitors

- 7.2.1** Any breaches of these rules reported to the BMC during the Series may result in the following actions:
- a) Disqualification from the competition;
 - b) Scores of a round or rounds will no longer count.
- 7.2.2** The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge and the Category Judges shall be authorised to take the following actions, as specified below, in respect to infringements of the competition regulations and in regard to matters of indiscipline by any competitor whilst in the competition area:
- a) Informal, verbal warning
 - b) The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge only shall be authorised to take the following sanction:
 - i) An official warning - accompanied by the showing of a 'Yellow Card';
 - ii) Disqualification from the competition - accompanied by the showing of a 'Red Card';
- 7.2.3** A Yellow Card warning may be issued for any of the following infringements of the regulations:
- a) Failure to start in accordance with a Category Judge's instruction;
 - b) Failure to obey the instruction of a Category Judge and/or the Chief Judge;
 - c) Directly questioning or challenging a Category Judge about their ruling;
 - d) Use of obscene or abusive language or behaviour of a relatively mild nature;
 - e) Unsporting behaviour of a relatively minor nature.
- 7.2.4** Appeals against such decisions shall follow the procedure specified in Section 8 below.

- 7.2.5** Disqualification without Further Sanction:
The following infringements of the regulations shall result in issuing of a Red Card and the immediate disqualification of the competitor from the competition without further sanction:
- a) Failure to report properly equipped at the start of a climb;
 - b) The use of non-approved equipment;
 - c) Unapproved modification of, and/or failure to wear, any competition vest and/or competitor's number as provided by the competition organiser;
 - d) The issue of a second yellow card in one Series;

- 7.2.6** Appeals against such decisions shall follow the procedure specified in Section 8 below.

- 7.2.7** Disqualification with Immediate referral to the Disciplinary Body:
The following infringements of the regulations shall result the issuing of a Red Card and the immediate disqualification of the competitor from the competition with referral to the Disciplinary Body, following the related procedure, the further sanction of suspension from one successive Youth Climbing Series competition:
- a) Infringements of the regulations committed in the competition area:
 - i) Distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for, or in the process of attempting, a climb;
 - ii) Failure to comply with the instructions of the official judges and/or organiser's officials.
 - b) Infringements committed anywhere at the competition venue (including the competition area):
 - iii) Unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance to the competition;
 - iv) Unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance, and/or abusive, insulting and/or violent words and/or behaviour to NGB officials, Organiser's officials and/or other competitors and/or members of the public.

- 7.2.8** The decision of the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge in respect to Article 7.2.7a) and 7.2.7b) shall be final and no appeal against this decision shall be accepted.

- 7.2.9** At the earliest convenient time after issuing a 'Yellow' or 'Red Card', the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge shall:
- a) Submit a written statement to the competitor regarding the offence and whether the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge proposes to refer the matter for consideration in respect to further disciplinary action in accordance with the regulations.
 - b) The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge shall submit a copy of this written statement together with a detailed report of the offence against the regulations, any evidence, and any recommendations regarding consideration of additional sanction to the NGB for referral to the NGB's Disciplinary Body.

7.3 Other Persons

7.3.1 The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge and Category Judges shall be authorised to take the following actions, as specified below, in respect to infringements of the competition regulations and in regard to matters of indiscipline by any persons anywhere at the competition venue:

- a) Informal, verbal warning
- b) The Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge only shall be authorised to demand immediate dismissal from the competition venue of any person in contravention of these regulations and, if necessary, suspend all competition activities until this demand has been complied with.
- c) Immediate dismissal from the competition venue may be demanded for any of the following infringements of the regulations:
 - i) Coaching, or providing climbing instructions to, a competitor in the process of attempting a climb, or using a laser pointer to point out holds whilst a climber is in the process of their attempt. The only exception to laser pointer usage would be if the competitor is colour blind or visually impaired.
 - ii) Directly questioning or challenging a Category Judge about his/her ruling;
 - iii) Distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for, or in the process of attempting, a climb;
 - iv) Failure to comply with the instructions of the official judges and/or organiser's officials.
 - v) Unsporting behaviour or other serious disturbance, and/or abusive, insulting and/or violent words and/or behaviour to NGB officials, Organiser's officials and/or other competitors and/or members of the public.

8. Competition Appeals

8.1 Procedure

8.1.1 All oral and written appeals and official responses to appeals shall be made in English.

8.1.2 An appeal against a ruling by a Category Judge during a round of the competition must be made to the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge by the competitor no later than 30 minutes after the ruling.

8.1.3 An appeal against the ranking of a competitor after the completion of a round of the competition and after the official results have been published must be made no later than 30 minutes after the publication of the results at the venue. The appeal must be made following the publication of the results at the venue at the end of each round of the Series. The appeal may be made in writing to the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge by the competitor.

8.1.4 In the event of an appeal, the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge shall convene an Appeals Jury comprising the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge, the Category Judges not involved in the case (if available) and the NGB Delegate (if available). A decision shall be made as rapidly as circumstances allow. In the case of written appeals, the decision of the Competition Appeal Jury shall be made in writing and handed by the Chief Judge to the person who officially lodged the appeal.

8.1.5 The decision of the Appeal Jury in respect of these regulations shall be final and not subject to further appeal.

8.1.6 In those cases where the Youth Climbing Series Coordinator and Chief Judge assess that an infringement of the regulation's merits consideration by the NGB's Disciplinary Body, the matter shall be referred to the Disciplinary Body together the Chief Judge's report, copies of written communications between the Chief Judge and the competitor concerned, and all relevant evidence.

8.1.7 The composition and the procedures of the Disciplinary Body are defined in the NGB's referred documents

Glossary of terms

NGB- National Governing Body who is responsible for organising the competition, e.g. The British Mountaineering Council is the NGB for England and Wales.

Region- The area in which a competitor can compete in the YCS.

Youth Climbing Series Coordinator (YCSC)- The volunteer who is responsible for running the Series in each region. This can be more than one (1) person.

Category Judge- The Judge responsible for judging a set category.

Route Judge- The person responsible for judging a specified route during the competition.

Boulder Judge- The person responsible for judging a specified boulder during the competition.

