

## Lead Rules

A route shall be considered successfully completed if it has been climbed in accordance with the existing rules and if the rope has been clipped from a legitimate position into the karabiner on the final quickdraw.

Lead competition normally consists of:

- a) A qualification round, which shall take place on one route based on flash attempt
- b) Semi-finals (if more than 26 competitors for the category), final and, where necessary, super final rounds, which shall take place on one route based on on-sight attempt. In the case of unforeseen events, the Chief Judge may decide to cancel one of the rounds. If one round is cancelled, then the results of the previous round shall count as the ranking of the cancelled round.

## OBSERVATION

1. Competitors (as a group) shall be permitted to observe the demonstration of the routes which they are required to attempt following which they will be given a separate period of observation time.
2. The observation period shall be decided by the Chief Judge in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and shall normally not exceed six (6) minutes for each route. In the case of unusually long routes, the period may be extended.
3. Competitors are allowed to touch the first hold(s), without leaving the ground with both their feet.
4. At the end of the observation period, competitors shall immediately return to the isolation zone or, in the case of the first few competitors on the starting list, to the call zone as instructed by the judges. Any undue delay in doing so may result in the award of a Yellow Card; any further delay shall result in disqualification in accordance with the disciplinary section

## SAFETY AND BELAYING

1. That the competitor's movements are not hindered in any way by the rope being too tight; That when the competitor attempts to connect the rope to any protection point he/she is not hindered in doing so or, if the clipping of the rope to the protection point fails, any excessive slack in the rope is immediately taken in;
2. That all falls are stopped in a dynamic and safe manner;
3. That no excessive fall shall be experienced by the competitor being belayed;
4. That great care is taken to ensure that a falling competitor shall not be exposed to any danger of injury caused by the edge of an overlapping section or any other feature of the climbing wall.
5. The judges may decide, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and with the approval of the Chief Judge, to have the climbing rope pre-fixed to the first (and, where deemed appropriate, other) protection points. Wherever possible, the design of the route shall be such as to make such precautions unnecessary.

6. At the start of each attempt on a route:
  - a) Each competitor shall be equipped in accordance with equipment certified by either UIAA or CE for the purpose of climbing;
  - b) The climbing rope shall be tied to each competitor's climbing harness using a 'figure of eight' knot, secured with an extra knot;
  - c) Before the competitor begins his/her attempt on a route, the belayer shall check (preferably in the call zone) that the competitor is equipped in accordance with the rules, and that the rope is secured to the competitor's harness in accordance with Article 4.4.3 b) above, and that the harness is properly fastened up;
  - d) Before accompanying the competitor to the start of the route, the belayer shall ensure that the rope is coiled or arranged in such a manner that it is ready for immediate and proper use;
  - e) The judge shall, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, decide whether the belayer shall have an assistant at the beginning of the route to provide additional security for a competitor (i.e. to 'spot') at the lower part of the route.
7. The belayer shall 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 judge.
8. After having connected the rope to the final quickdraw or after 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.
9. While the competitor is untying the rope from his/her harness, the belayer shall pull the rope down in as fast a manner as possible without unduly disturbing the quickdraws. It is the responsibility of the belayer to ensure that the competitor vacates the climbing zone as quickly as possible.

## CLIMBING PROCEDURE

1. The length of the climbing period shall be 6 minutes for routes in the qualification, semi-final and final rounds. The Chief Judge may decide to adjust these times in consultation with the Chief Routesetter. If such adjustments are made, the adjusted climbing period shall be announced to the competitors during the technical briefing in the isolation zone preceding the route observation and/or indicated on the starting list published in the isolation zone.
2. For qualifying round. at the point where the competitor enters the competition zone at the base of the climbing wall, his/her climbing time is deemed to be started. For semi finals and finals, at the point where the competitor enters the competition zone at the base of the climbing wall, he/she shall be permitted 40 seconds to commence his/her attempt on the route. This 40 second final observation period shall not be part of the overall time for the route. If the competitor has not started his/her attempt at the end of this 40 second period he/she shall be instructed to start immediately. Any further delay shall make the competitor liable to disciplinary action
3. Each competitor's attempt shall be deemed to have started when both feet have left the ground.

