



CLIMBING COMPETITION

CHIEF JUDGE RULES

Welcome to University of Michigan Bouldering Competition. We thank you all for participating in the spirit of fun and competition. We are proud of our service to the climbing community.

In an effort to provide a great competition today, we need your help. As with most bouldering competitions, you will be judging the climbs of each other. So, to run a clean competition, we need everyone to be accountable for his or her actions. The American Bouldering Series is a recreational competition circuit. Our first priority is the competitor's enjoyment. That said, the following rules are for events largely using the ABS format:

1. Everyone is required to have fun today!
2. All participants are expected to treat other competitors, judges, spectators and other persons present with courtesy and respect. Any person displaying unsportsmanlike or disrespectful conduct during an ABS event will be asked to leave, and will forfeit their scorecard and registration. Please keep in mind that profanity of any kind will not be tolerated and will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. Be nice, wait your turn, and smile!
3. Competitors may use whatever equipment is generally accepted in bouldering including climbing shoes, chalk, toothbrushes, crash pads, and helmets.
4. Competitors must begin a problem with their hands and feet on the marked starting hold(s) unless otherwise noted.
5. If a problem has two or more starting handholds, competitors may begin using only one.
6. Competitors must climb to the end of the problem using only the marked holds and features, and without external physical aid. (e.g. spotters cannot place feet, stabilize the body, etc.) Verbal assistance, coaching, encouragement, and/or pointing out holds are permitted.
7. Competitors may work individual moves on a problem, but can only receive the third point value (80%) for an ascent after working through any moves on that problem.
8. If a competitor falls without reaching the first hold (first hold past the starting hold/s), they will be allowed a second try without going to the back of the line. However, the failed attempt will count on their scorecard (e.g. their next attempt will only yield points for 2nd or 3rd attempt, whichever is appropriate).
9. If a technical problem occurs (e.g. hold spins or breaks) competitors may return to the ground immediately to retry without penalty. Competitors who continue climbing after a technical incident, and then fall later in the route, will forfeit the opportunity to retry without penalty.
10. When a climber uses a hold that is not marked as being a part of the problem, the ascent will not be given any points.
11. To receive points for a problem, the climber must indicate one hand control of the marked ending hold, unless otherwise specified.
12. Smearing on flat wall surfaces is in.
13. Stemming off side walls of cave is out unless footholds are marked.
14. Cracks are off unless specified.
15. Other wall features are in.
16. Circle top five scores before submitting card to judges.
17. All climbers must have active spotters. Spotting is a no-contact activity, unless a climber falls, meaning that in no way is it acceptable to assist a climber in completing a route through physical contact. Spotters should be positioned far enough from the wall so that a falling climber will not land on top of them, and close enough to make contact with hands on the climber and safely direct their fall. Spotters should have hands up, fingers together, feet shoulder width apart, and eyes always on the climber. Spotters should be close to the same size as the climbers they are spotting. Please notify the climber of any technical competition or safety issues (e.g. be careful as you round this corner, or don't go off route here, etc.)
18. Scoring will be done on the honor system. You will be responsible for recording your score and obtaining verification from two people who have witnessed your entire attempt. Spotters can perform this function. We will also have judges and supervisors moving around the facility who would be happy to serve as your witness. Our roaming judges do have the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the judging process. To this end, if they see a climber go off route, obtain assistance, etc., and then ask for verification, they will notify the climber of the infraction and DQ the route in writing on the climbers scorecard. If a climber gets more than one infraction, they will be disqualified from the competition.
19. When final scores are tallied, judges reserve the right to "bump" a competitor into the next highest division (i.e., beginner to intermediate) if the climber's final score is higher than the mean score for the division above them. This will only occur if the climber's score is significantly higher than the other scores in the division they originally entered in.
20. You must have your name and division clearly printed on the backside of your scorecard. Pens will be provided by the event staff.