

Level 1 Candidate Handbook

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1.0 Introduction

Welcome to the UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter qualification.

This qualification is the first formal competition route setting qualification of the UIAA competition route setter pathway and has been developed to establish an internationally recognised standard for competition ice climbing route setting.

The qualification is designed for individuals who have already gained a foundation in basic route setting practices through the *Level 0 Introduction to Route Setting course*, or through equivalent practical experience.

The Level 1 qualification moves beyond basic technical skills and introduces candidates to the specialist knowledge required to set routes for competitive ice climbing. Throughout the programme, candidates will develop an understanding of athlete movement, competition route design, safety management, route testing and the principles of fair competition. They will also learn and practice more advanced ropework, including edge and rope transitions, basic and counterbalance rescues and learn to deal with various rescue scenarios for use within the field of play.

Successful completion of the training course does not, on its own, result in qualification. Candidates are expected to consolidate their learning through supervised practical experience before completing a formal assessment. This approach ensures that all qualified Level 1 Route Setters have demonstrated competence in real-world competition environments.

2.0 Purpose of the Qualification

The Level 1 qualification is designed to develop competent, safe, and effective ice climbing competition route setters who can work as part of a professional route-setting team at local, national and international events.

2.1 What the Qualification Provides

- Technical knowledge - understanding movement, route architecture, competition design, and the reasoning behind key decisions.
- Practical skills - designing, constructing, evaluating, and maintaining routes that are safe, fair, and appropriate for the competition level.
- Professional behaviours - working effectively within a team, following safety protocols, managing rescue situations and contributing to high-quality competition delivery.

2.2 Scope of Practice

2.2.1 Post-training

Trainees who complete the course will be able to consolidate their training to prepare for the assessment segment at local and national competitions* and whilst working as a trainee at UIAA international competitions up to continental cup level**

* This may include any local or national competition that conforms to UIAA rules and formats.

** International experience must be undertaken under the supervision of the appointed Head Route Setter or another suitably experienced and authorised route setter.

2.2.2 Post assessment

Qualified Level 1 candidates will be able to:

- Work as a route setter for UIAA Continental Cups and the World Youth Championships.
- Work as part of the designated rescue team during these competitions.
- Highly experienced Level 1 Route Setters will be able to apply for Head Route Setter roles for Continental Cup events.

2.3 Who is This Qualification For?

This qualification is intended for individuals who wish to become competition ice climbing route setters and who already possess a basic understanding of route-setting equipment, safe

working practices and climbing wall operations. Candidates must also be able to work competently and independently on ropes at height.

Typical candidates **may** include:

- Graduates of the *UIAA Level 0 Introduction to Route Setting course*.
- Experienced sport climbing route setters wishing to transition into competition ice climbing.
- Athletes interested in becoming route setters.
- National Federation volunteers supporting competition development.
- Climbing coaches or officials with an interest in competition route setting.

3.0 Prerequisites For Training

Before attending the **UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter** training course, candidates must demonstrate that they meet the following minimum requirements.

These prerequisites ensure that candidates possess the fundamental practical skills necessary to participate safely and effectively in the Level 1 programme. The Level 1 course is not intended to teach basic rope access, work at height or equipment handling; these skills should already have been acquired through the Level 0 Introduction to Route Setting course or through equivalent prior experience. If a candidate does not meet these requirements, then the Level 0 course would be more appropriate to learn the basic skills to be able to gain enough experience to attend this Level 1 course.

Candidates **must**:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have completed the **UIAA Level 0 Introduction to Route Setting** course, **OR** been given exemption from this course. (see below for more information on exemption)
- Have completed a minimum of **20 hours of practical experience** assisting with or independently performing **route setting activities**. A record of these hours and where they were completed should be in the candidate's application form.
- Have experience of working with impact drivers and other applicable power tools.
- **Language Prerequisite:** English is the official language of instruction and evaluation for the UIAA Route Setter Programme. Candidates must demonstrate functional English proficiency. The ability to comprehend safety protocols, follow technical briefings, and communicate immediately in high-risk environments is a mandatory safety requirement for course participation.

