International Tree Climbing Championship

RULE BOOK

Valid from 1 October 2026

HOW TO USE THIS RULE BOOK

It is the responsibility of the judges, officials, technicians, and competitors to review the rules in their entirety before the start of the competition. The rules are presented from general to specific; that is, rules that apply to the entire competition are at the beginning. Rules for individual events then follow.

Each section is identified by a unique number to help you navigate the Rule Book. For example, all rules associated with the Work Climb begin with the number 3. A summary of the event can be found at the beginning of each event section. The summary is not a rule but an overview of the event. The actual rules for each event follow the summary. At the end of each section is a list of mandatory and discretionary penalties and reasons for disqualifications, which can also be found in each Quick Reference Guide (Appendix 9).

Rules that have been added or changed since the last revision are highlighted in bold. The rules for the Footlock Event are online. If you plan to run a Footlock Event or a Head-to-Head Footlock, visit www.itcc-isa.com/rulesregulations /rules. Starting with this Rule Book, the World Record Attempt for the Secured Footlock has been changed to the ITCC Record for Head-to Head Ascent. Please see Appendix 1 for the ITCC Record Criteria and Appendix 2 for the Head-to-Head Ascent guideline and rules.

The Rule Book is updated using the feedback from competitors and volunteers throughout the years. Thank you to the 2026 Rules Committee for their time developing this set of rules:

Tim Bushnell, Committee Chair
Warren Williams, Past Chair
David James, ITCC Head Judge
Henk Morgans, APTCC Head Judge
Peter Vergote, ETCC Head Judge
Adrian Ornelas, LATCC Head Judge
Jason Diehl, NATCC Head Judge
Mike Tilford, ITCC Head Technician
Rip Tompkins, Advisory Member

This set of rules will be valid from 1 October 2026.

If you have questions or suggestions that you would like sent to the ITCC Rules Committee, would like to volunteer your assistance at ITCC, and/or have an idea for how the event could be improved, email the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) office at itcc@isa-arbor.com, call +1 (678) 367-0981, or write to ISA, 270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1900, Atlanta, GA 30303, USA.

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ITCC HALL OF CHAMPIONS

Year	Location	Champion	Chapter
1976	St. Louis, Missouri (US)	Tom Gosnell (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
1977	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (US)	Tom Smith (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
1978	Toronto, Ontario (Canada)	Sam Noonan (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
1979	San Diego, California (US)	Sam Noonan (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
1980	Hartford, Connecticut (US)	Paul Harlow (M)	New England Chapter ISA (US)
1981	B. Falls, Michigan (US)	Bob Hunter (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
1982	Louisville, Kentucky (US)	Bob Hunter (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
1983	Indianapolis, Indiana (US)	Bob Maltby (M)	New England Chapter ISA (US)
1984	Quebec, Quebec (Canada)	Rick Husband (M)	ISA Texas (US)
1985	Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US)	Steve Bannan (M)	Penn-Del Chapter ISA (US)
1986	San Antonio, Texas (US)	Craig Cutler (M)	New Jersey Arborists (US)
1987	N/A	No Insurance	No Jamboree
1988	N/A	No Insurance	No Jamboree
1989	St. Charles, Illinois (US)	Bob Weber (M)	Penn-Del Chapter ISA (US)
1990	Toronto, Ontario (Canada)	Greg Clemens (M)	Ohio Chapter ISA (US)
1991	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (US)	Ken Palmer (M)	New England Chapter ISA (US)
1992	Oakland, California (US)	Bob Weber (M)	Penn-Del Chapter ISA (US)
1993	Bismarck, North Dakota (US)	Ken Palmer (M)	New England Chapter ISA (US)
1994	Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada)	Jim Harris (M)	Pacific Northwest ISA (US & Canada)
1995	Hilton Head, South Carolina (US)	Ken Palmer (M)	New England Chapter ISA (US)
1996	Cleveland, Ohio (US)	Rip Tompkins (M)	New England Chapter ISA (US)
1997	Salt Lake City, Utah (US)	Mark Chisholm (M)	New Jersey Arborists (US)
1998	Birmingham, England	Michael Cotter (M)	Mid-Atlantic Chapter ISA (US)

Year	Location	Champion	Chapter
1999	Stamford, Connecticut (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter/ ISA Austria Chapter
2000	Baltimore, Maryland (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter/ ISA Austria Chapter
2001	Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US)	Mark Chisholm (M)	New Jersey Arborists (US)
		Christina Engel (F)	ISA Germany Chapter/ ISA Austria Chapter
2002	Seattle, Washington (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Wenda Li (F)	ISA Ontario Chapter (Canada)
2003	Montreal, Quebec (Canada)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Kiah Martin (F)	Arboriculture Australia (Australia)
2004	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Kathy Holzer (F)	Pacific Northwest ISA (US & Canada)
2005	Nashville, Tennessee (US)	Dan Kraus (M)	Pacific Northwest ISA (US & Canada)
		Chrissy Spence (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2006	Minneapolis, Minnesota (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Elena O'Neill (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2007	Honolulu, Hawaii (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Chrissy Spence (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2008	St. Louis, Missouri (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Josephine Hedger (F)	The Arboricultural Association (United Kingdom/Ireland)
2009	Providence, Rhode Island (US)	Jared Abrojena (M)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
		Anja Erni (F)	Bund Schweizer Baumpflege (Switzerland)
2010	Chicago, Illinois (US)	Mark Chisholm (M)	New Jersey Arborists (US)

Year	Location	Champion	Chapter
		Josephine Hedger (F)	The Arboricultural Association (United Kingdom/Ireland)
2011	Sydney/Parramatta (Australia)	Scott Forrest (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Chrissy Spence (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2012	Portland, Oregon (US)	Bernd Strasser (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Veronika Ericsson (F)	Svenska Trädföreningens (Sweden)
2013	Toronto, Ontario (Canada)	Scott Forrest (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Nicala Ward-Allen (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2014	Milwaukee, Wisconsin (US)	Scott Forrest (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Josephine Hedger (F)	The Arboricultural Association (United Kingdom/Ireland)
2015	Tampa, Florida (US)	James Earhart (M)	Mid-Atlantic Chapter ISA (US)
		Jamilee Kempton (F)	Western Chapter ISA (US)
2016	San Antonio, Texas (US)	James Kilpatrick (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Chrissy Spence (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2017	Washington, D.C. (US)	James Kilpatrick (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Chrissy Spence (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2018	Columbus, Ohio (US)	James Kilpatrick (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Krista Strating (F)	ISA Ontario Chapter (Canada)
2019	Knoxville, Tennessee (US)	Scott Forrest (M)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
		Josephine Hedger (F)	The Arboricultural Association (United Kingdom/Ireland)

Year	Location	Champion	Chapter
2022	Copenhagen (Denmark)	Barton Allen-Hall (M)	Arboriculture Australia (Australia)
		Josephine Hedger (F)	The Arboricultural Association (United Kingdom/Ireland)
2023	Albuquerque, New Mexico (USA)	Barton Allen-Hall (M)	Arboriculture Australia (Australia)
		Josephine Hedger (F)	The Arboricultural Association (United Kingdom/Ireland)
2024	Savannah, Georgia (USA)	Barton Allen-Hall (M)	Arboriculture Australia (Australia)
		Steph Dryfhout (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association
2025	Christchurch, New Zealand	James Kilpatrick (M)	ISA Germany Chapter
		Steph Dryfhout (F)	New Zealand Arboricultural Association

CURRENT ITCC MEN'S ASCENT WORLD RECORD (15 METERS):

Viktor von Magnus, Germany

World-Record Time: 8:23 (Set at 2026 ETCC, Gijón, Spain)

CURRENT ITCC WOMEN'S ASCENT WORLD RECORD (15 METERS):

Brianna Uivel, New Zealand

World-Record Time: 12.286 (Set at 2026 Australian TCC, Sandy Bay, Tasmania)

CURRENT ITCC MEN'S FOOTLOCK WORLD RECORD (15 METERS):

James Kilpatrick, New Zealand – New Zealand Arboricultural Association

World-Record Time: 13.65 (Set at 2011 APTCC, Singapore)

CURRENT ITCC WOMEN'S FOOTLOCK WORLD RECORD (15 METERS):

Nicky Ward-Allen, New Zealand – New Zealand Arboricultural Association

World-Record Time: 19.55 (Set at 2018 New Zealand Chapter/Wellington Regional TCC)

To view all current and past ITCC champions and record holders, visit: www.itcc-isa.com/events/itcc/hallofchampions.

INTRODUCTION

Tree climbing competitions are held in countries around the world. Each chapter or associate organization and each regional event of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is allowed to send one male and one female climber to compete for the title of World Champion at ISA's Annual International Tree Climbing Championship™ (ITCC). Climbers are selected as a result of their demonstrated exceptional abilities in their chapter championships.

Tree climbing competitions began in 1976, with the first ISA Tree Trimmer's Jamboree in St. Louis, Missouri. The Jamboree was initially established to preserve classic skills so that when it came to a real-life aerial rescue, a climber with nothing more than a rope could save a life.

The competition has grown, its purpose has expanded, and the name has changed to the International Tree Climbing Championship to reflect the global expansion of eligible competitions. Competitions promote safe working practices, demonstrate improvements and innovations in equipment and techniques, and provide industry recognition to the public. It is also an opportunity for climbers to gather and exchange ideas with their professional peers.

The first competition had four events: Work Climb, Aerial Rescue, Rope Throw, and Footlock or Body Thrust Speed Climb. The competitor who received the most points was declared the Champion. This eventually morphed into five events: Work Climb, Aerial Rescue, Throwline, Footlock, and Speed Climb. Again, the competitor with the highest point total was declared the winner. The format for the ITCC changed in 1996. In addition to the five preliminary events, the competitors who accumulated the highest combined point totals in the preliminary events earned the right to move on to the championship round, the Masters' Challenge.

Competitors who advance to the Masters' Challenge start fresh and no preliminary points earned are carried forward. A total of 300 points may be earned in the Masters' Challenge event. The winners, one from each division, are named the World Champions and are also awarded an automatic position in the next year's ITCC.

This format remained largely unchanged until 2017. With ever-evolving equipment and techniques pushing the industry forward, Footlock was becoming a thing of the past. That year marked the launch of the Ascent Event as an official preliminary event. The Ascent Event is intended to push climbers to think critically about their systems and to innovate for safer and more efficient climbing systems.

1 COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 General Requirements

1.1.1 All competitors are required to attend all mandatory meetings. Due to special circumstances, exceptions may be made only with the Head Judge's approval. Failure to attend mandatory meetings without prior approval of the Head Judge may result in disqualification from the entire event.

1.1.2 The pre-event meetings are conducted to inspect equipment; review rules and regulations; introduce the competitors, judges, and officials; verify registrations and sign a standard insurance waiver; and discuss and answer questions before the event.

1.1.3 It is each competitor's responsibility to bring any questions about equipment or rules and regulations to the judges' attention at these meetings.

1.1.4 It is each competitor's responsibility to have all new equipment approved for competition by ISA at least three months prior to the event, using the submission form at https://www.itcc-isa.com/Rules-and-Regulations/Equipment/Submission-for-Approval. No new equipment will be reviewed on the day of the competition.

1.1.5 It is each competitor's responsibility to read and understand the rules and conditions of the competition prior to the event. Competitors shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during the competition. Failure to do so may result in immediate disqualification and dismissal from the event.

1.1.6 Competitors shall not watch or be in the immediate area during the setup of competition events. Failure to abide by this rule will be viewed as misconduct (see Rule 1.2).

1.1.7 It is the responsibility of each competitor to be at each event at the scheduled time.

1.1.8 Competitors shall report to the Event Head Judge before they are scheduled to start an event. If a competitor does not report to the Event Head Judge within 5 minutes of the scheduled starting time, the competitor forfeits that event.

1.1.9 It is each competitor's responsibility to enter the arena with the required equipment stipulated for each event. Once the event has started, no additional equipment can be brought into the arena. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification from that event.

1.1.10 Competitors not currently competing shall not approach or talk to event judges while the event is in progress without the prior consent

of the Event Head Judge. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.

1.1.11 A competitor may not leave the designated event area once the event time has started.

1.1.12 A competitor cannot score less than 0 in any of the five preliminary events.

1.2 Misconduct or Unsafe Act

1.2.1 Event Head Judges will enforce the rules for their individual event, including infractions of the misconduct rule. A misconduct disqualification will be enforced by the competition's Head Judge on any competitor who has displayed inappropriate, unprofessional, and/or unsportinglike behavior during participation in or after the completion of an event.

1.2.2 The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances by any competitor, judge, technician, or another official will result in immediate disqualification and removal of the individual from participation in the championship events.

1.2.3 Unsafe act—Any action, situation, or condition that is deemed unsafe at the discretion of the event judges.

1.3 General Penalties and Disqualifications

This section covers general penalties and disqualifications that exist across all events. Event-specific penalties and disqualifications will be listed under each event. Accumulation or severity could result in disqualification.

1.3.1 Penalties—The penalties listed below cover all events:

a. Breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition

b. Unsporting behavior or conduct (see Appendix 5)

c. Unsafe act (see Rule 1.2.3)

d. Dangerous/uncontrolled movement

e. Failure to issue an audible warning

1.3.2 Disqualifications

a. Being more than 5 minutes late

b. Failure to have all required equipment once the event time has started (see Rule 1.1.9)

c. Leaving the predesignated area or bringing in equipment from outside the predesignated area once the official time has begun

d. Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft

e. Incurring penalties based on the individual event rules

f. Failure to remain secured while aloft

g. Misconduct

h. Unsafe act

i. Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size

1.4 Official Protests

1.4.1 Competitors may file an official protest if they feel they have been judged unfairly or incorrectly. Protests shall be made on an official protest form, which is available from Event Staff **(see Appendix 10). (2026)**

1.4.2 All protests shall be signed and submitted in writing by the competitor to the Tree Climbing Championship (TCC) Head Judge within 1 hour of the alleged rule infraction. The TCC Head Judge, Head Tech, and available Rules Committee member(s) will review the protest and make a ruling.

1.4.3 Misconduct in the presentation or discussion of protest is cause for immediate withdrawal of protest rights and/or possible disqualification.

2 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 Each ISA chapter, ISA associate organization, and ISA regional event may send only one male and one female climber to represent the chapter, associate organization, **or region** to the international competition. There are two exceptions to this rule:

a. The previous year's world champions are invited back to defend their titles. The chapters **or associate organizations** with the current world champions are allowed to send additional climbers to compete as the chapters' representatives.

b. ISA may invite additional qualified climbers to compete at the **regional competition**. Climbers shall be the champions or runners-up of a local or regional ISA-sanctioned climbing championship and **not members of a represented component**. **(2026)**

2.1.2 To be eligible to send a competitor(s) to the ITCC or a regional event (APTCC, ETCC, LATCC, and NATCC), an ISA chapter or ISA associate organization shall:

a. hold a competition consisting of a set of five preliminary events, as outlined in the ITCC Rule Book, to determine finalists who compete in a Masters' Challenge event. The competition champions are the winners of the Masters' Challenge.

b. **clearly state the parameters for competitors to be subsequently nominated by the chapter or associate organization to compete at the regional event or ITCC. (2026)**

c. adhere to all competition rules as outlined in the ITCC Rule Book, as well as all other competition and equipment notifications and requirements.

2.1.3 In the event a TCC is impacted by influences outside the control of the organizers, such as inclement severe weather or other circumstances that do not allow for a safe and/or practical way to complete the planned-for Masters' Challenge, the chapter or associate organization should declare a winner of each division using the results of the preliminary events. The division winner is the top-placed competitor in each division with the highest combined total points from the preliminary events.

2.1.4 In the event that there are only one or two competitors in a division (male or female) at a regional, chapter, or associate organization level, the potential climber representative shall be deemed to be eligible to compete at ITCC if the criteria outlined in Appendix 4 are met.

2.1.5 All competitors shall be members of ISA prior to the start of the competition. All competitors shall be at least 16 years of age prior to the start of the competition. Competitors who are 16 or 17 years old at the start of the competition shall have legal guardian consent and may have to demonstrate the appropriate skills to compete safely.

2.2 Operations

2.2.1 It is the responsibility of the judges, technicians, and officials to read and understand the rules and regulations, to be able to interpret them in the spirit of the competition, and to enforce the competitors' adherence

to them. All judges, technicians, and officials are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner at all times during the competition.

2.2.2 A random drawing is held by the championship committee before the organization meeting to determine the order in which the participants will complete the events.

2.2.3 Competitors will be advised in advance of the competition of any rule changes or modifications to the competition setup deemed necessary for the safety of the competitors or the competitive requirements of the event.

