

Route Setter Education and Qualification Programme

Programme Framework

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The UIAA Ice Climbing Route Setter Education and Qualification Programme establishes a clear and internationally recognised framework for the training, assessment, qualification and continued development of ice climbing route setters.

The programme has been developed specifically for competition ice climbing. It reflects the discipline's specialist movement, equipment, safety, work-at-height, and organisational demands.

It provides a structured pathway from introductory route-setting assistance through to setting and leading at international competitions. It also supports UIAA National Federations in developing route setters and delivering education within their own countries.

1.2 Objectives

The programme aims to:

- Establish consistent international standards for the education and qualification of competition ice climbing route setters.
- Develop competent, safety-focused and professional route setters.
- Create a clear pathway from introductory training to international head-setter responsibilities.
- Support National Federations in developing route-setting knowledge, experience and capacity.
- Improve the quality, fairness, safety and presentation of UIAA competitions.
- Encourage practical experience, mentorship and continued professional development.
- Provide a consistent framework for assessing route-setting competence.
- Create opportunities for route setters to progress through demonstrated ability and experience.

1.3 Scope

The programme applies to individuals undertaking route-setting education or seeking qualification for competition ice climbing.

It covers:

- Introductory training for people entering the route-setting environment.
- Competition route-setting qualifications at Levels 1, 2 and 3.
- Entry requirements and exemptions.
- Training, consolidation and assessment.
- Certification and qualification status.
- Continued development and progression.
- Eligibility for appointment to UIAA competition route-setting teams.

The programme establishes the overall pathway and standards. Detailed course content, learning outcomes, assessment criteria and delivery requirements are contained within the syllabus, candidate handbook and provider guidance for each level.

Qualification through this programme confirms that an individual has demonstrated the required competencies for that level. It does not guarantee appointment to a particular UIAA competition or route-setting team.

2. Programme Principles

2.1 Safety

The safety of athletes, route setters, officials, volunteers and others involved in the competition environment must remain the highest priority.

All route setters must work within the limits of their training, qualification and experience. They must follow the relevant work-at-height procedures, equipment requirements, risk-management processes and UIAA regulations.

2.2 Competence, Not Attendance

Attendance at or completion of a training course does not, by itself, result in qualification.

Qualification is awarded only after the candidate has completed the required training and consolidation and has successfully demonstrated the competencies specified for that level through assessment.

2.3 Learning Through Practice

Route setting is a practical discipline. Training courses provide candidates with knowledge, instruction and supervised practice, but competence must also be developed through experience in genuine route-setting environments.

Each level therefore combines formal training with practical consolidation, evidence gathering and assessment.

2.4 Progressive Responsibility

The programme introduces greater responsibility at each level.

Candidates begin by learning to work safely and assist within a route-setting environment. They may then progress to independently setting competition routes as part of a team, contributing at World Cup level and, ultimately, leading an international route-setting operation. Progression is based on demonstrated competence and experience, not time served alone.

2.5 Mentorship and Collaboration

Developing route setters should work alongside appropriately experienced and qualified setters.

Mentorship, constructive feedback, shared problem-solving and experience with different teams, venues and athlete categories are essential parts of a route setter's development.

2.6 Fairness and Athlete Experience

Competition routes must test the relevant physical, technical and tactical abilities of athletes while providing appropriate separation and maintaining fairness across athletes, categories and rounds.

Route setters must consider athlete safety, intended movement, unintended solutions, route consistency, competition regulations and the overall athlete experience.

2.7 Continued Development

Qualification represents achievement of a defined level of competence, not the end of a route setter's development.

Qualified setters are expected to remain active, maintain their technical and safety knowledge, follow regulation changes, reflect on their work and continue developing through practical experience, education, mentoring and peer review.

3. Programme Structure

3.1 Programme Levels

The programme consists of one introductory level followed by three competition route-setting qualification levels.

