COMPETITION REGULATIONS
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

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ABOUT THESE REGULATIONS

The IFSC Competition Rules apply to all competitions, regardless of level or format, and set out the fundamental principles that must be followed in all international competitions. These regulations provide the framework for IFSC World Championship and World Cup events and how the Competition Rules are applied in these events.

CHANGES TO THESE REGULATIONS

The IFSC plans to publish these regulations in stable form on a biennial basis. The notes and guidance to these regulations may be updated more frequently to incorporate experience from individual events.

NOTES ON THESE REGULATIONS

The IFSC publishes these regulations in English.

National federations which produce a translated version of these regulations are invited to send a copy to the IFSC, clearly stating on the front cover that it is their official translation, so it may be posted on the IFSC website for others to use. If there is any divergence in the wording/meaning in or between any translation of the rules, the English text is authoritative.

IFSC Continental Councils are authorised to use these regulations without modification for their Continental Cups and Continental Championships. When used in this way, expressions in these regulations such as "World Cup" may be understood to have the corresponding meaning in that context.

Continental Councils may adapt elements of these regulations, such as the number of rounds, quotas, or routes/boulders, and the use of flash/on-sight formats, to suit their specific circumstances. However, any substantive changes to these regulations require prior approval from the IFSC to maintain consistency with the established competition structure.

1 GENERAL

1.1 The IFSC may approve the organisation of:

A) an annual cup series with up to 8 competitions in each of the boulder, lead and speed disciplines (the **Climbing World Cup** or **World Cup**),

B) championship competition(s) for adult competitors, bi-annually in each of the boulder, lead and speed disciplines (the **Climbing World Championship** or **World Championship**), and

C) championship competition(s) for youth competitors in the U17 and U19 age groups, annually in each of the boulder, lead and speed disciplines (the **Climbing Youth World Championship** or **Youth World Championship**),

in each case using the formats specified in Annexes A to C of this document.

1.2 Each competition must include events for both men's and women's categories.[1]

1.3 The IFSC will issue an **Event Information Sheet** not less than 30 days in advance of the competition confirming its location, registration deadline and arrangements as described in §6. The registration deadline should not be less than 10 days before the first day of the competition.

1.4 Each national federation will be entitled to enter a team per the quota regulations published by the IFSC for the relevant year, provided that the federation is not in default of:

A) any regulation governing financial obligations to the IFSC,

B) any decision, or required action, under the IFSC Disciplinary Rules.

All team members must hold an International Licence.

1.5 If a country has more than one national federation, the federations concerned will only be eligible to enter one nationally agreed team within the published quota.

1.6 Registration fees payable by a national federation will be calculated from the number of team members registered at the registration deadline.[2]

1.7 National federations must comply with any reasonable request from the IFSC or event organiser to provide contact information (such as accommodation details, scheduled dates/times of arrival and departure) for all team members.

2 APPLICABLE CODES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 Each person taking part in a World Cup or any championship event must comply with the IFSC Competition Rules, these regulations, and any amendments noted in the Event Information Sheet.

2.2 The following sporting codes also have the status of rules for the purposes of these regulations:

IFSC Anti-Doping Rules

IFSC RED-S Health Screening Rules

IFSC Betting and Anti-Corruption Code

IFSC Disciplinary Rules

IFSC Eligibility Code

IFSC Equipment Code

IFSC Uniform Code

3 SAFETY

Injuries

3.1 The IFSC Medical Delegate (§12) will confirm that a medical doctor is available to attend any accident or injury to any team member (the **Competition Doctor**). The Competition Doctor must be present for all scheduled warm-up and competition activities.

3.2 The IFSC Medical Delegate is responsible for deciding whether an injured climber may continue or return to competition. The IFSC Medical Delegate will consult with the Competition Doctor, and the relevant team's medical staff[3] when making their assessment. The priority must be to safeguard the health and safety of the climber. The potential outcome of the competition must never influence such decisions.

Safety Petitions

3.3 Team officials may make a Safety Petition where a serious safety issue is believed to exist. Safety Petitions must be made in writing and signed by the Team Managers from 3 separate teams. If the Jury President agrees that a serious safety issue exists, they must address the issue without delay. Any Safety Petition, and its resolution, must be reported to the IFSC Sport Director.

4 THE COMPETITION AREA

4.1 Only the following persons may enter the Competition Area:

- International and National Technical Officials,
- IFSC and event staff,
- anti-doping agency staff,
- competitors participating in current round, plus the accredited team officials for those competitors,
- other persons authorised by the Jury President. Such persons must be supervised and must not distract or interfere with any climber.

4.2 Team officials are not allowed to enter the Field of Play, Call Zones, or adjacent transit areas, without the express permission of the Jury President.[4]

4.3 If attempts are made **on-sight** in any round of an event, no team member may carry or use any electronic communication equipment while in the Competition Area without the approval of the Jury President.[5]

4.4 No animals are allowed in the Competition Area unless authorised by the Jury President.

5 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

5.1 Climbers may take personal belongings such as bags/rucksacks or other luggage, battery-powered fans, spare/street clothing, etc. into the Call Zone. The Jury President may withdraw permission where such articles would inconvenience other climbers.

5.2 Other than as specifically allowed by annexes A to C, climbers are not allowed to bring personal belongings onto the Field of Play.

5.3 Climbers must wear an identifying bib on the back of their top when in the Call Zone and on the Field of Play.

6 COMPETITION SCHEDULE

6.1 The Event Information Sheet will specify the location, date, time and other arrangements for confirming participation in each event, and for any planned meetings in connection with the competition schedule, logistics or technical matters.