3.1 Climbing Ability

Candidates **must** demonstrate the ability to:

- Climb confidently at the standard expected of Continental Cup qualification routes, on lead and top rope. Onsighting is not a requirement, but being able to link large sections of routes together is vital.
- Physically test and demonstrate all intended movements that they are expected to set during the course.

3.2 Technical Knowledge

Candidates must possess a working knowledge of:

- Competition ice climbing equipment.
- Ice axes and fruit-boots, including appropriate selection, maintenance, modification and safe use.
- Competition holds and structures.
- The UIAA ice climbing rules and regulations applicable to route setting and climbing.
- Basic route setting equipment and hardware.
- Work-at-height systems used during route setting operations.

3.3 Rope Access Competence

Candidates **must** be able to:

- Work safely on an independent two-rope system.
- Ascend and descend fixed ropes efficiently.
- Position themselves safely while working at height.
- Carry out pre-use checks on their PPE and rope access equipment.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the limitations, inspection and maintenance requirements of their equipment.

3.4 Personal Equipment

Candidates **must** have:

- PPE suitable for working on an independent two-rope system throughout the course.
- Personal climbing equipment suitable for competition ice climbing.
- Ice axes and fruit-boots suitable for route testing.

3.5 Physical Requirements

Candidates **must** be physically capable of:

- Working at height for extended periods.
- Carrying and handling route setting equipment.
- Completing working days of up to eight hours.
- Operating safely in indoor and outdoor winter environments.

3.6 Membership and Insurance

Where applicable, candidates should hold current membership of a recognised UIAA National Federation. It is recommended that all candidates hold personal and third-party liability insurance appropriate for the work they will participate in for the training course and the consolidation period.

3.7 Exemption

Candidates who have not completed the Level 0 course must demonstrate equivalent work-at-height, rope access and route setting experience to be granted an exemption from this course.

Candidates applying for exemption must provide evidence of their previous experience, knowledge and practical skills demonstrating that they meet or exceed the learning outcomes and practical competencies of the Level 0 course. Candidates wishing to apply for exemption may use the **Level 0 syllabus** as a checklist to self-assess their existing knowledge and practical skills before applying.

Exemption will be considered on an individual basis by the course provider as part of the candidate's application to attend a Level 1 training course. The course provider will determine whether the candidate's previous experience demonstrates an equivalent level of competence to that expected following completion of Level 0.

An exemption from Level 0 does not exempt the candidate from any other Level 1 prerequisite.

4.0 Qualification Structure

The UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter qualification is designed around the principle that competence is developed through a combination of structured learning, practical experience and formal assessment.

Attendance on the training course alone does not result in qualification. Candidates must complete each stage of the qualification before being recognised as a UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter.

The qualification consists of **five stages**.

Stage 1 - Application

Before attending the course, candidates must apply and be accepted to register for a course via the application form.

To do this, they must meet the prerequisite requirements (found in section 3.0). This ensures that all participants begin the Level 1 course with a consistent foundation of practical skills.

Applications should, where possible, include a recommendation from the candidate's national federation for them to attend the course and a reference from an existing UIAA-certified route setter.

Stage 2 - Training Course

The course combines classroom-based learning, practical workshops and supervised route-setting exercises.

Throughout the course, candidates will develop knowledge and practical skills in areas including:

- Competition route setting philosophy
- Athlete movement and route reading
- Competition formats and regulations
- Route planning and construction
- Hold choice
- Applying volumes and structures
- Difficulty application and adjustments
- Competition safety and risk management

- Route testing and evaluation
- Working effectively within a route-setting team
- Rescues

The course is designed as a learning experience rather than an assessment. Candidates are encouraged to experiment, ask questions and develop their understanding under the guidance of experienced instructors during the training.

Candidates who have completed the training course will be **Trainees**.

Stage 3 - Consolidation

Following the training course, trainees enter a period of practical experience.

The purpose of consolidation is to allow candidates to apply the knowledge gained during the course in real competition and route setting environments, ideally while working alongside other experienced route setters so they can be mentored and receive feedback.

During this period, candidates should progressively develop confidence, decision-making and practical competence.

Consolidation should be logged and recorded for assessors to review ahead of an assessment.