2.2.4 Once a competitor has begun an event, the Event Head Judge may instruct the competitor to stop if the judges need time to assess potential safety concerns, clarify rules, or take a closer look at equipment installation. The clock will stop with no time penalty to the climber. Official time will begin again when the Event Head Judge says "Go" and instructs the competitor to proceed.

2.3 Equipment

2.3.1 All equipment used shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard, unless otherwise specified in this document, and shall reflect industry best practices. Equipment shall be considered appropriate for use in tree climbing. If equipment is not clearly labeled to provide an industry-standard mark, it is the user's responsibility to provide written evidence in English, to be retained by the Head Judge, that the equipment is manufactured to meet the accepted industry standard for that piece of equipment and its application.

2.3.2 No alterations to equipment from its original manufacturer's design will be allowed without the express written consent of the manufacturer.

2.3.3 All components used within any configuration shall meet the criteria of Rule 2.3.1 and be compatible with one another (see Appendix 5).

2.3.4 It is the responsibility of each competitor, judge, technician, and/or volunteer to ensure that all equipment meets Rule 2.3.1 and is fully functional, clean, and contaminant free. This includes ensuring that all cutting tools have been disinfected before starting work on the ITCC trees.

2.3.5 If a competitor has a question about the legality of a climbing technique, system, or knot/hitch, it is the competitor's responsibility to have that technique, system, or knot/hitch approved by the Head Technician during the competitors' meetings. The Head Technician may consult with the

ITCC Chairperson, ITCC Head Judge, and Rules Committee technical member, at which point the group will address the question and make a ruling. (The group may consult with other technical experts if necessary to reach a decision.) Prior to the competition, competitors may also visit the ITCC Rules website (https://www.itcc-isa.com/rules-regulations/rules) for more information about safety warnings, hardware configurations, and the legality or approval of climbing techniques used in ITCC competitions. Final approval for competitors' climbing techniques will be made at the competition gear inspection.

2.3.6 Any equipment that does not meet the ITCC gear inspection standards will be tagged and quarantined prior to the competition and will not be returned until the completion of the event. It is the competitor's responsibility to claim the equipment at the time designated by the ITCC officials.

2.3.7 During the competition, if a competitor has a question about any equipment, or the legality of a climbing technique, that cannot be answered by the Event Head Judge, then the ITCC Chairperson, Head Judge, Head Technician, and Rules Committee member will address the question and make a ruling.

2.3.8 All climbing equipment is subject to reinspection and approval by the judges or technicians before each event. Competitors' equipment shall meet or exceed required standards by the time they are scheduled to start an event. Otherwise, the competitor shall forfeit that event. The required equipment for an event is specified in the rules for that event and is listed on the scoresheet.

2.3.9 All rope snaps used in a fall-protection/work-positioning system shall be of the self-closing, self-locking type and shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard.

2.3.10 Screw links shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard and be mechanically tightened to ensure that they will not open during use.

2.3.11 A carabiner used as part of a climber's primary fall-protection/work-positioning system shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard. It shall be self-closing, double autolocking, and require a minimum of two separate operations to prepare the gate to open. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.

2.3.12 Connecting links (carabiners, rope snaps, and quick links) used as part of a climber's primary fall-protection/work-positioning system shall not be chain linked to other connecting links.

2.3.13 No equipment used in a fall-protection/work-positioning system should incorporate quick-release mechanisms. Where applicable, quick-release mechanisms shall be replaced with a manufacturer-approved assembly that is not quick release.

2.3.14 Competitors, judges, technicians, and other approved individuals shall wear approved eye protection at all times while inside the event safety perimeter. Permission may be granted by the Event Head Judge for the climber to stop and briefly remove approved eye protection for cleaning, changing, etc. In such cases, the event timing will continue and not be stopped. Approved eye protection shall be impact resistant, provide wraparound eye protection, and be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard.

2.3.15 Competitors, judges, technicians, and other approved individuals shall wear appropriate head protection at all times while inside the event safety perimeter. Hard hats and climbing-style helmets shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard and have been approved by the manufacturer for use in that application.

Competitors and technicians who are working aloft shall wear climbing-style helmets that meet the following criteria:

a. Must be suitable for arboricultural operations

b. Must be properly marked/labeled with ANSI Z89.1, CSA Z94.1, EN397, or EN12492

c. If the helmet is marked with CE EN12492 only, no single vent hole can be larger than 2 cm (0.79 in)

d. Must pass inspection

e. Molten metal splash, flame resistance, and electrical standard compliance are not a concern based on TCC site assessment expectations

2.3.16 Competitors, judges, technicians, and officials shall wear appropriate footwear and clothing during the competition. Appropriate footwear is defined as a boot that covers the foot and ankle and that is constructed with a suitable sole and upper portion. The upper portion of the boot should provide protection from penetration. The sole should provide the proper traction for work on the ground as well as when working aloft. ITCC-issued clothing shall be worn while participating in the preliminary events, participating in the Masters' Challenge, and at all award ceremonies.

2.3.17 All activity aloft shall be done with the aid of a work-positioning or fall-protection system. A competitor shall be secured at all times while aloft.

2.3.18 A suitable fall-protection system requires that the climber be secured at or above waist level.

2.3.19 Incorrect use of work-positioning/fall-protection systems will result in lost points or disqualification at the discretion of the judges. Infractions include failure to manage slack (not having so much slack in the climbing line that the loop of slack hangs below the competitor's knees), brief instances of being open to a fall, or climbing above the tie-in point. Flagrant disregard for this rule will result in disqualification.

2.3.20 When footlocking, a competitor shall not wrap the Prusik cord around their arm.

2.3.21 For the purposes of clarity in this rules document, the term "climbing hitch" includes both traditional hitches tied with cordage (Prusik, *Valdôtain Tresse*, etc.) as well as approved mechanical hitches. All climbing hitches shall be approved prior to being allowed for use in the competition.

2.3.22 It is a competitor's responsibility to show that all cordage used as a climbing hitch has been approved by the manufacturer for use in that application.

2.3.23 Lines used for work positioning when using a moving rope system (see Appendix 5) shall be a minimum of 11 mm (0.43 in) in diameter and shall have a minimum breaking strength of 22 kN. Ropes used for ascending and stationary rope systems (see Appendix 5) shall be a minimum of 10 mm (0.39 in) in diameter and shall have a minimum breaking strength of 22 kN. When using stationary rope systems, the competitor shall use a device that meets the criteria indicated in Rule 2.3.1 and is approved by the manufacturer for stationary rope systems as a stand-alone device. The device shall also be compatible for use with the line's diameter and construction. If adequate rope length is in question, a stopper knot shall be installed.

2.3.24 Climbing hitch cords for moving rope applications and those which support the entire system load (stationary rope applications) shall be of a doubled configuration if less than 10 mm (0.39 in) and a minimum diameter of 8 mm (0.31 in). They shall also meet the requirements of Rule 2.3.1. Climbing hitch cords for stationary applications, where the load applied to the hitch is approximately half the system load, shall be of a doubled configuration if less than 8 mm (0.31 in) and a minimum diameter of **6.5 mm** (**0.26 in**). Climbing hitch cord shall be manufactured

from material(s) suitably resistant to the abrasion and temperatures experienced during work and rescue scenarios. Competitors shall perform an "on-rope test" to demonstrate the effectiveness and adjustment of all climbing hitches. **(2026)**

2.3.25 Cords used for work-positioning lanyards shall be a minimum of 10 mm (0.39 in) in diameter and shall meet the minimum strength standards established for climbing lines and meet requirements of Rule 2.3.1.

2.3.26 A competitor using a work-positioning lanyard shall not attach both anchoring points of the system to the same side D-Ring(s) of the harness. Correct loading configurations include:

- Connection from side D-Ring to opposite side D-Ring for horizontal work positioning; shall not be used for suspension.
- Connection to both front D-Rings where available; may be used for suspension if so indicated by the manufacturer of the harness.
- Connection to a fixed or sliding ventral attachment point, singled or doubled; may also be used for suspension. When connecting from the ventral attachment point in a singled configuration and attaching the work-positioning system around a limb back onto a tie-in point on itself, correct loading of the connecting link shall be ensured at all times.

2.3.27 The nonworking end of any lanyard used in a fall-protection /work-positioning system shall have a fixed termination, such as a fixed stopper knot, eye splice, stitched eye, etc., that does not permit the nonworking end of the lanyard to advance through the friction device (climbing hitch, frame-loaded ascender, cam-loaded ascender), or shall be securely connected to a rated connection point on the harness.

2.3.28 A minimum of a double fisherman's bend shall be used to form the Prusik loop. Variations, including an endless splice, may be used with prior approval at gear **inspection**. When footlocking using a Prusik loop, a six-coil Prusik hitch, a Klemheist, or another approved secure climbing hitch shall be used for fall protection. **(2026)**

2.3.29 A competitor is not permitted to place their hands on or above the climbing hitch when it is used to support the full weight of the climber and is the only means of being secured on a stationary rope system. The first offense will generate a warning or penalty. A second offense will generate a disqualification.

2.3.30 A competitor who utilizes a mechanical ascender as a part of a stationary (static) rope system shall also include a system of backup to protect

against an ascender malfunction. Mechanical ascenders on a stationary (static) rope system can be backed up with another ascender on the same line or a pliable Prusik cord that is placed above the mechanical ascender and on the same line as the ascender. If a double-line ascending system is used, both sides of the line shall be backed up independently. Prusik cordage shall meet the requirements of Rule 2.3.24, be able to immediately grip and hold the line, and support the competitor's weight should an ascender fail. All mechanical ascender-climbing systems shall be demonstrated and are subject to prior approval.

2.3.31 Competitors may work from a stationary (static) rope system provided that when using an in-line configuration, engaged ascenders are not within the anchoring system. Fall-protection anchoring systems shall include an approved stopper knot, or hitch on the stationary (static) rope system no more than 45 cm (18 in) below the anchoring system unless the climbing system is directly connected to an approved knot in the access line. Techniques for working from a stationary (static) rope system using an in-line anchor shall have prior approval and be demonstrated both prior to use and during gear inspection.

2.3.32 A competitor will not be permitted to place their hands on or near the cams of ascenders unless the competitor is appropriately secured. The first offense will generate a warning. A second offense will generate a disqualification.

2.3.33 The competitor may not throw or lower any piece of equipment or gear from the tree while working aloft without prior approval from the Event Head Judge. Violation of this rule will result in the competitor being disqualified from that event.

2.3.34 **While working aloft,** a competitor shall sound an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") in any situation where there is the potential for an item (any equipment or part of the tree) to fall. Unless otherwise specified in an individual event, failure to call an audible warning will result in a 3-point penalty. **A second offense will result in an additional 3-point penalty. A third offense will result in disqualification. (2026)**

2.3.35 **If a competitor desires an "extended Stand Clear" for multiple items, the competitor shall call out an audible warning stating their purpose prior to beginning. A second audible warning shall be sounded when the task is completed to end the "extended Stand Clear."**

Example:

- **"Stand Clear. Installing redirect."**

- **Receive "All Clear" from judge**
- **Install redirect with loose gear**
- **Load test redirect**
- **"Redirect installed. All Clear."**
- **Judge confirms "All Clear."**
    - **If the "extended Stand Clear" is not ended by the competitor, the Head Judge will instruct them to return to the "extended Stand Clear" area to provide the audible warning that ends the "extended Stand Clear."**
    - **A 1-point penalty will be assessed for up to 3 infractions, then will result in disqualification. (2026)**

2.3.36 Handsaws used for the competition shall have the teeth covered or removed to prevent injury and also to prevent cutting the bells out of the tree during the competition. Handsaws held in the mouth will result in disqualification.

2.3.37 Handsaws used in the competition shall be no longer than 58 cm (23 in) or shorter than 33 cm (13 in) when measured from the tip of the blade to the end of the handle in a straight line.

3 WORK CLIMB EVENT

3.1 Event Summary

The Work Climb Event tests the competitor's ability to move throughout the tree using approved tree climbing equipment. The event setup is the same for all competitors. Each competitor starts from a staging area in the tree and is required to visit five workstations throughout the tree, performing a specified task at each station. Each station in the tree is equipped with a bell (or horn); the competitor shall ring the bell (or sound the horn) before continuing to the next station.

3.1.1 Points are scored by successfully completing the tasks described at each station and ringing the bell (or sounding the horn) with either a handsaw, pole pruner, or hand, as indicated. At certain stations, additional/bonus points can be earned. Competitors can also lose points for failing to properly complete certain other tasks.

3.1.2 Competitors earn subjective points based on safety, control, style, poise, and creativity at the discretion of the judges. A competitor can be

penalized for unsafe or uncontrolled acts at the discretion of the Event Head Judge. The Event Head Judge shall issue an audible warning to the competitor should this occur. A **third** unsafe or uncontrolled act may result in disqualification. (**2026**)

3.1.3 The time limit for this event is 5 minutes.

3.2 Work Climb Rules

3.2.1 It is the competitor's responsibility to be equipped with and use:

a. an approved climbing-style helmet,

b. approved eye protection,

c. an approved tree-climbing harness,

d. an approved (work-positioning) lanyard,

e. an approved climbing line,

f. appropriate clothing and footwear, and

g. an approved handsaw and scabbard.

3.2.2 All equipment and practices shall satisfy applicable industry safety standards and ITCC Rules.

3.2.3 The competitor's climbing line is set in a predetermined tie-in point. The same tie-in point is to be used by all competitors. Competitors may choose their own route and climbing line placement through the workstations unless otherwise directed by the Event Head Judge, and all competitors shall finish with the landing station.

3.2.4 Once a competitor has been identified to the judges, the competitor is asked if there are any clarifications or questions and is reminded of the event requirements.

3.2.5 The judges start the clock when a competitor signals to the judges by ringing the bell (or sounding the horn) with their hand. The judges stop the time when a competitor has safely landed, is in a standing position, and has fully disconnected the climbing line and climbing hitch from the tree-climbing harness.

3.2.6 Competitors shall be safely tied in with a climbing line and/or secured with a work-positioning lanyard at all times while in the tree. While at each workstation (handsaw, limb toss, pole pruner, and limb walk), the competitor shall be safely tied in with a climbing line and shall be correctly secured with a work-positioning lanyard before ringing the bell (see Rule 2.3.26). A competitor who breaks this rule will receive

an audible warning from the Event Head Judge and a 3-point penalty. A second failure to use the work-positioning lanyard correctly will result in disqualification. Competitors are not required to lanyard in prior to ringing the bell (or sounding the horn) at the landing station.

3.2.7 Competitors shall not break branches (see Rules 3.9.10 and 3.10.3).

3.3 The Handsaw Station

At the handsaw station, the competitor will ring the bell.

3.3.1 To complete the task at this station, the competitor shall, in order:

- 1st – Lanyard in
- 2nd – Call an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") prior to loose equipment and ringing the bell
    - Audible warning only needs to be called once.
- 3rd – Ring the bell with their handsaw

To earn maximum scoring points, the competitor shall also:

- Use their lanyard correctly
- Ring the bell with two hands on the handsaw before continuing to the next station

3.4 The Limb Toss Station

At the limb toss station, competitors have (2) individual attempts to land a section of a limb into a target at ground level. The limb sections shall be approximately 30 cm (12 in) long, have a diameter of approximately 5 cm (2 in), and weigh approximately 450 g (16 oz). The diameter of the target on the ground shall be 75 to 125 cm (30 to 48 in).

3.4.1 Audible warnings shall be given prior to each throw.

3.4.2 To complete the task at this station, the competitor shall, in order:

- 1st – Lanyard in
- 2nd – Call for an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") prior to loose equipment and ringing the bell
    - Audible warning only needs to be called once.
- 3rd – Ring the bell with their handsaw

- 4th – Toss a limb

To earn maximum scoring points, the competitor shall also:

- Use their lanyard correctly
- Ring the bell with two hands on the handsaw, prior to throwing the first limb at the target on the ground
- Hit the target on the first throw

3.4.3 If a competitor attempts to toss two limbs at the target at the same time, neither of the limbs thrown at the target can score.

3.4.4 A competitor receives 3 points when the limb lands and remains fully within the target on the first throw.

3.4.5 If unsuccessful with the first attempt, a competitor may throw a second time and will receive 2 points when the limb lands and remains fully within the target.

3.4.6 If a competitor misses on the second throw, no throwing points are received.

3.5 The Pole Pruner Station

At the pole pruner station, a pole is suspended from the tree (with the working end clearly identified).

