



**National Bouldering
Championships**

03/12/2025

Official Rules

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1. Introduction

ClimbMT (formerly Malta Climbing Club), the National Organisation for Indoor and Outdoor Climbing in Malta, is proud to host its first National Championship, inviting climbers of all levels to participate.

2. Official Personnel and Location

ClimbMT is the organiser and host of the national championship.

Crashpad Malta is providing the venue of the competition to ClimbMT.

Mrs Louise Giglio, ClimbMT Youth and Competitions Officer, will rule as President of the Jury. In that capacity, she oversees the overall running of the competition, obedience to the rules and will resolve disputes, in coordination with the Head Setter, and the other judges.

Mr Mathias Genesseeux, professional climbing coach and route setter, will act as Head Setter. In this capacity, he is in charge of planning the route setting for both qualification waves and finals, and is responsible for any kind of technical issue which may occur during the climbing part of the event.

Mr Dan Clowes, climbing coach and route setter for Gebra Climbing, will be hired by ClimbMT as route setter for this competition. He will be under the supervision of Mr Mathias Genesseeux and Mrs Louise Giglio.

Mr Sasha van Gemmert and Mr Suhail Kapkori will form part of the setting team under the supervision of Mr Mathias Genesseeux and Mrs Louise Giglio.

Several volunteers will also be part of the general organisation of the competition on a voluntary basis.

3. Competition Tiers

There will be four tiers of competition, split into Females and Males:

3.1. Youth

This is the category for our young boulderers, split into seven age aligned tiers as follows:

Kiddies U5 and U7

Youth F U9

Youth E U11

Youth D U13

Youth C U15

Youth B U17

Youth A U19

The Youth Category of the Championship is open to any youth possessing a valid Maltese residence card or Maltese citizenship. Those who don't meet these criteria may enter the Amateur Category, unless agreed otherwise by ClimbMT.

3.2. Open Category

The Open category is open to all climbers starting U15, who are in possession of a valid Maltese residence card or Maltese citizenship. Any athlete who does not qualify may still participate in the Amateurs & Masters category.

A U15 can choose to compete or not for the Open category, and have a shot at the finals. Any athlete who makes that choice will still be ranked in its own specific U15 category.

3.3. Amateurs & Masters

This category is meant for climbers who want to get a taste of the competition. Whether you're a venerable master or a complete beginner, this is a great wave where having fun is the goal, and winning is only a secondary objective. Climbers who do not qualify to participate in the Youth or Open category can take part in our Amateurs & Masters wave. To qualify as a Master, the athlete shall be 45 years old or older.

4. Qualification waves

4.1. Grouping

There will be four waves of qualifications.

Wave 1 : Youth D (U13), Amateurs and Masters.

Junior Wave : Youth F and Youth E (U9 and U11).

Wave 2 : Youth D (U13), Youth C (U15), Youth B (U17), Youth A (U19), Adults (16+), Amateurs and Masters.

Wave 3 : Youth C (U15), Youth B (U17), Youth



A (U19), Adults (16+)

(U15 to Adults 16+ is also referred to as the 'Open Category' in these rules (3.2))

4.2. Boulders, scoring and judging

During wave 1, 2 and 3, the competitors will aim to climb as many boulders as possible from the 20 boulders set for the competition, in a timeframe of 2 hours. Boulders to climb will be numbered from Q06 to Q25. Q01 to Q05 may be climbed as a warm-up, but will not be taken into account as for the ranking.

For the junior wave, U9 and U11 will climb boulders Q01 to Q20 only. U9 climbers climb with "any feet".

As for scoring, the system in place is Redpoint. Each boulder will have a Zone hold and a Top hold. Each climber will have a maximum number of 5 attempts to top the route, and points will be awarded as follows :

Flash attempt: 10 points

2nd try: 7 points

3rd try: 4 points

4th try: 3 points

5th try: 2 point

Zone hold: 1 point

In case of a tie between two contestants, the POJ will count down the overall number of tops on the climber's scorecard and the one with the highest number will be bumped ahead. In case of remaining ties, the POJ will persist on this counting on the 2nd try, 3rd try, etc. Any ties remaining after the count of zones shall remain.

Climbers and/or parents of climbers will self-assess their climbs and register their attempts on the app Gryptonite, and will be expected to show good sportsmanship on this matter. ClimbMT will provide referees who will walk the room and proceed to random checks on the climber's account to check the score announced by the climber. Anyone caught cheating will be given a yellow card and will be expelled from the competition. A subsequent cheat during another event will lead to permanent exclusion from any climbing competition organized by ClimbMT.

A climb is successful if:

- ✓ The climber has used only the right and sole color of holds used to set a given boulder - at the

exception of U5, U7 and U9, who climb any feet, hence who follow the sole color of holds for their hand holds only.

