



BMC Youth Climbing Series

Rough Guide 2024

The BMC Youth Climbing Series offers fun climbing competitions for young climbers. The series is extremely popular and attracts hundreds of entrants across England and Wales. The series culminates in a two-day Grand Final where the top three in each category from each BMC region, and from Scotland and Ireland, are invited to take part for a united finale. Entry to the Youth Climbing Series 2024 must be done through your National Governing Body (BMC, Mountaineering Scotland or Mountaineering Ireland).

The following is a rough guide to the BMC Youth Climbing Series. For a full understanding, please read the full rules.

Regional rounds

- Each round consists of eight separate events taking place simultaneously across eight different regions in England and Wales.
- The series will culminate in a two-day Grand Final where the top three in each category from each BMC region, and from Scotland and Ireland, are invited to take part. Youth E are not eligible to attend the Grand Final.
- The roped rounds are made up of **four routes** per category and the boulder round made up of **eight blocs** per category.
- For the roped round in categories A, B and C routes are led. In categories D and E they are top-roped.
- Each region has a unique entry cap on their regional rounds based on the maximum number of competitors the smallest wall in their region can facilitate.
- The top 3 from each region will receive a medal at round 4.

Who can enter

- First-time competition climbers and experienced competition climbers can take part.
- Male and female climbers. These categories are separated.
- Climbers who are comfortable using the appropriate equipment required for each discipline **without** assistance, this includes tying in with a figure-of-eight knot and putting on a harness.
- Climbers who fall under the age categories listed [here](#).
- Climbers who are comfortable **attempting** to climb within the estimated grades in the table [here](#).
- Climbers who are motivated, willing to push themselves, encouraging to those around them and are respectful of the hosting walls and volunteers.

How to enter

- All competitors must be a member of the BMC to enter. You can become a BMC member [here](#).
- Entry must be made before the deadline stipulated [here](#).
- Entry must be completed online via the online booking system [here](#). If you haven't used this system before, then you will need to create an account to log in.
- **Payment must be made for an entry to be successful.** If you are struggling to make payment please get in touch via email well ahead of the entry deadline - yca@thebmc.co.uk.
- Each region has a unique entry cap which can be found [here](#). Entries are on a first come, first serve basis.
- Competitors can compete in a region of their choice but **MUST** compete within the same region throughout the **entire** series.
- There will be one opportunity to enter across a 6-week period. You **cannot** enter at any other point throughout the series.

Parents/Guardian, Spectators & Coaches

- Competitors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at each round.
- Host walls are entitled to charge a spectator fee to those who are in addition to the one responsible parent/guardian at each round.
- Must remain within the 'viewing zones' to ensure the safety and smooth-running of the competition.
- Spectators must abide by the rules of the centre and if instructed to move by staff or volunteers, then must do so without hesitation.
- Coaches must register their attendance with their respective NGB.

Volunteers

- Each region has a Youth Climbing Series Coordinator (YCSC) which is a voluntary role. The YCSC is responsible for the overall running of each round and is the best point of contact on the day.
- The YCS is a volunteer run event and requires the help of parents, coaches and local climbers in order to run. We ask that everyone considers volunteering if they're able to.
- You can find the volunteer requirements for a bouldering round [here](#).
- You can find the volunteer requirements for a roped round [here](#).
- If your YCSC needs more volunteers on the day, then they will do a call-out ahead of the climbing start time.
- If you are interested in volunteering at your regional round, please contact - yca@thebmc.co.uk
- All volunteers are required to complete a volunteer form on the day.

Top tips for first-timers

- Bring a big bottle of water and plenty of snacks.
- Bring plenty of layers to keep yourself warm, it can get cold!
- Bring a book/magazine/games console to keep yourself busy in-between climbs.
- If you have any questions don't be afraid to ask your judge or YCSC, especially if it's about a climb you're about to attempt.
- Be sure to read the sequence of your routes/blocs before you pull onto the climb. Check for alternative methods of completing the climb and check for any 'out-of-bounds' tape.
- Don't take the competition too seriously, you're there to have a good time!
- Equipment; climbing shoes, harness, helmet (optional) and chalk bag. If you need to rent any equipment from the host wall, please call them in advance to ensure availability.
- There is a 30-minute appeals window after the results have been published. Any appeals after this time frame will not be considered.
- Any disagreement with judging decisions must be taken up with the Chief Judge; **NOT** the Category Judge.

Grand Final

- The series will culminate in a two-day Grand Final where the top three in each category from each BMC region, and from Scotland and Ireland, are invited to take part.
- Each competitor must pay a fee to attend the Grand Final.
- The top 3 climbers who have the highest score after the regional rounds, will be invited to attend the Grand Final.
- The top 3 in each category at the Grand Final will receive a trophy.
- The regional team with the highest combined score will be presented with a trophy.
- Replacement competitors are **not** permitted if an invited competitor cannot make it.

Risk and responsibility

Parents and young participants should be aware that climbing, hill walking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Parents and participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.

Competitors must be accompanied at each round by a responsible adult for the duration of the event.