3.5.1 To complete the task at this station, the competitor shall, in order:

- 1st – Lanyard in
- 2nd – Call an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") prior to loose equipment and ringing the bell
    - Audible warning only needs to be called once.
- 3rd – Ring the bell with the pole pruner

To earn maximum scoring points, the competitor shall also:

- Use their lanyard correctly
- Use the working end of the pole pruner
- Ring the bell with two hands on the pole pruner
- Correctly rehang the pole pruner

3.5.2 The Event Head Judge shall instruct the competitor to rehang the pole pruner correctly before they move on (if they have not done so), and time will not stop during this process.

3.6 The Limb Walk Station

At the limb walk station, a plumb bob is set to measure branch movement. If a competitor successfully completes the task without causing excessive branch movement, 2, 4, or 6 additional points are awarded, based on predetermined marks.

3.6.1 Competitors shall walk on and maintain a minimum of one foot in contact with the limb at all times. If a competitor loses control and falls, or swings from the limb, they shall return to the last point of contact before proceeding. The Event Head Judge will determine the last point of contact.

3.6.2 To complete the task at this station, the competitor shall, in order:

- 1st – Start the station by touching the predetermined mark* on the limb with at least one foot
- 2nd – Walk out on the limb
- 3rd – Lanyard in
- 4th – Call an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") prior to loose equipment and ringing the bell
    - Audible warning only needs to be called once.
- 5th – Ring the bell with their handsaw
- 6th – Walk back to and touch the predetermined mark*

To earn maximum scoring points, the competitor shall also:

- Use their lanyard correctly
- Ring the bell with two hands on the handsaw
- Complete the task without excessive movement of the plumb bob

3.7 The Landing Station

At the landing station, the target for landing shall be 2 m (6.56 ft) in diameter. Comprised of an outer ring and an inner ring of 1 m (3.28 ft) in diameter.

3.7.1 To complete the task at this station, the competitor shall, in order:

- 1st – Call an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") prior to ringing the bell/horn

*The predetermined mark shall be a minimum of 30 cm (12 in) wide.

- 2nd – Sound the bell/horn with their hand
- 3rd – Land and remain standing upright

To earn maximum scoring points, the competitor shall also:

- Land and remain with both feet inside the inner ring of the target

The competitor is not required to lanyard in prior to sounding the bell/horn by hand.

3.7.2 A competitor who does not sound the horn or bell by hand before descending will not receive any points for completing the task or any additional points at the landing station.

3.7.3 A mark is placed on the tree as part of the landing station. If the competitor touches the mark or below, they will not receive landing station target points.

3.7.4 A competitor who does not land and remain in a standing position (i.e., falls during landing or touches the ground with any part of the body other than feet) will not receive the 3 scoring points for landing and remaining standing up.

3.7.5 If any part of the foot touches the outer ring, a competitor is scored as going outside the line and receives no points for the landing station. (Example: one foot on the outer circle line and the second foot out of the outer circle is scored as 0 points.)(See Work Climb Quick Reference Guide.)

3.7.6 Competitors can receive up to 4 additional points for landing in a standing position on the target. Competitors shall land with both feet planted and under control. When a competitor lands with one foot, that foot shall remain in the same position—but may change orientation—until the second foot is planted, at which time the score shall be determined. A competitor can land outside the target with the initial contact foot and then step into the target to increase points; however, should the competitor attempt to increase points by moving the initial contact foot, 0 bonus landing (inner/outer ring) points will be awarded.

3.7.7 Time stops when a competitor has landed, is in a standing position, and has fully disconnected the climbing line and climbing hitch from the harness.

3.8 Scoring the Work Climb *(80 possible points)*

3.8.1 There will be either three or five Work Climb judges. When five judges are available, the high and low scores are thrown out, and the remaining three scores are averaged to provide the official score.

3.8.2 Up to 50 points can be earned for this event based on judges' scoring, and up to 30 points can be earned for time.

3.8.3 No scoring points are awarded for any task not completed correctly. To receive scoring points at any of the workstations, competitors shall complete all tasks as outlined in Rules 3.3.1, 3.4.2, 3.5.1, 3.6.2, and 3.7.1.

3.8.4 Penalty points are levied for various infractions, including failure to use a lanyard correctly, failure to call a warning, failure to use the working end of the pole, failure to use two hands on the pole pruner, and failure to rehang the pole properly.

3.8.5 Judges award discretionary points at each station based on performance. Points are earned for fair, good, or exceptional performance. No points are earned for unsafe or below-average performance (see scoring guidelines on the Quick Reference Guide).

3.8.6 The competitor with the fastest time earns 30 points.

3.8.7 Other competitors receive a 1-point deduction from the 30-point total for every 10 seconds their time exceeds the fastest time.

3.8.8 If a competitor reaches the time limit and has not finished the event or rung the bell at each workstation, they will not receive any Time Points for the event and will only receive scoring points accumulated up to that point. Judges' discretionary points may be assigned up until the time limit is reached.

3.8.9 In case of a tie, the competitor with the fastest time wins.

3.9 Penalties

Mandatory Penalties

A 3-point penalty and audible warning will be given by the Event Head Judge for each of the following infractions:

3.9.1 Failure to use the work-positioning lanyard correctly

3.9.2 Failure to issue an audible warning **(see Rules 2.3.34 and 2.3.35)(2026)**

3.9.3 Failure to use the working end of the pole pruner to ring the bell

3.9.4 Failure to properly rehang the pole pruner

3.9.5 Failure to use two hands on the pole pruner

Discretionary Penalties

A 3-point penalty and audible warning will be given by the Event Head Judge for any of the following (unless otherwise specified):

3.9.6 Dangerous or uncontrolled movement

3.9.7 Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point

3.9.8 Unsportinglike conduct (see Rule 1.2.1)

3.9.9 Unsafe act (see Rule 1.2.3)

Penalty for Breaking a Limb

3.9.10 Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty. Up to two 1-point penalties will be allowed, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb. A third broken limb within the specified diameter range will result in disqualification (see Rule 1.3.1).

3.10 Disqualification

Mandatory Disqualifications

A competitor will be disqualified by the Event Head Judge for the following infractions:

3.10.1 Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft

3.10.2 Any piece of equipment left in the tree except the preinstalled climbing line

3.10.3 Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb

3.10.4 Failure to remain secured to the tree on at least one point of attachment

3.10.5 Being more than 5 minutes late for the event

3.10.6 Placing handsaw in the mouth

3.10.7 Misconduct (see Rule 1.2)

3.10.8 A **third** discretionary penalty (**2026**)

3.10.9 A second failure to use a work-positioning lanyard correctly

3.10.10 A **third** failure to issue an audible warning (**2026**)

3.10.11 Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once the event time has started, per Rule 1.1.9

4 AERIAL RESCUE EVENT

4.1 Event Summary

The Aerial Rescue Event is a timed event that tests the competitor's ability to safely climb to and lower an injured climber (represented by a rescue manikin) who is unable to descend without assistance. The event setup is the same for all competitors.

Prior to the event walkthrough, the Event Head Judge provides the competitors with the rescue event scenario (see Appendix 3 for examples of rescue scenarios). The rescue scenario explains the injuries and details of the climber's situation.

Competitors should perform a risk assessment, a preclimb assessment, and an on-site casualty assessment, and they should use all relevant techniques to ensure that the rescue process does not exacerbate the situation. The injured climber should be lowered as safely, carefully, and efficiently as possible.

The competitor, as a first responder, will assume control of the site, take control of all relevant safety issues, and ensure that local emergency services are contacted.

Event Setup: The injured climber weighing 60 to 80 kg (132 to 176 lbs) is installed in the tree with regulation tree climbing equipment, preferably no higher than 7.5 m (25 ft) above the ground. The competitor shall enter the tree using a previously installed climbing line, installed no closer than 4.5 m (15 ft) from the injured climber. Competitors are provided with 5 minutes to complete the event.

After emergency services have been contacted, EMS arrives on-site at a predetermined set time or when a competitor reaches a predetermined location in the climb (see Appendix 3 for examples).

- **Event Head Judge (or predetermined official) shall communicate predetermined set time or location during walkthrough.**
- **Predetermined set time should be between 1:30 minutes and 2:15 minutes.**

- **Predetermined location will be identified during the walk-through. (2026)**

4.2 Aerial Rescue Rules

4.2.1 It is the competitor's responsibility to be equipped with and use:

a. an approved climbing-style helmet,

b. approved eye protection,

c. an approved tree-climbing harness,

d. an approved work-positioning lanyard, and

e. appropriate clothing and footwear.

4.2.2 Competitors shall enter the tree using the installed line.

4.2.3 Competitors may not use the injured climber's line to enter into or descend from the tree.

4.2.4 Competitors shall lower the injured climber on the injured climber's line or an approved line other than the competitor's own unless Rule 4.2.5 is used.

4.2.5 When a rescue manikin is used and fitted with an approved independent fall-protection system during the event setup, meeting the requirements of Rule 4.2.6, the injured climber may be transferred to and lowered on the competitor's climbing system. The anchor point shall be strong enough to hold the anticipated forces of the climber and the injured climber. Prior to the injured climber being detached from its climbing system, additional friction shall be added to the competitor's system to safely manage the anticipated weight.

4.2.6 The fall-protection system shall:

a. be tested prior to the event,

b. be used and attached dorsally to the full-body harness,

c. meet or exceed a minimum accepted industry safety standard.

4.2.7 Once a competitor has been identified to the judges, the competitor is asked if they have any questions and is reminded of the event requirements.

4.2.8 Timing begins when the Event Head Judge says "Go" and instructs the competitor to proceed.

4.2.9 Competitors shall remain tied in on a separate climbing line or secured with a work-positioning lanyard throughout the event.

4.2.10 Competitors may work off the preinstalled access line or may carry another climbing line into the tree (see Rule 2.3.1).

4.2.11 Prior to descent and lowering the injured climber, an audible warning shall be issued (i.e., "Stand Clear").

4.2.12 Time is stopped when a competitor has lowered the injured climber (manikin) safely to the ground and has completely detached the injured climber for transport. In the case of a scenario as outlined in Rule 4.2.5, the competitor may not tamper with event fall-protection systems.

4.2.13 If a competitor runs out of time before unclipping the injured climber from the climbing harness, the competitor shall stop the climb and follow the instructions of the Event Head Judge.

4.2.14 A competitor who fails to finish within the time limit will be called to the ground. The competitor receives points only for tasks that were completed within the time limit. The competitor is still eligible to receive points in any of the 5 scoring sections, even if all the tasks pertinent to that section have not been completed.

4.2.15 If a competitor enters the tree using an ascending technique NOT approved for descent or lateral movement, the competitor shall lanyard in, if required, and then tie in with an approved climbing hitch before beginning to move laterally in the tree. The maximum allowable distance of the lateral movement prior to the competitor tying in with an approved climbing hitch will be predetermined by the Event Head Judge. Failure to abide by this rule will be considered an unsafe act.

4.3 Scoring the Aerial Rescue *(50 possible points)*

4.3.1 There will be either three or five Aerial Rescue judges. When five judges are available, the high and low scores are thrown out, and the remaining three scores are averaged to provide the official score.

4.3.2 Up to 50 points are awarded in total for five scoring sections. Each scoring section is worth between 7 and 16 points as detailed below.

Risk Assessment and Rescue Plan	7	points
Ascent and Movement to the Injured Climber	7	points
Injured Climber Assessment and Handling	16	points
Descent	10	points
Landing	10	points

4.3.3 In case of a tie, the competitor with the fastest time wins.

4.4 Penalties

Mandatory Penalties

A 3-point penalty and audible warning will be given by the Event Head Judge for the following infraction:

4.4.1 Failure to issue an audible warning when necessary (excluding descent with manikin)**(see Rules 2.3.34 and 2.3.35)(2026)**

Discretionary Penalties

A 3-point penalty and audible warning will be given by the Event Head Judge for the following infractions:

4.4.2 Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point

4.4.3 Dangerous uncontrolled swing

4.4.4 High-speed or dangerous movement

4.4.5 Excessive lateral movement when using an ascending system not approved for descent or lateral movement (see Rule 4.2.15)

4.4.6 Unsportinglike conduct (see Rule 1.2.1)

4.4.7 Unsafe act (see Rule 1.2.3)

Penalty for Breaking a Limb

4.4.8 Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty. Up to two 1-point penalties will be allowed, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb. A third broken limb within the specified diameter range will result in disqualification. (see Rule 1.3.1)

4.5 Disqualification

Mandatory Disqualifications

A competitor will be disqualified by the Event Head Judge for the following infractions:

4.5.1 Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft

4.5.2 Failure to remain secured to the tree on at least one point of attachment

4.5.3 Being more than 5 minutes late for the event

4.5.4 Misconduct (see Rule 1.2)

4.5.5 Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb

4.5.6 Tampering with the injured climber's independent fall-arrest system

4.5.7 Failure to safely manage the friction required for the additional weight of the injured climber

4.5.8 Placing a handsaw in the mouth

4.5.9 A **third** discretionary penalty **(2026)**

4.5.10 Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once the event time has started, per Rule 1.1.9

5 THROWLINE EVENT

5.1 Event Summary

The Throwline Event is a timed event that tests the competitor's ability to accurately place a throwline and/or climbing line in a tree. Competitors attempt to toss a throwline or climbing line through two of eight targets. Targets can be in a single tree (four on each side) or in multiple trees, as long as there are two distinct sets of four targets.

Each competitor is allowed unlimited throws within 6 minutes, but a competitor can score only once in each set of targets. A single throw may be used to score on each set of targets, as long as both targets can be completely isolated.

The lines may be manipulated in the tree. This includes attaching more than one throwline or climbing line together to perform manipulation techniques. Additional lines used for manipulation techniques shall be removed from the tree prior to the stoppage of time or the competitor will be assessed a 1-point penalty for each additional nonscoring line left in the tree. (See Rule 5.4.5 for additional details about nonscoring lines.)

Points may be earned for installing a climbing line on each side of the tree. The value of these additional points depends on the difficulty

of the target. Installing a climbing line in a 9-point throw is worth 4 points. (See Rule 5.3.6 for points earned for installing a climbing line.)

Retrievable Stationary Rope Option

Competitors will have the option of adding a canopy anchor SRS system to their successfully scored climb line for an additional 2 points per side of the tree(s).

Competitors may also earn Time Points for efficiency. The competitor needs to score in each set of targets to be eligible for Time Points. For a breakdown of the Time Points, see Rule 5.3.7.

5.2 Throwline Rules

5.2.1 It is the competitor's responsibility to be equipped with and use:

a. an approved climbing-style helmet,

b. approved eye protection, and

c. appropriate clothing and footwear.

5.2.2 Competitors shall be provided 6 minutes to set up and complete the event unless, at the discretion of the Event Head Judge, an alternative time limit is set.

5.2.3 Competitors may use up to three throwlines, up to two climbing lines, and lines to aid in canopy anchor retrieval.

5.2.4 Competitors may use equipment provided, or they may use their own throwlines and climbing lines if these have been approved by the judges.

5.2.5 A competitor tells the judges when they are ready to proceed and waits for the Event Head Judge's signal to start. Time starts when the Event Head Judge says "Go" and instructs the competitor to proceed.

5.2.6 The throwline or climbing line shall be thrown by hand from within the predetermined throwing area. Devices such as slingshots or other mechanical devices may not be used.

5.2.7 A competitor can throw at any target, in any order, any number of times, and the throwline or climbing line can be manipulated into the desired position once it has been placed in the tree. If the throwline is outside the target and a climbing line is attached and used to manipulate the throwline into the target, points for the throwline will be awarded if registered before time runs out and the throw meets the requirements of Rule 5.3.1. An approved "flip stick" may be used to manipulate the

throwline or climbing line into the target area. The target area includes the width of the tape (from outside edge to outside edge). If a climbing line is thrown, it scores the points for both the throw and the installation once the above conditions have been met.

5.2.8 Once the judges are told to register a throw, it cannot be changed.

5.2.9 The final time is recorded when a competitor has successfully installed both climbing lines in the tree(s), when the competitor requests the time to stop, or when time has expired.

5.2.10 The first score time is recorded only for the purposes that it may be needed as a second tiebreaker. The first score time is registered at the first time the competitor asks for either a throwline or climbing line to be registered.

5.2.11 A competitor whose climbing line becomes detached and falls from the throwline before it is placed in the target area and declared legal will not be disqualified for dropped equipment.

5.2.12 If the throwline was not declared a legal score before the climbing line was dropped, the competitor may rethrow the throwline or climbing line at the same set of targets.

5.2.13 A competitor who cannot reach a declared and legally scored throwline and reattach it to the climbing line is finished with that side of targets. The competitor will receive points only for the declared and legally scored throwline.

