

Annex 11 - UIAA Ice Climbing World Tour – World Level Event - Route Setting Guidance

1. Pre-event – setting requirements

The appointed Chief Route setter should work with the UIAA Event Coordinator and the local organisers to confirm exactly what the route setting requirements are for the event for qualification, semi-finals and finals and make sure that the event can run as smoothly as possible. Especially allowing for the maximum number of routes to be used at the same time during qualification for maximum efficiency of time, with many athletes on the start list.

2. Holds

- All holds used in UIAA events should be capable of withstanding the rigors of competition ice axe placement for the entirety of the competition and should not degrade or change in shape during the event itself.
- All the holds should ideally be clear of out of bounds areas, but if out of bounds red paint is absolutely necessary, then this must be clearly visible from ALL angles, especially from the ground for the benefit of the athlete and officials – if this is not possible a different hold should be used.

3. Out of bounds areas

- The use of red tape/paint to mark out of bounds areas should be avoided if at all possible, however if it is essential for an unavoidable reason then these areas must be clearly marked, in a way that means it cannot be worn off as the competition progresses.
- It should also be made sure that athletes cannot accidentally brush, rub or scuff these areas when doing dynamic moves to pass the out of bounds area.

4. Video Demonstrations

- See the Annex 12 - UIAA Demonstration Video Filming & Editing Guidelines.
- The video demonstrations need to be sent to the UIAA Event Coordinator in a downloadable format the night before qualification starts, so that they can be posted to the UIAA YouTube channel in a timely fashion for the athletes to view. Please use WeTransfer or OneDrive or similar.
- The requirement for TVs to be available in the warmup zone for the athlete to view the demos on the day of qualification is still mandatory.

5. Walk through with UIAA Officials

Before the start of every event there will be a mandatory briefing/walkthrough of all the routes to be used during the competition with the Jury President, International Judges and the Event Coordinator, looking at safety issues, fall zones and possible technical incidents and how these can be avoided and/or mitigated.

6. Safety

The safety of everyone involved in the competition is the number one priority of the UIAA. Great care is required to risk assess the routes and where potential unexpected falls may occur – where the athletes is likely to end up, and if the athlete is likely to hit anything in the event of an unexpected fall from any part of the structure, even with a perfect belay. These sorts of incidents are still possible and should be avoided or mitigated against. All these possibilities should be looked at and discussed before the event with the route setting team, the Jury President and the Event Coordinator in the walkthrough. The route setters should provide clear descriptions of the routes, even those not currently up on the wall, ideally using

the demonstration videos as reference to look at all the possible scenarios.

7. Equipment

All equipment used in in UIAA events must be UIAA Safety Label certified and conform to all the rules detailed in the UIAA Rules and Regulations and UIAA Event Organisers Handbook. This includes quickdraws, slings, extenders, maillon rapides and all structural equipment used in the placement and securing of anchors and protection points.

8. Technical incidents

At least one of the route setters must be always on site and close to the event structure during the competition. If a technical incident occurs, then the route setter should immediately join the Jury President to ensure that the technical incident protocol is followed, and the incident is resolved as soon as possible with minimal disruption to the competition and the athletes involved.

9. Retrieval of stuck ice axes

There must be a procedure in place to make it possible to retrieve stuck ice axes from any point on the structure in a timely manner at all times during the competition.

10. Speed Wall

Although it is not the responsibility of the route setters to ensure the quality of the events speed ice wall in the run up to the event. The route setters should use their experience to check the speed walls ice conditions and make sure that the setup of the top anchor and the belaying system is safe and correct, as well as assist with the installation of the timing equipment where necessary.

11. Event debrief

Once the event has concluded either the next day or during the proceeding week (via zoom if necessary) there will be a mandatory debrief between the Chief Route setter, the Jury President, the Event Coordinator and a representative from the athlete commission to discuss the event - any issues that occurred and what improvements can be made. These issues will be included the event report that will be provided to the organisers and route setters at the end of the season.

12. Insurance

All route setters must have their own personal insurance which adequately covers them in case an accident occurs whilst they are setting at a UIAA sanctioned event. This cover will not be provided by the UIAA or the local organiser.

Please sign below and print your name to show that you have read and understood the guidelines detailed above and will abide by these in the coming season.