Confirmation of participation

6.2 The participation of all team members must be confirmed by the deadline specified in the Event Information Sheet or, if no separate deadline is specified, 30 minutes before the start of the Technical Meeting (§6.3). Climbers not confirmed by the deadline will not be included on the Official Start List. Confirmation should be made by the in-person attendance of at least one team official (or if no such person is registered, a team member).[6]

Technical Meeting

6.3 The Event Delegate will chair a meeting to expand on the information contained within the Event Information Sheet, inform teams of the detailed event schedule, and advise specific information related to the application/interpretation of the rules (the **Technical Meeting**).

Event Schedule

6.4 Event schedules must respect the following constraints for each round:

A) the opening time for the warm-up area should not be less than 2 hours before the scheduled Start of Play (and never less than 90 minutes),

B) the closing time for the warm-up area should not be less than 30 minutes before the scheduled Start of Play.

7 START LISTS, RESULTS AND RANKINGS

7.1 All start lists, results and rankings will be prepared and published using the IFSC Results Service. If the IFSC Results Service is unavailable, the Jury President may authorise use of a backup system and in this case the results of the competition will remain provisional until verified using the IFSC Results Service.

7.2 All start lists, results and rankings will be distributed to team officials in electronic form or, where

this is not practical, published on an official notice board.

Starting orders

7.3 The starting order within each round will be determined as set out in annexes A to C.

7.4 Event Seedings will be determined from the World Ranking on the day preceding the start of the competition.

7.5 Official Start Lists will be produced:

A) for the qualification round: after the confirmation of participation, either at or shortly after the Technical Meeting for the relevant event,

B) for each other round: immediately after publication of the Official Results and the conclusion of any appeals procedure for that round.

Additional copies may be made available to the event organiser, team officials, the competition speaker, and media.

7.6 Where following publication of an Official Start List, any climber withdraws or otherwise is ineligible to start, the list will be re-issued with the relevant Invalid Result Mark (DNS/DSQ/DBQ) added.[7]

Event results/rankings

7.7 Official Results will be published as soon as possible after completing the relevant round. Official Results will be published with a timestamp and, if modified, an amendment notice. Additional copies may be made available to the event organiser, team officials, the competition speaker, and media.

7.8 A General Result will be published at the end of each event showing the General Ranking and results for each round.

Cup rankings.

7.9 For the purposes of these regulations:

Cup Ranking means the overall ranking of a competitor in a specific discipline across a series of World Cup competitions.

National Team Ranking means the overall ranking of a national federation or country in either (a) a specific discipline across a series of World Cup competitions, or (b) across all disciplines within a championship competition.

7.10 Cup Ranking points will be awarded to competitors at the end of each event equal to the World Ranking Points for their placing in the General Ranking.

7.11 National Team Rankings will be calculated for each World Cup competition by summing the Cup Ranking points awarded to the 3 best-ranked climbers from the team in both men's and women's categories (the **Team Points**). Teams will be ranked in descending order of their Team Points.

7.12 Cup Rankings will be calculated for each series of World Cup competitions as follow:

A) for each climber awarded Cup Ranking points, ranking climbers in descending order of the total points awarded across the series, and

B) for each team with a National Team Ranking, in descending order of the total Team Points

awarded across the series.

7.13 If two or more climbers are tied 1st in the Cup Ranking with the same number of points, the tie will be broken by:

A) comparing their win-loss record against each other, and

B) if the tie is not broken by (A), comparing the number of best results, starting with the number of 1st places, then the number of 2nd places, etc.

Championship rankings.

7.14 National Team Rankings for championship competitions will be calculated by summing the World Ranking points awarded to the 3 best-ranked climbers from the team in each event held (the **Championship Team Points**). Teams will be ranked in descending order of their Championship Team Points.[8]

8 CEREMONIES, MEDALS, AND PRIZES

Medal Ceremonies

8.1 Medal ceremonies will be held as soon as practical following the end of each event in accordance with the IFSC Awards Ceremony Protocol. Any alternative schedule/arrangements for medal ceremonies must be set out in the Event Information Sheet.

Event trophies, medals, and prizes

8.2 A trophy will be awarded to the winner of each event. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to the climbers placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the General Ranking. Multiple medals will be awarded if climbers are tied.

8.3 Prize money will be awarded per the amounts established by the IFSC Board, or any greater amount agreed by the IFSC and the event organiser. Tied climbers will receive the average of the prize money for the tied places.

Cup trophies, medals, and prizes

8.4 On completion of the last events in each World Cup series, trophies will be awarded to the climbers and teams placed 1st in the Cup Rankings. Plates will be awarded to the climbers placed 2nd and 3rd in the Cup Rankings.

Championship trophies, medals, and prizes

8.5 The winner of each event held at a world championship competition will be awarded the title of **World Champion** in that event.

9 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

9.1 Disciplinary sanctions may be imposed by officials as follow:

Caution	Disqualification
Jury President IFSC Judge	Jury President

Consequences

9.2 As soon as possible after imposing a sanction, the IFSC will publish a sport communication summarising the matter, including whether the matter is to be referred to the IFSC Disciplinary Commission.

9.3 If a person receives 3 cautions in the same year, their International Licence will be suspended after the competition where they received the 3rd caution. The duration of this suspension will be decided by the IFSC Disciplinary Commission and the national federation's team quota reduced during this period.

9.4 A competitor also registered as a team official will be considered as the same person in relation to any disciplinary sanctions and any cumulation of sanctions.

10 APPEALS

Appeal Jury

10.1 Appeals will be decided by the Jury President or, if the appeal relates to some relevant judgement on the Field of Play made by the Jury President, an IFSC Judge.

Appeal Process

10.2 For the purposes of these regulations:

Appeal Eligibility means a team official who:
- is registered for the relevant event in the capacity of team manager or coach, and
- represents a competitor participating the current round of the event.

Admissible Evidence means:
- the statements made on the relevant appeal form,
- official video recordings and/or any authorised broadcast stream, and
- statements collected from on-field officials.

10.3 Appeals relating to a competitor's attempts in any round must be made within the time limits set out in annexes A to C.