5.2.14 Competitors shall install at least one climbing line over one of the targets within the time limit. A competitor who does not install a climbing line will be penalized 3 points from the score accumulated before time expired. The lowest possible score is 0.

5.2.15 Any nonscoring lines still in the tree at the end of the competitor's event will incur a 1-point penalty per line. This does not apply to the line(s) that is (are) actively being worked by the competitor when time expires, as long as the line(s) is (are) immediately retrievable without delay as determined by the Event Head Judge.

5.2.16 If a competitor's line is within a scoring target, it shall be registered with the Event Head Judge by the competitor saying "Score" prior to throwing again. If the line is not registered with the Event Head Judge prior to the next throw, it cannot be registered and scored at a later stage in that competitor's event. To earn points for the same side of the tree, the competitor shall pull the throwline out of the tree or use a different throwline and rethrow.

5.2.17 If a competitor's throw weight and/or climbing line leaves the flagged

area during a throw, while being manipulated or otherwise removed from the tree, a 3-point penalty is assessed. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event.

5.2.18 Competitors shall issue an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") and receive confirmation of "All Clear" from the Event Head Judge before throwing or removing a throwline with the throw weight attached. An audible warning shall also be issued before manipulation of the throwline when the possibility of accidental removal of the throw weight exists (see Rule 5.4.8).

5.3 Scoring the Throwline *(35 possible points)*

5.3.1 A throw is considered legal and scores only when:

a. the throwline or climbing line is isolated within the target (i.e., no other parts of the tree between the lines),

b. the competitor, who is standing on the ground, is holding both ends of the line (throwline or climbing line), and

c. the competitor has asked the Event Head Judge to register the throw by saying "Score."

5.3.2 If the line is not registered with the Event Head Judge prior to the next throw, it cannot be registered and scored at a later stage in that competitor's event.

5.3.3 When asked by the competitor to register a throw, the Event Head Judge will determine whether the throw meets the criteria in Rule 5.3.1.

5.3.4 If the Event Head Judge decides that a throw is not legal, the competitor is notified of the reason why and that throw is not registered. It is the responsibility of the competitor to make sure the Event Head Judge has accepted the throw as legal.

5.3.5 Competitors may register a maximum of two throws with the judges: one score per set of targets.

5.3.6 The highest (or most difficult) target scores 9, the middle targets score 7 and 5 respectively, and the lowest (or easiest) target scores 3.

5.3.7 Additional points can be scored for installing a climbing line over one target in each set. Installing a climbing line in a 9-point throw is worth 4 points, a 7-point throw is worth 3 points, a 5-point throw is worth 2 points, and a 3-point throw is worth 1 point.

5.3.8 A competitor can score a maximum of 18 points (9 on each side of the tree) for hitting the targets and an additional maximum of 8 points (4 on

each side of the tree) for installing climbing lines.

5.3.9 Competitors will have the option of adding a canopy anchor SRS system to their successfully scored climbing line for an additional 2 points per side of the tree(s).

- The canopy anchor SRS system must be retrievable by the competitor immediately after the event ends. If the system is not retrievable after time has expired, no points will be awarded for installing the climb line. The competitor will get credit for a successful throwline if "Score" was declared. (See Rule 5.4.5 regarding nonscoring lines.)
- Hardware is not permitted within the Throwline event canopy anchor
- Knots must be properly tied, dressed, and set.
- In an effort to keep this event running safe and efficient, Throwline SRS canopy anchor knots are limited to the following:

a. Midline

  - Alpine Butterfly
  - Bowline on a Bight
  - Figure 8 on a Bight

b. End of line

  - Bowline with Yosemite tie-off
  - Retraced Figure 8

- If a competitor is unable to utilize one of these knots, reference Rule 2.3.5.
- Once a competitor scores their climb line, they must decide if they want to attempt the SRS system before proceeding. They cannot return to a previously scored line to attempt an SRS system. (See Rule 5.2.16 regarding declared scores.)
- There is no penalty for not attempting a canopy anchor SRS system.

5.3.10 A competitor can also score Time Points for efficiency. Maximum points for time efficiency is 4. Time Points are awarded as follows:

- 4 points – completed the event in 4:00.00 minutes or less
- 3 points – completed the event between 4:00.01 and 4:30.00 minutes
- 2 points – completed the event between 4:30.01 and 5:00.00 minutes

- 1 point – completed the event between 5:00.01 and 5:30.00 minutes
- 0 points – completed the event in over 5:30.00 minutes

5.3.11 An additional 1 bonus point may be awarded by the Event Head Judge for innovative or exceptional techniques during the event.

5.3.12 A competitor's final placing is based on score, with the highest point total determining the winner.

5.3.13 In the event of a tie, the competitor with the fastest final time is the winner. If the final times are identical, the competitor with the fastest first score time is the winner.

Example scoring:

Competitor A

Competitor A scores 9 points for hitting the top target, 4 points for installing a climbing line on the first side, and an additional 5 points for hitting a middle target on the other side of the tree but receives a 1-point penalty for failing to issue a second audible warning and runs out of time before installing the climbing line.

Competitor A scores 9 + 4 + 5 – 1 = 17 points; time 6:00.00 minutes.

Competitor B

Competitor B scores 7 points for hitting a middle target and an additional 3 points for installing a climbing line on the first side. *Competitor B* then scores 5 points for hitting the lower middle target on the other side and scores an additional 2 points for installing the climbing line in the second target area. *Competitor B* finishes the event in 4:24.00 minutes and earns an additional 3 Time Points.

Competitor B scores 7 + 3 + 5 + 2 + 3 = 20 points; time 4:24.00 minutes.

Competitor C

Competitor C scores 9 points for hitting the top target on the first side of the tree and then scores an additional 9 points for hitting the top target on the other side but runs out of time before installing a climbing line. Competitor C receives a 3-point deduction for not installing a climbing line.

Competitor C scores 9 + 9 – 3 = 15 points; time 6:00.00 minutes.

Competitor D

Competitor D scores 9 points for hitting the top target and an additional 4 for installing the climbing line in the target. *Competitor D* decided to install a retrievable canopy anchor SRS system for an additional 2 points. Moving to the second side of the tree, the competitor then gets a throwline stuck, which cannot be removed, but rebounds and scores 5 points for a throw into the lower middle target. At this point, *Competitor D* asks the Event Head Judge to stop time. *Competitor D* receives a 1-point penalty for the line left in the tree.

Competitor D scores 9 + 4 + 2 + 5 – 1 = 19 points; time 5:46.00 minutes.

Competitor placing would be 1st – B; 2nd – D; 3rd – A; 4th – C.

5.4 Penalties

Discretionary Penalties

The following infractions may result in a 1-point penalty:

5.4.1 Unsportinglike conduct (see Rule 1.2.1)

5.4.2 Unsafe act (see Rule 1.2.3)

Penalty for Breaking a Limb

5.4.3 Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty. Up to two 1-point penalties will be allowed, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb. A third broken limb within the specified diameter range will result in disqualification (see Rule 1.3.1).

Mandatory Penalties

A competitor will be penalized for the following infractions:

5.4.4 3-point penalty for not installing a climbing line

5.4.5 1-point penalty per line for any nonscoring lines in the tree when time expires. This does not apply to the line(s) that is (are) actively being worked by the competitor when time expires, as long as the line(s) is (are) immediately retrievable without delay as determined by the Event Head Judge.

5.4.6 3-point penalty for the throw weight or climbing line landing outside

the flagged area. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event.

5.4.7 1-point penalty for breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition. Up to two 1-point penalties will be allowed, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb. A third broken limb within the specified diameter range will result in disqualification (see Rule 1.3.1).

5.4.8 Competitors will be penalized for each failure to issue an audible warning such as "Stand Clear" and receive confirmation of "All Clear" from the Event Head Judge before throwing or removing any throwline with a throw weight attached. The first time a competitor fails to issue an audible warning, it will be audibly identified by the Event Head Judge as a verbal warning with no penalty issued. The second and third offense will incur 1-point penalties and will be audibly issued by the Event Head Judge. The fourth offense will result in disqualification.

5.5 Disqualification

Mandatory Disqualification

A competitor will be disqualified for the following infractions:

5.5.1 Being more than 5 minutes late for the event

5.5.2 Two throws (throwlines with weights attached or climbing lines) that land outside the flagged area

5.5.3 Third penalized offense of failing to issue an audible warning

5.5.4 Misconduct (see Rule 1.2)

5.5.5 Third offense of breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition (see Rule 1.3.1)

5.5.6 Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb

5.5.7 **Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once the event time has started, per Rule 1.1.9 (2026)**

6 BELAYED SPEED CLIMB EVENT

6.1 Event Summary

The Speed Climb Event tests the competitor's ability to climb a predetermined route from the ground to about 18 m (60 ft) up a tree with a belayed climbing system for safety. The event is timed, and the competitor who reaches and rings the final bell of the course in the least amount of time wins. There could be more than one bell placed in the tree to determine the route; in such an event, the climber shall ring all the bells to complete the event.

6.2 Belayed Speed Climb Rules

6.2.1 It is the competitor's responsibility to be equipped with and use:

a. an approved climbing-style helmet,

b. approved eye protection,

c. an approved tree-climbing harness, and

d. appropriate clothing and footwear.

6.2.2 Competitors shall be secured with an approved climbing line and friction hitch or device at all times. A competent belayer provides belay for the competitor during the climb.

6.2.3 Competitors signal the judges when ready and wait for the Event Head Judge to signal that the timers are ready to begin.

6.2.4 The judges start the clock when the competitor's second foot leaves the ground.

6.2.5 The judges stop the clock when the competitor rings the final bell with their hand.

6.2.6 Competitors shall follow the predetermined route and remain secured at all times.

6.2.7 After completing the climb, the competitor is responsible for bringing the climbing line back down the predetermined route in the tree to reset the course for the next competitor.

6.2.8 When technician-belayed, the competitor may not use the section of the climbing line from the termination attachment on the climbing harness to the top pulley block (the lead of the rope) to advance their position. If this section of the climbing line is used to advance position,

the first offense will generate a warning. A second offense will generate a disqualification.

6.2.9 Competitors may use the section of the climbing line from the top pulley block to the ground (the fall of the rope) to aid the climb, or competitors may use lines set in the tree exclusively to aid in ascent.

6.2.10 Certain branches may be marked with tape to denote a point beyond which the competitor cannot touch. A first offense of touching beyond these marks will result in a 1-point penalty. A second offense will result in disqualification.

6.2.11 A competitor who breaks a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size may be disqualified at the discretion of the Event Head Judge.

6.3 Scoring the Belayed Speed Climb *(10 possible points)*

6.3.1 There will be either three or five Belayed Speed Climb timers. When five timers are available, the high and low times are thrown out, and the remaining three times are averaged to provide the official time.

6.3.2 The event is based purely on time.

6.3.3 The fastest competitor to the top is the winner and receives 10 points.

6.3.4 The remaining competitors' scores are calculated by subtracting the fastest competitor's time (in seconds) from the times of each of the other competitors.

6.3.5 For every 2-second difference in time between those scores, 1 point (of the 10 possible points) is deducted from the competitor's score.

Example scoring:

The fastest competitor completes the climb in 2:27.46 (147.46 seconds).

The second-fastest competitor completes the climb in 2:41.82 (161.82 seconds).

Time difference = 161.82 − 147.46 = 14.36 seconds = 7.18-point deduction.

The fastest competitor receives 10 points.

The second-fastest competitor receives 2.82 points (10 − 7.18).

6.4 Penalties

Discretionary Penalties

The following infractions may result in a 1-point penalty:

6.4.1 Unsportinglike conduct (see Rule 1.2.1)

6.4.2 Unsafe act (see Rule 1.2.3)

Penalty for Breaking a Limb

6.4.3 Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty. Up to two 1-point penalties will be allowed, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb. A third broken limb within the specified diameter range will result in disqualification (see Rule 1.3.1).

Mandatory Penalties

The following infraction will result in a 1-point penalty:

6.4.4 Touching a branch beyond the tape

6.5 Disqualification

Mandatory Disqualification

A competitor will be disqualified for the following infractions:

6.5.1 Second infraction of using the lead of the rope to advance position

6.5.2 Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft

6.5.3 Failure to remain secured

6.5.4 Being more than 5 minutes late for the event

6.5.5 Misconduct (see Rule 1.2)

6.5.6 Second infraction of touching a branch beyond the tape

6.5.7 Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once the event time has started, per Rule 1.1.9

6.6 Discretionary Disqualification

A competitor may be disqualified, at the discretion of the Event Head Judge, for the following infractions:

6.6.1 Dangerous uncontrolled swing

6.6.2 Leaping or jumping, creating excessive slack

6.6.3 Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb

7 ASCENT EVENT

7.1 Event Summary

The Ascent Event tests the competitor's ability to efficiently and safely use their selected and approved ascent system. The event assesses the competitor's efficiency in attaching the ascent system to the ascent line(s), ascending to the bell, and transferring into a descent system.

The actual descent is not part of the event. Points are earned for speed as well as for meeting predetermined safety objectives.

Event Setup: The height can be set from 12 to 25 m (39 ft, 4.5 in to 82 ft, 0.25 in). The finishing bell shall be installed at a distance of 38 cm (15 in) horizontally from the competitor's line. The event belay/back-up line should be installed within 38 to 60 cm (15 to 24 in) from the main climbing line. Three sets of times will be recorded: Setup Time (attachment of ascending system to ascent line(s) and on-rope test), Ascent Time (climb from the ground to predetermined height), and Changeover Time (conversion from ascent to descent system). Motorized ascent systems may not be used during the event.

Ascent lines may be set in three configurations (Appendix 7) on a lowerable attachment point. Any combination of mechanical device and knotted cordage approved during gear inspection may be used for an ascent system. Systems, including backups, will be verbally reviewed and approved by Ascent Event Head Judge or Head Tech during gear inspection. If clarity is needed, the competitor will be asked to demonstrate their ascent system and or backup.

All ascent systems must be approved and meet Rule 2.3.1.

The ascent lines shall be attached to a lowerable attachment point, controlled by a ground technician using a haul line. An overhead belay/back-up system shall be in place.

7.2 Ascent Event Rules

7.2.1 It is the competitor's responsibility to be equipped with and use:

a. an approved climbing-style helmet,

b. approved eye protection,

c. an approved tree-climbing harness with work-positioning and/or suspension capability is required

d. a lightweight harness with a dorsal attachment (will be provided to be worn under the climber's harness if required),

e. an approved ascent and descent system, and

f. appropriate clothing and footwear.

7.2.2 Each competitor may configure the ascent line(s) in any format of their choice on a lowerable attachment point, as outlined in Appendix 7. The attachment point may be lowered for each competitor for setup approval. Competitors may use the installed line(s) provided for the event or replace the line(s) with an approved climbing line(s) of the competitor's choice prior to the timed portion of the event.

7.2.3 The competitor shall be on a belay/back-up system during the climb.

- If a competitor is utilizing their own approved system backup, it shall be attached to the event belay/back-up line. The event belay/back-up system shall not be used and shall hang freely. Any weights needed must be added during event setup time to earn points.
- Particular attention will be directed towards correct use of the system backup to include proper tension in the system back-up climbing line (see Rules 2.3.18 and 2.3.19).
- If the system backup is not suitable, it will be considered an unsafe act.

7.2.4 Competitors shall keep the belay line attached to the harness and remain on belay at all times while aloft.

7.2.5 The technician shall perform a test to demonstrate the effectiveness and adjustment of the belay safety equipment with the competitor attached. If an auto belay is used, it will have been tested prior to the start of the event.

The event belay/back-up system shall:

a. be used and attached dorsally to the full-body harness,

b. meet or exceed a minimum accepted industry safety standard,

c. provide proper fall protection should the competitor's primary ascent system fail, and be tested prior to the event and as deemed necessary by the event Head Tech or requested by the competitor, with competitor attached.

7.2.6 The competitor may have their climbing system, including non-PPE components, as fully assembled as desired, but nothing may be attached to the line(s) prior to the start of the event. Any preweighting of the ascent line (e.g., adding a shot pouch or tying a knot in the ascent line) is not permitted prior to the Event Head Judge saying "Go."

Setup Time

7.2.7 The competitor shall start the event from a 1 m (~3 ft) diameter circle marked on the ground. The center of the circle shall be 3 m (~10 ft) from the ascent line(s).

7.2.8 The competitor advises the Event Head Judge when ready and waits for the Event Head Judge to signal that the timers and technicians are ready to proceed.

