

# Youth Climbing Series - Rough Guide

This rough guide to the Youth Climbing Series is intended to give competitors and parents a summary of the format and rules of the competition. It should not be regarded as a replacement for a full understanding of the full rules.

## The Competition

- The Youth Climbing Series is a series of climbing competitions for young climbers jointly organised by the British Mountaineering Council, Mountaineering Scotland and Mountaineering Ireland.
- The series comprises of four one day regional rounds followed by a two-day Grand Final.
- Two regional rounds comprise of bouldering only, two comprise of routes only.
- The Grand Final comprises of one day of bouldering and one day of routes.

## Risk and responsibility

- Competitors and parents/guardians should be aware that climbing is an activity with a risk of personal injury or death.
- Competitors and parents/guardians should be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
- A parent/guardian or an adult that has been arranged to be responsible for a competitor must remain at the competition venue.

## Safety

- Competitors may wear helmets.
- Spotting should not be required.

## Conduct

- The Youth Climbing Series is a competition for young people which is largely run by volunteers and facilitated by climbing walls. The conduct of all parties should be considerate of this.
- Any disagreement with a judging decision must be taken up with the Head Judge only.
- Only competitors and officials are allowed on the bouldering mats or within the demarcated Climbing Zone.

## Regions

- The Youth Climbing Series is organised on a regional basis. There are nine regions, these are: 1) Scotland; 2) North-East and Yorkshire; 3) North-West and Lakes; 4) Midlands and Peak; 5) London and South-East North; 6) London and South-East South; 7) South-West; 8) Wales and 9) Ireland.
- Competitors can compete in only one region.

## Competition Categories

- There are ten competition categories, these are: 1. Male A; 2. Female A; 3. Male B; 4. Female B; 5. Male C; 6. Female C; 7. Male D; 8. Female D; 9. Male E and 10. Female E.
- Competition categories are based on gender and year of birth.

## Entry

- The British Mountaineering Council, Mountaineering Scotland and Mountaineering Ireland provide an online entry system for competitors for the regions under their remit.
- Entry is only accepted via the online entry system provided.
- Check with your relevant National Governing Body for the cut off for online entry.

## Boulder rounds

- Regional rounds one and three comprise of bouldering only.
- Each competition category will have ten boulder problems to attempt.
- There is no assigned boulder problem order or starting order. Competitors choose to attempt boulder problems in any order and at any time by presenting their scorecard to the Judge and waiting their turn.
- Competitors have up to five attempts per boulder problem.
- A competitor is judged to have started an attempt when both feet leave the ground.
- Competitors are judged on the number of Top Holds, Zone Holds and the number of attempts.

- A competitor is judged to have “controlled” the Zone Hold when they use the hold to achieve a stable or controlled position.
- A competitor is judged to have reached the Top when they have “controlled” the top hold with both hands.
- Competitors in Male D, Female D, Male and Female E compete as a group. This group will have three hours to attempt their boulder problems.
- Competitors in Male A, Female A, Male B, Female B, Male C and Female C compete as a group. This group will have four hours to attempt their boulder problems.
- There is no time limit on individual boulder problems.

## Route rounds

- Regional rounds two and four comprise of routes only.
- Each competition category will have five routes to attempt.
- Competitors in Youth A, Youth B and Youth C lead their routes. Competitors in Youth D and Youth E top rope their routes.
- There is no assigned route order or starting order. Competitors choose to attempt routes in any order and at any time by presenting their scorecard to the Judge and waiting their turn.
- Competitors have one attempt per route.
- A competitor is judged to have started an attempt when both feet leave the ground.
- Competitors are judged on their progress along the line of the routes.
- A competitor is judged to have “controlled” a hold when they make use of the hold to achieve a stable or controlled position.
- A competitor is judged to have “used” a hold when they make a controlled climbing movement from the hold along the line of the route.
- A competitor in Youth A, Youth B or Youth C is judged to have reached the “top” when they clip the top anchor point on the route.
- A competitor in Youth D or Youth E is judged to have reached the “top” when they have held the top hold with both hands.
- There is a time limit of five minutes on individual routes.

## Regional Tie-Break

- A regional tie-break will be used to split a tie for first, second or third place in the overall regional rankings for any competition category.
- A regional tie-break will only take place at regional round four.
- A regional tie-break will be held on a route selected by the Head Route-Setter.

## Grand Final

- Competitors ranked in first, second and third place in each competition category in each region are eligible to compete in the Grand Final.
- The Grand Final comprises of one day of bouldering and one day of routes.
- Day one will comprise of Bouldering. Each competition category will have 8 problems to attempt in a qualification round and the top competitors will proceed to a final with four problems.
- Day two will comprise of Route climbing. Each competition category will have two qualifying routes and the top competitors will proceed to a final route.

## Super-Final

- In the event of a tie for first, second or third place in any competition category following the completion all boulders and routes a super-final will be held.
- A super-final will be held on a route selected by the Head Route-Setter.

## Results

- Results will be posted at the competition venue as soon as possible, and online on the Monday after the event.
- From the time the results are posted competitors have thirty minutes to make the Head Judge aware of any possible errors in the results - at the venue only.