Evidence of consolidation will normally include:

- Practical route setting experience at UIAA-recognised competitions or training events. (This can be any competition, national, etc, that conforms to UIAA rules)
- A log of hours spent route setting
- A portfolio of multiple routes that the candidate has set or collaborated on setting. This can include footage of setting, testing, or demos.
- Mentor feedback and verification of hours.
- Reflective learning records.
- Evidence of route setting responsibilities undertaken.

See more details about consolidation in section 7

Stage 4 - Assessment

Once candidates have completed the training course, the required consolidation and the additional first-aid and MEWP qualifications, they may apply for assessment.

Assessment is competency-based and is designed to confirm that candidates can consistently apply the knowledge and skills expected of a Level 1 Competition Route Setter.

Assessment will include both practical and professional components and may include:

- Route planning.
- Practical route construction.
- Route testing and modification.
- Risk assessment.
- Technical discussion.
- Professional conduct and teamwork.
- Test paper which includes knowledge of rules

Candidates must demonstrate safe working practices and sound judgement throughout the assessment process.

Assessors will be a minimum of level 2 qualified.

Assessments can be held:

- At a specific assessment course (1:4 ratio with assessor)
- In conjunction with a training course (assessee would have completed training at a previous course and fulfilled their consolidation)
- A UIAA Continental Cup (maximum of 1 assessee per route-setting team)

Stage 5 - Certification

Candidates who successfully complete all stages of the qualification will be awarded the:
UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter Qualification

Certification confirms that the individual has demonstrated the required knowledge, skills and practical competence to work as a Level 1 route setter within the UIAA Ice Climbing Route Setter Education Programme.

The qualification also provides the foundation for future progression to the Level 2 International Route Setter training course.

Qualification Overview

Stage	Description	Outcome
1	Entry Requirements	Eligible to attend the course
2	Minimum Three-Day Training Course	Knowledge and practical skills developed
3	Consolidation Period	Practical experience and practice
4	Assessment	Demonstration of required standard and competency

5.0 Role and Responsibilities of a Level 1 Competition Route Setter

A Level 1 Route Setter is expected to work safely and effectively as a member of a route-setting team, contributing to the planning, construction, testing and maintenance of competition routes under the direction of a Head Route Setter at an event or more experienced route-setting team.

While Level 1 Route Setters are capable of taking responsibility for individual routes and route sections at competitions, they are not expected to be in charge of international competitions independently. A highly experienced Level 1 Route Setter may apply for appointment as Head Route Setter at a UIAA Continental Cup. Applications will be considered individually against any additional UIAA appointment criteria.

5.1 Professional Responsibilities

A Level 1 qualified Route Setter is expected to:

- Maintain the highest standards of safety at all times.
- Act as a positive role model for trainees.
- Work professionally as part of a route-setting team.
- Follow the direction of the Head Route Setter.
- Communicate effectively with fellow setters, judges and organisers.
- Demonstrate respect for athletes, officials and volunteers.
- Know the rules of the competition
- Promote fair competition through objective route design.
- Maintain equipment and work areas to an appropriate standard.
- Have a comprehensive knowledge of WAH regulations and best practices.
- Continue developing their knowledge and practical experience.

5.2 Technical Responsibilities

A Level 1 qualified Route Setter should be capable of:

- Planning competition routes appropriate to the competition category.
- Building safe and technically sound routes in an appropriate time frame.
- Testing routes using the intended movement.
- Identifying hazards and implementing suitable control measures.
- Ensuring the safety of athletes whilst climbing, including testing falls and hazards that could occur from falls.
- Modifying routes following testing and feedback.

- Carrying out routine route maintenance throughout an event.
- Assisting with route demonstrations where required.
- Working efficiently within competition time constraints.
- Performing basic and counterbalance rescues.

5.3 Decision Making

A Level 1 Route Setter should demonstrate sound judgement when making decisions relating to:

- Athlete safety.
- Spectator safety.
- Route difficulty.
- Athlete progression and separation.
- Movement quality.
- Fairness between competitors.
- Hold orientation and positioning.
- Risk management.
- Competition logistics.
- Spectator engagement.