7.2.9 Three times shall be recorded for setup. The timers start the clock when the Event Head Judge says "Go."

7.2.10 When the Event Head Judge says "Go," the competitor steps out of the circle and attaches their ascent system to the ascent line(s). The competitor must attach and configure the ascent system completely, including any foot/knee ascenders, foot loops, chest harnesses, tethers/tenders, back-up system, etc. The competitor then performs an on-rope test by raising both feet off the ground and placing both arms out away from their body, ensuring that bodyweight is placed in the ascent system, and not in accessory components. This will signal to the Event Head Technician that the competitor has completed the setup. No part of the competitor's body may be in contact with the ground during the on-rope test.

- Additional points may be earned for the incorporation of a back-up system (see Rule 7.3.7).

7.2.11 The timers stop the clock when the Event Head Technician, as signaled by the competitor holding arms out and taking both feet off the ground, says "Time."

7.2.12 Once time has stopped, the Event Head Technician confirms the correct setup.

7.2.13 If the setup is not successful (e.g., the system does not hold or components are not attached), setup Time Points will not be awarded.

7.2.14 If any life-support components are not attached or are configured incorrectly, a 3-point mandatory penalty will be given, in addition to the lost setup Time Points. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure proper and complete setup prior to signaling to the Event Head Technician.

7.2.15 Once the system has been fully evaluated, the competitor may descend back to the ground. At this time, the competitor has the opportunity to make slight adjustments to their system (this includes any weight that has been added to the line) before starting their timed ascent. No components of the preapproved, configured system may be changed. If changes must be made (e.g., the addition of a foot ascender, chest harness, tethers/tenders, gloves, etc.), the competitor forfeits their setup Time Points.

- If a component disengages during setup, it cannot be reengaged unless its function was consistent with manufacturer design (e.g., Akimbo SRS chest attachment point).

7.2.16 The time limit for the setup is 90 seconds.

7.2.17 A competitor who fails to complete the setup within the time limit (90 seconds) will be stopped and only receive the points accumulated.

Ascent Time

7.2.18 The competitor advises the Event Head Judge when ready and waits for the signal that the timers and technicians are ready to proceed.

7.2.19 Three times shall be recorded for the ascent. The timers start the clock when the competitor's second foot leaves the ground.

7.2.20 The timers stop the clock when the competitor rings the bell at the top of the climb with their hand.

7.2.21 The time limit for the ascent is 90 seconds.

7.2.22 A competitor who fails to complete the ascent within the time limit (90 seconds) will be stopped and only receive the points accumulated.

Changeover Time

7.2.23 Three times shall be recorded for a successful changeover to descent system. The timers start the "changeover" clock when the competitor rings the bell at the top of the climb (this same ring of the bell stops the "ascent" time).

7.2.24 After ringing the bell, the competitor must change over to their approved descent system. All components of the system that may hinder descent must be detached from the competitor or the ascent line, such that the competitor is able to descend (e.g., foot ascenders must be detached from the ascent line, but ascenders may be left on the ascent line above the competitor if they are detached from the competitor). Violation of this rule will result in loss of changeover Time Points.

7.2.25 All components of the ascent system shall be stowed, as defined in Appendix 5, to the ascent line or competitor. Descent equipment must be appropriately secured to the competitor or attached to the ascent line prior to ringing the bell for the second time. Cams left on the ascent line(s) must be engaged. Violation of this rule will result in the loss of changeover time points. The competitor will receive a mandatory 3-point penalty as identified by the in-tree technician.

7.2.26 The timers stop the clock when the competitor rings the bell at the top of the climb a second time.

7.2.27 Once the descent mode has been verified by the in-tree technician, the competitor shall retrieve any components left on the ascent line. After the competitor has communicated with the belayer their intent to descend, the competitor may do so at a safe speed.

7.2.28 The descent is not a timed portion of the event.

7.3 Scoring the Ascent Event *(25 possible points)*

7.3.1 For each section recorded, three stopwatches are used. Time is recorded to the hundredth of a second.

7.3.2 For the Setup, up to 2 Time Points can be awarded based on completion time. Time Points are awarded as follows:

- 2 points – completed in 24.99 seconds or less
- 1 point – completed in 25.00 to 49.99 seconds
- 0 points – completed in 50.00 to 89.99 seconds

7.3.3 For the Changeover times, up to 2 Time Points can be awarded based on completion time. Time Points are awarded as follows:

- 2 points – completed in 4.99 seconds or less
- 1 point – completed in 5.00 to 12.99 seconds
- 0 points – completed in over 13.00 seconds

7.3.4 For the ascent, the three times are averaged to produce the final ascent time. The competitor with the fastest ascent time will receive 19 points.

7.3.5 The remaining competitors' scores are calculated by subtracting the fastest competitor's time (in seconds) from the times of each of the other competitors.

7.3.6 For every 1-second difference in time between those scores, 1 point (of the 19 possible points) is deducted from the competitor's score.

Example scoring:

The fastest competitor (A) completes the ascent in 12.49 seconds.

The second-fastest competitor (B) completes the ascent in 13.33 seconds.

Time difference = 13.33 − 12.49 = 0.84 seconds = 0.84-point deduction

The fastest competitor receives 19 points.

The second-fastest competitor receives 18.16 points (19 − 0.84) for the ascent.

7.3.7 Up to two additional points may be earned for incorporating a system backup within an ascent system. (See Appendix 5 for definition of system backup.)

- 1 point earned if the system backup is attached to the same climbing line as the primary ascending system
- 2 points earned if the system backup is attached to a second climbing line

7.3.8 In case of a tie, the competitor with the fastest ascent time wins.

7.4 Penalties

Discretionary Penalties

A competitor will receive a 3-point penalty and a warning for the following infractions:

7.4.1 Unsportinglike conduct (see Rule 1.2.1)

7.4.2 Unsafe act (see Rule 1.2.3)

7.4.3 Slack in back-up system

Mandatory Penalties

A 3-point penalty will be given for any of the following infractions:

7.4.4 Tampering or interfering with components of the fall-protection system

7.4.5 Preventing the correct function of a mechanical device

7.4.6 Placing hands above a footlock Prusik

7.4.7 Misconfigured or detached life-support components during the timed portion of the event

7.4.8 Not securing equipment prior to ringing the changeover bell a second time

7.5 Mandatory Disqualification

A competitor will be disqualified for the following infractions:

7.5.1 A second mandatory penalty

7.5.2 Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft

7.5.3 Failure to remain secured (while aloft)

7.5.4 Being more than 5 minutes late for the event

7.5.5 Misconduct (see Rule 1.2)

7.5.6 Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once the event time has started, per Rule 1.1.9

7.5.7 Flagrant disregard towards slack in back-up system

8 MASTERS' CHALLENGE

8.1 Event Summary

The Masters' Challenge is the championship round of the competition in which the top competitors from the preliminary round compete for the title. The Masters' Challenge is designed to judge in a single challenge event the competitors' overall poise, techniques, and mastery of the combined skills tested in preliminary events. If the Masters' Challenge cannot be completed, refer to Rule 2.1.3.

At the event, on the Head Judge's signal, a competitor enters the designated work area with all their equipment. The competitor is then judged on their **visual** tree assessment, **emergency response planning**, installation of climbing equipment, ascent into the tree, route planning to all workstations throughout the tree canopy, final descent out of the tree, gear retrieval, and the communication that they have

with ground personnel during the climb. **(2026)**

Each competitor must demonstrate the ability to efficiently ascend into the tree. Similar to the Work Climb, they must safely traverse the tree's canopy smoothly and with disciplined precision to multiple workstations, position themselves at each workstation to perform tasks, then exit the tree and retrieve all equipment in the tree in a controlled manner. A maximum time to complete the event is specified in advance. Every competitor is able to accumulate points throughout their climb with the overall time of the event as a component in the scoring.

8.2 Masters' Challenge Rules

8.2.1 It is the competitor's responsibility to be equipped with and use:

a. an approved climbing-style helmet,

b. approved eye protection,

c. an approved handsaw and scabbard,

d. an approved tree-climbing harness,

e. an approved work-positioning lanyard, and

f. appropriate clothing and footwear.

8.2.2 Prior to a competitor starting the event, all equipment shall be placed in the designated area inside the event arena. Once the time starts, no more equipment can be brought into the designated area or event arena.

8.2.3 All personal protective equipment shall meet the requirements of Rule 2.3.1.

8.2.4 The number of competitors who advance to the Masters' Challenge depends on the total number of competitors in each division in the event. For competitions with 30 or fewer, three advance; 31 to 40, four advance; 41 or greater, five advance. Exceptions may be made with the approval of the organizing TCC committee, prior to the beginning of the competition and announced to all.

8.2.5 If one of the Masters' qualifiers is unable to participate, the competitor with the next highest score in the preliminary round may climb as an alternate, at the discretion of the Event Head Judge.

8.2.6 Once the top competitors have been determined, the Event Head Judge sets the order in which the competitors climb. The competitor with the highest overall preliminary point total picks first. The second selection

is by the competitor with the highest preliminary point total in the alternate division. Selection alternates in order of finish, based on preliminary point totals, until the order is set.

8.2.7 Competitors are then sequestered until it is time for each individual competitor to climb. Competitors are sequestered where they cannot visually or audibly benefit until it is time for each individual competitor to climb **(see Appendix 8). (2026)**

8.2.8 A competitor shall not witness or listen to comments about another competitor's climb before the time they are scheduled to climb but may watch after completing their own climb. For example, the second competitor may not watch the first competitor, but the first competitor may watch the second, and so on.

8.2.9 The Event Head Judge shall set an adequate time limit for a competitor to set up, install a climbing line, perform the climb, and remove all climbing equipment from the tree. This time shall be established and announced before the event begins.

8.2.10 Official timing begins when the Event Head Judge says "Go" and instructs the competitor to proceed.

8.2.11 Official timing stops when a competitor returns to the ground and successfully removes all equipment installed during the event (including all throwlines/throw weights, climbing lines, belay equipment, and climbing hardware). Equipment is considered removed from the tree when it is no longer in contact with the tree (not including roots).

8.2.12 If a competitor does not complete the climb within the time limit, the score received up to that point is used as the competitor's score. A competitor will be called to the ground by the Event Head Judge if the time limit elapses or safety standards are violated.

8.2.13 The event is timed as a means of assessing overall productivity. Preliminary ranking will count as a tiebreaker in the case of identical scores. If preliminary rankings are identical, Masters' time is the final tiebreaker.

8.2.14 Preinstalled climbing lines are not permitted in this event.

8.2.15 Competitors shall issue an audible warning (i.e., "Stand Clear") and receive confirmation from the Event Head Judge before throwing or removing a throwline with the throw weight attached. An audible warning shall also be issued before manipulation of the throwline when the possibility of accidental removal of the throw weight exists. The first time a competitor fails to issue an audible warning, it will be audibly identified by the Event Head Judge as a verbal warning (VW) with no

penalty issued. Up to two **2**-point penalty infractions shall be audibly issued by the Event Head Judge. The third penalized offense shall result in disqualification. **(2026)**

8.2.16 If a competitor's throwline with the weight attached leaves the flagged area during a throw, while being manipulated or otherwise removed from the tree, a **6**-point penalty infraction shall be audibly issued by the Event Head Judge for the first infraction. A second offense will result in disqualification from the event. **(2026)**

8.2.17 The competitor shall issue an audible warning prior to ringing the bell at each station or tossing each limb.

8.2.18 A competitor shall be disqualified for dropping a piece of equipment while aloft. When the competitor is working on the ground during the official timed period (e.g., setting or removing lines or equipment in the tree), equipment that hits the ground will not result in an automatic disqualification. Rather, these infractions shall be judged using the appropriate sections of the scoresheet (i.e., misconduct or unsafe act).

8.2.19 Safe use of equipment such as throwbags and various friction-reducing devices should be rewarded. A competitor who removes equipment (e.g., throwbags, friction-reducing devices, ropes) from the tree in an uncontrolled or unsafe manner shall be penalized. It shall be up to the discretion of the judges whether the infractions are deemed accidental or intentional and penalties levied accordingly. An unsafe act may result in disqualification (misconduct).

8.3 Scoring the Masters' Challenge *(up to 300 possible points)*

8.3.1 There will be either three or five Masters' Challenge judges. When five judges are available, the high and low scores are thrown out, and the remaining three scores are averaged to provide the official score.

8.3.2 The judges score a competitor's movements from the time the official time begins until the competitor finishes all the workstations, returns to the ground, and successfully removes all equipment installed during the event; runs out of time; or is disqualified.

8.3.3 A competitor receives points only for tasks that were completed within the time limit. If the competitor times out, they should receive points in any of the scoring sections attempted, even if all of the tasks pertinent to that section have not been completed.

8.3.4 A competitor receives 10 points for installing the throwline on the first attempt. Each throw attempt thereafter will be worth 2 points fewer, with the fifth attempt worth 2 points. Additional throw attempts will

receive 0 points. If more than one access line or climbing line is set by the competitor, points for installing the throwline will only be awarded for the first access or climbing line set.

8.3.5 The tree is divided into four sections for scoring the height points of the throwline installation. A competitor receives 4 points for installing the throwline in the highest section and 1 point for the lowest section. A competitor who utilizes more than five throws to install a throwline receives no height points.

8.3.6 A competitor may receive up to 2 additional points, awarded at the discretion of the judges, for creative technique and/or skill displayed while setting the throwline. A competitor who utilizes more than five throws to install a throwline may receive bonus points if applicable.

8.3.7 A competitor is awarded up to 10 points for successfully completing each of the following activities:

a. Handsaw Station: The competitor is required to ring the bell with a handsaw.

b. Limb Toss Station: The competitor is required to first ring the bell with a handsaw and then throw a limb at a designated target. If unsuccessful, a competitor may throw a second or third limb. Only one throw will be scored. Ringing the bell is worth 4 points and a successful limb toss is worth 6, 4, or 2 additional points, resulting in a maximum of 10 points. No points will be awarded if the bell is not rung prior to throwing the limb. See Rule 3.4 for limb size and target size specifications.

c. Graduated Plumb Bob Station: The competitor will attempt to ring the bell with a handsaw without allowing the plumb bob to pass the markers. The markers will be worth 4, 7, and 10 points. If the weight touches the furthest mark from plumb, the competitor does not receive any points for successfully completing the activity (section F on the scoresheet) at that station.

8.3.8 Preliminary points do not carry over to the Masters' Challenge. The overall winner of the competition will be the competitor with the highest point total in the Masters' Challenge. For tiebreakers, see Rule 8.2.13.

8.4 Penalties

Mandatory Penalties

A competitor will be penalized for the following infractions:

8.4.1 A 20-point deduction will be assessed for failing to retrieve all equipment within the time limit.

8.4.2 A **2**-point penalty for each failure to issue an audible warning before throwing or removing a throw weight with the weight attached (includes mechanical devices). The first offense will result in a verbal warning (VW) from the Event Head Judge. Ensuing offenses will result in 2-point penalties. **(2026)**

8.4.3 A 3-point penalty for failure to issue an audible warning when necessary while aloft. **Up to two 3-point penalties will be allowed. A third failure to issue an audible warning will result in disqualification (see Rules 2.3.34 and 2.3.35). (2026)**

Discretionary Penalties *(determined by Scoring Judges)*

8.4.4 A competitor can receive up to a **10**-point deduction for any of the following: unsafe acts, poor performance, or poor techniques. **(2026)**

Discretionary Penalties *(determined by Event Head Judge)*

A **5**-point penalty and audible warning shall be given for any of the following infractions: **(2026)**

8.4.5 Dangerous uncontrolled swing

8.4.6 Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point

8.4.7 High-speed or dangerous movement

Penalty for Breaking a Limb

8.4.8 Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a **2**-point penalty which shall be audibly issued. Up to two **2**-point penalties will be allowed, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb. A third broken limb within the specified diameter range will result in disqualification (see Rule 1.3.1). **(2026)**

8.5 Disqualification

Mandatory Disqualification

A competitor shall be disqualified for the following infractions:

8.5.1 Dropping a piece of equipment while aloft

8.5.2 Failure to remain secured to the tree on at least one point of attachment

8.5.3 Fourth offense of failure to issue an audible warning prior to throwing or removing a throw weight

8.5.4 **Third** offense of failure to issue an audible warning when necessary while aloft **(2026)**

8.5.5 Two throws (throwlines with weights attached or climbing lines) that land outside the flagged area

8.5.6 Being more than 5 minutes late for the event

8.5.7 Misconduct/unsafe act (see Rule 1.2)

8.5.8 Leaving the predesignated area or bringing in equipment from outside the predesignated area once the official time has begun

8.5.9 Placing handsaw in the mouth

8.5.10 Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb

8.5.11 A **third** discretionary penalty (as determined by Event Head Judge) **(2026)**

8.5.12 Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once the event time has started, per Rule 1.1.9

8.6 Potential Bonuses

8.6.1 A competitor may receive up to **4** additional bonus points, at the judges' discretion, for each of the following (for a total of **12** potential bonus points): **(2026)**

- Overall demonstration of skill, style, and presentation throughout the climb
- Use of innovative techniques and equipment
- Overall demonstration of safe work practices, **hazard recognition, and swing management (2026)**

APPENDIX 1

ITCC Record for Ascent Event

The following criteria shall be met for a chapter or other group to sponsor an Ascent event for the purposes of setting a new ITCC record.

