

Rules – 2019 Irish Bouldering Championship

1. Eligibility

- 1.1. This is an open competition. It is open to members and non-members of Mountaineering Ireland. It is open to climbers of all nationalities.
- 1.1. All competitors must have a completed a Mountaineering Ireland Climbing Competition Registration Form. 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.
- 1.2. All competitors must complete the online entry prior to the cut-off. The cut off is 8:00 pm on Tuesday 2/04/2019.

2. Anti-doping

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

3. Safety

- 3.1. Competitors are responsible for their own safety.
- 3.2. Competitors must comply with the safety guidelines of the host venue.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. The Chief Organiser may remove competitors for safety reasons. The Judge or Head Judge may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if they decide that further progress on the route would be unsafe.

4. Format

- 4.4. The competition shall consist of two rounds. A Qualification Round and a Final Round.
- 4.5. The table below summarises the format for the Youth competition:

Round	No. Problems	No. attempts	Isolation	Quota	Time	Starting order
Qualification	8	5	No	N/A	180 mins	N/A
Final	4	Unlimited	Yes	Five	4 mins	Reverse rank from Qualification

- 4.6. The table below summarises the format for the Senior competition:

Round	No. Problems	No. attempts	Isolation	Quota	Time	Starting order
Qualification	12	5	No	N/A	180 mins	N/A
Final	4	Unlimited	Yes	Five	4 mins	Reverse rank from Qualification

- 4.7. Competitor Quotas:

- 4.7.1. Qualification Round – no quota;
- 4.7.2. Final Round – top five ranked competitors from the Qualification Round.
- 4.7.3. If the quota is exceeded because of tied competitors, all tied competitors shall qualify for the Final Round.

- 4.8. Starting Order:

- 4.8.1. There is no starting order for the Qualification Round.
- 4.8.2. The starting order for the Final Round is the reverse of the ranking order from the Qualification Round.
- 4.8.3. In the case of tied competitors from the Qualification Round the starting order shall be randomised.

5. Design of boulders

- 5.1. Each boulder shall be clearly marked to identify:
 - 5.1.1. **Starting Holds** for both hands and feet which shall not include blank or unbounded parts of the Climbing Surface. The Starting Holds should not be marked with specific positions for the hands.
 - 5.1.2. A **Zone Hold** which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance.
 - 5.1.3. A **Top Hold** which shall be a marked finishing hold for both hands.
- 5.2. Demarcation tape shall be used to clearly define the boundaries, features or area of a boulder problem, as deemed by the Chief Setter to be out of bounds.

6. Climbing

- 6.1. An **Attempt** shall be deemed to have **Started** when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground.
- 6.2. A competitor's start will be judged **Correct** where the competitor achieves a stable **Controlled** position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds without Controlling or Using any other Artificial Holds or Structures. For the avoidance of doubt, when starting a boulder, a competitor may:
 - Touch, Control or Use any part of the Climbing Surface to attain the Starting Holds; and/or
 - Touch any Blocker Hold(s)
 - And provided that a stable Controlled position is evidenced, the competitor will be required only to touch the Starting Holds with their feet.
- 6.3. The **Zone Hold** will be awarded when the competitor Controls or Uses the marked hold.
- 6.4. The **Top Hold** will be awarded when the competitor Controls the marked hold with both hands.
- 6.5. An attempt shall be deemed unsuccessful if the competitor;
 - 6.5.1. Uses any part of the wall, holds or features demarcated using continuous and clearly identifiable tape;
 - 6.5.2. Uses with their hands, holes provided in the climbing surface for the placement of bolt-on holds;
 - 6.5.3. Touches the ground with any part of the body after having started their attempt;
 - 6.5.4. Does not begin with both hands and feet in contact with the holds which have been marked as start holds, before initiating any further moves.

7. Judging

- 7.1. The Chief Organiser shall appoint a Head Judge.
- 7.2. The Chief Organiser shall assign a Judge to each boulder problem.
- 7.3. Each Judge shall have sole responsibility for the boulder problem they have been assigned to.
- 7.4. Each Judge will record:
 - 7.4.1. The number of attempts taken by the Competitor to Control or Use a Zone hold.
 - 7.4.2. The number of attempts taken by the Competitor to control a Top hold
- 7.5. The Judge will declare an attempt successful to the Competitor by announcing 'OK' when the Competitor successfully completes the boulder problem in accordance with rules.
- 7.6. The Judge will notify the competitor as soon as an attempt is deemed unsuccessful.
- 7.7. The decision of the Head Judge over rules and may amend the decision of any other Judge.

8. Timing

- 8.1. A fixed climbing time shall apply to each round of the competition. The climbing times are summarised as follows:

Qualification Round	3 hours
Final Round	4 minutes per problem

- 8.2. The time remaining per round / problem will be displayed on a digital timer.
- 8.3. 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.

9. Scoring

- 9.1. For the purposes of scoring, an attempt will be counted each time:
- 9.1.1. All parts of the competitors' body leave the ground entirely;
 - 9.1.2. The competitor touches, with hands or feet, any holds other than the starting holds;
 - 9.1.3. The competitor adds any tick mark.
- 9.2. The competitors' number of attempts for both Tops and Zones are recorded.
- 9.3. Any competitor who successfully completes the route in accordance with the rules shall be scored as such by indicating 'Top'.
- 9.4. On each boulder, the Zone hold will be awarded if the competitor Controls or Uses the Zone hold, in accordance with the rules shall be scored as such by indicating 'Zone'.
- 9.5. The Zone hold will also be awarded automatically where a competitor successfully completes the boulder.