- ✓ The climber has successfully established his feet and hands on the 4 mandatory points of contact defining the start of the boulder, before moving on to any other hold. As U5, U7 and U9 climb any feet, they only need two points of contact for their hands. Boulder's start will be marked with 4 tags Q + number.
- ✓ The climber has reached the top hold of the boulder - marked with a TOP + number tag - secured and controlled it with both hands. Control is defined as the ability to move beyond that hold, and achievement of control is at the sole discretion of the climber. Once again we urge the climbers to show good sportsmanship on this matter.
- ✓ The climber has not made any use of the wall T-Nuts.
- ✓ The climber has not reached beyond the edge of the wall.
- ✓ The climber has respected the black/red tape limitations, hence : red tape on the wall means that any holds beyond the edge of the tape may not be used, but the natural features of the wall beyond the tape may be used ; black tape on the wall means that the climber may not make contact with the wall or any holds on the far side of the tape - at the exception of U5 and U7, for whom the "black tape rule" doesn't apply.
- ✓ As for the zone hold, the climber needs to achieve control on the hold to validate it, but does not need to move past it. Only one hand on the hold is sufficient.



5. Finals

5.1 Finalists

Youth A, B, C and Open category will get their own ranking and a common one. Hence, the finals will take the 6 best male and female of the common Youth A/B/C/Open ranking. The finals will take place in on sight format. Both male and female final rounds will run at the same time.

5.2 Finals progress

5.2.1 Isolation

Once the results of qualification rounds have been released, the top 6 climbers of each gender will be placed into the isolation room, with toilet access. As soon as anyone leaves isolation, he or she is not permitted to re-enter until the conclusion of the round. Climbers will be provided with warm-up gear but will not have access to a climbing wall. Climbers may bring and use their own training gear. Climbers will be asked to leave their phones or any other communication device with the isolation monitor, or with someone in the audience. A device such as an Ipad or Walkman/MP3 with wired headphones may be used to play music. (no bluetooth/internet connection). Climbers may not discuss beta of finals routes whilst in isolation or anywhere else until the event is complete.

5.2.2 Preview

When called out, all climbers will come through the deck platform/transit area to access the climbing area and will be given two minutes per boulder for preview. There will be four boulder routes, male/female respectively..

Climbers in route preview are still in isolation. Hence, they are denied any type of communication with any members of the audience, or with anyone outside of isolation with the exception of the judges. Climbers will be asked to leave their phones or any other communication device with the isolation monitor, or with someone in the audience.

Climbers may:

- ✓ Ask their judges any questions about the routes.
- ✓ Touch the start holds only.
- ✓ Share beta with each other
- ✓ Use binoculars to view holds

- ✓ Sketch the climb on paper

Climbers may not:

- ✗ Use cameras or camcorders to capture the image of the climb.
- ✗ Receive any beta or guidance from spectators, judges, or coaches in the audience.
- ✗ Official coaches registered with ClimbMT may accompany climbers in isolation but they may not join for route preview.

5.2.3 Rounds

Climbers will climb in the reverse order of their qualification, hence climber number 6 after the qualification round will be the first one to climb the final rounds.

After preview, the first climber of each category will remain on the climbing area, with their back turned to the climbing wall, and wait for their time to start. The other climbers will go back to the isolation room.

During any given round, the climbers may not :

- ✗ Communicate with the audience, at the exception of cheer requests.
- ✗ Share beta or ask for advice with members of the audience, as it will be considered
- ✗ grounds for disqualification of the climber and removal of the audience member.
- ✗ Discuss that climb nor their performance on it until the completion of the finals round.
- ✗ Watch each other climb, with the exception of the final climb after they have completed their climbing period, at which point they will no longer be in isolation.

Each round will consist of a 4 minutes climbing period on one boulder, with unlimited attempts. Each boulder will consist of four starting position marks, a ZONE hold, and a TOP hold.

Attempts, establishment of starting position, and establishment of TOP will be the same as in the redpoint/qualification rounds. ZONE holds are scored similarly to TOP holds, and should be marked on the climber's score sheet as soon as they are achieved. ZONE holds must not be marked on subsequent attempts if they have already been scored.



After three minutes of each round:

- A sound signal will warn the climber that he has only one minute left.
- The next climber will be called into the transit/deck zone, and wait his/her turn to enter the climbing area, without at any time looking at the climbing area.

At the end of 4 minutes, the climber will be asked to descend from the wall and go back to isolation. Any subsequent ZONE or TOP hold achieved will not be counted.

The next climber will be brought to the climbing area, his back turned to the boulder, and will wait for the judge's approval to start, upon which the judge will start the clock.

5.3 Scoring

Climbers are scored as follows:

- By the number of TOPs achieved in the round. i.e.: the climber with more TOPs will prevail.
- If ties persist, by the number of attempts required to achieve those TOPs. i.e.: the climber with fewer attempts will prevail.
- If ties persist, by the number of ZONE holds achieved in the round. i.e.: the climber with more BONUS holds will prevail.
- If ties persist, by the number of attempts required to achieve those ZONE holds. i.e.: the climber with fewer attempts will prevail.
- If ties persist, they will remain.