Level	Title	Primary outcome
Level 0	Aspirant Setter	Can work safely within a route-setting environment and assist an experienced route setter.
Level 1	Competition Setter	Can independently set safe and appropriate competition routes as part of a route-setting team.
Level 2	World Cup Setter	Can set high-level international routes and contribute effectively within a World Cup route-setting team.
Level 3	Head International Setter	Can lead a route-setting team and manage the complete route-setting operation at an international competition.

3.2 Level 0 Status

Level 0 is an introductory course and is not a competition route-setting qualification.

It is intended for individuals who do not yet have the work-at-height, equipment or practical experience required to enter Level 1 training.

Level 0 develops the foundational skills required to assist experienced route setters and begin gaining practical experience. Completion of Level 0 does not qualify an individual to independently design or set competition routes.

Individuals with relevant previous route-setting, rope-access or work-at-height experience may apply for exemption from Level 0. An exemption only provides an alternative route into Level 1 training. It does not exempt the candidate from any other Level 1 entry requirement.

3.3 Competition Qualification Pathway

The competition route-setting qualification pathway begins at Level 1. Candidates may enter after completing Level 0 and gaining the required practical experience, or after receiving an approved Level 0 exemption based on verified equivalent experience. In both cases, candidates must meet all Level 1 entry requirements.

1. Meet the entry requirements for the relevant level.
2. Complete the required training course.
3. Undertake a period of practical consolidation.
4. Gather the required logbook, portfolio and supporting evidence.

5. Complete the competency assessment.
6. Receive certification after successfully meeting the required standard.
7. Gain further practical experience before applying for the next level.

The exact requirements for each stage are defined within the syllabus and candidate handbook for the relevant level.

3.4 Training Status

A candidate who completes a training course has completed the training stage for that level but is not yet qualified. Following the course, the candidate enters consolidation and may be described as a trainee at that level.

A trainee must continue working within the limits of their existing qualification, competence and experience and must not represent themselves as qualified at the level being undertaken until assessment has been passed and certification awarded.

3.5 Progression Between Levels

Progression is not automatic. Qualifying for one level does not give an individual an automatic right to enter the next level.

- The candidate's current qualification.
- The amount and relevance of their practical experience.
- Evidence contained within their logbook or portfolio.
- Feedback from mentors, head setters or other suitably qualified personnel.
- Their technical, physical and professional readiness.
- Their ability to meet the published entry requirements for the next level.

3.6 Qualification and Event Appointment

Qualification and appointment to an event are separate decisions. A qualification confirms demonstrated competence at a programme level; it does not guarantee selection or appointment to a UIAA competition.

- The level and format of the competition.
- The individual's recent experience and performance.
- The composition and requirements of the route-setting team.
- Venue-specific or event-specific requirements.
- Availability and operational needs.
- Approval through the appropriate UIAA appointment process.

4. Entry Routes and Level 0 Exemption

4.1 Standard Entry Route

Level 0 provides the standard entry route for individuals who do not already have the foundational practical experience required for Level 1.

After completing Level 0, candidates must gain further practical experience assisting with route setting and working at height before applying for Level 1 training.

Completion of Level 0 alone does not guarantee acceptance onto a Level 1 course. Candidates must also satisfy all other Level 1 entry requirements.

4.2 Experienced Entry Route

Individuals who already have suitable route-setting, rope-access or work-at-height experience may apply for exemption from Level 0.

This route recognises relevant prior learning and experience. It avoids requiring an experienced candidate to repeat introductory training when they can already demonstrate knowledge and practical ability that meet or exceed the Level 0 standard.

An exemption does not constitute a qualification and does not allow an individual to bypass Level 1 training, consolidation or assessment.

4.3 Evidence Required for Exemption

Candidates applying for exemption must provide evidence that their knowledge and practical skills meet or exceed the outcomes of the Level 0 course.

- A history of previous route-setting work.
- Relevant work-at-height or rope-access experience.
- Details of venues, events or projects.
- Tasks and responsibilities undertaken.
- Rope systems, tools and equipment used.
- Relevant training or qualifications.
- Confirmation or references from experienced route setters, employers or supervisors.
- Any other evidence requested by the course provider.