10. Ranking

- 10.1. Competitors shall be ranked according to the following criteria:
- 10.1.1. The number of Tops achieved;
 - 10.1.2. The number of Zones achieved;
 - 10.1.3. The total number of attempts to achieve the Tops;
 - 10.1.4. The total number of attempts to achieve the Zones.
- 10.2. 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.

11. Isolation

- 11.1. The Isolation Rules shall apply for the Final Round.
- 11.2. Competitors will assemble in the Isolation Zone no later than thirty minutes before the scheduled start of the round.
- 11.3. Once the closing time for the Isolation Zone has passed, Competitors must remain within the Isolation Zone, unless otherwise instructed.
- 11.4. Competitors or other persons authorised by the Head Judge to enter the Isolation Zone may choose to leave the Isolation Zone at any time, but having left the Isolation Zone may not return once the closing time has passed, and must leave the Competition Area, unless specifically asked to remain by the Head Judge.
- 11.5. The Isolation Zone closing time for any round of the competition shall not be earlier than thirty minutes before the first competitor on the starting list is scheduled to commence climbing.
- 11.6. Competitors shall have no knowledge of the boulders other than that obtained during the Observation Period or that communicated by the Head Judge or the Judges. It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to fully inform themselves with respect to all instructions regarding the boulders.

- 11.7. Whilst in the Competition Area, competitors are not permitted to seek any information from persons outside the Competition Area, unless specifically authorised to do so by the Head Judge.
- 11.8. Competitors who have completed their attempt(s) on a boulder and who for any reason remain in the Competition Area must not pass any information concerning that boulder to any competitor who has not yet attempted that boulder.
- 11.9. Failure to comply with the Isolation Rules when in force shall result in disciplinary action.

12. Observation Period

- 12.1. The Observation Period is for the Final Round only.
- 12.2. A collective Observation Period of two minutes per boulder shall be held immediately prior to the start of the Final Round.
- 12.3. Only competitors in the Final Round are allowed in the Competition Zone during observation.
- 12.4. Competitors are allowed to touch the Starting Holds, without leaving the ground with both their feet.
- 12.5. No other observation or recording equipment shall be permitted.
- 12.6. At the end of the Observation Period, competitors shall immediately return to the Isolation Zone.
- 12.7. Competitors may seek clarification only from the Head Judge, a Judge or a Route Setter present in the Competition Zone during the Observation period.
- 12.8. During the observation period, all competitors remain under the Isolation Rules.

13. Technical Incidents

- 13.1. A Technical Incident is defined as any 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.
- 13.2. The Judge, if necessary in consultation with the Chief Setter shall make the confirmation or non-confirmation of a Technical Incident.
- 13.3. In the case of a technical incident on a boulder during the Qualification Round, the boulder is closed for the duration of restoration. If the restoration of the technical incident takes less than ten minutes, then the boulder is re-opened without additional time. If the restoration of the technical incident takes more than ten minutes, then the boulder is cancelled.
- 13.4. If the competitor chooses to continue, then the Technical Incident is finished, and no further appeals shall be allowed.
- 13.5. In the case of a Technical Incident during the Final Round the competitor suffering the Technical Incident shall return to the Isolation Zone and await the repair. When the Technical Incident has been repaired or fixed, the affected competitor shall re-commence their attempts.
- 13.6. The first attempt made by the competitor who has suffered a Technical Incident, on the same boulder, after the attempt in which the Technical Incident occurred shall be deemed a continuation of that attempt.
- 13.7. When the competitor who has suffered the Technical Incident resumes their attempts after restoration, the competitor shall be allowed the time remaining at the moment when the Technical Incident occurred, with a minimum of two minutes.

14. Appeals

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

15. Results

- 15.1. 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.
- 15.2. The Chief Organiser will notify competitors that the results are posted.
- 15.3. If no appeals are lodged the provisional results are ratified by the Head Judge and become the official results.
- 15.4. Results will be published on the Mountaineering Ireland website.

16. Glossary

- 16.1. **Climbing Surface** means the usable surface of a climbing wall.
- 16.2. **Control** means, for the purpose of judging and scoring, that a competitor:
 - 16.2.1. has achieved a stable body position;
 - 16.2.2. has arrested some dynamic movement; or
 - 16.2.3. makes a climbing movement not captured by the definition of **Use**.
- 16.3. **Structure** means any hollow or solid object providing either single or multiple holds for either hands or feet which is attached to the **Climbing Surface** for the duration of at least one round.
- 16.4. **Use** means, for the purpose of judging and scoring, that a competitor had made use of a Hold to:
 - 16.4.1. Effect a progressive movement of their centre of mass or hips; and
 - 16.4.2. Effect a movement of either or both hands toward;
 - The next sequential handhold along the line of progression; or
 - Any other handhold further along the line of progression which has been successfully Controlled by another competitor from the same handhold.