Where uncertainty exists, the Level 1 Route Setter should seek guidance from the Head Route Setter or Jury President of the competition.

5.4 Professional Standards

All qualified Level 1 Route Setters are expected to demonstrate:

5.4.1 Safety

Safety is prioritised above all other considerations.

No route, movement or competition objective should compromise the safety of oneself, athletes, officials, spectators or fellow route setters.

5.4.2 Integrity

Route setting decisions should be impartial, objective and free from personal bias.

All athletes should be presented with an equal opportunity to demonstrate their ability.

5.4.3 Teamwork

Competition route setting is a **team-driven process**. Candidates are expected to communicate openly, support colleagues, and contribute positively throughout planning, building and testing.

A **constructive feedback culture** is essential - feedback should be welcomed, criticism acknowledged, and lessons applied to improve the quality and fairness of the routes.

5.4.4 Professionalism

Candidates of the UIAA route setting educational programme represent **themselves, their National Federation, and the UIAA**. They are expected to demonstrate professional behaviour, punctuality, reliability and respect for others throughout all competitions and training activities. A commitment to high standards, continual improvement, and a **constructive feedback culture** underpins their development as competition route setters.

6.0 The Training Course

This is a sample layout of a 3-day training course; however, the course can be structured differently to suit the venue and the course provider. During a Level 1 training course, candidates must have a minimum of **24 hours** of instruction, normally structured as a 3-day programme.

Day 1 – Construction, Movement & Setting Foundations

Day 1 establishes the foundations of safe and effective competition route setting.

- Introduction to competition ice route setting and the role of the route setter.
- Safety, PPE and working at height.
- Holds, structures, fixings and route construction.
- Movement design and athlete considerations.
- Designing and forcing intended movement.
- Building, testing and modifying short movement sequences.

Candidates progress from construction exercises to designing individual movements and linking these into short sequences.

Day 2 – Route Design, Testing & Introduction to Rescue Training

Day 2 develops the candidate's ability to plan and construct complete competition routes.

Topics include:

- Route design and architecture.
- Design of routes for specific competition rounds, athlete ability and separation.
- Complete route construction.
- Route testing and evaluation.
- Identifying unintended solutions and other problems.
- Route modification and retesting.
- Introduction to work-at-height rescue systems and practical rescue training for the field of play.

Candidates work through the process of **planning, building, testing and modifying competition routes**, alongside practical rescue training.

Day 3 – Competition Application

Day 3 brings the skills developed throughout the course together within a more realistic competition-setting environment.

Topics include:

- Rescue refresher and scenario-based rescue simulation practice.
- Implications of competition rules and how they affect route setting.
- Competition setting and event operations.
- Working effectively as part of a route-setting team.
- Competition route setting exercise.
- Route testing, modification and finalisation.
- Course review, individual feedback and preparation for consolidation.

Candidates increasingly work as a route-setting team, with instructors providing less direct input as the day progresses.

7.0 Consolidation

7.1 Purpose

The Level 1 training course provides candidates with the knowledge and practical skills required to begin working as a competition route setter. However, competence cannot be established through a three-day training course alone.

The consolidation period provides Trainees with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills developed during training through practical experience.

Trainees are expected to work alongside experienced route setters, gaining experience of different walls, competition formats, route-setting teams and approaches to route design.

The purpose of consolidation is to develop:

- Practical competence
- Confidence working as part of a route-setting team
- Efficient working practices
- Route design and construction skills
- Testing and evaluation skills
- Decision-making
- Communication
- Understanding of competition environments
- The ability to respond to feedback and modify routes appropriately
- The ability to perform rescues efficiently and safely.

The consolidation period is a developmental stage and is not itself an assessment. Trainees should be encouraged to experiment, ask questions, identify areas for improvement and learn from feedback, while always maintaining the required safety standards.

7.2 Minimum Consolidation

A trainee's consolidation should include:

- **A minimum of 30 hours** post-training of practical route setting experience.
- Experience at **a minimum of three separate setting sessions or events**.
- Participation in both route construction and route testing.
- Creating and editing demo videos.
- Experience working as part of a route-setting team.
- Experience setting and modifying routes following testing and feedback.

