



BOULDER RULES FOR YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

~~TO BE USED AT THE 2021 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, VORONEZH (RUS)~~

This document is valid ~~exclusively~~ for the ~~2021-2022~~ Youth World Championships, ~~Dallas (USA) Voronezh (RUS)~~ ~~where due to covid-19 restrictions and the expected number of athletes attending youth competitions adjustments to the competition format were required.~~

The following text replaces the respective current version of the IFSC Rules, which apply in all other relevant circumstances.

NEW DEFINITIONS

Climbing Period means the maximum amount of time allowed for each competitor's attempt(s) on a route or boulder;

Rotation Period means the time between the start of successive Climbing Periods;

8. BOULDER

General

8.1 Boulder competitions shall:

- A) take place on short routes ("boulders") constructed on purpose-designed artificial climbing walls, climbed without ropes;
- B) be organised with:
 - 1) A Qualification round consisting of a two courses ("A" and "B") each of three (3) boulders for each Category; and
 - 2) A Final and/or Semi-Final round(s) each consisting of a single course of four (4) boulders for each Category,

in exceptional circumstances the Jury President may cancel up to one (1) boulder in any round.

8.2 Design of boulders:

- A) each boulder shall be designed:
 - 1) to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor;
 - 2) without any downward jumps.
- B) the maximum number of handholds on one boulder should be 12 and the average number of



handholds per boulder in any round should be between four (4) and eight (8).

- C) each boulder shall be clearly marked to identify:
 - 1) **“Starting Holds”** for both hands and both feet which shall not include blank or unbounded parts of the Climbing Surface. The Starting Holds should not be marked with specific positions for the hands.
 - 2) a **“Zone Hold”**, which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance.
 - 3) a **“Top”**, which shall be either:
 - a) a marked finishing hold (the **“Top Hold”**); or
 - b) a standing position on top of the boulder,
- D) the markings used on each boulder shall indicate:
 - 1) the Starting Holds/Top in the same colour;
 - 2) the Zone Hold using a different colour,

in each case using a different colour to any other demarcation on the Climbing Surface. An example of these markings shall be installed within the Isolation Zone, which should be the same for the entire duration of a competition.

- 8.3 A timing system shall be used in each round to display the time remaining within each Rotation Period. The timing system shall:
- A) be visible to all competitors on the Field of Play and in each Transit Zone;
 - B) show the remaining Climbing Period, rounded up to whole seconds;
 - C) provide audio signals to announce:
 - 1) the start of the Climbing Period and Rotation Period;
 - 2) when one minute of Climbing Period remains; and
 - 3) the end of the Climbing Period and Rotation Period .

Safety

- 8.4 Safety matting shall be used to protect each boulder:
- A) the Chief Route-Setter shall adjust the number and character of the boulders to the safety matting available. If mats are joined, gaps shall be covered in order to avoid competitors falling in between them.
 - B) the Jury President, the IFSC Judge and the Chief Route-Setter shall inspect each boulder and the safety matting prior to the start of each round to identify and address any safety risks.



Starting order and quotas

- 8.5 Each qualification round course for a given Category should be of similar overall difficulty and character.
- 8.6 The quotas for the Semi-Final and Final round shall be 20 and six (6) respectively. The quota for each round shall be filled with the best ranked competitors from the previous completed round. If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall qualify.
- 8.7 The starting order:
- A) for the Qualification round shall be determined as follow:
 - 1) for course A, grouping competitors by Member Federation (in random order) and randomised within each such group; and
 - 2) for course B, in the same order as for course A but staggered by 50%, placing the stagger as close as possible to the exact 50 percentile without splitting any group of competitors from the same Member Federation. Where the stagger does not bisect the starting list exactly, the Jury President may introduce a delay to ensure competitors starting on each course remain paired.
 - B) for each subsequent round, will be the reverse of the ranking from the preceding round, i.e. the best ranked starts last. Where competitors are tied, their starting order will be:
 - 1) where the tied competitors each have a World Ranking, in descending order of their World Ranking. i.e. best ranked starts last;
 - 2) where the tied competitors are each unranked or have the same World Ranking, randomised;
 - 3) where competitor(s) having a World Ranking and unranked competitor(s) are tied, the unranked competitor shall start first,

and in each case will be published in an Official Start List.

