

MYCS Boulder Competition Rules

Applies to: All competitors, parents, coaches and other attendees at MYCS bouldering rounds.

These rules govern participation, judging and scoring at MYCS bouldering competitions. All competitors and their accompanying adults are responsible for understanding and complying with the rules.

MYCS is intended as an introductory and friendly competition series. As such, a degree of leniency may be afforded, especially for younger categories, at the discretion of the Head Judge.

1. Competition Format

1.1. Each competitor must attempt up to **eight boulders** within the allocated competition period of **two hours**.

1.2. A maximum of **five attempts per boulder** is permitted.

1.3. Each boulder has a maximum attempt duration of **four minutes**. A competitor must complete their attempt, or stop climbing, within this time limit.

1.4. Competitors must record their name and competition category on their scorecard before commencing their round.

1.5. A competitor must present their scorecard to the relevant judge before attempting each boulder.

1.6. Competitors must ensure that the judge has signed their scorecard following either a successful top or the completion of their final permitted attempt on each boulder. Scorecards missing judges signatures may not be counted in the results.

1.7. Only competitors and authorised judges are permitted on the competition matting. Parents, coaches and spectators must remain outside the matting area.

2. Starting a Boulder

2.1. Each boulder has designated starting holds identified by four tags.

2.2. A competitor must establish the starting position with **both hands and both feet on the designated starting holds**.

2.3. The competitor must demonstrate control in the starting position before making any subsequent movement.

2.4. Before establishing the start, a competitor may touch the designated starting holds but **must not touch any other holds or climbing features**.

2.5. A competitor must not hop, jump or otherwise leave the ground while establishing the starting position. Any departure from the ground during an attempt counts as an attempt.

2.6. Where starting holds are located on a volume, that volume may be used to establish the starting position. No other volume or climbing feature may be used to establish the start unless it forms part of the designated starting position.

2.7. An incorrect start invalidates the attempt. The judge will instruct the competitor to stop and explain the reason.

2.8. If a competitor is uncertain about the starting position or any aspect of the boulder, they must seek clarification from the judge before beginning their attempt.

3. Holds, Volumes and Out-of-Bounds Areas

3.1. All climbing holds, volumes and wall features are in bounds unless expressly excluded by the competition organisers or marked as out of bounds.

3.2. **Black tape identifies an out-of-bounds area.** Competitors must not touch the black tape or any excluded surface or feature beyond it during an attempt.

3.3. A competitor's body may move or swing beyond an out-of-bounds boundary, provided that no part of their body touches the excluded area or feature.

3.4. Bolt holes and screw holes within climbing holds may be used.

3.5. Bolt holes and screw holes in the wall or in volumes must not be used as climbing holds.

3.6. Any contact with a prohibited hold, feature or out-of-bounds area constitutes an illegal action. The judge will instruct the competitor to stop the attempt.

4. Attempts and Attempt Termination

4.1. A maximum of five attempts is permitted on each boulder.

4.2. An attempt is counted whenever the competitor leaves the ground to begin climbing, including where the competitor subsequently fails to establish the starting position correctly.

4.3. An attempt ends when any of the following occurs:

- The competitor fails to establish the designated starting position correctly.
- The competitor touches the matting after having left the ground to begin the attempt.
- The competitor uses an illegal hold, feature or out-of-bounds area.
- The four-minute time limit expires.
- The competitor successfully completes the boulder.

4.4. Where an illegal action occurs, the judge will instruct the competitor to stop immediately and explain the reason.

4.5. Competitors must comply promptly with a judge's instruction to stop climbing or come down.

4.6. Once an attempt has ended, the competitor must not resume climbing within that attempt.

5. Completing a Boulder

5.1. A boulder is successfully completed when the competitor touches the designated top hold with **both hands and demonstrates control**.

5.2. Merely touching the top hold, without demonstrating control, does not constitute a successful top.

5.3. The competitor should wait for the judge's raised hand or verbal signal confirming completion before treating the boulder as successfully completed.

5.4. Competitors must not assume that a top has been awarded until the judge has confirmed it.

6. Scoring

6.1. Hold points

6.1.1. Each scored climbing hold has an associated point value, with higher holds carrying greater value.

6.1.2. The designated top hold is worth **59 points**. A successful top held in control is awarded **60 points**.

6.1.3. Each scoring hold below the top hold is worth two fewer points than the hold immediately after it in the intended sequence.

