

2026 CONTINENTAL EVENT ORGANISER'S HANDBOOK LITE

COMPULSORY FOR CONTINENTAL CUP ORGANISERS

ANNEX 3.2 OF UIAA EVENT ORGANISER AGREEMENT (EOA)

1. UIAA ICE CLIMBING COMPETITIONS - GENERAL

1.1 ORGANISATION OF THE UIAA

- 1.1.1 Only the members of the UIAA (or organisations specifically recognized by the UIAA) shall be eligible to apply to organise an UIAA-approved competition.
- 1.1.2 International Competition Officials: The UIAA maintains the right to formally appoint the following officials to each UIAA-approved continental level competition.
- a) President of the Jury - Has overall authority within the competition area; this authority extends to covering the activities of the media and all other persons nominated by the Organiser. The President of the Jury has overall authority with respect to all aspects of the running of the competition and presides over all meetings of the UIAA Officials. The President of the Jury shall belong to a country other but the one, where the event is taking place.
 - b) Category Judge - is an International Judge appointed by the UIAA to assist the President of the Jury in undertaking all aspects of judging a competition.
 - c) International Route Setter - is responsible for the preparation of the climbing routes and for ensuring that these meet the appropriate technical standard and full safety of each route of the competition; and for consulting with the Organiser, the President of the Jury on all technical matters within the competition area.
 - d) Route Judges: the Organiser shall provide a Route Judge for each route of the competition. Route Judges shall be persons holding either international or national licenses. They shall be fully aware of the technical rules and regulations governing UIAA-approved competitions.

2. HUMAN RESOURCES

The Organiser shall provide, at minimum, personnel to carry out the following activities:

- All pre-competition organisation/administration and supervision/liaison with those for the provision and construction of the competition ice climbing structure and associated facilities, and the arena facilities.
- Register and control authorized persons entering and leaving the isolation zone.
- Maintain the security of the isolation zone and competition zone.
- Accompany and generally assist competitors on leaving the isolation zone and walking to the transit zone and the competition structure.

Also -

- Route Judges (in accordance with UIAA regulations) to assist the Category Judge (including route height and length measurement, video recording service and time-keeping duties).
- A competent belaying team consisting of belayers trained in belaying in ice climbing competitions.
- Ice climbing structure maintenance team.
- Video recording and playback team for all stages of the competition.

- Medical personnel during the entire period of the competition (note that the presence of a medical doctor is mandatory throughout the competition).

3. COMPETITION FACILITIES & VENUE DESIGN

The Organiser shall, at a minimum, provide the following facilities in accordance with the UIAA Ice Climbing Competition Regulations and the details laid out hereafter:

3.1 FIELD OF PLAY & ICE CLIMBING STRUCTURE - COMPULSORY ELEMENTS

All the ice climbing structures used for UIAA Ice World Cups of any discipline must be inspected by a suitably qualified person and a certificate of safety produced detailing that all the safety elements, including the structure itself, the protection points and anchor points have all been inspected and are compliant with the national standards for construction of that country, including any additional ice blocks/barrels that are to be added to the structure. This certificate must be in English and sent to the UIAA no later than two weeks before the event. See Appendix 8 for an example of a safety certificate.

For Lead competitions, compulsory elements

- Minimum height of structure must be 12 m.
- Route length must be at least 15 m.
- Structure must be capable of having at least 2 routes running simultaneously.
- The structure must be steep enough to accommodate M12 mixed grade routes of competition style.
- The mandatory climbing time for the routes is between 3:30 and 8 minutes for each round. The recommended climbing times on the routes should be as follows - Qualifications – 3:30 - 5 mins, Semifinals – 6 - 7 mins, Finals – 6 - 8 mins.
- Design of the structure and building must comply with the relevant national standards – in Europe this is EN12572. If large blocks of ice are added to the wall, the wall must be engineered correctly to take this extra weight.
- The profile of the structure must not be a simple 2-D structure, some element of 3-D dimensionality must be incorporated, ideally with the use of ice. The ice can be sprayed, hand packed, natural or ice blocks of varying sizes. See the link for information on how to construct these blocks of ice.
- Each belayer is required to use an Assisted Belay Device for safety concerns.
- The bolts must be attached to the metal structure of the wall, not just attached to the plywood. In case it is placed in the plywood, it has to be connected to the main structure.
- The first quickdraw must be preclipped and secured with a locking carabiner, and at a height so you cannot fall to the ground when clipping the next quickdraw. We recommend that the first quickdraw can spin freely with a swivel connector.
- All holds must be commercially available on the open market.

