

# BOULDERING

Rules Light 2011



International Federation of Sport Climbing  
[www.ifsc-climbing.org](http://www.ifsc-climbing.org)



# Rules Light Bouldering 2011

**Attention: these are not the complete rules and should never be referred to when making an appeal during a competition. The document is made just to help competitors understand the rules.**

## 1 GENERAL PART

### 1.1 Competition Jury

The competition Jury consists of the Jury President, the IFSC Judge, the Chief Routesetter and the IFSC Delegate. The Jury President has overall authority within the competition area.

### 1.2 Team clothing

All competitors, while climbing, shall wear their national team top (T-shirt) with the bib number on the back. The bib number must be clearly visible (pay attention if you have long hair!).

The national federation must make sure the team top is made according to the IFSC regulations.

### 1.3 Coaches

Each team is allowed to register:

- 1 team manager
- 2 team coaches
- 2 qualified medical or para-medical personnel

They shall be permitted to enter and leave the isolation zone under the same conditions as the competitors.

### 1.4 Technical meeting

- The IFSC shall publish the list of participants at least 4 days prior to the competition.
- Confirmation of competitors before the technical meeting is compulsory. The registration desk for this confirmation will close at least 30 minutes before the start of the technical meeting. No confirmation means that the competitor shall be deleted from the list of participants.
- In special circumstances (airline strike, traffic jams....) an SMS can be sent to the Jury President or the IFSC Delegate to confirm the presence of the registered competitors.

- At the technical meeting, the Official Starting Lists will be handed out (and the event schedule confirmed).
- Prior to each round, all competitors eligible to enter that round, shall **reconfirm** their presence at the registration desk (Article 3.4.1 and 3.5.1). Any absent competitors shall be deleted from the Official Starting list but the starting order and, if applicable, the allocation to groups shall remain unchanged.

## 1.5 Starting list

The starting order of the qualification round shall be the order of the World Ranking for bouldering on the day of the technical meeting. The highest ranked competitor shall start first. Non ranked competitors shall start after ranked competitors in randomised order.

In the case of two groups: The competitors are split in two equally, or almost equally, large groups following a seeding system. After the seeding, the above applies.

The starting order of the other rounds is the reversed ranking of the previous round.

## 1.6 Isolation

The closing time is very strict! No cameras, no mobile phones, no other communication devices are allowed. No communication with persons outside the isolation is permitted (red card!). Only competitors for the actual round of the competition, and official coaches / managers / medical personnel and competition officials can enter.

## 1.7 Call Zone

The Call Zone is an area between the isolation zone and the competition zone. A competitor will receive the official instruction to go to the call zone when it is his/her turn to climb. Team managers or coaches can not accompany the competitor into the Call Zone.

The competitor shall make the last preparations to be ready to start: for instance the team top (with bib number).

# 2 COMPETITION PROCEDURE

## 2.1 General

A bouldering competition consists of a series of short routes, called boulders. All boulders shall be climbed without ropes. The number of handholds on each boulder shall be at most 12 (generally between 4 and 8 handholds). All boulders are protected by landing mats for safety.

A bouldering competition generally consists of three rounds; these are a qualification round (consisting of 5 boulders), a semifinal round (4 boulders) and a final round (4 boulders). The semifinal round and final round are held on the same day. There is a minimum gap of 2 hours after the last competitor has finished their semifinal and the closure of the isolation for the final round.

The quota for the semifinal round is 20 competitors (when there is a tie for 20<sup>th</sup> place, all

competitors in 20<sup>th</sup> place will go to the semifinal round). The quota for the final round is 6 competitors (when, after applying the countback procedure, there is a tie for 6<sup>th</sup> place, all competitors in 6<sup>th</sup> place will go to the final round).

There will be no countback to the qualification round when there were 2 sets of boulders (2 groups).

In case of a tie for the first place after the final round, a superfinal will be held following the lead rules (only in Championships).

Each boulder has marked starting holds (handholds and possibly footholds). The tophold will be marked with the same colour as the starting holds. Somewhere in between the starting holds and the tophold, a hold will be marked with another colour (the bonus hold).

Each boulder will be judged by a Boulder Judge.

All holds will be cleaned by the Boulder Judge before the first attempt of a competitor. The competitor is allowed to clean those holds that can be reached from the ground, but only with the official brushes.