Name _____

Signature _____

Role – Judge/Route setter – circle appropriate

Date _____

Event allocation for 2024 season _____

Appendix 1 – Taken from UIAA Event Organisers Handbook

- 1.1.1 The UIAA will appoint the Chief International Route Setter and the route-setting team for each event. The duties of the Chief International Route Setter shall include:
- a) Design of the routes for each round of the competition, painting boundaries, installing the holds and equipment for each route in accordance with UIAA regulations, verifying that the routes are of the appropriate technical standard and that they comply with the UIAA's safety regulations – NOTE – if protection points need to be moved for route setting purposes, it is the organisers responsibility to ensure that these points are safely installed in their new locations;
 - b) Creation of the demonstration videos for the qualification routes. All route setters should follow the UIAA Route Setting Guidance & the Guidelines for Filming and Editing Demonstration Videos for UIAA Ice Climbing Competitions documents included with these Annexes – Annex 11 & 12.
 - c) Route timings – the routes should be set so that can be completed (by the best athletes) in the following times
 - a. Qualification & Semi-finals – maximum 6 minutes
 - b. Finals – maximum 8 minutes
 - d) Co-ordination of the work of the assistant route setters and responsibility to ensure that proper working and competition safety precautions are observed during the route-setting and throughout the competition.
 - e) Repairing and cleaning of the routes as per consultation with the Category Judge.
 - f) Advise the Organiser how to set the warm-up facilities in the isolation zone, although the responsibility of the construction and route setting of the warm-up wall is down to the Organiser.
 - g) Assist the measurement team and/or the Route/Category Judges in compiling the 'topo' for each route.
 - h) Consult with the Category Judge for each route on the positioning of the video cameras.
 - i) Advise the President of the Jury and Category Judge for each route on the maximum time that competitors should be permitted to attempt each route. (See maximum recommended time limits in Appendix 5).
 - j) At the request of the Organiser the route setting team may take down banners, holds etc. at the end of the competition – this must be negotiated between the Organiser and the route setting team and extra payment from the Organiser maybe required.

1.2 SAFETY

- 1.2.1 All UIAA safety label standards can be found on the following website: <http://theuiaa.org/safety-standards/>
- 1.2.2 Any equipment certified with the UIAA safety label can be found on the following website: <http://theuiaa.org/safety-standards/certified-equipment/>

- 1.2.3 The Organiser shall be solely responsible for maintaining all safety precautions concerned with running the competition including but not limited to the isolation/transit zones, competition area, spectators area, etc.
- 1.2.4 The President of the Jury, in consultation with the Chief International Route Setter, shall have ultimate authority in respect to any question of safety within the isolation and competition area - including declining to give permission to start or continue any part of the competition. Any officials or other persons deemed by the President of the Jury to have infringed or, in his/her opinion, likely to violate safety rules and procedures shall be subject to summary removal from their duties and/or dismissal from the isolation and competition areas. In case of members of the Organiser's team, it is the Organiser's responsibility to replace the person in violation.
- 1.2.5 Every precaution shall be taken to ensure safety. Each route shall be designed to avoid the possibility of a competitor's fall resulting in:
- a) Injuring the competitor – paying special attention to fall lines at all points along the routes, where the competitor may hit volumes, holds, ice barrels, the edges of the wall/structure, or objects that are to the side of the wall – these must all be considered and avoided or protected.
 - b) Injuring or obstructing any other competitor on neighbouring routes.
 - c) Injuring competition officials or spectators.
- 1.2.6 The President of the Jury, the Category Judge and the Chief International Route Setter shall inspect each route prior to the start of each round of a competition in order to ensure the maintaining of safety standards. In particular, the Category Judge and the Chief International Route Setter shall:
- a) Ensure that all safety equipment and procedures comply with UIAA standards and regulations.
 - b) The Category Judge shall have the authority to demand the immediate replacement of a belayer (if necessary, stopping the competition and declaring a technical incident) or any other person, if he feels that safety standards have been or could have been jeopardized;
 - c) In the interest of safety, and in consultation with the Chief International Route Setter and with the approval of the President of the Jury, the Category Judge shall decide whether or not to have the climbing rope pre-run through the first (and, where deemed appropriate, other) protection points. Wherever possible, the design of the route should be such as to make such precautions unnecessary.
- 1.2.7 Before the start of each round of a competition, the Category Judge shall ensure that appropriately qualified medical personnel are in attendance in order to ensure a rapid response to any accident or injury to a competitor or official working inside the competition/isolation zone area
- 1.2.8 All safety equipment used in a competition shall comply with UIAA standards and be UIAA certified unless otherwise specified by the UIAA or, under exceptional circumstances, by the President of the Jury through the authority delegated to her/him by the UIAA. Within these general requirements:

Competitors shall use a UIAA approved and certified single rope provided by the Organisers. The frequency with which the rope is changed shall be decided by the Category Judge.

1.2.9 Equipping of routes: The following safety precautions shall be observed:

- a) *Maillon Rapides* and quick-draw slings: Each protection point to be used during a round of a competition shall be equipped with a quick-draw sling and karabiner, through which a competitor shall run the rope. The connection link between the quick-draw sling (with no intermediate karabiner) and the protection point shall be made by means of a UIAA/ approved 10 mm *Maillon Rapide*

NOTE: the sleeve of the *Maillon Rapide* must be closed and tightened in accordance with the manufacturer's approved specification.

- b) Where an extension of a normal quick-draw sling is required, a continuous (machine sewn) tape sling of the same strength (or greater) shall be used in place of the normal, shorter quick-draw. Adhesive tape may be used to hold the loops of the sling together; under no circumstances shall such slings be shortened or adjusted by means of knots. Under no circumstances shall a chain of normal-length quick-draws (connected to each other by either *Maillon Rapide*, or locking or non-locking karabiners) be used. Knotted rope or tape slings shall not be permitted.