- All holds should conform to the national/regional/international standard set out for climbing holds that applies where they are made - for example in Europe this is EN12572 - Part 3.
- All holds should have 6mm holes for screws with chamfered edges.
- Small holds – < 0.5kg must have minimum 3 screw holes for securing the hold to the wall.
- Large holds – 0.5kg – 2kg – must have a minimum of 4 screw holes for securing the hold to the wall.
- If holds are designed to be used in the stein pull/undercling position they must have a minimum 5 screw holes.
- Volumes should have as many screw holes as possible ideally pre-drilled with metal inserts. Medium volumes - minimum 6 screw holes, large volumes - minimum 10 screw holes.
- The hold design should avoid the situation that screw holes can be used as pick placements.
- No red holds will be allowed due to red marking signifying out of bounds areas.

For Speed competitions, compulsory elements

- The height for routes shall be 12-18 meters for single format and 12-15 meters for duel format.
- The angle of the ice wall should be close to vertical.
- In the case where the ice quality will not allow for competition The Jury President has the sole right to cancel the speed competition.
- The depth of the ice on the speed wall must be a minimum of 30 cm before any structural mesh or cooling system.
- The width of each lane on the speed wall should be a minimum of 2.5 m.
- The speed ice wall must be constructed of consistent ice for all of the 30 cm depth. If the ice is brand new and has not been climbed before, it must be preclimbed by the routesetters several times to create enough hooks in the ice and get rid of any icicles that are likely to break in competition.
- A cooling system is recommended to keep the ice from melting, especially when temperatures are above freezing. All the cooling pipes should be protected against puncture with ice axes.
- Each top anchor point must be attached to the metal construction and must include two independent anchor placements in the metal structure.
- Authorized speed climbing auto-belays may be used in speed competition and they must be protected from elements (rain/snow/wind/sun). The certified automatic belay system must be installed and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions. A backup auto-belay should be prepared in case the main auto-belay system fails.
- Alternatively, a top rope with manual belaying may be used. The top rope shall pass through a top anchor which is connected to two independent protection points, each consisting of a steel locking carabiner secured to the protection point with a chain/steel wire ropes and a steel 10 mm Maillon Rapide closed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- There should be at least two if not three experienced speed belayers using the bell ringing

method, with one person pulling the rope down, one pulling it through the belay device and one providing backup.

- The timing equipment should be fully tested and reliable in cold temperatures.
- The first 1,5 meters of tape/rope from the athlete's harness shall be protected against hitting with the ice tools. (For example Garden hose).
- The starting pad must be placed on a flat and solid horizontal surface (wood / concrete), and during the competition, the surface must be regularly cleaned (ideally, before each attempt), so that the pad is not raised up by the ice and does not give an unfair advantage to the athletes. The starting pad should be movable for cleaning purposes.
- All cables on the ground shall be covered to be protected against the damage by crampons.
- Both the finishing pad and the top protection points must be secured in a way that it does not change position during the competition.
- The position of the top protection points must be above the finishing pad.
- The position of the top protection points shall be such as to neither assist, hinder, nor endanger an athlete during their attempt on a route, and also, the rope/tape cannot touch the finishing pad. The point where the rope goes down to the athlete should be set out from the edge of the wall by 0.5 m, so it is directly above the athlete.
- All excess equipment (karabiners, quickdraws, bolts, etc.) shall be removed from the routes to prevent accidents.
- Ice lanes must not have any cables or other objects that can be hit or used by the athletes.
- In case it is needed to restrict the climbing area, a continuous and clearly identifiable red line with a minimum thickness of 5 cm shall be used.
- The ice lanes may involve the sides of the ice wall. The President of the Jury may decide to ban the sides for safety reasons. In such a case, the sides must be clearly marked with the red line, and this must be announced at the Technical Meeting.
- For further information on the construction of ice and speed ice walls please see the video.
- Single Route-Speed Competition
- Minimum width of the single speed climbing wall should be 2.5 m.