10.4 Appeals relating to an error in the Official Results must be made immediately on publication for the medal phase of an event, or within 5 minutes of publication for any other round.

11 UNPLANNED EVENTS

11.1 Unplanned events and weather-related interruptions will be handled according to the IFSC

protocols for managing event schedule disruption. These protocols may involve adjusting event timelines, rescheduling, or cancelling rounds or stages. If an event is cancelled, no medals, prizes, or ranking points will be awarded.

12 TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

12.1 The IFSC will appoint the following technical officials:

A) an Event Delegate,

B) a Medical Delegate,

C) a Jury President,

D) a Head Routesetter, and one or more international routesetters,

E) one or more IFSC Judges to act in the capacity of category judge, and to replace the Jury President should he/she be unable to start or continue.

12.2 The event organiser will appoint:

A) a medical doctor (the **Competition Doctor**) as part of their medical team. The Competition Doctor will chair the medical panel if an IFSC Medical Delegate is not appointed or is unable to perform their duties.

B) a team of route/boulder judges, assigned on a 1:1 basis for each route/boulder in a round and responsible for the judging and scoring of competitors on that route/boulder. Each route judge should be assisted by a second official to record climbing times and results.

C) for any lead or speed competition, a team of belayers.

D) a team of routesetters to work with the Head Routesetter appointed by the IFSC.

E) an on-venue results service manager to assist the IFSC technical officials in the preparation and publication of start lists and results.

NOTES AND GUIDELINES

1 [1.2] The IFSC policy statement on Gender Identity and Transsexuality (2018) sets out the basis for the participation of Trans Persons in either category.

2 [1.6] In certain circumstances, member federations may be permitted to replace team members following the registration deadline, e.g., in the event of injury, sickness, where allowed and as set out in the Event Information Sheet.

3 [3.2] The IFSC Medical Commission recommends that a team's medical staff include a medical doctor, ideally a sports medicine doctor.

4 [4.2] The Jury President may permit members of a team's medical staff to enter a Call Zone to assist in the treatment of an injured athlete.

[4.2] Any area provided for the use of team officials during a round (i.e. coaches zone/corridor) is considered part of the Competition Area.

5 [4.3] Permission is deemed to be given for coaches to use electronic devices within the coaches zone, provided they are not used to communicate with competitors.

6 [6.2] In exceptional circumstances **only** (e.g. strikes, traffic delay), alternative confirmation methods, such as SMS or email to the Event Delegate, may be accepted.

7 [7.6] The starting order and any Fixed or NET times on the Official Start List will not be changed. No substitute/replacement competitors will be advanced.

8 [7.14] If any world championship is organised as a series of competitions rather than a single competition, the National Team Ranking will be calculated upon the conclusion of the final competition in the series.

ANNEX A – LEAD EVENTS

1 GENERAL

1.1 Lead events take place on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls having a minimum width of 3 meters for each route on the wall. The height of the wall will not be less than 15m.

1.2 Competitors attempt to climb routes belayed from below, secured by clipping the rope through a series of quickdraws during their attempt.

2 FORMAT

2.1 Lead events will be organised with 3 rounds as follows:

Round	Nr Routes	Modus	Climbing Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	2	Flash	6’	Random, Offset	80 (group)
Semi-Final	1	On-Sight	6’	Rank Descending	24
Final	1	On-Sight	6’	Rank Descending	8

Table 1 – Event Formats

2.2 If the qualification quota is exceeded at the registration deadline, the field may be divided into 2 starting groups of approximately equal number and strength. Competitors will be assigned to a starting group based on their Event Seedings as follows:

Group A	Group B
1 →	2 ↓
4 ↓	← 3
5 →	6 ↓

Table 2 – Starting Group Seeding

Unseeded competitors will be assigned randomly to maintain near-equal group numbers. The routes for each group should be designed with similar overall difficulty and character. The quota for the next round will be divided equally between the 2 groups.

2.3 The quota for each round will be filled by the best ranked competitors from the preceding round, including any competitors tied in the last qualifying position.

3 SAFETY

3.1 The Jury President, the IFSC Judge and Head Routesetter will inspect each route prior to the start of each round to decide whether any Safety Holds are required.

3.2 The Jury President may also require the climbing rope pre-fixed to one or more quickdraws and/or

use of a "spotter" to provide added security for the lower part of the route.[1]

3.3 The climbing rope will be controlled from the ground by 1 belayer for each rope.[2]

4 COMPETITION ORGANISATION

General

4.1 Competitors must report to the warm-up area by any closing time stated on the Official Start List for the round. Competitors who are not present in the warm-up area at this time will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.

4.2 Where a route is to be attempt on-sight, competitors must remain in the warm-up area until called for observation, presentation or to climb. Competitors who leave the warm-up area without permission will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.

4.3 If the number of starters is greater than 22, the route will be cleaned at evenly distributed intervals. The interval should not exceed 20 and must not exceed 22 competitors. Cleaning intervals will be marked on the Official Start List.

4.4 Each competitor must start in the order set out on the Official Start List. Where a round includes more than one route, each competitor will be entitled to a minimum time gap of not less than 50 minutes between the completion of their attempt on one route and the start of their attempt on the next.

4.5 Where consecutive rounds of an event take place on the same day, there must be a minimum time gap of 2 hours between the publication of the Official Results for the round and the Start of Play for the next round.

4.6 The Final round should be preceded by a presentation of the finalists and have a scheduled duration not greater than 90 minutes.

Route Previews/Observation

4.7 If route is to be attempted **flash**, a route demonstration will be made available at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled Start of Play either as a video recording made available for individual download/streaming (or as an alternative, continuously played back in the warm-up area) or where video recordings cannot be provided, as a live demonstration.[3]

4.8 If a route is to be attempted **on-sight**, a 6-minute collective observation period will be held. Team officials are not allowed to take part in any collective observation. Competitors may, before entering the warm-up area, make limited observation of the route from areas open to the public.[4]

4.9 The Jury President will arrange for images of the route to be placed in the warm-up area when it opens. Only images of the route provided by the event organiser and approved by the Jury President may be brought into the warm-up area.