4. A competitor may ask at any time during his/her attempt on the route how much of the allotted route time remains, and the judge shall immediately inform, or give instruction to inform, the competitor of the remaining time. The judge shall also inform, or give instruction to inform, a competitor when only 60 seconds of the allocated route-time remains. When the route-time has ended, the judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing. A competitor who fails to obey the judge's instruction to stop climbing shall be liable to disciplinary action.

5. During his/her attempt on a route:

a) The competitor shall clip the quickdraws in sequence. A competitor is in a legitimate position to clip a quickdraw either as long as his/her entire body has not moved beyond the karabiner at the lower end of the quickdraw in the line of the route, or as long as the competitor can clip the quickdraw without having to back climb along the line of the route. Back climbing means that a competitor leaves holds with both hands when moving from the original position. Any violation of this rule shall result in the competitor's attempt on the route being terminated. The refusal by a competitor to obey the instruction of the judge to terminate his/her attempt shall make the competitor liable to disciplinary action.

b) A competitor shall be allowed to un-clip and re-clip the last clipped karabiner, except the karabiner of the final quickdraw, and except in the case where the competitor did not clip the quickdraw in sequence.

c) In special circumstances, for instance in the interest of safety, the Chief Judge may amend the rules and decide that a particular quickdraw shall be clipped from a particular hold, or earlier. This information shall be announced to the competitors during the technical briefing in the isolation zone, and the actual hold and the quickdraw shall be clearly marked, preferably with a blue cross, and pointed out during the route observation. Any movement made by a competitor after the marked hold without him/her having clipped the marked quickdraw shall not be taken into account for scoring.

d) If a competitor clips the rope into a karabiner in accordance with 5 a) above, but a 'Z-clip' has occurred, the competitor shall be permitted to un-clip and re-clip (if necessary, by down-climbing) the previous karabiner. At the end, all the protection points shall be clipped in.

6. The judge may order that the attempt be terminated if he/she decides that further progress on the route would be dangerous. The climber or the coach is to lodge an immediate appeal against the judge's decision. No appeal will be allowed once the climber leaves the climbing zone.

7. The holds on the route shall be cleaned at a frequency and with a method determined by the judge in consultation with the Chief Routesetter before the start of each round. The maximum number of attempts made before a route is cleaned shall be 20, and the cleaning operations should be evenly distributed during the round. The frequency of cleaning shall be announced to the competitors during the technical briefing in the isolation zone and/or indicated on the starting list published in the isolation zone.

Competitors are not allowed to clean any hold on the route during their attempt.

## TECHNICAL INCIDENTS

1. A technical incident in lead competitions is defined as:
  - a) A broken or loose hold;
  - b) An improperly positioned quickdraw or karabiner;
  - c) A tight rope which either assists or hinders a competitor;
  - 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.
2. If a competitor falls and claims that a technical incident has caused the fall, the competitor shall be immediately escorted to a separate isolation zone to await the outcome of the investigation of the claimed technical incident.
3. The competitor subjected to a confirmed technical incident shall be allowed a recuperation period in a separate isolation zone, during which he/she is not permitted to communicate with any person other than organiser's officials.
4. The maximum recuperation time before the competitor's next attempt shall be approximately equal to 2 minutes for each hand hold he/she has made use of prior to the technical incident. The concerned competitor is entitled to a minimum recuperation time of 15 minutes. The Chief Judge will take a decision on when the next attempt of the competitor shall be slotted, based on the competitor's requested recuperation time within the maximum limit. All concerned competitors shall be informed about the re-slotting.
5. In the case of the final round of a competition, the recuperation time shall not extend beyond 15 minutes after the last competitor has finished his/her attempt.
6. If a new attempt is, or would be, slotted after the last competitor in any round of the competition and the competitor who has suffered the technical incident has already been placed first in the round, then the competitor shall not be allowed a new attempt on the route.
7. On completion of the next attempt on the route, the competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of his/her attempts on the route.