- Completion of the Level 1 Trainee Logbook.

Completion of the minimum consolidation hours does not automatically entitle a candidate to assessment. The candidate should have demonstrated sufficient development and practical experience to undertake the assessment safely and effectively

7.3 Trainee Logbook

Candidates must maintain a Logbook throughout their consolidation period. The logbook should record information such as:

- Date of each route setting session.
- Event or venue.
- Role undertaken.
- Hours worked.
- Routes set and the level of the climber they were intended for.
- Route testing undertaken.
- Modifications made.
- Others present and how the team was managed.
- Feedback received.
- Candidates' personal reflection.
- Route plans or diagrams.
- Photographs or video of routes set.
- Examples of route modifications.

The logbook should demonstrate development, rather than simply recording attendance. Not all evidence needs to be submitted for every setting session. The purpose is to provide a representative record of the candidate's development from new trainee to a trainee ready to go for assessment.

7.4 Working with others

The required consolidation can be completed with peers or under the mentorship of an experienced route-setting mentor so as to allow the trainee to receive appropriate guidance and feedback on their work. Feedback can be logged in the Trainee's logbook.

Athletes can contribute to feedback/testing, but consolidation should ultimately be overseen by an experienced setter.

Beneficial logs should support and document the trainee's development rather than simply being proof of hours worked.

Candidates should actively seek feedback and take responsibility for their own development.

7.5 Evidence

Trainees are encouraged to submit photos and video evidence alongside their logbook.

8.0 Assessment

8.1 Purpose of Assessment

The Level 1 assessment is designed to confirm that a candidate has developed the knowledge, practical skills and professional behaviours required to work as a Level 1 Competition Route Setter.

The assessment is competency-based. Candidates are expected to demonstrate that they can safely and effectively apply the principles and skills taught during the training course in a practical route setting environment.

8.2 Assessment Prerequisites

Before undertaking the Level 1 assessment, candidates must:

- Have completed the Level 1 three-day training course.
- Have completed the required consolidation.
- Have completed the required entries in their candidate logbook.
- Have received appropriate mentor feedback.
- Meet any current UIAA administrative or membership requirements.
- Hold appropriate personal and third-party liability insurance for the work at the assessment and in any future work.
- Be considered ready for assessment by the course provider.
- Hold an internationally recognised MEWP operator's licence for static and mobile boom lifts (1b, 3b)
- Have completed an in-person first aid course with a minimum of 16 hours of training.

8.3 Assessment Format

The Level 1 assessment should consist of a combination of practical assessment and professional discussion.

8.3.1 Practical assessment

The practical assessment should provide candidates with an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to:

- Plan a competition route.
- Select appropriate movement and route objectives.
- Construct a safe route.

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- Appropriately test the route.
- Identify unintended movement or solutions.
- Evaluate difficulty and athlete experience.
- Modify the route where required.
- Explain their route setting decisions.
- Work safely and efficiently.
- Communicate effectively with other members of the route-setting team.

8.3.2 Professional Discussion

Assessors will ensure there is discussion with the candidate covering their route setting decisions and experience.

Discussion may include:

- Competition route setting philosophy.
- Athlete separation.
- Movement selection.
- Route difficulty.
- Fairness.
- Safety.
- Testing methodology.
- Competition regulations.
- Working within a route-setting team.
- Experiences gained during consolidation.
- Future development.

The candidate should be able to explain why they made particular route setting decisions rather than simply describing what they did.

8.3.3 Safety Assessment

Safety is a fundamental requirement of the qualification.

Candidates must demonstrate safe working practices throughout the assessment.

This includes:

- Appropriate use of PPE.
- Safe rope management.
- Safe use of tools and equipment.
- Awareness of hazards.
- Appropriate communication.
- A conscious effort to improve the safety of their routes for athletes.
- Safe movement around the setting environment.

- Appropriate response to identified hazards.

A serious safety breach may result in an immediate failure of the assessment regardless of performance in other areas.

8.3.4 Rescue Assessment

Candidates must complete a practical rescue assessment of two parts.