1. ISA staff shall be notified in advance of the ITCC record attempt. An independent judge must be selected and confirmed to attend prior to the event.
2. A current member of an ITCC Committee (Rules, Operations, Technical, APTCC/ETCC/LATCC/NATCC) serves as an independent judge.
3. The chapter or associate organization undertaking the attempt shall arrange and pay all associated costs for an appropriate ITCC committee member to be present.
4. All equipment used by the climbers and officials shall satisfy the requirements listed in the current ITCC rules and regulations.
5. The rules for the Head-to-Head Ascent event shall be followed. (See Rules in Appendix 2.)
6. When electronic timing is used, an additional three manual timings by stopwatch shall be taken as a backup in case of failure of the electronic timing device. If the electronic device fails, the three manual times will be added together, and an average time will be recorded. The three manual times recorded shall have no more than 50/100ths of a second difference between the fastest and slowest time to qualify for recording. If times fall outside this range, no ITCC-record time can be recorded.
7. When only manual timing is used, five stopwatches shall be used, and the highest and lowest times are discarded. The three remaining times will be added together, and an average time will be recorded. The three manual times recorded shall have no more than 50/100ths of a second difference between the fastest and slowest time to qualify for recording. If times fall outside this range, no ITCC-record time can be recorded.
8. An ITCC-record time will not be considered official until the request for validation form (attached) has been completed, returned to the ITCC staff liaison at ISA headquarters, and signed by the ITCC Chairperson.
9. Photos and videos shall be used to document and verify height measurements, before and after the climb.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

ITCC Ascent Event Record Attempt Event Request
Attempt must be 15 m (50 ft).

Event Information

Name of Chapter/AO _____

Name of Event _____

Address of Event _____

State/Province, Country _____

ITCC Committee Member who will be present _____

Date Event to be held _____

Contact Information

Chapter/AO President's Name _____

Chapter/AO President's Signature _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ (include international code)

Email _____

Local TCC Chairperson's Name _____

Local TCC Chairperson's Signature _____

Address _____

_____

Phone Number _____ (include international code)

Email _____

Send this request to:
ITCC Staff Liaison
ISA
270 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1900
Atlanta, GA 30303, USA

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE

ITCC Ascent Event Record Attempt
Request for Validation

EVENT:	LOCATION:	DATE:

I request ISA validation for a 15 m (50 ft) men's or women's Secured ITCC Ascent event-record attempt by: _____ (Climber's Name)

Chapter president's or TCC Local Chairperson's signature: _____

Date: _____

I confirm that the height to the lowest point of the bell was verified by me prior to the attempt taking place, and that its height was _____.

Operations/Rules Committee Member: _____ Date: _____

I confirm that the electronic time I recorded for this attempt is a true and valid time of

Electronic Timer's Signature _____ Recorded Time _____

I confirm that the manual time I recorded for this attempt is a true and valid time of

Timer #1 Signature _____ Recorded Time _____

I confirm that the manual time I recorded for this attempt is a true and valid time of

Timer #2 Signature _____ Recorded Time _____

I confirm that the manual time I recorded for this attempt is a true and valid time of

Timer #3 Signature _____ Recorded Time _____

I confirm that the manual time I recorded for this attempt is a true and valid time of

Timer #4 Signature _____ Recorded Time _____

I confirm that the manual time I recorded for this attempt is a true and valid time of

Timer #5 Signature _____ Recorded Time _____

I confirm I was present at this attempt and verify that the times recorded above are correct for the attempt made by _____

Climber's Name

Operations/Rules Committee Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

ITCC-Record Attempt—Average Recorded Time: _____

Climber's Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

OPERATIONS/RULES COMMITTEE MEMBER

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Electronic Timer

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Manual Timer #1

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Manual Timer #2

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Manual Timer #3

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Manual Timer #4

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

Manual Timer #5

Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

_____ Email _____

ITCC record validation process is not complete until reviewed by the ITCC Committee.

ITCC Committee Use Only

Attending ITCC Committee Member Signature _____

Date _____

ITCC Committee Chairperson Signature _____

Date _____

Following verification send to:
ITCC Staff Liaison
ISA
270 Peachtree Street NW,
Suite 1900
Atlanta, GA 30303, USA

Copies:
ITCC Committee Members
Local Chapter President
TCC Local Chair
Competitor

APPENDIX 2

Head-to-Head Ascent

The Head-to-Head Ascent is a standalone event that may take place at any competition held under the auspices of ISA.

Up to 18 climbers (with no more than 12 from the men's division) compete in the Head-to-Head Ascent. The climbers are those who scored the fastest times in the ascent section of the Ascent. If the top finishers from the Ascent do not wish to compete in the Head-to-Head Ascent, the position will be offered to the next-fastest climber, and so on.

The Head-to-Head Ascent measures a competitor's ability to perform a vertical ascent into a tree using approved equipment for fall protection on a single line. The height is 15 m (49 ft, 2.5 in) for all competitors in each division. A height of 12 m (39 ft, 4.5 in) may be used at Chapter level if height constraints are an issue. The event is timed, and the competitor with the fastest time wins.

In the Head-to-Head Ascent, two climbers compete at a time on separate lines, with separate timing systems in use.

Rules

- See Rules 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.4, 7.2.5, 7.2.6.
- The competitor attaches their ascending system, including non-PPE components to the line prior to the start of the event; preweighting of the ascent line (e.g., adding a shot pouch or tying a knot in the ascent line) is permitted during the setup.
- The competitors advise the Event Head Judge when ready and wait for the Event Head Judge to signal that the timers and technicians are ready to proceed.
- When the Event Head Judge says "Go," both competitors will start their ascent.
- The timers stop the clocks when the competitors ring the bell at the top of the climb with their hands.
- The time is recorded.
- After ringing the bell, the competitor must change over to their approved descent system and return to the ground.

Mandatory Disqualification

- Tampering or interfering with components of the fall-protection equipment
- Preventing the correct function of a mechanical device
- Misconfigured or detached life-support components during the timed portion of the event
- Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft
- Misconduct/unsafe act

When electronic timing is used, an additional three manual timings by stopwatch shall be taken as a backup in case of failure of the electronic timing device. If the electronic device fails, the three manual times will be added together, and an average time will be recorded. The three manual times recorded shall have no more than 50/100ths of a second difference between the fastest and slowest time to qualify for recording. If times fall outside this range, no ITCC record time can be recorded.

When only manual timing is used, five stopwatches shall be used, and the highest and lowest times are discarded. The three remaining times will be added together, and an average time will be recorded. The three manual times recorded shall have no more than 50/100ths of a second difference between the fastest and slowest time to qualify for recording. If times fall outside this range, no ITCC record time can be recorded.

IF ALL REQUIREMENTS OF APPENDIX 1 (ITCC RECORD ATTEMPT FOR ASCENT) ARE MET, TIMES WILL BE RECORDED AS AN ITCC RECORD.

APPENDIX 3

Aerial Rescue Event Scenario Examples and Emergency Services Arrival Guidelines

The event committee should write an aerial rescue scenario for its individual event. The scenario should be kept confidential prior to the competition and be outlined for the competitors during the event walkthrough meeting prior to the start of the competition.

The following are examples of possible aerial rescue event scenarios **and emergency services arrival guidelines (2026):**

Example #1

Weather conditions—35° C (95° F) Sunny/high humidity

Situation—You notice that the climber is not moving in the tree.

Climber condition—The climber is conscious, breathing hard, and his face is red. He is also having trouble communicating.

Example #2

Weather conditions—15° C (59° F) Cloudy and wet

Situation—A climber has slipped and fallen while moving through the tree. They have taken a violent swing, hitting the main trunk.

Climber condition—The climber is conscious but is holding their left arm. They are in pain and unable to descend from the tree.

Example #3

Weather conditions—21° C (70° F) Sunny

Situation—A climber is working in a takedown situation and has cut the back of his left leg with a chain saw.

Climber condition—The climber is unable to stop the bleeding while in the tree.

Emergency Services Arrival Guidelines

The emergency services estimated time of arrival should be determined during setup. If the competitor requests that emergency services (EMS) are contacted, then EMS will arrive:

1. **At a predetermined time after emergency services are contacted (e.g., 2 minutes), or**
2. **When climber's second foot leaves the ground, or**
3. **When climber reaches a designated union in the tree, or**
4. **When climber reaches the manikin. (2026)**

APPENDIX 4

Guidelines for Divisions with One or Two Competitors

In the event that there are only one or two competitors in each division at the chapter level, the potential climber representative shall be deemed to be eligible to compete at ITCC if they meet the criteria listed below during the chapter competition.

In the event that there are three or more climbers at the chapter level (in either division), the criteria below do not apply.

The competitor shall attempt each of the five preliminary events, and they shall score points in three of the five events.

The competitor shall successfully complete at least two stations in the Work Climb (excluding the landing station) before time runs out, then descend to the ground in a controlled manner and detach from their climbing system thus demonstrating an ability to safely move through the tree.

The competitor shall attempt a Masters' Challenge climb and, at a minimum, set a climbable line, enter the tree, and reach one station before timing out.

The intention of these criteria is to provide any serious competitor, regardless of their degree of experience or time in the field, with an opportunity to rise to the challenge of competing at the international level.

APPENDIX 5

Definitions

Compatible (see Rule 2.3.3)—Good functional interaction.

Competent (see Rule 6.2.2)—Having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to be able to perform the task.

Flip stick (see Rule 5.2.7)—A wooden or fiberglass stick approximately 12 mm (0.5 in) to 50 mm (2 in) in diameter and 75 cm (30 in) to 185 cm (72 in) in length.

Moving rope system (see Rule 2.3.23)—A fall-protection system in which the rope adjustment device advances along a moving line. Doubled rope technique (Drdt) or running rope systems are examples of moving rope systems (contrast with *stationary rope system*).

Stationary rope system (see Rule 2.3.23)—A fall-protection system in which the rope adjustment device moves along a stationary working line (contrast with *moving rope system*).

Stowed (see Rule 7.2.25)—Secured, connected, and not loose, to eliminate the possibility of falling and to prevent interference with the descent system and injury to the climber.

System backup (see Rule 7.3.7)—An additional device or configuration used to back up an approved, primary ascending system. System backups may be attached to the same climbing line as the primary ascending system (e.g., rope grab, mechanical ascender, six-coiled Prusik, or other accepted device) or to a second climbing line (e.g., mobile fall-arrester).

Unsportinglike conduct (see Rule 1.2.1)—An action that violates the event's generally accepted rules of participant conduct.

Work positioning (see Rule 2.3.23)—A technique that enables a person to work supported in tension or suspension by personal fall protection equipment in such a way that a fall from a height is prevented or restricted.

APPENDIX 6

Technicians' Guide

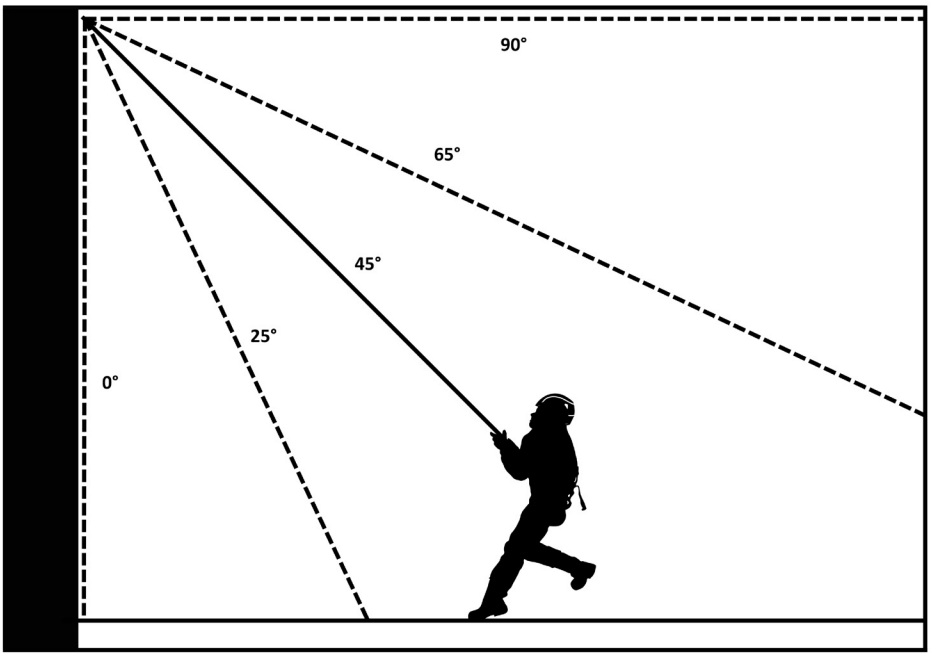
The following information is to be relayed to the Event Head Technicians on the ground by radio:

- **Proof of loading system prior to detachment of previous system**
- **Use of lanyard and attachment points on harness**
- **Slack in the line**
- **Dangerous actions**
- **Rope angle (with considerations for redirects, secondary securement, swing potential, posture, and hazard exposure)(2026)**

Further information shall only be transmitted upon demand from the ground.

Try to be consistent in the way you communicate the information between competitors.

Transmit facts, not opinion. Keep it short and concise.



APPENDIX 7

Ascent Event Attachment Configurations

The following information is to be used by the setup crew throughout the event. This setup will be part of the lowerable attachment point used by competitors for the ascent.

The overhead haul line (A) is attached using a retraced figure-8 knot. This haul line is part of the lowerable anchorage system.

The access line(s) can then be attached in three different configurations.

The competitor's back-up line shall be attached to the event back-up line (see Figure 2. Hub may be replaced with rated ring).

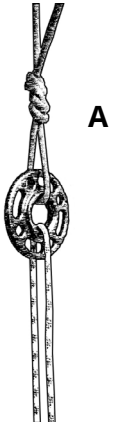


Figure 1. Moving: A single rope passed through the anchor in a moving rope setup.

Figure 2. Single stationary: A single rope attached using a retraced figure-8 knot in a stationary rope setup.

Figure 3. Double stationary: Double ropes attached using retraced figure-8 knots in a stationary rope setup.

APPENDIX 8

Sequester Protocols for Masters' Challenge

The following procedures are established to ensure fairness and integrity during the Masters' Challenge event. Organizers and participants shall adhere to these procedures.

The following procedures will be enforced:

1. **Mobile Phone Usage**—Participants may use mobile devices for personal purposes only. Any competition-related use, including strategy discussions, coaching communication, performance review, or event live-streaming, is strictly prohibited. The Head Judge or TCC Chair may collect phones before the event to ensure compliance, with prior notice provided to competitors.
2. **Defined Sequester Area**—Clearly designated and monitored space with restricted entry and exit; no unauthorized individuals permitted. Competitors may have a companion, coach, or guest accompany them in the designated area; however, any individual entering the area must not have witnessed or viewed any portion of the Masters event before entry. Entry into the designated area is final; re-entry after leaving will not be permitted. Any errands will be handled by volunteer runners.
3. **Continuous Supervision**—Dedicated Sequester Judge(s) (predetermined volunteer[s]) will be assigned to oversee sequestration at all times.
4. **Restricted Communication**—No communication permitted between the Masters' participants and others while being escorted to the competition tree.

Enforcement and Penalties—Any violations may result in disqualification.

APPENDIX 9

Scoresheets and Judges' Quick Reference Guides

The Judges' Quick Reference Guides (QRGs) are intended to be used as both training for new judges and as a reference throughout the competition.

They are NOT a substitute for the Rule Book.

Prior to the start of the setup of the competition, judges and technicians can refer to the QRG to see if there are any changes to the setup, per rule changes.

Once the scoring and judging teams are formed, the group can use the QRGs to review new rules. Any queries about new rules or the use of the scoresheets shall be addressed with the Rules Chair, Head Judge, and/or Head Scorer. It is the responsibility of all judges and scorers to be completely familiar with the rules pertaining to their event.

During the event, the QRGs can be printed and adhered to the fronts of clipboards for constant reference by judges for penalties and disqualifications, landing specifications (Work Climb), and discretionary judging guidance (Masters' Challenge).