Attention:     - the holes for the T-nuts can't be used as handholds  
                  - the area on the other side of black tape can't be used for climbing

## **2.2 Climbing procedure (qualification round and semifinal round)**

When a competitor arrives at the first boulder, the Boulder Judge will give a short explanation about the starting holds, the bonus hold, the finishing hold, possible demarcations (black tape) etc. The competitor has 5 minutes to try the boulder (called the rotation period). There is no limitation of the number of attempts. The observation time for a boulder is included in these 5 minutes. From the ground the competitor is allowed to touch the starting holds. Touching other holds than the starting holds from the ground will be considered as 1 attempt. Adding tick marks will be considered as 1 attempt.

The beginning (and end) of every rotation period shall be announced by a loud signal. One minute before the end of the rotation time there will be another signal.

After the 5 minutes of climbing time, the competitor has 5 minutes of rest before he/she can try the next boulder. During this period of rest, the competitor has to stay in a specific rest area (behind the next boulder or in front of the next boulder, facing away) from where he/she can't see any of the boulders.

## **2.3 Climbing procedure for final round**

The final round starts with a common observation period of 8 minutes duration. All competitors observe boulder 1 for 2 minutes, then move to boulder 2 for 2 minutes and so on. The climbing time for each boulder will be 4 minutes. A competitor who starts his/her last attempt before the 4 minutes have ended will be allowed to finish the attempt even after the 4-minute limit.

Each boulder shall be attempted by all competitors (one after the other) before moving on to the next boulder. If a competitor succeeds (TOP) or decides to give up before the

4 minutes have passed, he/she shall return to a second isolation and the next competitor shall start his/her climbing period immediately.

Men and women climb simultaneously and shall wait for each other before proceeding to the next boulder.

	<b>Number of boulders</b>	<b>Rotation time</b>
<b>Qualification round</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Semifinal round</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Final round</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4+</b>

## **2.4 End of an attempt**

To finish the boulder, the top hold shall be held in a stable manner with **both hands**. The attempt is considered successful when the Boulder Judge says “OK” (and usually raises his/her hand).

## **2.5 Technical incidents (TI)**

A technical incident can be a broken or loose hold or any other disadvantage (or unfair advantage) to the competitor.

### **a) Qualification round and semifinal round**

When a broken or loose hold can be fixed during the rotation period the competitor has 2 options:

- To continue his/her attempt (then the TI is over).
- Not to continue his/her attempts. In this case the competitor will be allowed to retry the boulder at a period decided by the Jury President. The competitor shall be allowed the time remaining at the moment when the TI occurred, with a minimum of 2 minutes.

When a broken or loose hold can't be fixed during the rotation period, the Jury President will stop the round for the competitor who suffered the TI and all the competitors on the preceding boulders until the problem has been fixed. The competitor shall be allowed the time remaining at the moment when the TI occurred, with a minimum of 2 minutes.

### **b) Final round**

If a TI occurs in the final round, the competitor shall return to a separate isolation and await the repair. After the repair, the competitor shall be allowed the time remaining at the moment when the TI occurred, with a minimum of 2 minutes.

## **2.6 Ranking after each round**

After each round, the competitors shall be ranked according to the following criteria:

- The number of successfully completed boulders
- The total number of attempts to complete the boulders

- The total number of bonus points
- The total number of attempts to achieve these bonus points

### **3 APPEALS**

All appeals shall be made in English. The appeal fee is 70 Euros. The appeal shall be made to the Jury President. The appeals fee shall be paid to the IFSC Delegate.

In the case of an appeal, the Jury President shall convene an Appeals Jury, which normally consists of the Jury President and the IFSC Delegate. A decision shall be made as quickly as circumstances allow.

If an appeal is upheld, the appeals fee shall be returned. If an appeal is rejected, the appeals fee shall not be returned. If the Appeals Jury can't come to a unanimous decision on the appeal, the original decision shall stand and the appeal fee shall be returned.

- An appeal against a decision of a Judge must be made immediately.

Example: when coach A thinks that a competitor from team B has been awarded TOP but he did not start the boulder in the correct way, such an appeal must be made immediately.

- An appeal against the ranking of a competitor after a round shall be made within the 20 minutes after the results of the qualification round or semifinal round have been published (within 10 minutes after the final round and superfinal round).

The Appeals Jury shall make sure that any competitor is informed if they are downgraded after an appeal from another competitor.

#### **Appeal after an appeal**

An appeal against the consequences of the decisions made by the Appeals Jury of another appeal shall be lodged within 10 minutes after the publication of the decision of the Appeals Jury. For the final and superfinal rounds such an appeal shall be made immediately after publication.

### **4 AWARD CEREMONY**

The 3 best finalists must be present at the award ceremony.