Technical rescue skills

- Candidates will need to demonstrate they can perform a basic rope rescue and return a suspended casualty to the ground from a 5m height in under 8 minutes.
- Candidates will need to demonstrate a counterbalance lift rescue and then return a suspended casualty to the ground from a 5m height in under 8 minutes.

Scenario Rescue

The Scenario assessment is intended to confirm that candidates can respond safely and effectively to an incident.

Candidates will be given a scenario and must demonstrate their ability to:

- Recognise and respond appropriately to the emergency.
- Assess the situation before taking action.
- Communicate effectively with the rescue team and other personnel.
- Establish and maintain appropriate safety systems to access the casualty.
- Carry out the required rescue manoeuvre as required by the scenario using the equipment available.
- Safely transfer and control the casualty.
- Maintain appropriate rope and equipment management throughout the rescue.
- Safely return the casualty to the ground.
- Recognise their own limitations and seek additional assistance where required.

This assessment should reflect realistic situations that could occur during route setting or competition activities. The scenario assessment will not have a set time limit, nor a predetermined correct procedure; however, candidates will need to plan and carry out an appropriate rescue in an appropriate timeframe.

8.4 Assessment Outcome

Candidates will receive one of the following outcomes:

Pass, Deferral, or Fail

Pass - the candidate met or exceeded all syllabus competencies and demonstrated the required safety and technical standard across the entire assessment.

Deferral - The candidate performed well overall but has not yet demonstrated the required standard in one or more syllabus areas. This requires only a partial reassessment focused exclusively on that specific section of the assessment.

Fail - The candidate did not meet the required standard across multiple areas, showed a fundamental lack of preparation, or lacked core prerequisites. This requires a full reassessment.

8.5 Reassessment

Candidates who are unsuccessful at their first assessment should be provided with constructive feedback and a clear development plan.

Additional consolidation should normally be completed before reassessment.

The reassessment should focus on the areas where the candidate has not demonstrated the required standard, although the assessor may reassess other competencies where necessary to confirm overall competence.

The UIAA or appointed course provider should establish the maximum number of assessment attempts and any associated waiting period.

8.6 Assessment Philosophy

The purpose of assessment is not to identify the candidate who can produce the hardest or most spectacular route.

The purpose is to establish whether the candidate can consistently make safe, appropriate and informed route setting decisions.

A successful Level 1 Route Setter should demonstrate that they understand:

What they are setting, who they are setting it for, why they are setting it, and how to ensure it is safe and fair.

9.0 Certification

9.1 Award of the Qualification

Candidates who complete all required elements of the programme will be awarded the:

UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter

Certification confirms that the candidate has demonstrated the knowledge, practical skills and professional competence required to work as a Level 1 competition route setter within the scope of the qualification.

Certification means the candidate has met the Level 1 competency standard; it does not guarantee appointment to a particular competition or event.

9.2 Certification and Records

Successful candidates should receive a UIAA certificate confirming completion of the Level 1 qualification.

The UIAA or its designated National Federation or course provider should maintain an appropriate record of qualified route setters.

The certification record should include:

- Candidate name.
- National Federation, where applicable.
- Date of qualification.
- Qualification level.

9.3 Maintaining Competence

Route setting is a practical discipline, and competence should be maintained through continued participation and development.

Qualified Level 1 Route Setters are expected to remain active in route setting and continue developing their skills through practical experience, mentoring and further education.

The UIAA may establish requirements for continuing professional development, revalidation or renewal of certification as the route setter education programme develops.

10.0 Progression

10.1 Continuing Development

Qualification is just the first step. Level 1 Route Setters are encouraged to continue improving and developing their knowledge, skills and expertise through ongoing learning and practical experience.

Level 1 Route Setters are encouraged to:

- Seek feedback from experienced setters.
- Work with different route setting teams.
- Set at a variety of venues and competitions.
- Review and analyse their own routes.
- Study developments in competition ice climbing.
- Continue developing their climbing ability.
- Attend UIAA education and development activities.
- Support and mentor less experienced route setters when appropriate.

10.2 Progression from Level 1 to Level 2

Progression to Level 2 is based on demonstrated experience and development rather than completion of a fixed period of time alone.