Competition procedure

- 8.8 The Final and Semi-Final of Boulder competitions shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions. Competitors eligible to compete in any round of a competition must report to the Isolation Zone by the time stated on the Official Start List for that round, competitors who have not reported to the Isolation Zone or who are not present in the Isolation Zone at such time will not be eligible to start the round.
- 8.9 There shall be a minimum time gap:
- A) of not less than 50 minutes between the completion of a competitor's attempt on their first qualification course and commencing their second qualification course; and
 - B) Where consecutive rounds of a competition take place on the same day, there will be a minimum time gap of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round.
- 8.10 In the Qualification and Semi-Final rounds, each competitor participating in the round:
- A) will start their attempts on each boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time.



- B) will attempt each boulder of the relevant course in the prescribed order;
- C) will have a defined resting period equal to the Rotation Period in between their attempts on each successive boulder,

and at the end of each Climbing Period:

- D) the competitors that were climbing shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any boulder not yet attempted (during the Semi-Final round only).
- E) the competitors that were resting shall be directed into the Competition Area so that at the start of the next Rotation Period they may either commence their attempts on the next boulder in succession or having finished the course, leave the Competition Area.

8.11 The Final round:

- A) shall be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round;
- B) for each Category:
 - 1) each boulder will be attempted by all competitors in the order set out on the Official Start List;
 - 2) once a competitor has finished their attempts, they will return to a separate Transit and the next competitor will start;
 - 3) once all competitors have completed their attempts on a boulder, the competitors will move on to the next boulder as a group.

Observation procedure

8.12 Observation

- A) Each boulder within the Qualification round should be demonstrated by forerunners on a video recording continuously played back in the Warm-Up Area, starting not later than 60 minutes before the scheduled start of the round. It is not necessary that this demonstration show a successful attempt on the boulder.
- B) There will be no separate observation period for the Semi-Final round.
- C) the Final round shall be preceded by a collective observation for period of two (2) minutes per boulder.
 - 1) during this period, competitors may touch (only) the marked Starting Holds and are prohibited from using any recording equipment.
 - 2) at the end of this period, competitors will return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by the IFSC Officials.



Climbing procedure

8.13 Climbing Periods and Rotation Period for each round will be as follow:

Round	Climbing Period	Rotation Period
Qualification	4 min	4 min 15 sec
Semi Final	5 min	5 min
Final	4 min	4 min

and each competitor may make unlimited attempts on any boulder within the Climbing Period. Each boulder must be attempted in its entirety and competitors must not practice or “work” any part of a boulder during any Rotation Period.

8.14 Each boulder should be cleaned before any competitor begins their first attempt. Competitors may at any time:

- A) clean any part of the boulder that they can reach without making use of any hold;
- B) request that any part of the boulder be cleaned,

and only brushes and other materiel provided by the Event Organiser may be used for these purposes.

8.15 A competitor’s attempt will be deemed to have:

- A) Started when every part of the competitor’s body has left the ground.
- B) Finished when:
 - 1) Successful;
 - 2) they have fallen or touched the ground after starting; or
 - 3) the attempt has been terminated by the boulder judge or an IFSC Official as:
 - a) Unsuccessful; or
 - b) if a Technical Incident has occurred.

Judging and scoring

8.16 Each boulder shall be judged by at least one (1) National Judge who shall record:

- A) the number of attempts made by each competitor. An attempt will be counted each time the competitor:
 - 1) makes either a Correct or Incorrect start;
 - 2) prior to starting, touches or makes use of any Artificial Hold or Structure other than:
 - a) the Starting Holds, or



- b) any Artificial Hold or Structure which is fixed or positioned so as to modify the usable part(s) of any Starting Hold (a “**Blocker Hold**”);
 - 3) adds any “tick marks”,
- and in respect of (2) and (3), a disciplinary sanction may also be applied.
- B) on which attempts the competitor Controls or Uses the Zone Hold;
 - C) on which attempt the competitor Successfully completes the boulder.
- 8.17 A competitor’s attempt will be:
- A) judged “**Unsuccessful**” if:
 - 1) the competitor has made an Incorrect start;
 - 2) the competitor has touched the safety matting after leaving the ground;
 - 3) the Rotation Period has expired;
 - 4) the competitor has made use of any Artificial Aid,and where a competitor makes an Unsuccessful attempt, the boulder judge shall order the relevant attempt terminated, and
 - B) otherwise judged “**Successful**” where the competitor is in a Controlled position:
 - 1) with both hands matched on the Top Hold; or
 - 2) standing on top of the boulder,and in each case the boulder judge has raised a hand and announced “OK”.
- 8.18 A competitor’s start will be judged:
- A) “**Correct**” where the competitor achieves a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds without Controlling or Using any other Artificial Holds or Structures. For the avoidance of doubt, when starting a boulder, a competitor may:
 - 1) touch, Control or Use any part of the Climbing Surface in order to attain the Starting Holds; and/or
 - 2) touch any Blocker Hold(s).
 - B) “**Incorrect**” where the competitor
 - 1) Fails to achieve a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds; or
 - 2) Controls or Uses any Artificial Holds or other Structures not marked as Starting Holds before achieving a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds.