Speed-Duel Competition

- Speed-duel competitions shall always consist of two routes that shall be of the same length and of similar profile and difficulty.
- Each lane of a dual speed climbing wall should have a width of 2.5 m, and between the two lanes, a vertical separator of 50 cm (can be an advertising banner or a coloured separator).
- The routes shall be designed such that the athletes cannot interfere with or unduly distract each other.

3.2 COMPULSORY ELEMENTS ON THE ISOLATION ZONE

Isolation warm up structure - Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The warmup structure must be equipped with matting, which must be continuous The warmup structure must have a selection of holds of the same design and manufacture as those used in the competition Maximum height of a climber above mats must be 3m, this is measured from the lowest point of the body The warmup structure must be capable of at least 4 climbers being able to warm up safely on the structure at the same time.
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toilets must be provided in the isolation zone, as an absolute minimum 1 per men and 1 per women
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The isolation zone must be located within 5 minutes travel distance of the main climbing arena. Consideration must be given to providing transport from the isolation zone especially if the distance is in excess of 300m. The transit isolation zone must be next to the competition structure but away from the spectating public.
Size of zone and general facilities - mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The isolation zone must contain the warmup structure The isolation zone must contain an area with seating for all competitors The isolation zone must contain an area for aerobic activities and stretching The total area of the zone must be a minimum of 2sqm of floor space per competitor The isolation zone must not contain public telephones The temperature inside the isolation zone must be at least 10°C If fires/stoves are to be used to provide heat, then these must be adequately and safely vented to the outside environment The whole of the isolation zone including the warmup structure must be adequately lit for use during night time hours.
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The isolation zone must be totally secure from the public areas. Only competitors, team officials and authorised officials are to be allowed in the area. Competitors and Team Officials are not allowed to be in possession of mobile phones and other electronic transmitting or recording devices in the isolation zone. The isolation zone security and the movement of the athletes must be managed by an 'isolation zone' manager who must speak reasonable English.
Catering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold beverages: The Organiser must provide enough water for the competitors in each round. It must be sparkling and natural water. It is nice to have fruit juices and other soft drinks. Warm beverages: The Organiser must provide coffee and tea for the competitors in each round. Ideally the organiser will provide some food for the athletes which can comprise of the following – fruit, energy drinks and food, sandwiches etc.

3.4 FACILITIES CHECKLIST

FACILITY	SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS	REFERENCE
FIELD OF PLAY (FOP)		
Ice Climbing Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance to national and international laws and regulations Presence of ice Submission of safety certificate 	APPENDIX 1 & APPENDIX 8
Transit Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access control – must speak English Separate area for next competitor to await his/her turn Minimally (2) chairs The ice climbing structure shall not be visible from the transit zone Present competitor(s) shall be isolated from any other person Should be away from spectators 	
Competition Area – Field of Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High safety zone Large table for jury, inaccessible for spectators and athletes Restricted access to jury, organisers, competitors, accredited television and press or other persons specifically authorized by the President of Jury Anyone entering must wear a helmet Hot seat/podium area Reliable outdoor Wi-Fi for UIAA officials 	UIAA Medal Ceremony Protocol
Climbing route height and length measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead: Topographical charts shall be provided to the jury Speed: Time keeping system with sensors at start and finish, preferably connected to results management software, the livestream and the public display system 	UIAA Ice Climbing Competition Regulations
Time keeping and results services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated space close to the climbing structure required for results service and judges. Enough national judges for routes 	UIAA Ice Climbing Competition + UIAA Branding Regulations
BACK OF THE HOUSE (BOH) AND OFFICES		
Isolation Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access control Access only with accreditation Must have a warm-up wall Catering (snacks and water) Of at least correct temperature Adequate lighting 	APPENDIX 2
Interim Isolation Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjacent to the ice climbing structure The ice climbing structure shall not be visible from the interim isolation zone Present competitor(s) shall be isolated from any other person 	APPENDIX 2
Organiser's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to competition area Permanently posted list of all important contacts (incl. function and phone number) 	