A Level 1 Route Setter wishing to progress towards Level 2 should gain experience across a range of competition environments and continue to develop their ability to work independently as part of a route setting team.

Experience should include, where opportunities are available:

- National-level competitions.
- Athlete training camps
- Continental Cup competitions.
- Working with experienced international route setters.
- Setting a range of competition categories.
- Working within competition time constraints.
- Participating in event planning and logistics.
- Supporting less experienced setters.

10.3 Appointment to International Competitions

Holding a Level 1 qualification does not automatically entitle a route setter to be appointed to a UIAA international competition.

Appointment to international events will be based on the requirements of the event, the experience and competence of the route setter, and the needs of the route-setting team.

The UIAA may establish additional criteria for appointment to Continental Cup, World Cup, Championship and other international events.

11.0 Candidate Responsibilities

11.1 Professional Conduct

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner throughout the training course, consolidation period, assessment and subsequent route setting activities.

Candidates must:

- Treat instructors, mentors, fellow candidates, athletes, officials and organisers with respect.
- Follow reasonable instructions given by instructors, mentors and Head Route Setters.
- Act responsibly and professionally when representing the UIAA or their National Federation.
- Take responsibility for their own actions and decisions.
- Work constructively as part of a route-setting team.

11.2 Safety Responsibilities

Safety is the responsibility of every member of a route-setting team.

Candidates are expected to:

- Follow established safety procedures.
- Use appropriate PPE and equipment correctly.
- Carry out required equipment checks.
- Report hazards, damaged equipment or unsafe practices.
- Follow site-specific safety procedures.
- Work within the limits of their training and experience.
- Seek assistance when a task is beyond their level of competence.

Candidates must never undertake a task or activity for which they do not have the appropriate training, equipment or experience.

11.3 Responsibility for Personal Equipment

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that their personal protective equipment is suitable, correctly maintained and fit for use.

This includes:

- Personal climbing equipment.
- PPE and rope access equipment.

- Tools and other personal route setting equipment.

Equipment must be inspected before use, and any defective or damaged equipment must be removed from service.

11.4 Confidentiality and Competition Integrity

Candidates may have access to confidential competition information during training, consolidation and route setting activities.

Candidates must respect the confidentiality of:

- Unreleased competition routes.
- Route plans and designs.
- Competition strategies.
- Athlete information.
- Internal route setting discussions.
- Other information designated as confidential by the event organiser, Jury President or route-setting team.

Candidates must not share confidential information, photographs or video of unreleased competition routes without appropriate permission.

11.5 Conflict of Interest

Candidates must declare any potential conflict of interest that could affect their ability to act impartially as a route setter.

This may include close personal, coaching or competitive relationships with athletes participating in an event.

Any potential conflict should be discussed with the Head Route Setter or Jury President.

12.0 Equipment

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they arrive at the Level 1 training course and assessment with the personal equipment required to participate safely and effectively.

All equipment used during the course must be appropriate for its intended purpose, maintained in good condition and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and relevant safety requirements.

12.1 Personal Protective Equipment

Candidates must have access to appropriate PPE for working at height using an independent two-rope system.

This should include:

- Rope access harness suitable for the work being undertaken.
- Helmet suitable for work at height.
- 2-person rescue-rated descender
- Rescue-rated back-up device and appropriate lanyard.
- Hand ascender and etrier
- Gloves suitable for route setting activities.
- Eye and ear protection suitable for route setting.
- Personal fall-arrest equipment appropriate for operating MEWP.
- Any additional PPE required by the venue or course provider.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate that their equipment is correctly fitted, inspected and suitable for use.

12.2 Personal Climbing Equipment

Candidates must provide personal climbing equipment suitable for competition ice climbing and route testing.

This should include:

- UIAA-approved helmet
- Ice axes suitable for competition use.
- Fruitboots with mono-point crampons
- Regulation-appropriate personal climbing clothing, including full-finger gloves.
- UIAA-approved harness and belay device

Equipment should be maintained in a condition suitable for use throughout the course.

12.3 Route Setting Tools

Candidates are encouraged to have access to the tools they will use during their route setting development.