Organisation of attempts

4.10 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Start List for the route. A competitor not in the Call Zone at the relevant time

will not be entitled to climb and will be marked DNS on the route.[5]

4.11 Prior to a competitor entering the Field of Play and/or starting their attempt, the belayer must check that the climbing rope is coiled or arranged in a manner without kinks or knots, the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and the rope is securely connected to the competitor's harness using a Figure 8 knot with an added safety knot.

4.12 On entering the Field of Play, each competitor will be entitled to a period of 40 seconds for individual route observation and to complete final preparation ahead of making their attempt on the route.

4.13 The belayer must ensure that the competitor is not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose, any fall is stopped in a dynamic and safe manner, and the competitor is safely lowered to the ground at the end of their attempt.

5 SCORING

5.1 A Scoring Topo will be prepared by the Head Routesetter in consultation with the on-field officials before the start of each round. Scoring holds and values will be annotated on this topo, which should not be changed or amended following the Start of Play. Only holds used by either hand will be considered for scoring purposes. The Scoring Topo:

A) may be made public after the closing time for the warm-up area,[6]

B) should be distributed to team officials with Appeal Eligibility in any coaches' zone following the end of any collective observation period and/or prior to the Start of Play.

6 TIMING

6.1 A timing system should be used in the semifinal and final rounds to display, for both the public and competitors, the remaining time in the collective or individual observation/preparation periods, as well as the remaining climbing time.

7 RANKING

General

7.1 Competitors will be ranked on any single route in the following order:

A) first: all competitors who made successful attempt, and

B) second: all competitors who made an unsuccessful attempt in descending order of their score on the route.

Qualification

7.2 Competitors who do not start at least one route in the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors who start at least one route in the round will be ranked on each route in ascending order of the Qualification Points awarded to each competitor (i.e. lower Qualification

Points is better) according to the following formula:

QP = $\sqrt[n]{\prod_{r=1}^{n} Pr}$

where:

QP = Qualification Points, rounded to 3 decimal places.[7]

Pr = the competitor's *fractional ranking* on route "r".[8]

n = the number of routes

Semifinal/final

7.3 Competitors who do not start the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors starting the round will be ranked using §7.1. Ties will be broken:

A) first: by count-back to the General Ranking after the preceding round, unless that round used multiple starting groups.

B) second: in the scheduled **medal phase** only, breaking podium ties remaining after countback by using climbing times, lower times being better.[9]

8 SPORTING & TECHNICAL INCIDENTS

8.1 If a competitor, team official, belayer, route setter, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately report it to an IFSC Judge who will determine whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed following the next scheduled competitor has started the relevant route.[10]

8.2 If a competitor has fallen or their attempt has been ruled unsuccessful as the direct result of a potential or confirmed Technical Incident,

A) they will be held in a separate area with access to warm-up facilities to await the completion of any investigation into and/or rectification of the Technical Incident and for the duration of any allowed recuperation period. The competitor may communicate only with competition officials during this period. The Technical Incident will be closed, and no supplementary attempts allowed, if the affected competitor leaves this area without permission; and

B) the Jury President will fix a recuperation period, calculated as 1 minute for each scoring hold used prior to the Technical Incident, to a maximum of 20 minutes. The Jury President will schedule a restart for the affected competitor to follow as soon as practical following this recuperation period. The affected competitor and any other competitors yet to climb must be informed about this decision,

8.3 A restart will be cancelled if the restarted attempt cannot affect the competitor's ranking at the end of the round.

8.4 When a restart occurs, the competitor's result will be the better of their original and restarted attempts.

9 APPEALS

9.1 An appeal relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt. Notice of an intention to appeal under this paragraph may be made verbally and the appellant will be allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.[11] The affected competitor will be managed as described in §8.2 until the appeal is resolved.

9.2 An appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor must be made in writing and:

A) in the **medal phase** of an event: immediately following the publication of the competitor's Provisional Result.[12]

B) in any other round: within 5 minutes of the publication of the Official Results.

NOTES AND GUIDANCE

1 [3.2] Wherever possible, the design of the route should make such precautions unnecessary, and such precautions must be implemented for all competitors or none. The Jury President will not consider requests for added security measures by or on behalf of individual competitors.

2 [3.3] Only manual belay devices are allowed as for use in lead events (other than during any working session).

3 [4.7] In deciding which video distribution method is appropriate, the Jury President must consider the availability of wireless connections and the accessibility of video hosting services.

4 [4.8] Enforcing strict on-sight regulations in climbing competitions presents challenges in outdoor venues. The integrity of individuals and teams, as well as their adherence to a shared ethos is fundamental to maintaining the spirit of fair play. Where the competition venue is open to the public or overlooked by a public area, competitors may observe routes/boulders from these areas whilst they are open, however the following actions are prohibited:

- entering any part of the Competition Area or any other area not open to the public.
- watching, recording, or making use of any recordings of the work of the routesetters.
- using drones or other devices to gain a closer or detailed view not generally available to the public.

5 [4.10] The Jury President will allow a competitor who is not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb where their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

6 [5.1] The Scoring Topo may be distributed internal to the IFSC prior to the closing of the warm-up area. The Event Delegate may authorise release of the Scoring Topo to media ahead of this time where suitable embargo arrangements are in place.

7 [7.2] Points data presented on the Official Results will be presented rounded to 3 decimal places.

8 [7.2] A competitor who has a result on only one route will be ranked equal last on the other route.

9 [7.6] For example, in a lead World Cup:

A) If the final round is cancelled before the semifinal round begins, the semifinal round will become the scheduled **medal phase**, and climbing time will be used as a countback factor.