Work Climb

Standard Event Run Time: 5 minutes

This Judges' Quick Reference Guide is intended to help guide conversation prior to the event. It is not a substitute for reading the Rule Book. Please use this guide as you review the event with the judging team to ensure consistency across competitors and events.

Setup Notes

- The beginning of the limb walk shall be marked. The mark shall be a minimum of 30 cm (12 in) wide.
- The rules require the plumb bob to measure movement in all directions. ISA recommends using a plumb bob that will redirect the weight horizontally to allow deflection in all directions. Contact ISA for design ideas.

Rule Changes

- There are no changes to this event.

Scoring Guidelines

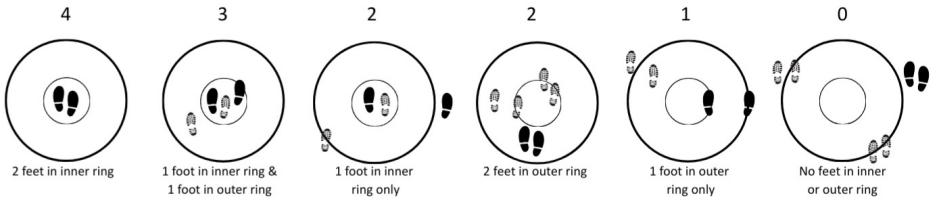
- Event Head Judges should announce if they are giving a penalty where a repeat offense may result in disqualification.
- Scoring points shall be the same for all judges. These are the double-lined boxes on the left side of the scoresheet.
- To earn time points, at a minimum, all bells must be rung. Mark the box on the upper left corner for each station as the competitor rings each bell.
- If a competitor does not complete a task, they do not earn or lose any scoring or discretionary points for that station. Write a 0 for each box in that station.
- Discretionary points are assigned on a scale of 0 to 3. Use the following guidelines for assigning discretionary points.
- The time the score sheet(s) are submitted to the Scorer shall be noted by the Scorers or Event Head Judge in the bottom-right corner of each competitor's score sheet.

3 — Exceptional performance
2 — Good performance
1 — Fair performance
0 — Unsafe or below average

Reminders

- If the time limit of the event is changed, inform the scoring team.

	PENALTY	DISQUALIFICATION
MANDATORY	• Failure to use work-positioning lanyard correctly when required • Failure to issue an audible warning (see Rules 2.3.34 to 2.3.35)(-3, -6, DQ) • Failure to use the working end of the pole pruner to ring the bell • Failure to properly rehang the pole pruner • Failure to ring the bell with two hands on the pole pruner • Failure to end "extended stand clear" 1-point penalty, up to 3 offenses, then DQ (-1, -2, -3, DQ)(see Rule 2.3.35)	• Dropped piece of equipment • Equipment left in the tree, except the preinstalled climbing line • Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb • Third offense of breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition • Failure to remain secured on at least one point of attachment • More than 5 minutes late for the event • Placing handsaw in the mouth • Misconduct • A third discretionary penalty • A second failure to use a work-positioning lanyard when required • A third failure to issue an audible warning • Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once event time has started
DISCRETIONARY	• Dangerous uncontrolled movement • Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point • Unsportinglike conduct • Head Judge may issue -3, -6, or DQ for unsafe acts • Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb	None



INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
WORK CLIMB

2026

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT–COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- ☐ Approved Eye Protection
- ☐ Approved Climbing-Style Helmet
- ☐ Appropriate Footwear
- ☐ Appropriate Clothing
- ☐ Approved Climbing Harness
- ☐ Approved Climbing Line
- ☐ Approved Handsaw and Scabbard
- ☐ Approved Work-Positioning Lanyard

Climber Name / Number: _____

Judge: _____ Group: _____

FOR ☐ BOXES — JUDGES SHALL AWARD THE SAME POINTS

SCORING POINTS | **DISCRETIONARY POINTS**

Handsaw Station

Bell ☐

Completed Task:
Lanyarded in, gave audible warning, rang bell w/ handsaw 0 2

Rang bell w/ two hands on handsaw 0 3

\+ ☐

Discretionary Points: 0 1 2 3 ☐

Limb Toss Station

Bell ☐

Completed Task:
Lanyarded in, gave audible warning, rang bell w/ handsaw 0 2

Rang bell w/ two hands on handsaw 0 3

Hit Target - First Throw 0 3

Hit Target - Second Throw 0 2

\+ ☐

Discretionary Points: 0 1 2 3 ☐

Pole Pruner Station

Bell ☐

Completed Task:
Lanyarded in, gave audible warning, rang bell w/ pole pruner 0 2

\+ ☐

Did not have two hands on pole pruner 0 -3

Used wrong end of pole 0 -3

Did not properly rehang pole 0 -3

Penalty: - ☐

Discretionary Points: 0 1 2 3 ☐

Limb Walk Station

Bell ☐

Completed Task:
Walked limb out, lanyarded in, gave audible warning, rang bell w/ handsaw, walked limb back 0 2

Rang bell w/ two hands on handsaw 0 3

Plumb bob points 0 2 4 6

\+ ☐

Discretionary Points: 0 1 2 3 ☐

Landing Station

Bell ☐

Completed Task:
Gave audible warning, sounded horn/rang bell w/ hand 0 2

Landed with only feet touching 0 3

Inner Ring - 1 foot in / 2 feet in 0 2 4

Outer ring - 1 foot in / 2 feet in 0 1 2

\+ ☐

Discretionary Points: 0 1 2 3 ☐

Breaking a limb within diameter range 0 -1 -2 DQ

Penalty: - ☐

Mandatory Penalty:

Failure to issue an audible warning 0 -3 -6 DQ

Failure to end "extended stand clear" 0 -1 -2 -3 DQ

Failure to use lanyard correctly 0 -3 DQ

Discretionary Penalty:

For unsafe acts as determined by Event Head Judge 0 -3 -6 DQ

Penalty: - ☐

TIMER 1

MIN : SEC . 1/100

TIMER 2

MIN : SEC . 1/100

ALL BELLS RUNG? YES NO

Reason for DQ:

SCORER USE ONLY SCORE CHECKED ☐ ☐ SCORE ENTERED ☐ ☐ Score Sheet Submission Time: _____

Aerial Rescue

Standard Event Run Time: 5 minutes

This Judges' Quick Reference Guide is intended to help guide conversation prior to the event. It is not a substitute for reading the Rule Book. Please use this guide as you review the event with the judging team to ensure consistency across competitors and events.

Setup Notes

- Additional guidance added in Appendix 3 regarding EMS arrival time.

Rule Changes

- There are no changes to this event.

Scoring Guidelines

- Event Head Judges should announce if they are giving a penalty where a repeat offense may result in disqualification.
- Scoring points shall be the same for all judges. These are the double-lined boxes on the left side of the scoresheet.
- If a competitor does not show up for the event, inform the scoring team.
- The time the score sheet(s) are submitted to the Scorer shall be noted by the Scorers or Event Head Judge in the bottom-right corner of each competitor's score sheet.

Reminders

- This event requires three (3) or five (5) judges.
- If the time limit for the event is changed, inform the scoring team.
- The injured climber needs to be between 60 to 80 kg (132 to 176 lbs).

	PENALTY	DISQUALIFICATION
MANDATORY	• Failure to issue an audible warning when necessary (excluding descent with injured climber)(see Rules 2.3.34 to 2.3.35) • Failure to end "extended stand clear" 1-point penalty, up to 3 offenses, then DQ (-1, -2, -3, DQ)(see Rule 2.3.35)	• Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft • Failure to remain secured to the tree on at least one point of attachment • Being more than 5 minutes late for the event • Misconduct • Third offense of breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition • Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb • Tampering with the injured climber's independent fall-arrest system • Failure to safely manage the friction required for the additional weight of the injured climber • Placing handsaw in the mouth • A third discretionary penalty • Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once event time has started
DISCRETIONARY	• Head Judge may issue −3, −6, or DQ for unsafe acts. • Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point • Dangerous uncontrolled swing • High-speed or dangerous movement • Excessive lateral movement when using an ascending system not approved for descent or lateral movement • Unsportinglike conduct • Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb	None

INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
AERIAL RESCUE

2026

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT–COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- ☐ Approved Eye Protection
- ☐ Approved Climbing-Style Helmet
- ☐ Appropriate Footwear
- ☐ Approved Climbing Line
- ☐ Approved Work-Positioning Lanyard
- ☐ Approved Climbing Harness
- ☐ Appropriate Clothing

Climber Name / Number: _____

Judge: _____ Group: _____

FOR ☐ BOXES — JUDGES SHALL AWARD THE SAME POINTS

SCORING POINTS | **DISCRETIONARY POINTS**

Risk Assessment & Rescue Plan

Communicated with the casualty and determined responsiveness: 0 1

Scoring: ☐ (0 or 1)

Contacted emergency services and provided relevant information: 0 1 2

Assessed hazards and determined if safe to perform rescue: 0 1 2

Communicated and initiated rescue plan: 0 1 2

Discretionary Points: ☐ (0–6)

Ascent & Movement to the Casualty

Verified ascent line and anchor point are safe to use: 0 1

Scoring: ☐ (0 or 1)

Safe, smooth, and efficient ascent: 0 1 2

Safe, suitable, and efficient movement to casualty: 0 1 2

Communicated appropriately with casualty and ground personnel: 0 1 2

Discretionary Points: ☐ (0–6)

Casualty Assessment & Handling

Secured at the casualty in a safe working position: 0 1

Scoring: ☐ (0 or 1)

Assessed casualty injury and equipment: 0 1 2 3 4

Administered appropriate first aid: 0 1 2 3 4

Stabilized casualty correctly for transport: 0 1 2 3 4

Transferred casualty from attachment/branch to competitor: 0 1 2 3

Discretionary Points: ☐ (0–15)

Descent

Issued audible warning before beginning descent: 0 1

Scoring: ☐ (0 or 1)

Maintained casualty in stable and suitable position: 0 1 2 3 4

Safe, smooth and controlled descent: 0 1 2

Communicated condition of casualty and instructions to ground personnel: 0 1 2 3

Discretionary Points: ☐ (0–9)

Landing

Competitor and casualty landed on the ground: 0 1

Unclipped casualty within the time limit: 0 2

Scoring: ☐ (0, 1, 2, or 3)

Landed casualty in a comfortable position appropriate to injury: 0 1 2

Reached ground in a comfortable posture: 0 1 2 3

Audible communications and timely transfer to emergency services: 0 1 2

Discretionary Points: ☐ (0–7)

Discretionary Penalties for unsafe acts determined by Event Head Judge: 0 -3 -6 DQ

Penalty: ☐ (0, -3, -6, or DQ)

Breaking a limb within diameter range: 0 -1 -2 DQ

Failure to end "extended stand clear": 0 -1 -2 -3 DQ

Penalty: ☐ (0, -1, -2, -3, -4, -5, or DQ)

REASON FOR DQ:

NOTES:

	MIN	SEC	1/100
TIMER 1	☐	☐	☐
TIMER 2	☐	☐	☐

Preliminary Point total (0–50): ☐

SCORER USE ONLY SCORE CHECKED ☐ ☐ SCORE ENTERED ☐ ☐ **Score Sheet Submission Time:** _____

Throwline

Standard Event Run Time: 6 minutes

This Judges' Quick Reference Guide is intended to help guide conversation prior to the event. It is not a substitute for reading the Rule Book. Please use this guide as you review the event with the judging team to ensure consistency across competitors and events.

Setup Notes

- The heights of the targets should be between 10 and 20 m (32.8 and 65.6 ft).

Rule Changes

- There are no changes to this event.

Scoring Guidelines

- Event Head Judges should announce if they are giving a penalty where repeat offense may result in disqualification.
- Record the first score time and the final time. The first score time is registered at the first time the competitor asks for either a throw-line or climbing line to be registered.
- The final score time is recorded when a competitor has successfully installed both climbing lines in the tree(s), when the competitor requests the time to stop, or when time has expired.
- Time Points are assessed based on the final time. If scores are tied, the competitor with the fastest final time is the winner. If times are identical, the competitor with the fastest first score time is the winner.
- Competitors will have the option of adding a canopy anchor SRS system to their successfully scored climb line for an additional 2 points per side of the tree(s). The canopy anchor SRS system must be retrievable by the competitor immediately after the event ends. If the system is not retrievable after time has expired, no points will be awarded for installing the climb line. The competitor will get credit for a successful throwline if "Score" was declared (see Rule 5.4.5 regarding nonscoring lines).
- An additional 1 bonus point may be awarded by the Event Head Judge for innovative or exceptional techniques during the event.
- The time the score sheet(s) are submitted to the Scorer shall be noted by the Scorers or Event Head Judge in the bottom-right corner of each competitor's score sheet.

Reminders

- If the time limit of the event is changed, inform the scoring team.

	PENALTY	DISQUALIFICATION
MANDATORY	• Failure to issue an audible warning • Not installing a climbing line • Each nonscoring line or throw weight left in the tree when the time expires • Throw weight or climbing line landing outside the flagged area	• Failure to issue four audible warnings • Being more than 5 minutes late for event • Two throws (throwlines with weights attached or climbing lines) that land outside the flagged area • Misconduct • Third offense of breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition • Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to any unnecessary force being applied to the limb • Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once event time has started
DISCRETIONARY	• Unsportinglike conduct • Unsafe act • Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb	None

INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
THROWLINE

2026

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT–COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- ☐ Approved Eye Protection
- ☐ Approved Climbing-Style Helmet
- ☐ Approved Climbing Line(s)
- ☐ Approved Throwline(s) and Throw Weight(s)
- ☐ Appropriate Footwear
- ☐ Appropriate Clothing

Climber Name / Number: _____

Judge: _____ Group: _____

SIDE 1

Target Score		Installation of Climbing Line		SRS
9	+	4	+	2
7	+	3	+	2
5	+	2	+	2
3	+	1	+	2

Total Side 1 ☐

SIDE 2

Target Score		Installation of Climbing Line		SRS
9	+	4	+	2
7	+	3	+	2
5	+	2	+	2
3	+	1	+	2

Total Side 2 ☐

TIME

FIRST SCORE TIME — MIN ☐ : SEC ☐ . 1/100 ☐

FINAL SCORE TIME — MIN ☐ : SEC ☐ . 1/100 ☐

BONUS

1 Bonus point for innovative or exceptional technique ☐ 0 or 1

Time Points

4 points – In 4:00.00 minutes or less
3 points – Between 4:00.01 and 4:30.00 minutes
2 points – Between 4:30.01 and 5:00.00 minutes
1 point – Between 5:00.01 and 5:30.00 minutes
0 points – Over 5:30.00 minutes

Time Points ☐ 0–4

PENALTIES

No climbing line installed				0	-3	
Nonscoring line left in tree (-1 point per line)	0	-1	-2	-3		
Failing to control a throw weight or climbing line within event area			0	-3	DQ	
Breaking a branch within the diameter range		0	-1	-2	DQ	
Failure to issue an audible warning (-1 point per occurrence)	0	vw	-1	-2	DQ	

TOTAL PENALTIES ☐ 0–13

SCORE

SIDE 1 + SIDE 2 ☐ + TIME POINTS ☐ + BONUS POINT ☐ - TOTAL PENALTIES ☐ = PRELIMINARY SCORE ☐ (0–35)

REASON FOR DQ:

SCORER USE ONLY SCORE CHECKED ☐ ☐ SCORE ENTERED ☐ ☐ **Score Sheet Submission Time:** _____

Belayed Speed Climb

Standard Event Run Time: 5 minutes

This Judges' Quick Reference Guide is intended to help guide conversation prior to the event. It is not a substitute for reading the Rule Book. Please use this guide as you review the event with the judging team to ensure consistency across competitors and events.

Setup Notes

- The setup team may choose to add tape to certain branches that could break should a competitor touch them beyond a designated point. If needed, add tape and inform competitors of the potential for a penalty or disqualification during the walkthrough.
- Prior to the start of the competition, the event team shall perform a number of trial runs of the event with climbers comparable to those who will be competing. If a good time is expected to be 30 seconds or less, inform the scoring team to change the time points to 1 second/point (like the Footlock Event). If a good time is expected to be greater than 30 seconds, then 2 seconds/point will be used (the default in the scoring program). If a 1-second/point system is used, inform the competitors during the walkthrough. This decision shall be made by the Event Head Judge.

Rule Changes

- There are no changes to this event.

Scoring Guidelines

- Event Head Judges should announce if they are giving a penalty where a repeat offense may result in disqualification.
- This event is based purely on time.
- Competitors need to be within 20 seconds (10 seconds if 1 second/point) of the fastest time to score points in this event.
- The time the score sheet(s) are submitted to the Scorer shall be noted by the Scorers or Event Head Judge in the bottom-right corner of each competitor's score sheet.

