

UIAA Medal Ceremony Protocol – 2026

Aims:

- To make the UIAA Ice World Cups and subsequent livestream look and feel as professional as possible as we aim to move forwards to becoming an Olympic Sport.
- To make the start and finish of each livestream as smooth and succinct as possible and it to lead straight into the action of the competition and subsequently the medal ceremony.
- To hold the medal ceremony as soon as possible after the competition has finished – i.e. part of the finals livestream broadcast - using correct IOC protocol as described below.
- The medal ceremony should be pinnacle that rounds of the UIAA world cup, so feel free to add flourishes that best show off your event and your region.

Following this protocol is mandatory for the 2026 season but we do encourage each event organizer to develop their own style and add their own local flourishes to their medal ceremonies.

Medal Ceremony Guidelines

- Winning a UIAA Medal is the highest achievement in our sport, and athletes train their entire lives for that moment. The experience of the athlete is paramount in planning for Medal Ceremonies. Careful consideration must be given to making the experience smooth and memorable for the athletes.
- **The Medal ceremony should take place as soon as possible after the final climber has finished competing – maximum 15 minutes, with all preparations being made before the final has finished and should be part of the finals livestream broadcast with as little gap in viewing as possible. So please ensure that prior to the final concluding the following tasks have been completed:**
 - podium in position in front of podium back drop
 - Master of Ceremonies is ready to present
 - prizes assembled and ready
 - presentation party ready
 - results list prepared as soon as the competition concludes
 - ideally some sort of fanfare and/or supporting crew in local dress will accompany the presentation party to the podium area
 - athletes prepared – lined up and ready to file onto the podium area in the correct order
- Only the top 3 athletes from each category should be invited onto the podium stage (IOC protocol), to make the award ceremony flow and be as succinct as possible.
- Any gap between the competition finishing and the medal ceremony should be filled with live interviews with the winning athletes – done in English by the livestream commentator as a piece to camera that ideally can be watched by the spectators as well.

- The medaling athletes are required to wear the competition uniforms of their national federation with their competition bib.
- Ideally each medal should be accompanied by a prize and/or flowers.
- **Ideally a full dress rehearsal of the medal ceremony with all those involved (except the athletes) should be conducted on the days leading up to the event, so that everyone is aware of their role, the direction of movement, what needs to happen, and when.**
- All speeches to be made by local dignitaries in the local language should be made after the medal ceremony has concluded and the UIAA official has closed the ceremony. As these do not need to be included as part of the livestream.

Medal Ceremony Protocol

The medal ceremony should follow the following protocol as closely as possible:

1. MC introduces the event and the medal ceremony – ideally in local language and English – following the script below.
2. MC introduces the presentation party – ideally this will be made up of a local dignitary/VIP and a UIAA official – one will present the medals and one will present the prize – following the script below.
3. MC introduces the medalists – following the script below: The podium athletes will be called forward and they will be told to stand behind the podium in their respective positions. The winners names are announced in the following order: the third place finisher is announced first, followed by the second-place holder, leading up to the announcement of the first-place athlete, the Gold Medalist. As their names are announced, the competitors who are first, second and third, wearing their official uniform, take their places on a podium. With the winner slightly higher than the second-placed who is on his right and the third-placed who is on his left. The second and third-place podiums are of equal height
4. The UIAA official shall hang the medal around the winner's neck. Then, the local dignitary/VIP presents the winner with flowers and/or a prize.
5. Raising of the National Flags and Playing of the Gold Medalist's National Anthem: The flag of the winner's delegation shall be hoisted either digitally on the big screen using the power point slide provided or on a central flagpole, and those of the second and third on adjoining flagpoles to the right and to the left of the central flagpole at equal height, slightly lower than the central, champion's flag, looking towards the arena. All flags should be of uniform size, usually 3 feet by 5 feet, with horizontal orientation. Please confirm with the UIAA event coordinator in advance which method will be used.
6. Then a 60 seconds version of the anthem of the winner's delegation is played. Ideally each medal-winner is directly opposite/below his or her delegation's flag. After which all three athletes can gather on the top of the podium for pictures.

If you have any further questions regarding these protocols please contact the Event Coordinator at the UIAA – iceclimbing@theuiaa.org

Medal ceremony script – same for both MC and livestreaming commentators

(MC should announce the time frame for the ceremonies to begin and ceremony maybe conducted in English and the local language – a second MC maybe useful for this.)

1. MC: *Honoured Guests, Athletes, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the medal presentation and official closing for the UIAA World Youth Championships held here in Saas Fee, Switzerland.*
2. MC: *This Medal Ceremony for the World Youth Championships brought to you by Outdoor Research, proud sponsor of the 2026 UIAA World Cup Tour.*
3. MC: *Receiving the Bronze medal, from __(nation)_, is _____.*
4. MC: *Receiving the Silver medal, from __(nation)_, is _____.*
5. MC: *Receiving the Gold medal, from __(nation)_, is _____.*
6. MC: *Ladies and gentlemen, your medal winners of the __(event)__ competition.*
7. MC: *Please stand for the National anthem of __(nation of winner)_____.*
8. MC: *Once again, congratulations to all the winners!*