Candidates should use the Level 0 syllabus to evaluate their existing knowledge and practical skills before applying.

4.4 Exemption Decision

Exemption applications are considered individually by the Level 1 course provider through the candidate's application to join a training course. The provider must be satisfied that the candidate meets or exceeds the Level 0 standard.

- Request further information or practical evidence.
- Require completion of specified elements of Level 0.
- Require completion of the full Level 0 course.
- Decline entry to Level 1 until the required experience has been gained.

The decision and basis for granting an exemption should be recorded by the course provider.

4.5 Requirements Applying to All Level 1 Applicants

Whether entering through Level 0 or through an approved exemption, every candidate must meet all published Level 1 entry requirements.

- Route-setting or work-at-height experience.
- Ability to work safely using independent rope systems.
- Knowledge and appropriate use of PPE and specialist equipment.
- Climbing and movement-testing ability.

- Physical capacity for the course and route-setting environment.
- Competition equipment knowledge.
- National Federation membership, where applicable.
- Minimum age and any other requirements in the current Level 1 syllabus and candidate handbook.

4.6 Minimum Practical Experience

Before entering Level 1 training, all candidates must have completed a minimum of 20 hours assisting route setting or undertaking relevant work at height using independent rope systems. The experience must be relevant and recorded in a form that can be verified by the course provider.

5. Level 0 - Aspirant Setter

5.1 Aim

Level 0 provides an introduction to the practical and safety skills required to work within a route-setting environment. It gives candidates with little or no previous experience the foundational ability needed to safely assist an experienced route setter.

Level 0 is not a competition route-setting qualification and does not teach candidates to independently design or set competition routes.

5.2 Target Participants

- Competition climbers interested in becoming route setters.
- Coaches, volunteers or National Federation personnel.
- Climbing-wall staff.
- Individuals with climbing experience but limited route-setting experience.
- Prospective route setters with little or no experience of working at height.
- Individuals needing familiarity with route-setting tools, equipment and rope systems.

5.3 Level 0 Outcome

After successfully completing Level 0, a candidate should be able to:

- Work safely within a route-setting environment under appropriate supervision.
- Correctly select, inspect and use basic PPE.
- Understand the purpose of an independent two-rope working system.
- Safely ascend, descend and position themselves using the systems taught.
- Use common route-setting tools safely and appropriately.
- Select and use suitable drills, drivers, bits, screws and fixings.
- Assist with installation, removal and organisation of holds and volumes.
- Follow instructions and communicate effectively with an experienced setter.
- Recognise when a task is beyond their training, competence or responsibility.
- Assist without creating unnecessary risk to themselves or others.

5.4 Course Content

- The route-setting working environment.
- Roles and responsibilities within a route-setting team.

- PPE and pre-use checks.
- Harnesses, helmets, connectors and other relevant equipment.
- Independent working and backup rope systems.
- Basic rope ascent and descent.
- Work positioning and maintaining control while using tools.
- Safe use of drills, impact drivers and hand tools.
- Selection and use of drill bits, screws and fixings.
- Basic hold and volume installation and removal.
- Tool management while working at height.
- Dropped-object prevention and management of the area below.
- Clear communication and safe working practices.
- Equipment care, storage and reporting of defects.
- Personal limitations and when to seek assistance.

Detailed content, delivery methods and practical exercises are defined within the Level 0 syllabus and provider guidance.

5.5 Course Delivery

Level 0 should be primarily practical and delivered in an appropriate route-setting environment. Candidates must receive sufficient supervised practice to demonstrate safe use of the equipment and systems taught. It must not be treated as a classroom-only introduction.

5.6 Completion Requirements

- Attend and participate in all required course elements.
- Demonstrate safe use of the equipment and rope systems taught.
- Demonstrate safe use of basic route-setting tools and fixings.
- Follow instructions and work appropriately under supervision.
- Understand their responsibilities and limitations.

