

MYCS Roped Competition Rules

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

These rules govern participation, judging, scoring and conduct at MYCS roped climbing competitions. All competitors and their accompanying adults are responsible for understanding and complying with these 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 **four routes**, with **one attempt permitted per route**.

1.2. Competitors in the **Under 11 (U11) and Under 13 (U13) categories must climb on top rope**. All other categories must climb on lead.

1.3. Competitors must remain with their assigned group throughout the session. Some categories may be divided into multiple groups. Each group will be allocated a judge and a belayer.

1.4. The competition start list determines the order in which competitors attempt each route. Competitors must check the start list, know who climbs before them and be ready to climb when it is their turn.

1.5. Each route has a maximum attempt duration of **six minutes**. Competitors must complete their attempt, or stop climbing, within this time limit.

1.6. Competitors must follow the instructions of their assigned judge and belayer at all times.

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

2. Starting a Route

2.1. Competitors may begin with their hands on the route holds as high as they can reach while remaining on the ground.

2.2. An attempt begins as soon as the competitor leaves the ground to start climbing. Any departure from the ground counts as the competitor's one permitted attempt on that route.

2.3. If a competitor is uncertain about the route holds or any other aspect of the route, they must ask the judge for clarification before beginning their attempt.

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

3.1. Competitors must climb the designated route using its permitted holds. Using holds belonging to a different route or colour is prohibited.

3.2. All volumes and wall features are permitted unless expressly excluded by the competition organisers or marked as out of bounds.

3.3. Black tape identifies out-of-bounds areas. Competitors must not touch the black tape or any excluded surface or feature during an attempt.

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

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

3.6. Competitors must not use bolts or quickdraws as climbing aids. This includes pulling on or standing on bolts or quickdraws.

3.7. Any use of a prohibited hold, feature, area or aid constitutes an illegal action and may result in the attempt being terminated.

4. Attempts and Attempt Termination

4.1. Each competitor is permitted **one attempt per route**. A second attempt is not permitted unless authorised by the Head Judge following a technical incident under Section 8.

4.2. Each attempt is subject to the six-minute time limit specified in Section 1.

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

- The competitor touches the floor after leaving the ground to begin climbing.
- The competitor uses a prohibited hold, feature, out-of-bounds area or other illegal aid.
- The competitor rests on or falls onto the rope.
- The six-minute time limit expires.
- The competitor is instructed to stop by the judge or belayer in accordance with these rules.

4.4. When notified of an attempt termination, the competitor must stop climbing and follow the instructions of the judge and belayer. The competitor must not resume the attempt unless the Head Judge authorises a further attempt under the technical incident procedure.

4.5. Where an illegal action occurs, the judge or belayer may instruct the competitor to stop climbing. The competitor must comply immediately.

5. Clipping Rules for Lead Climbing

5.1. Lead climbers must clip the rope into the route's quickdraws in the correct sequence. Competitors must not skip a clip.

5.2. If a competitor skips a clip, the judge or belayer may call this out and give the competitor an opportunity to climb down and correct the sequence.

5.3. If the competitor is unable to correct a skipped clip, the attempt will end. The competitor will be awarded the points for the highest scoring hold they controlled up to the point at which the missed clip should have been made.

5.4. A **Z-clip** occurs when the rope is clipped into a quickdraw in the wrong sequence, resulting in the rope running through a lower quickdraw than intended. The belayer should identify and coach the competitor through correcting a Z-clip.

5.5. Following a Z-clip, the competitor will be given an opportunity to correct the error and continue climbing. If the competitor cannot correct it, the attempt will end and the competitor will be awarded the points for the highest scoring hold they controlled up to that point.

5.6. Backclipping is permitted up to **two consecutive times**. If a competitor backclips for a third consecutive time, the competitor will be instructed to come down and the attempt will end.

5.7. Competitors must comply promptly with any instruction from the judge or belayer concerning clipping errors or rope safety.

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 **99 points**. Each scoring hold below the top hold is worth two fewer points than the hold immediately above it in the intended sequence.

6.1.3. Points are awarded only when the judge determines that the competitor has controlled the hold. Control means establishing a stable position and weighting the hold through a pushing or pulling action. Briefly touching a hold is not sufficient.

6.1.4. A competitor who climbs down and subsequently falls will retain the points for the highest scoring hold they successfully controlled during that attempt.

6.2. Positive movement points

6.2.1. An additional point may be awarded for making a significant 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. Route completion points

6.3.1. A successful route completion is awarded **100 points**, subject to the following requirements:

- **Top rope:** The competitor must match the designated top hold with both hands and demonstrate control.
- **Lead:** The competitor must successfully clip the chains or anchor from any hold on the route.

6.3.2. A competitor who touches the top hold but does not meet the relevant completion requirement will not be awarded 100 points for completing the route.

6.4. Minimum score

6.4.1. A competitor will not receive a score of zero for a route they attempt.

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

6.4.3. Where an attempt ends before the route is completed, the competitor will be awarded the points for the highest scoring hold they controlled, subject to the rules concerning clipping errors and technical incidents.

6.5. Recording scores

6.5.1. Judges will primarily manage and record scores on competitors' scorecards throughout the session.

6.5.2. Competitors must hand their scorecard into reception promptly after completing their session. Failure to submit a scorecard may result in the competitor's results being omitted.

6.5.3. Any concern regarding a recorded score or judging decision must be raised immediately after the relevant attempt in accordance with Section 9.

7. Coaching and Encouragement

7.1. Verbal encouragement is permitted, provided it does not instruct the competitor how to complete the route.

7.2. General encouragement, such as “You can do this” or “Keep going”, is permitted.

7.3. 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.

7.4. Parents, coaches and spectators must comply with any instruction issued by event officials concerning coaching or competitor conduct.

7.5. A parent or coach who provides prohibited coaching may receive a warning and may be required to leave the event if the behaviour continues.

8. Technical Incidents

8.1. A technical incident is an event that disadvantages a competitor for a reason not caused by the competitor. Examples include:

- A hold spinning or breaking.
- A poorly positioned clip that affects the competitor's ability to climb or clip safely.
- Rope tightness that impedes the competitor's movement.

8.2. If a competitor believes a technical incident has occurred, they must stop the attempt and report it immediately to the judge or belayer.

8.3. All technical incidents must be referred to the Head Judge for a decision.

8.4. A competitor who chooses to continue climbing after a technical incident without stopping and reporting it immediately will not be permitted to raise that incident once back on the ground.

8.5. Where the Head Judge determines that a technical incident has occurred, the competitor may be permitted to climb the route again.

8.6. Where a competitor is authorised to re-climb a route following a technical incident, the **higher score from the two attempts will be awarded.**

8.7. The Head Judge is responsible for determining whether an incident qualifies as a technical incident and whether a further attempt is permitted.

9. Judging and Score Disputes

9.1. Judges are responsible for observing attempts, applying these rules and recording the relevant results. Competitors must follow the instructions of judges and belayers throughout the competition.

9.2. 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.**

9.3. Competitors, parents and coaches must not attempt to negotiate or dispute a decision directly with the individual route judge. The judge will refer the matter to the Head Judge.

9.4. The Head Judge is responsible for considering score disputes, reviewing relevant decisions and clarifying the application of these rules.

9.5. 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, climbing-centre staff and spectators.

10.2. All attendees must treat others with respect. Abusive, threatening, discriminatory, bullying or deliberately unkind behaviour is prohibited.

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 will result in immediate expulsion from the event.

10.5. Competitors, parents and coaches must comply with reasonable instructions issued by the event organisers, judges, belayers 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 MYCS maintain a fair, safe and welcoming competition environment for everyone.