B) If the final round is cancelled after the semifinal round has started, the final round remains the scheduled **medal phase** and climbing time will not be used as a countback factor in the semifinal round. i.e. the results of the semi-final round will not be recalculated or restated.

10 [8.1] A ruling regarding any incident during an attempt may be made during or following the attempt. The on-field officials must consider whether allowing the attempt to continue or stopping an in-progress attempt would cause the least disturbance to the competition and/or the least disruption to the competitor.

11 [9.1] If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If a written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.

12 [9.2] The Appeal Jury may allow appeals after this deadline where the Provisional Results are not live.

ANNEX B – SPEED EVENTS

1 GENERAL

1.1 Speed events will take place on artificial climbing walls designed and built to the specification set out in the IFSC Speed Licence Rules (Speed Walls) with 2 parallel routes or **lanes**.

1.2 Competitors attempt to climb the wall, usually in pairs, belayed from above using an auto-belay system. The left-hand route is always named Lane A and the right-hand Lane B.

2 FORMAT (TWO LANES)

2.1 Speed events will be organised with 2 rounds as follow:

Round	Nr Routes	Modus	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	2	After-Work	Random, Offset	--
Final	2	After-Work	Tournament Bracket	16/8/4

Table 1 – Event Formats

2.2 In the qualification round, each competitor is scheduled to make one attempt on each of lane A and B, in the order set out in the Official Start List. The quota for the final round will be determined from the number of competitors who have completed qualification with a valid result as follows:[1]

Competitors with a qualifying result	Final quota
4 - 7	4
8 - 15	8
> 15	16

Table 2 – Final Quotas

2.3 If the quota for the final round is exceeded because of ties, the tied competitors will make additional runs on Lane A until all qualifying ties are broken. These runs will not be considered scoring attempts, and no official times will be recorded.[2]

2.4 The final round will be organised as a single elimination tournament where the winner of each heat advances to the next stage of the tournament.[3] In the semifinal stage, the losers of each heat will advance to race for 3rd and 4th place (the **small final**) and the winners will advance to race for 1st and 2nd place (the **big final**).

3 SAFETY

3.1 A belayer will be assigned to each lane to ensure the safe exchange of the auto-belay between competitors and attempts.

4 COMPETITION ORGANISATION

General

4.1 A practice period should be organised ahead of the qualification round. The time and arrangements for this practice period should be set out in the Event Information Sheet and/or announced at the Technical Meeting.[4]

4.2 Each competitor:

A) must report to the warm-up area by the time stated on the Official Start List for the round.

B) must start their attempt on each lane in the order set out on the Official Start List.

C) will be entitled to a minimum time gap of not less than 5 minutes between the completion of one race and the start of their next race, other than where a race is re-run.

4.3 Each competitor starting a round will remain in the Competition Area:

A) qualification round: until they have completed both races,

B) final round: until eliminated from the round.

4.4 Route cleaning should take place after the practice period, and after the qualification round of each event.

4.5 A presentation of the finalists will take place before the semifinal heats of each event.

Organisation of attempts

4.6 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Start List (or in the final, the **pairing tree**).[5]

4.7 On entering the Field of Play, each competitor will go to the base of their route. Competitors will, without delay, position the starting pad as appropriate for their preferred starting position and, having done so, present themselves to their belayer. Competitors must remain on the ground during this preparation period.[6]

4.8 The belayer will confirm that the competitor's harness is safe and connect the competitor's harness to the auto belay system. Once their harness is connected, each competitor will assume an assembly position not more than 2 meters in front of and facing away from the wall.

4.9 On the command "At your marks", each competitor will, without delay, take a position with both hands and one foot on their preferred starting holds, and one foot on the starting pad. The starter will order both competitors to return to the assembly position if following the command "At your marks" but prior to their announcing "Ready":[7]

A) the starter is not satisfied that the race can go ahead, or

B) a competitor raises a hand to show that they are not ready to start.

4.10 Once all competitors are motionless in their starting positions, the starter will announce "Ready" and after this will initiate the timing system.

4.11 The race will be started with a clearly audible signal emitted by the timing system. The source of

the signal should be as near possible equidistant to both competitors.

5 FALSE STARTS

5.1 If any competitor in a race records a Reaction Time of less than 0.100s, the starter will stop the race.

5.2 If both competitors in a race record an equal Reaction Time of less than 0.100s, the race will be re-run.

5.3 If one competitor in a race is determined to have made a **False Start**:

A) qualification round: the other competitor may make an immediate re-run alone,

B) final round: the other competitor will be the winner.

6 SCORING

6.1 The result of a scoring attempt will be recorded as either:

A) the climbing time, where the competitor successfully completed the route,

B) a **False Start,** in the relevant circumstances, or

C) a **Fall**, where the attempt is unsuccessful for any reason other than a False Start.

6.2 The winner of a tournament bracket race will be:

A) if one competitor makes a **False Start** or does not start, the other competitor,

B) if no competitor makes a **False Start**, the competitor who successfully completes the route with the lower (or only) climbing time.[8]

6.3 If both competitors in a tournament bracket race fall or record the same time, an additional race will run to break the tie. If following this the competitors remain tied, the winner will be determined by comparing their fastest time(s) from all scoring attempts within the event.

7 TIMING

Measurement and recording

7.1 All times will be measured and recorded to the nearest 1/1000s.

Rounding for official times

7.2 Official times, including record times, will be rounded down to the nearest 1/100s except where necessary to show an in-competition tie-break.[9]

8 RANKING

Qualification

8.1 Competitors who do not start at least one route in the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors starting at least one route will be ranked in the following order:

A) first: any competitors who have not made a **False Start** in ascending order of their best recorded time. If multiple competitors have the same best recorded time, their relative ranking will be by similar comparison of their second result placing competitors with a second time ahead of any without.

B) second: any competitors who recorded a **Fall** on both routes

C) third: any competitors who made a **False Start**, ranked relative to each other by comparison of their second result.