Medical Facilities/Room and by-standing ambulance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering (snacks and water) • Enclosed, heated room/area • Equipped to deal with non-major ailments and injuries • Minimally 1 physician's table • Running water • Clear instructions of procedure in case of severe accident or injury 	Organiser's Handbook
UIAA Officials Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated, heated and separate facility • Video Playback Facilities • Permanently posted list of all important contacts (incl. function and phone number) • All Starting Lists, Results available • Pens • (4) Walkie-talkies • Catering (snacks and water) 	UIAA Organiser's Handbook + UIAA Ice Climbing Competition Regulations

4. COMPETITION ORGANISATION

4.1 STANDARD OPERATING HOURS & TEMPERATURES

- 4.1.1 All competition must be completed within the climbing hours - 0800 – 2200. Warmup/isolation can open at 0700 if required – minimum warmup time – 30mins before the start of each round.
- 4.1.2 Minimum operating temperature = -20°C
- 4.1.3 Changes to this schedule can only be made with the specific consultation and agreement of the UIAA Event Coordinator and Jury President. Order of disciplines can be varied within a given day.

4.2 INSURANCE

- 4.2.1 The Organiser shall ensure and provide evidence to the UIAA no later than 2 weeks before the event, that the insurance cover for the competition is in strict compliance with all international and national regulations regarding sporting events and that the structure is compliant with all international and national safety standards covering climbing structures and provide a safety certificate to corroborate this – see Annex 8.
- 4.2.2 The Organiser shall ensure and provide evidence to the UIAA that insurance cover for possible cancellation of the competition and the potential liability of athletes and officials travel expenses is in place.

4.3 SAFETY

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

- 4.3.3 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.
- 4.3.4 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.
- 4.3.5 Belaying: At the start of each attempt on a competition route:
- a) Each competitor shall be equipped in accordance with the UIAA regulations governing equipment.
 - b) The climbing rope shall be tied to each competitor's climbing harness using a '8' knot which itself is secured with a safety knot.
 - c) Before the competitor begins his/her attempt on a route, the belayer shall check (preferably in the transit zone) that the rope is secured to the competitor's harness in accordance with 2.5.8(b) above, and that the harness is properly fastened and secured.
 - d) Before accompanying the competitor to the start of the route, the belayer shall ensure that the rope is coiled in such a manner that it is ready for immediate use.
 - e) Lead Competitions: The Category Judge shall, in consultation with the International Route Setter, decide whether a belayer should have an assistant at the beginning of the route to provide additional security for a competitor.
- 4.3.6 Each rope shall be controlled by two belayers. The belayers must at all times during a competitor's attempt on a route pay careful attention to the progress of the competitor to ensure:
- a) That the competitor's movements are not hindered in any way by the rope being too tight.
 - b) That when the competitor attempts to connect the rope to any protection point, he/she is not hindered in doing so or, if failing to make the connection of the rope to the protection point, any excessive slack in the rope is immediately taken in;
 - c) That all falls are stopped in a dynamic and safe manner.
 - d) That no excessive fall shall be experienced by the competitor being belayed.
 - e) That great care be taken to ensure that in stopping a fall a competitor shall not be exposed to injury caused by the edge of an overlapping section or any other feature of the climbing wall.
- 4.3.7 On connecting the rope to the final protection point (quick-draw) or upon having stopped a fall, the competitor shall be lowered to the ground. Care shall be taken to

ensure that the competitor does not come into contact with any ground-based equipment.