6. National Champion, National Ranking, and National Squad.

6.1. National Champion

After the final rounds, the winner of each category will be crowned National Champion.

6.2. National Ranking

Following the competition, each climber holder of Maltese nationality or Maltese residency will be given a national ranking, relevant to his/her place achieved during the National Championship. This ranking will be amended in subsequent competitions, given that those competitions are organized or endorsed by ClimbMT as part of the National program.

6.3 National Squad

The finalists in this competition will be eligible to take part in the Malta National Bouldering Team and can be chosen to represent Malta at International Competitions.

7. General Rules, Technicals, Disputes, and Appeals

7.1. General Rules

Climbers may not use artificial support such as knee pads, hooks, etc. to advance up the wall.

Climbers actively bleeding from any part of their body may not compete unless the bleeding is controlled and covered with tape or bandages.

7.2. Technical

A Technical must be called immediately by the climber or the climber's coach, and reported to the President of the Jury. A Technical can be called when circumstances outside the climber's control impede the climber's performance. For example:

- Bleeding fingers
- Other climbers or spectators falling or otherwise entering into the safe fall zone of the climber
- Spinning holds
- Other cases left to the discrimination of the President of the Jury.

In the case of a Technical, the climber will be given a second chance at a climb without the marking of an additional attempt. If necessary - for instance, in case a Technical happens during a final round - a separate isolation and warm-up area will be provided for the climber.

7.3. Disputes

All disputes will be resolved by the head judge.

7.4. Appeals

After each round of climbing, official results will be displayed for viewing by climbers and spectators at the venue, including the time of posting and the signature of the President of the Jury. Results will be posted on the ClimbMT website for further perusal within 48 hours. Without the time and the signature, the results are not considered final.



Appeals to the official scoring or results must be filed within 30 minutes of the posting of those scores or results at the venue. An appeal fee of €50 must be submitted with the appeal. The fee will be refunded if the appeal is won. The fee will be retained by ClimbMT if the appeal is lost.

8. Safety & Medical

There will be first aid and basic life support assistance available. Any climber or spectator requiring assistance can make themselves known to the first raiders in charge - Mrs Louise Giglio or Mr Mathias Genesseeux. In the event of a medical emergency, an ambulance will be called immediately on 112.

9. Colour Blindness

Climbers who are colour-blind need to notify the Head Routesetter at least 48 hours prior to the event.

10. Anti-Doping

As a National Association affiliated with and recognised by SportMalta, ClimbMT adopts the Malta Anti-Doping Rules. Therefore any person found to be involved with or associated with doping, will be disqualified immediately.

Participants may not be under the influence of any substance including alcohol before or during their wave, or final wave.

11. Clothing & Equipment

Participants may choose to wear appropriate sport clothing relevant to bouldering, and comfortable enough, so as to not hinder or restrict movement while on the climbing wall, or that may bring them into harm.

- Shirts/Vests need to be worn at all times.
- Club Teams may choose to wear shirts specific to their clubs.
- All climbers will wear the appropriate climbing shoes, any other shoe will be prohibited while on the wall.
- No shoes other than climbing shoes may be worn while on the fall mats.

- Chalk may be carried and used, as long as chalk bags are secure, taking into consideration and regard for any mess and spillage.
- Chalk/Hold brushes will be available for use. Only standard chalk brushes may be used. Judges may refuse use of a brush if they feel it will bring damage to the wall or holds in any way.
- No other equipment may be used.

12. Betas and Cheering

12.1 Qualifications round

As a general rule, it is possible to give betas to the climbers solely during the qualification round. Betas can only be given when the climber is on the mattress, or waiting for his/her turn to climb. As soon as the attempt has started, only cheering is allowed. No advice can be given to the climber once he/she has started climbing.

For full transparency and due diligence on that matter, we respectfully request from coaches, parents and spectators in general to only cheer for the athletes in english, so no doubts can subsist. The sole exception to this rule is the French cheer “Allez, Allez !” that has now become an internationally used cheer.

12.2 Finals round

As stated in the previous semi-finals and finals rules protocol, it is forbidden for the climber to ask/receive betas or advice for any member of the audience, including coaches, parents, and judges.

As before, for full transparency and due diligence on that matter, we respectfully request from coaches, parents and spectators in general to only cheer for the athletes in english, so no doubts can subsist. The sole exception to this rule is the French cheer “Allez, Allez!” that has now become an internationally used cheer.

13. Entry Terms and Conditions

All competition entries are final and non-refundable. Entries cannot be sold or transferred to another individual under any circumstances. ClimbMT reserves the right to make category changes at its discretion, and any resulting difference in registration costs may be charged to the participant.-ends-