## SCORING

1. In the event of a fall or the judge instructing a competitor to stop climbing, the furthest hold held or touched in the line of the route shall determine the competitor's result.
2. Each hold shall be deemed as such by the Chief Routesetter before the start of a round of the competition and marked on the route sketch used by the judge for judging, or following positive use by a competitor during the competition.
3. If a competitor touches a point where there are no holds (as specified by the Chief Routesetter), this point shall not be considered when determining the competitor's score.
4. Only holds used by the hands shall be considered.
5. Only such parts of an object which are usable for climbing shall be considered when determining the score of a competitor.
6. As determined by the judge, a hold that is 'held' shall be considered as having a higher value than a hold that is 'touched':
  - a) A hold that is 'held' shall be given the height of the hold with no suffix;
  - b) A hold that is 'touched' shall be given that height with a minus (-) suffix;

c) A hold which is 'held' and from which a climbing movement is made in the interest of progressing along the route shall be given the height of the hold 'held' with a plus (+) suffix.

7. It is at the judge's discretion to set the limit between 'touched' and 'held', and between 'held' and '+' for each hold in order to separate competitors with markedly different performance.

8. In the event of a super final, the Chief Judge may decide that in the case of two or more competitors having the same result at the end of the super final round, the time used to achieve the result shall determine the ranking in such a way that a competitor with a shorter climbing time shall be ranked before a competitor with a longer climbing time. This decision shall be announced beforehand to the super final competitors, their team managers and to the public.

#### RANKING AFTER EACH ROUND

1. After each round of the competition, the competitors shall be ranked in accordance with the scoring procedure.

2. In the case of tied places, the results of the preceding round shall be taken into account in the countback procedure. If, after applying the countback procedure at the end of the final round of the competition, there is a tie for the first place, a super final shall be held.

3. The super final may be held on the same route as in the final round. If a tie exists at the end of a super final, the competitors that remain tied shall be deemed equal and the competition will be terminated.

#### QUOTA FOR EACH ROUND

1. The fixed quota of competitors qualifying for the semi-final and final round shall be, respectively, 26 and 10 competitors.

2. The fixed quota shall be filled with the highest ranked competitors in the previous round. If the fixed quota is exceeded as a result of tied competitors, the number closest to the fixed quota will apply. If the lower and upper limit is the same the upper limit will enter the next round.

#### TERMINATION OF AN ATTEMPT ON A ROUTE

1. The attempt of a competitor on a route shall be considered terminated if he/she:

a) Falls;

b) Exceeds the permitted time for the route;

c) Makes use for climbing of any part of the wall, holds or features which have been demarcated against use for climbing;

d) Makes use for climbing, with his/her hands, of holes provided in the climbing wall for the placement of bolt-on holds;

e) Makes use of the side edges or top edges of the wall for climbing;

f) Makes use of hangers (including its bolts) or quickdraws for climbing;

g) Fails to clip a quickdraw in accordance with the rules;

h) Touches the ground with any part of the body after having started the attempt;

i) Uses any artificial aid.

2. In case of infractions related to b-i, the judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing. The competitor or his/her team manager may make an immediate appeal against this decision. If such an appeal is made, the competitor shall be taken to a separate isolation zone. The appeal shall follow the appeal procedures specified and shall be acted upon as early as circumstances allow by the appeals jury. If the appeal is upheld, the competitor shall be given a new attempt. The competitor shall be allowed to rest under conditions similar to those specified for competitors recuperating after a technical incident. On completion of the new attempt, the competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of his/her attempts on the route.

#### USE OF VIDEO RECORDING

1. If the judge deems it appropriate to examine the video recording of the attempt on a route by a competitor before making a decision, the judge shall permit the competitor to complete his/ her attempt in accordance with the rules. On completion of his/her attempt, the competitor shall be immediately informed by the IFSC Judge that his/her ranking in that round of the competition shall be subject to confirmation following an examination, at the end of the round, of the video recording.
2. The official video recordings may be used by the judges to confirm the “held/touched” rules in respect to scoring and the ranking of competitors at the end of each round.