Ranking

8.19 In each round:

- A) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the round will be unranked in the round and their result marked with the appropriate IRM.
- B) each competitor starting the round shall be ranked using the following criteria:
 - 1) in descending order, the number of Successfully completed boulders (“Tops”);
 - 2) in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:
 - a) Controlled or Used (in either case, with one or other hand) the Zone Hold; or
 - b) successfully completed the boulder without having Controlled or Used the Zone Hold, this number being the “Zone Points” awarded;
 - 3) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Tops;
 - 4) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Zone Points,

aggregating the results from all courses in the round:

8.20 Semi-Final & Final rankings

If any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Article 8.19, their relative ranking shall be determined:

- A) by count-back to their rankings from the previous round;
- B) if, in respect of the Final round (or where the Final round was cancelled, the Semi-Final round), any competitors are tied in equal 1st, 2nd or 3rd place following count-back, the relative ranking of these competitors will be determined by comparing the best results for each such competitor:
 - 1) starting with the number of Tops attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Tops attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on; and
 - 2) where the comparison in (a) cannot break any tie, by comparing the number of Zones attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Zones attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on,

where competitors remain tied following (1) and (2), the results of such competitors shall be considered equal.

8.21 General ranking:

The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

- A) competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and
- B) where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking, in that order; and
- C) competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order.



Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 8.22 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official IFSC broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:
- A) the Starting Holds for each boulder;
 - B) the Zone Hold for each boulder; and
 - C) the Top for each boulder;
 - D) any demarcations marked on the Climbing Surface.
- 8.23 If a competitor, Team Official or boulder judge considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the IFSC Judge prior to commencing any further attempts. No Technical Incident shall be considered where notification is made following the start of the next rotation period.
- 8.24 The IFSC Judge, if necessary in consultation with an IFSC Route-Setter, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. For the avoidance of doubt, the following matters shall not be considered as Technical Incidents:
- A) the interruption of a competitor's attempts to stop bleeding;
- 8.25 An Appeal which if upheld:
- A) would entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s):
 - 1) if made by the relevant competitor, may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable;
 - 2) if made by a Team Official, must be made in writing,and in each case must be made:
 - a) in respect of the Qualification or Semi-Final rounds, before the finish of the next following rotation period; or
 - b) in respect of the Final round, prior to the next competitor starting their attempts.
 - B) would not entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s), must be made in writing and:
 - 1) in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final rounds, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
 - 2) in respect of the Final round, upon the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result (or where no Provision Result is displayed, the Official Result).
- 8.26 Where a confirmed Technical Incident or an Appeal covered by Article 8.25(A):
- A) the current rotation period will be paused for the competitor(s) affected by the incident (as determined by the Jury President);
 - B) the commencement of the next rotation period will be paused until (i) the incident is resolved and (ii)



those affected have completed their attempts, following which the round will resume as directed by the Jury President; and

C) each competitor will act as directed by the Jury President. For the avoidance of doubt, any competitor who leaves the Competition Area prior to the matter being resolved will not be permitted to resume their attempts.

8.27 When a competitor who has suffered a Technical Incident or who has been the subject of an Appeal resumes climbing:

- A) they shall be allowed the time remaining when the relevant incident occurred, with a minimum of two (2) minutes; and
- B) their next attempt:
 - 1) in the case of a Technical Incident, shall be deemed a continuation of the prior attempt; and
 - 2) in the case of a determined Appeal, may be deemed as either:
 - a) a continuation of the prior attempt; or
 - b) as a new attempt,

in each case as the circumstances dictate.