Final

8.2 Competitors who do not start their first scheduled race will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors starting the round will be ranked in order of the last stage completed and their placing within that stage:

A) first: the race winners in the stage,

B) second: any race losers in the stage,

in each case in order of their fastest time(s) from all scoring attempts within the event.

9 SPORTING AND TECHNICAL INCIDENTS

9.1 If a competitor, team official, belayer, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately report the matter to the Jury President who will decide whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed after the “At Your Marks” command has been given in the next scheduled heat.[10]

9.2 A claim for a Technical Incident in relation to the performance of the auto-belay or timing system may be made only in relation to some clear or systematic error.

9.3 Where a Technical Incident is confirmed, only the competitor(s) directly affected by the incident will be re-run.

10 APPEALS

10.1 No appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time, or any individual case where a competitor does not stop the timer where an IFSC-recognised timing system is in use.[11]

10.2 Notice of an intention to appeal the scoring of a competitor’s attempt in any heat must be made prior to the start of the next heat. This notice may be made verbally, and the appellant will be

allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.[12]

Figure 1 – Tournament Brackets (16 starters)

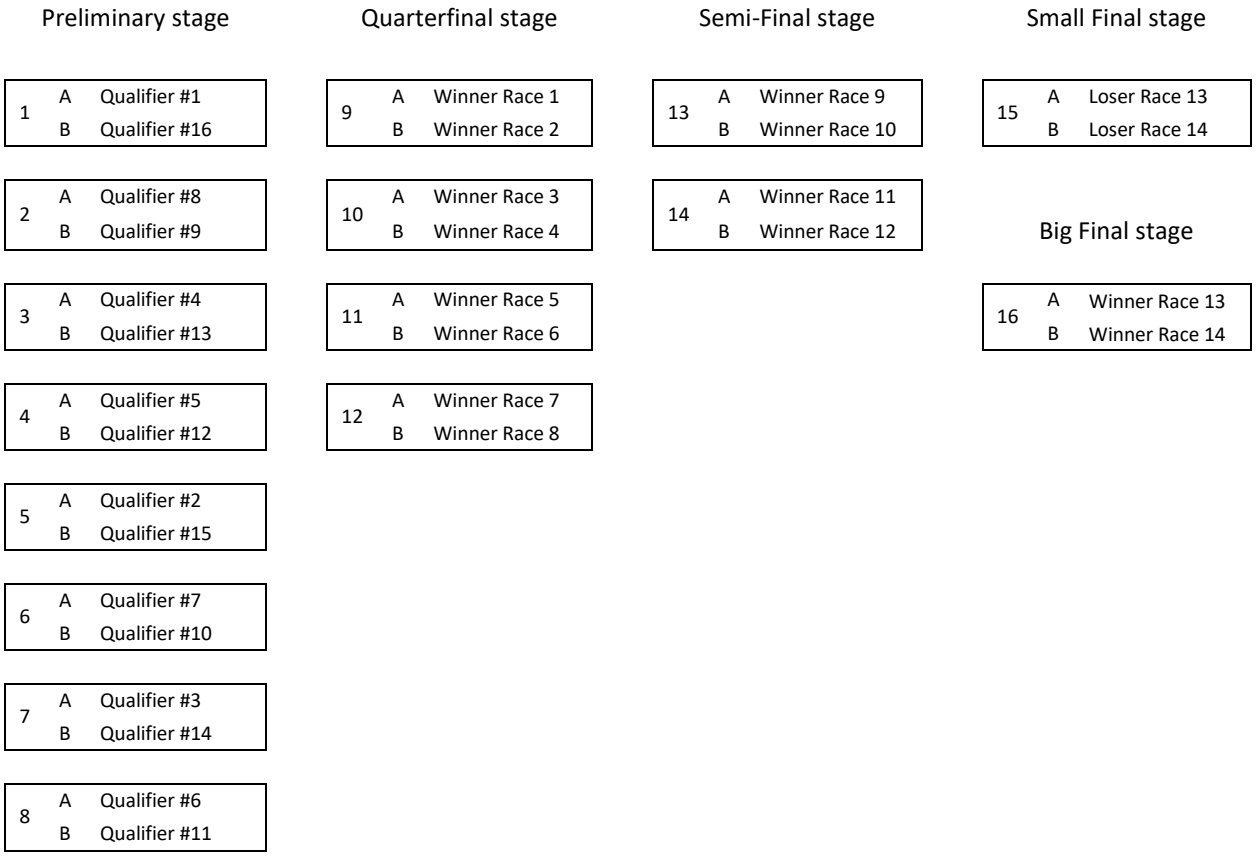
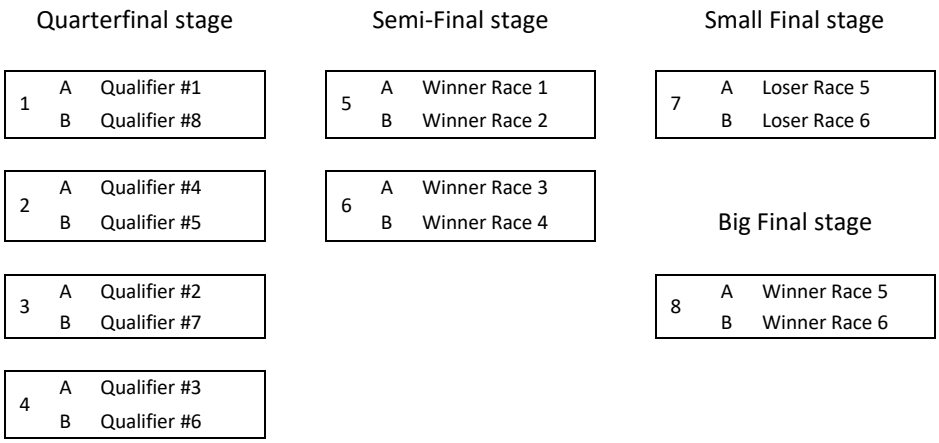


Figure 2 - Tournament Brackets (8 starters)



NOTES AND GUIDANCE

1 [2.2] i.e. excluding any competitors who are recorded with an Invalid Result Mark for the round (DNS, DSQ, DQB).