6.1.4. A competitor is awarded the points for a hold only when the judge determines that the competitor has controlled the hold.

6.1.5. Control means that the competitor has established a stable position and is weighting the hold through a pushing or pulling action. Briefly touching a hold is not sufficient.

6.2. Positive movement points

6.2.1. An additional point may be awarded for making a positive movement in the direction of the climb.

6.2.2. A positive movement requires a significant change in the position of the competitor's body mass in the direction of progression.

6.2.3. Simply reaching towards the next hold before falling does not qualify as a positive movement.

6.2.4. The judge is responsible for determining whether a positive movement has been achieved.

6.3. Top bonuses

6.3.1. Competitors who successfully top a boulder may receive a bonus according to the number of attempts required to complete it.

Successful top	Bonus points
First attempt (flash)	+4
Second attempt	+3
Third attempt	+2
Fourth attempt	+1
Fifth attempt	+0

6.3.2. The bonus is determined by the attempt on which the competitor first successfully tops the boulder.

6.4. Minimum score

6.4.1. A competitor will not receive a score of zero for any boulder attempted.

6.4.2. Where a competitor is unable to establish themselves on the boulder, they will receive the score assigned to the starting hold.

6.5. Recording scores

6.5.1. Competitors must ensure that their scorecard is completed and signed by the judge following a successful top or their final permitted attempt on each boulder.

6.5.2. Any concern regarding a recorded score must be raised immediately in accordance with Section 9.

6.5.3. Scorecards must be handed into reception promptly after the session has ended. Any scorecards that are not submitted within a reasonable timeframe may be omitted from the results.

7. Brushing Holds

- 7.1. Competitors may brush holds before attempting a boulder.
- 7.2. A competitor may brush holds only as high as they can reach while remaining on the floor.
- 7.3. Judges may brush holds at their discretion.
- 7.4. Competitors must not leave the floor or climb onto any feature to brush a hold.

8. Coaching and Encouragement

- 8.1. Verbal encouragement is permitted, provided that it does not instruct the competitor how to complete the boulder.
- 8.2. General encouragement, such as “You can do this” or “Keep going”, is permitted.
- 8.3. Coaching or technical instructions during an attempt are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, telling a competitor which hold to use, where to place a foot, or which climbing technique to employ.
- 8.4. Parents, coaches and spectators must comply with any instruction issued by event officials concerning coaching or competitor conduct.
- 8.5. A parent or coach who provides prohibited coaching may receive a warning and may be required to leave the event if the behaviour continues.

9. Judging and Score Disputes

- 9.1. Judges are responsible for applying these rules, observing attempts and recording the relevant results.
- 9.2. Competitors must follow judges' instructions throughout the competition.
- 9.3. If a competitor wishes to challenge a score or judging decision, they must raise the matter **immediately after the relevant attempt with the Head Judge**.
- 9.4. Competitors, parents and coaches must not attempt to negotiate or dispute a decision directly with the individual boulder judge. The judge will refer the matter to the Head Judge.
- 9.5. The Head Judge is responsible for considering score disputes and clarifying the application of the competition rules.
- 9.6. Disputes must be raised respectfully and without disrupting other competitors or the running of the event.

10. Behaviour and Conduct

10.1. MYCS is committed to providing a friendly, inclusive and supportive environment for all competitors, volunteers, judges, centre staff and spectators.

10.2. All attendees must treat other people with respect and must not engage in abusive, threatening, discriminatory, bullying or deliberately unkind behaviour.

10.3. MYCS operates a zero-tolerance policy towards abuse or unkind behaviour directed at judges, climbing-centre staff or volunteers.

10.4. Any such behaviour may result in immediate expulsion from the event.

10.5. Competitors, parents and coaches must comply with reasonable instructions issued by the event organisers and venue staff.

10.6. The event organisers reserve the right to take appropriate action where conduct compromises the safety, fairness or orderly running of the competition.

11. Photography and Video

11.1. Photography and video recording must be limited to the children for whom the person taking the images is responsible.

11.2. Attendees must not photograph or record other competitors without appropriate permission.

11.3. All attendees must comply with any additional photography, filming or safeguarding requirements imposed by MYCS or the host climbing centre.

Thank you for helping us make MYCS a fair, safe and welcoming competition series for everyone.