- 4.3.8 Whilst the competitor is untying the rope from the harness, the belayer shall pull the rope down in as fast a manner as is consistent with the quick-draws not being unduly disturbed. It is the responsibility of the belayer to ensure that the competitor vacate the climbing zone as quickly as possible.
- 4.3.9 Ideally the topmost pre-clipped quickdraw should be fixed to the climbing structure via a load rated swivel device to allow for the next competitor to tie into the other end of the rope in the transit zone to allow the rope to flip over and to remain clipped correctly and allow a swift change between the competitors.
- 4.3.10 The Category Judge shall be authorized to instruct the Organiser to replace any belayer at any time during the round of a competition. If replaced for belaying-related errors, the belayer shall not be permitted to play any further part in the belaying of any competitor at that competition.

4.4 VIDEO RECORDING OF COMPETITION ROUTES

- 4.4.1 Each competitor's attempt on a competition route shall be video recorded by an experienced camera operator. At least one (and preferably two) video camera per route shall be used. All cameras must have at least one spare memory card available for mid-competition switches.
- 4.4.2 The position of the video camera(s) shall be determined by the President of the Jury in consultation with the Category Judge and International Route Setter. Particular care will be taken to ensure that the camera operator(s) are not disturbed in carrying out their duties and that no-one is allowed to obscure the camera view of the route(s) while the competition is ongoing.
- 4.4.3 No-one other than the President of the Jury, the Category Judge appointed to a route and the International Route Setter shall have access to the play-back system. The play-back monitor shall be placed such that the judges can observe play-back material and discuss any incident without the video re-play being seen by anyone other than the judges and without the judges being overheard or interrupted during their discussions, but conveniently close to the judges table.
- 4.4.4 Access to the official video recording of the competition shall be granted only by the UIAA officials in consultation with the Organiser. No copy shall be made of the official recording except with the authorization of UIAA.

4.5 CEREMONIES

The competitors' award ceremony at the end of the competition, which shall be organised immediately after the final heats and shall comply with the usual IOC protocol for such events and should be done in accordance with the Annex 8 - UIAA Medal Ceremony Guidelines.

4.6 EVENT FACT SHEET

The Organiser shall take care of providing information regarding the organisation of the event. Mandatory documents which must be provided are:

- Competition schedules

- Travel information
- Visa information and assistance process
- Event Organiser and UIAA Official names and contact details

All the above information shall be provided through a draft template information sheet, made ready to the UIAA Event Coordinator in advance of the competition.

4.7 VISAS

It is the responsibility of the Event Organiser to provide a letter of invitation and any other document necessary to enter the national territory where the World Cup will be held upon request.

4.8 UIAA EVENT SUSTAINABILITY GUIDELINES

Please refer to Annex 9 – UIAA Event Sustainability Guidelines.

4.9 UIAA FEES

- **Calendar fee for Continental Cup in Lead and/or Speed – 500 EUROS**
- **Competitor Registration Fee for Continental Cup – 75 EUROS for 1 discipline, 125 EUROS for 2**
- **15 Euros of Competitor registration will go to the UIAA**
- **The Calendar fee and the UIAA portion of the registration fee will be invoiced to the organiser by the UIAA 1 week after the event.**

4.10 AFTER THE EVENT

After each competition concludes it would be advantageous for the athletes to have the opportunity to be able to train on the routes that are left up on the competition structure. For a day or two after the event organisers should allow for the facility to be open to the athletes for training opportunities and put measures in place to allow easy access for all athletes.

4.11 PHOTO COVERAGE

The Organiser shall provide photo coverage in accordance with the Annex 6 - UIAA Photographer Regulations.

4.12 BRANDING REGULATIONS

Together with Organiser, the UIAA must ensure that ice climbing competitions are ideal communication platforms for commercial sponsors. The Organiser shall provide branding, in accordance with the Annex 4 - UIAA Branding Regulations.