Reminders

- This event requires three (3) or five (5) timers.
- Make sure to always enter scores on the scoresheet from Timer A to E. Do not skip boxes. If a stopwatch malfunctions, put a line through the box so the scoring team knows to ignore that box.

	PENALTY	DISQUALIFICATION
MANDATORY	• Touching a branch beyond the tape	• Second infraction of using the lead of the rope to advance position • Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft • Failure to remain secured • Being more than 5 minutes late for the event • Misconduct • Third offense of breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition • Second infraction of touching branch beyond the tape • Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once event time has started
DISCRETIONARY	• Unsportinglike conduct • Unsafe act • Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 1-point penalty, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb	• Dangerous uncontrolled swing • Leaping or jumping, creating excessive slack • Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb

INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
BELAYED SPEED CLIMB

2026

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT–COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- ☐ Approved Eye Protection
- ☐ Approved Climbing-Style Helmet
- ☐ Appropriate Footwear
- ☐ Approved Climbing Harness
- ☐ Appropriate Clothing

Climber Name / Number: _____

Judge: _____ Group: _____

PENALTY: A 1-second penalty will be deducted from the competitors' final score for touching beyond the tape. A second infraction will result in a DQ.

0 -1 DQ

Breaking a limb within diameter range

0 -1 -2 DQ

COMPETITOR'S TIME

A

MIN : SEC . 1/100

B

MIN : SEC . 1/100

C

MIN : SEC . 1/100

D

MIN : SEC . 1/100

E

MIN : SEC . 1/100

Average time (plus penalty)

MIN : SEC . 1/100

REASON FOR DQ:

SCORER USE ONLY SCORE CHECKED ☐ ☐ SCORE ENTERED ☐ ☐ **Score Sheet Submission Time:** _____

Ascent Event

Standard Event Run Time: 4 minutes

This Judges' Quick Reference Guide is intended to help guide conversation prior to the event. It is not a substitute for reading the Rule Book. Please use this guide as you review the event with the judging team to ensure consistency across competitors and events.

Setup Notes

- The event belay/back-up line should be installed within 38 cm to 60 cm (15 in to 24 in) from the main climbing line.
- Systems, including backups, will be verbally reviewed and approved by Ascent Event Head Judge or Head Tech during gear inspection. If clarity is needed, the competitor will be asked to demonstrate their ascent system and or backup.
- All ascent systems must be approved and meet Rule 2.3.1.

Rule Changes

- There are no changes to this event.

Scoring Guidelines

- Three times shall be recorded for a successful changeover to descent system. The timers start the "changeover" clock when the competitor rings the bell at the top of the climb (this same ring of the bell stops the "ascent" time).
- Up to two additional points may be earned for incorporating a system backup within an ascent system (see Appendix 5 for definition of system backup).
- The time the score sheet(s) are submitted to the Scorer shall be noted by the Scorers or Event Head Judge in the bottom-right corner of each competitor's score sheet.

	PENALTY	DISQUALIFICATION
MANDATORY	• Tampering or interfering with components of the fall-protection system • Preventing the correct function of a mechanical device • Placing hands above a footlock Prusik • Misconfigured or detached life-support components during the timed portion of the event • Not securing equipment prior to ringing the changeover bell a second time	• A second mandatory penalty • Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft • Failure to remain secured • Being more than 5 minutes late for the event • Misconduct • Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once event time has started
DISCRETIONARY	• Unsportinglike conduct • Unsafe act	None

INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
ASCENT EVENT

2026

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT–COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- ☐ Approved Eye Protection
- ☐ Approved Climbing-Style Helmet
- ☐ Appropriate Footwear
- ☐ Approved Climbing Harness
- ☐ Approved Climbing Line(s)
- ☐ Approved Ascent System
- ☐ Approved Descent System
- ☐ Appropriate Clothing

Climber Name / Number: _____

Judge: _____ Group: _____

MAY BE COMPLETED DURING GEAR INSPECTION
FOR HEAD TECHNICIAN USE ONLY
Include enough information to confirm system during event.

ASCENT SYSTEM	DESCENT SYSTEM

RECORD ALL TIMES for each section, even if the time limit is exceeded.
If time limit is exceeded, mark the Timed Out box. No more points may be accumulated after that section.
If a system is misconfigured, mark the appropriate box. No Time Points will be awarded for that section.

	SETUP (MIN : SEC . 1/100)	ASCENT (MIN : SEC . 1/100)	CHANGEOVER (MIN : SEC . 1/100)
A	☐ : ☐ . ☐	☐ : ☐ . ☐	☐ : ☐ . ☐
B	☐ : ☐ . ☐	☐ : ☐ . ☐	☐ : ☐ . ☐
C	☐ : ☐ . ☐	☐ : ☐ . ☐	☐ : ☐ . ☐
	☐ TIMED OUT ☐ TIME POINTS LOST DUE TO MISCONFIGURATION	☐ TIMED OUT	☐ TIMED OUT ☐ TIME POINTS LOST DUE TO MISCONFIGURATION
	TIME POINTS FOR SETUP 2 points – completed in 24.99 seconds or less 1 point – completed in 25.00 to 49.99 seconds 0 points – completed in 50.00 to 89.99 seconds	The time limit for Ascent is 90 seconds.	TIME POINTS FOR CHANGEOVER 2 points – completed in 4.99 seconds or less 1 point – completed in 5.00 to 12.99 seconds 0 points – completed in over 13.00 seconds

BONUS POINTS

1 point - system backup is attached to the same climbing line as the primary ascending system

2 points - system backup is attached to a second climbing line

Incorporation of System Backup: 0 | +1 | +2

\+ ☐ **BONUS POINTS**

PENATY POINTS

- ☐ Tampering or interfering with components of fall-protection equipment
- ☐ Preventing correct function of mechanical device
- ☐ Placing hands above a footlock Prusik
- ☐ Misconfigured or detached life-support components
- ☐ Not securing equipment prior to ringing the changeover bell a 2nd time

0 | -3 | DQ

\- ☐ **PENALTY POINTS**

REASON FOR DQ:

(0 - 25) **PRELIMINARY TOTAL** ☐

SCORER USE ONLY SCORE CHECKED ☐ ☐ SCORE ENTERED ☐ ☐ **Score Sheet Submission Time:** _____

Masters' Challenge

Standard Event Run Time: 25 to 35 minutes

This Judges' Quick Reference Guide is intended to help guide conversation prior to the event. It is not a substitute for reading the Rule Book. Please use this guide as you review the event with the judging team to ensure consistency across competitors and events.

Setup Notes

- Prior to the start of the event, work with the Head Technician and the Tree Technician to determine the maximum height allowable for a single and double load. They do not need to be marked but should be discussed ahead of time.
- The initial setup of the event shall be performed by climbing and not solely with an aerial lift. Climbing will help the judges predetermine potential tie-ins, inspect for defects, and evaluate rope angles based on the placement of the stations.
- Two clocks shall be used. When the Head Judge calls time, the second clock continues to run until all of the equipment hits the ground.
- The timing judges' clock is the standard with the Head Judge's clock as a backup.

Rule Changes

- There are no Rule changes to this event.

Scoring Guidelines

- Note that 8.2.16–8.2.18 and 8.2.22 (2024) have been moved to 8.3.4–8.3.7 (2026).
- Judges may award 0–3 points to competitors who incorporate emergency response planning.
- Judges may award 0–4 discretionary bonus points per box, for a total of 12 possible bonus points.
- Limb Toss—Competitors who complete the task (by ringing the bell) shall earn a minimum of 4 points.
- Event Head Judges shall announce if they are giving a penalty where a repeat offense may result in disqualification.
- Scoring points shall be the same for all judges. These are the double-lined boxes on the scoresheet.
- The time the score sheet(s) are submitted to the Scorer shall be noted by the Scorers or Event Head Judge in the bottom-right corner of each competitor's score sheet.

Reminders

- This event requires three (3) or five (5) judges.
- A competitor who utilizes more than five throws to install a throwline receives no height points.
- A competitor receives points only for tasks that were completed within the time limit. If the competitor times out, s/he can receive points, at the judges' discretion, in any of the scoring sections, even if all the tasks pertinent to that section have not been completed.

	PENALTY	DISQUALIFICATION
MANDATORY	• A 20-point deduction will be assessed for failing to retrieve all equipment within the time limit • A 2-point penalty for each failure, after the first, to issue an audible warning before throwing or removing a throw weight with the weight attached (includes mechanical devices). The first offense will result in a verbal warning (VW) from the Event Head Judge. Ensuing offenses will result in 2-point penalties. • A 3-point penalty for failure to issue an audible warning when necessary while aloft. Up to two 3-point penalties will be allowed. A third offense will results in disqualification (see Rules 2.3.34 and 2.3.35). • Throws that land outside of flagged area, −6, DQ • Failure to issue an audible warning when required on the ground, VW, −2, −4, DQ • Failure to end "extended stand clear" 1-point penalty, up to 3 offenses, then DQ (-1, -2, -3, DQ) (see Rule 2.3.35)	• Dropping a piece of equipment while working aloft • Failure to remain secured to the tree on at least one point of attachment • Fourth offense of failure to issue an audible warning prior to throwing or removing a throw weight • Third offense of failure to issue an audible warning when necessary while aloft • Two throws (throwlines with weights attached or climbing lines) that land outside the flagged area • Being more than 5 minutes late for the event • Misconduct/unsafe act • Leaving the predesignated area or bringing in equipment from outside the predesignated area once the official time has begun • Placing handsaw in the mouth • Third offense of breaking a limb within the diameter range as set by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition • Breaking a limb larger than the predetermined maximum size, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb • A third discretionary penalty (as determined by the Event Head Judge) • Failure to be equipped with all required equipment once event time has started
DISCRETIONARY	• Head Judge may issue −5, −10, or DQ for unsafe acts. • Scoring Judges may issues 0–10 points for Unsafe acts, poor performance, poor techniques (assessed by Scoring Judges) • Dangerous uncontrolled swing • Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point • High-speed or dangerous movement • Breaking a limb within the diameter range designated by the Event Head Judge prior to the beginning of the competition will result in a 2-point penalty, unless it is determined by the Event Head Judge that the break was not due to unnecessary force applied to the limb	None

Discretionary Scoring Guidelines (for stations)

9-10 Exceptional performance
7-8 Good performance
5-6 Adequate performance
3-4 Fair performance
1-2 Poor performance

Scoring Guidelines (for limb toss) — all judges shall agree

10 Hit target first throw
8 Hit target second throw
6 Hit target third throw
4 Rang bell but did not hit target
0 Did not hit the target or ring bell

Other Scoring Guidelines

3 Exceptional performance
2 Good performance
1 Fair performance
0 Unsafe/Poor performance

INTERNATIONAL TREE CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP
MASTERS' CHALLENGE

2026

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT–COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

- ☐ Approved Eye Protection
- ☐ Approved Climbing-Style Helmet
- ☐ Appropriate Footwear
- ☐ Appropriate Clothing
- ☐ Approved Climbing Harness
- ☐ Approved Climbing Line
- ☐ Approved Handsaw and Scabbard
- ☐ Approved Work-Positioning Lanyard

Climber Name / Number: _____

Judge: _____

FOR ☐ BOXES — JUDGES SHALL AWARD THE SAME POINTS

Visual Tree Assessment (5 points possible) 5 4 3 2 1 0

Emergency Response Planning (3 points possible) 3 2 1 0

SCORE ☐

INSTALLATION OF CLIMBING LINE (16 Points possible)

Throwline

1st try	2nd try	3rd try	4th try	5th try	6th +
10	8	6	4	2	0

Height of Union (only for first 5 throws) 4 3 2 1 0

Bonus: Throw Method / Technique / Skill displayed 2 1 0

SCORE ☐

SETUP OF CLIMBING LINE / EQUIPMENT / ENTRY INTO TREE (12 Points possible — enter 0, 1, 2, or 3 in each box, see QRG)

SETUP:
- Installation of climbing line / equipment ☐
- Safe and efficient setup ☐

ENTRY:
- Method: Suitable, safe, always secure ☐
- Ascent: Smooth, fluid, efficient use of energy ☐

+ **SCORE** ☐

WORK STATIONS (240 Points possible / 60 per station — enter 0 to 10 per box)

9-10 Exceptional
7-8 Good
5-6 Adequate
3-4 Fair
1-2 Poor

	Handsaw 1	Handsaw 2	Limb Toss	Plumb Bob
A) Tie-in point or redirect suitable for situation and work station	☐	☐	☐	☐
B) Maintain proper tension in the fall-protection/ work-positioning system and rope management	☐	☐	☐	☐
C) Overall work plan, selection of route	☐	☐	☐	☐
D) Confident posture and balance at station	☐	☐	☐	☐
E) Control of movement to and from station	☐	☐	☐	☐
F) **Correctly completed station** JUDGES SHALL ALL AWARD THE SAME POINTS See QRG	☐	☐	☐	☐
	0 or 10	0 or 10	0, 4, 6, 8, 10	0 or 4, 7, 10

+ + + = + **SCORE** ☐

DESCENT, LANDING, RETRIEVAL OF EQUIPMENT (12 Points possible — enter 0, 1, 2, or 3 in each box, see QRG)

- Well-planned descent, rope control, not tangling lines ☐
- Proper descent speed, smooth descent, balanced landing ☐
- Smooth gear retrieval, done without struggle ☐
- Safe / controlled gear retrieval ☐

+ **SCORE** ☐

JUDGE'S DISCRETIONARY BONUS POINTS (12 Points possible — enter 0 to 4 per box)

- Overall demonstration of skill, style and presentation ☐
- Use of innovative techniques and equipment ☐
- Overall safe work practices and techniques, hazard recognition, and swing management ☐

+ **SCORE** ☐

PENALTIES

Scoring Judge's Discretionary Penalties for Unsafe Acts, Poor Performance, or Technique	(0 TO -10) ☐
Head Judge's Discretionary Penalties for Unsafe Acts	0 -5 -10 DQ
Breaking a limb within diameter range	0 -2 -4 DQ
Mandatory Penalty: failing to remove all equipment from tree (not including roots)	0 -20
Mandatory Penalty: failing to issue an audible warning when required while aloft	0 -3 -6 DQ
Failure to end "extended stand clear"	0 -1 -2 -3 DQ
Mandatory Penalty: failure to issue an audible warning when required on the ground	0 vw -2 -4 DQ
Mandatory Penalty: Throws that land outside of flagged area	0 -6 DQ

– **PENALTIES** ☐ =

REASON FOR DQ:

OFFICIAL TIME MIN ☐ : SEC ☐ . 1/100 ☐

TOTAL SCORE (0 - 300) ☐

SCORER USE ONLY SCORE CHECKED ☐ ☐ SCORE ENTERED ☐ ☐ Score Sheet Submission Time: _____

APPENDIX 10

ITCC Rule Infraction Protest Form

All protests of rule infraction must be submitted to the International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) Chairperson as soon as possible but no later than one hour after an alleged rule infraction has been identified. All protests must be made on this official protest form and must contain all of the following information:

a. Name of the person filing the complaint

b. Alleged violation: give specific rule or regulation number

c. Name of person alleged to have participated in rule or regulation infraction

d. A clear and concise statement of the alleged complaint indicating the issue involved, time and place infraction occurred, any witnesses that can be contacted to substantiate violation, and the relief being sought to correct the violation

Name of person submitting complaint: _____

Date and time of submittal: _____

Alleged infraction: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name of person(s) alleged of rule infraction: _____

_____

_____

Written description of violation: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature of person(s) filing complaint:

_____ _____ Date: _____

_____ _____ Date: _____

A decision on the written protest shall be forthcoming before the contest is completed. Please remember that judges and officials volunteer their time to make these events possible. Judges and officials must be treated with respect. Misconduct in the presentation of a complaint is cause for immediate withdrawal of your protest rights by the Championship Chairperson.

FOR ITCC OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ITCC Official Decision (Ruling Stands, Ruling Overturned):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Additional supporting information and notes:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

TCC Official Signature: _____ Date: _____

TCC Official Printed Name: _____

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

To see the changes made from the 2024–2026 rules, you may view the rules online at:

https://www.itcc-isa.com/rules-regulations/rules

To submit a rule change proposal or to request an interpretation of the rules, visit:

https://www.itcc-isa.com/rules-regulations/rules

You may obtain printable versions of the score sheets and the scoring program at:

https://www.itcc-isa.com/rules-regulations/scoring

Questions or request for approvals regarding equipment go to:

https://www.itcc-isa.com/Rules-and-Regulations/Equipment

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