2 [2.3] e.g., no record time may be set in these runs.

3 [2.4] e.g., tournament brackets for 16 and 8 starters are illustrated in figures 1 and 2 to this annex.

4 [4.1] In any practice period, competitors will be entitled to make one attempt on each route and will not be stopped if they, or a competitor racing with them, make a False Start.

[4.1] The practice period should include a demonstration of the False Start signal and use the same timing equipment as will be used for scoring attempts. The practice period will not be repeated if any article of equipment found or suspected to be faulty and exchanged or replaced following the practice, or the route adjusted where some issue is found during the practice period.

[4.1] The practice period will normally be organised as a dry run of the qualification round, but the Jury President may vary the timing and format to reflect circumstances specific to a competition.

5 [4.7] The Jury President may not allow a competitor who is not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb unless their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

[4.7] If a competitor is marked DNS in a round where competitors start in a Tournament Bracket, the relevant race will not be run, and the winner will receive a bye to the next stage.

6 [4.7] If either competitor causes undue delay, or by any action disturbs other competitors, the starter will order both competitors to return to the assembly position and the Jury President will issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

7 [4.9] If either competitor causes undue delay, or by any action disturbs other competitors, the starter will order both competitors to return to the assembly position and the Jury President will issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

8 [6.2] Where neither competitor starts a race in a tournament bracket, there will be no winner from that race.

9 [7.2] Official times are rounded down to reflect construction and measurement tolerances for the climbing structure rather than the timing system. Stating official times to 10ms precision avoids false comparisons between times recorded on different walls.

[7.2] e.g. Competitor SW finishes with a measured time of 4798ms, which is rounded down to an Official Time (and World Record) of 4.79s. Breaking this record would require a competitor to have a measured time of 4789ms or better. Any measured time that rounds down to 4.79s will equal but not break the record.

10 [9.1] In deciding whether to confirm a Technical Incident, the Jury President will, where necessary, review the official video recordings and/or require a test of the timing system.

11 [10.1] Concerns or protests concerning the behaviour of the timing system can only be expressed as a claim for a Technical Incident.

12 [10.2] If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If a written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.

ANNEX C – BOULDER EVENTS

1 GENERAL

1.1 Boulder events take place on purpose-designed artificial climbing walls, having a minimum width of 3 meters for each route (boulder).[1]

1.2 Competitors attempt to climb short routes (**boulders**) without a rope.

2 FORMAT

2.1 Boulder events will be organised with 3 rounds as follow:

Round	Nr Boulders[2]	Modus	Rotation Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	5	On-sight	5' (fixed)	Rank Ascending	60 (group)
Semi-Final	4	On-Sight	5' (fixed)	Rank Descending	24
Final	4	On-Sight	4' (max)	Rank Descending	8

Table 1 – Event Formats

2.2 If the qualification quota is exceeded at the registration deadline, the competitors should be divided into 2 starting groups of approximately equal number and strength. Competitors will be assigned to a group based on their Event Seedings as follows:

Group A	Group B
1 →	2 ↓
4 ↓	← 3
5 →	6 ↓

Table 2 – Starting Group Seeding

Unseeded competitors will be assigned randomly to maintain near-equal group numbers. The boulders for each group should be designed with similar overall difficulty and character. The quota for the next round will be divided equally between the 2 groups.

2.3 International youth competitions may also adopt alternative formats for the qualification round as follow:

Round	Nr Boulders[3]	Modus	Rotation Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification A[4]	4 - 8	Flash	N/A	Random	-
Qualification B[5]	4 - 6	Flash	4/5' (fixed)	Ascending, Offset	-

Table 3 – Alternative Qualification Formats

2.4 The quota for each round will be filled by the best ranked competitors from the preceding round, including any competitors tied in the last qualifying position.

3 SAFETY

3.1 The Jury President, the IFSC Judge and the Head Route Setter will inspect each boulder and the safety matting prior to the start of a round to identify and address any safety risks.

3.2 Any staff assigned by the event organiser to clean boulders must be removed/replaced if they create any safety risk.

4 COMPETITION ORGANISATION

General

4.1 Competitors must report to the warm-up area by the time stated on the Official Start List for the round. Competitors who are not present in the warm-up area at this time will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.

4.2 Competitors must remain in the warm-up zone until called for observation, presentation or to climb. Competitors who leave the warm-up area without permission will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.

4.3 The Call Zone will be arranged so that competitors cannot see any boulder not yet attempted[6].

4.4 Each round will be organised as a series of rotations, with the competitors attempting each boulder in a set order. There will be a 15-second interval after each rotation to clear the Field of Play. In the Final round, each rotation period will end when all competitors on the Field of Play have completed their attempts, or when the maximum rotation time has elapsed.

4.5 Each competitor:

A) must start their attempt on any boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List,

B) must return to the Call Zone on completing their attempts or at the end of the rotation.

4.6 In each round, the Jury President should arrange for the boulders to be cleaned at the end of each rotation period[7].

4.7 Where consecutive rounds of an event take place on the same day, there must be a minimum time gap of 2 hours between publication of the Official Results for the round and the Start of Play for the next round.

4.8 The Final round should be preceded by a presentation of the finalists.

Route Previews/Observation

4.9 A collective observation period of 2 minutes per boulder will be held ahead of the final round. Competitors are prohibited from using any recording equipment. At the end of this period, competitors will return to the Call Zone.[8]

Organisation of attempts

4.10 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Starting List for the boulder. A competitor not in the Call Zone at the

relevant time will not be eligible to climb and will be marked DNS on the boulder[9].