This may include:

- Impact driver.
- Lanyard
- Drill.
- Appropriate drill and driver bits.
- Spanners and sockets.
- Hold removal tools. (hacksaw/multi-tool/grinder)
- Tape measure
- Tap and die
- Staple gun
- Personal tool storage.

Where candidates bring their own power tools, these must be suitable for the work being undertaken and maintained in safe working condition.

12.4 Course Equipment

The course provider should provide the specialist equipment and infrastructure required for practical training.

This may include:

- Climbing wall structures suitable for competition ice climbing.
- Competition climbing holds.
- Wooden features and volumes.
- Appropriate fixings.
- Screws and bolts.
- Route setting hardware.
- Rope systems.
- Rescue equipment.
- Specialist tools and equipment required for practical exercises.
- Appropriate equipment for demonstrating and practising rescue systems.

The exact equipment requirements should be specified in the Level 1 Instructor Handbook and Course Delivery Specification.

12.5 Equipment Inspection

Candidates are responsible for checking their personal equipment before use. Any equipment that is damaged, defective, incorrectly maintained or otherwise unsuitable for use must be removed from service.

Instructors may inspect candidate equipment before or during the course and may prevent the use of equipment that they consider unsafe or unsuitable.

12.6 Equipment Maintenance

Candidates should develop good equipment management practices throughout the course.

This includes:

- Cleaning equipment after use.
- Inspecting equipment regularly.
- Identifying wear and damage.
- Maintaining power tools and batteries appropriately.
- Storing equipment correctly.
- Reporting damaged or defective equipment.
- Following manufacturer recommendations.

Good equipment management is considered part of professional route setting practice.

13.0 Policies and Procedures

13.1 General

All candidates participating in the UIAA Level 1 Competition Route Setter programme are expected to comply with the policies, regulations and procedures of the UIAA, their National Federation and the organisation delivering the course.

Where a course is delivered at a climbing wall, competition venue or other facility, candidates must also comply with the relevant rules and procedures of that venue.

13.2 Health and Safety

The safety of candidates, instructors, route setters, athletes and other persons involved in the programme is the highest priority.

Candidates must:

- Follow all course and venue safety procedures.
- Follow instructions given by instructors and supervising personnel.
- Use appropriate PPE and safety systems.
- Report hazards, incidents and near misses.
- Stop work if they identify an immediate and uncontrolled safety risk.
- Work within the limits of their training and competence.

The course provider must ensure that appropriate risk assessments and emergency procedures are in place for the delivery of the course.

13.3 Equality, Inclusion and Respect

The UIAA Route Setter Education Programme should provide an inclusive and respectful learning environment.

Candidates, instructors and other participants are expected to treat one another with respect and without discrimination, harassment, bullying or inappropriate behaviour.

The programme should provide equal opportunity for candidates to participate and develop, subject to the safety and competency requirements of the qualification.

13.4 Safeguarding

Where the programme involves interaction with young people or other individuals requiring safeguarding protection, the relevant UIAA, National Federation and venue safeguarding policies must be followed.

All instructors, mentors and other personnel involved in the programme must comply with the safeguarding requirements applicable to the environment in which they are working.

13.5 Complaints and Appeals

Candidates who have concerns regarding the delivery of the course, assessment or conduct of an instructor or assessor should have access to an appropriate complaints procedure.

Candidates should be informed before the course:

- Who to contact with a complaint.
- How a complaint should be submitted.
- How assessment decisions can be appealed.
- The timescales and process for responding to complaints or appeals.

The detailed complaints and appeals procedure should be maintained separately by the UIAA or the organisation responsible for delivering the qualification.

13.6 Reasonable Adjustments

Candidates who require reasonable adjustments to enable them to participate in the training or assessment should communicate their requirements to the course provider as early as possible.

Adjustments should support access to the programme without compromising the safety or competency requirements of the qualification.

13.7 Environmental Responsibility

Candidates and course providers should minimise unnecessary environmental impact associated with route-setting activities.

This includes appropriate management of waste, responsible use of materials and equipment, and consideration of environmental impacts when working at outdoor venues.



UIAA

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS D'ALPINISME

14.0 Contact Information

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15.0 Appendices