4.11 Competitors will be released onto the Field of Play:

A) qualification/semifinal: at the start of the rotation period and may start their attempts immediately.

B) final: as directed by the Call Zone manager and will present themselves to the boulder judge. Competitors may start their attempts when a signal is given for the start of the rotation period.

4.12 Competitors may make multiple attempts within a rotation period. Each boulder must be attempted in its entirety and competitors must not practice any part of a boulder.

4.13 Competitors may clean boulders using only the equipment provided by the event organiser or may request a brusher to clean.

4.14 Competitors may carry onto the Field of Play a small bag (e.g., a musette) holding equipment necessary for their attempts, e.g., tape, chalk/liquid chalk, shoes.[10]

5 SCORING

5.1 The score for a boulder will be calculated as follows:

A) where the competitor has been awarded a Zone, as 10 points, with a deduction of 0.1 points for each attempt made before the Zone is awarded,

B) where successfully completed, as 25 points, with a deduction of 0.1 points for each unsuccessful attempt.

The final score for a boulder will be the greater of the value calculated under (A) or (B), and 0.0 (i.e., the point score on a boulder cannot be negative).

6 TIMING

6.1 A timing system must be used in each round to display the time remaining within each rotation or to the start of the next rotation. The time must be visible to all competitors on the Field of Play and in the Call Zone and the system must provide audio cues as set out in:

IFSC Boulder Timing System Specifications

7 RANKING

7.1 Competitors who do not attempt the first boulder in a round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors starting a course of boulders will be ranked in descending order of the total number of points gained by them on the course. Ties will be broken by count-back to the General Ranking after the preceding round, unless that round used multiple starting groups.

8 SPORTING & TECHNICAL INCIDENTS

8.1 If a competitor, team official, route setter, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately refer it to an IFSC Judge who will determine whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed following the start of the next scheduled rotation.

8.2 If a confirmed Technical Incident can be remedied prior to the start of the next rotation, the affected competitor may choose either:

A) to continue their attempts within the current rotation period, and the competitor will not be given any extra time/attempts,

B) to suspend their attempts until a time decided by the Jury President, having due regard to minimizing the impact on other competitors and for the overall competition schedule.

8.3 If a confirmed Technical Incident cannot be remedied prior to the start of the next rotation, the round will be suspended for the affected competitor and for all competitors who have not yet tried the affected boulder. Once the incident is remedied (or if irremediable, the boulder is cancelled) the affected competitors will resume their attempts as directed by the Jury President.

8.4 Where the attempts of one or more competitors are suspended following a confirmed Technical Incident, the affected competitors will be held in a transit area pending resolution/determination of the incident. A competitor who leaves this area prior to the matter being resolved/determined will not be allowed to resume their attempts.

8.5 If it is determined that the affected competitor(s) should be given additional time/attempts, the time awarded should be calculated to compensate the affected competitor only for time lost/not used, and should not be greater than the remaining in the interrupted rotation when the attempt commenced.

9 APPEALS

9.1 An appeal that a Top should have been given, for/against the scoring of a Zone, or for/against the number of attempts on the competitor's result, or otherwise not subject to §9.2, must be made in writing and:

A) in the **medal phase** of an event: immediately following the publication of the competitor's Provisional Result.[11]

B) in any other round: within 5 minutes of the publication of the Official Results.

9.2 An appeal which may, if upheld, result in the affected competitor being awarded extra time/attempts,[12] must be made:

A) in the **medal phase** of an event: prior to the next competitor starting their attempts,

B) in any other round: before the end of the next rotation.

9.3 Notice of an intention to appeal made under §9.2 may be made verbally and the appellant will be allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.[13] The affected competitor will be managed as

described in §8.4 until the appeal is resolved.

9.4 If an appeal made under §9.2 is upheld, the Jury President will decide whether the affected competitor should be granted extra time/attempts and whether any extra attempt will be treated as a new attempt. Any extra time should be calculated to compensate the affected competitor only for time lost/not used, and should not be greater than the time remaining in the rotation when the attempt commenced.

NOTES AND GUIDANCE

[1] [1.1] e.g., an event involving competitors climbing four boulders at the same time would require a single wall of at least 12m width, or two walls each of at least 6m width.

[2] [2.1] The Jury President may, in exceptional circumstances, cancel up to one boulder in any round.

[3] [2.1] The Jury President may, in exceptional circumstances, cancel up to one boulder in any round.

[4] [2.3] Format A is a limited attempts format, with the overall duration of the round specified but not individual rotation periods.

[5] [2.3] Format B is a variation of the standard qualification format, with attempts made flash rather than on-sight. If no Event Seeding is used, the starting order reverts to **random, offset**.

[6] [4.3] The Jury President should ensure that competitors stay in the Call Zone for at least 1 full rotation after completing their attempts on the course.

[7] [4.6] In circumstances where it is not possible for the boulders to be cleaned at the end of each rotation period, the Jury President should announce this decision prior to the start of the round.

[8] [4.9] Competitors who either try to practice the boulder or touch holds other than the Starting Hold (or associated blocker holds) may be penalized either with a disciplinary sanction or by the addition of a “penalty attempt” (i.e. incrementing their attempt count on the boulder) as appropriate.

[9] [4.10] The Jury President will allow a competitor who is not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb where their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

[10] [4.14] Liquids may only be brought onto the Field of Play for the purpose of consumption, unless specifically permitted by the Competition Rules (e.g., liquid chalk) or with the permission of the Jury President.

[11] [9.1] The Jury President may allow appeals after this deadline where the Provisional Results are not live.

[12] [9.2] e.g., an appeal has been successfully made that a Top was given where the attempt should have been stopped for a False Start, or otherwise incorrectly awarded where the climber had time remaining for additional attempts.

[13] [9.3] If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If the written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.