5.7 Status Following Level 0

Successful completion confirms completion of introductory training; it does not make the candidate a qualified competition route setter. The candidate may be described as an Aspirant Setter and should work under an appropriately experienced route setter.

- Independently take responsibility for competition route design.
- Present themselves as a qualified UIAA competition route setter.
- Undertake duties beyond their training and competence.
- Supervise or train others in skills they are not qualified or competent to deliver.

5.8 Consolidation Before Level 1

After Level 0, candidates must gain practical experience before applying for Level 1 training. This should develop rope-system confidence, safe work at height, tool use, installation skills, team communication and familiarity with competition route-setting practice.

Candidates must complete at least 20 hours of relevant, recorded and verified practical experience before entering Level 1 training.

6. Level 1 - Competition Setter

6.1 Aim

Level 1 develops and assesses route setters who can independently create safe, appropriate competition routes while working as part of a route-setting team. It is the first competition route-setting qualification within the programme.

A qualified Level 1 Competition Setter should be capable of contributing to national competitions and UIAA Continental Cups under the leadership of an appropriately appointed head setter.

6.2 Entry Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the current Level 1 syllabus and candidate handbook. Requirements include:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have successfully completed Level 0 or received an approved exemption based on equivalent experience.
- Have completed at least 20 hours assisting route setting or undertaking relevant work at height using independent rope systems.
- Be able to climb and test movement at a standard appropriate to Continental Cup qualification routes, including testing all intended moves.
- Be able to work safely at height using an independent two-rope system.
- Understand the selection, checking, use, maintenance and limitations of relevant PPE.
- Have access to the PPE required for a two-rope system.
- Have access to personal competition equipment, including ice axes and fruit boots.
- Understand the maintenance, modification and limitations of competition equipment.
- Be physically capable of repeated route testing, winter conditions, heavy loads and route-setting days lasting eight hours or more.
- Be a current member of a UIAA National Federation, where applicable.

Competition experience is desirable but is not, by itself, evidence of route-setting competence.

6.3 Qualification Outcome

A qualified Level 1 Competition Setter should be able to:

- Plan and independently build safe competition routes as part of a team.
- Create routes appropriate to the athlete category, round and intended difficulty.
- Use a range of competition ice climbing movements and structures.
- Test all intended moves and identify unintended solutions.
- Modify routes in response to testing, risk assessment and team feedback.
- Apply route-specific risk assessment, including fall direction, fall zones and interaction with structures.
- Install and inspect holds, volumes, fixings and protection points appropriately.
- Work safely and efficiently at height using independent rope systems.
- Respond to foreseeable work-at-height incidents using the procedures taught.
- Apply relevant UIAA competition regulations.
- Communicate and work professionally with setters, officials and organisers.
- Contribute to route demonstrations, walkthroughs, maintenance and competition operations where required.

6.4 Training Course

Level 1 training is delivered as a three-day practical course. Route design, building, testing and modification must take place throughout all three days, with increasing complexity and responsibility.

The course teaches and develops the required competencies; it is not the final assessment. Rope rescue is introduced and practised during training, including on the second day and repeated on the third day so it is integrated with realistic route-setting work.

6.5 Consolidation

After completing training, the candidate becomes a Level 1 Trainee and must consolidate their learning through supervised experience in genuine route-setting environments.

Evidence should include:

- A verified record of events, venues, dates and hours.
- The candidate's role and responsibilities.
- Experience setting, testing, modifying and maintaining competition routes.
- A portfolio containing route plans, photographs or video, testing notes and reflections.
- Experience with different athlete categories, route styles and setter teams where available.
- Mentor or head-setter feedback and verification.
- Evidence of continued rope-system competence and successful completion of the required counterbalance rope-rescue competency.

6.6 Assessment

Level 1 qualification is awarded only after the candidate has completed the required consolidation and passed the competency assessment.

Assessment should include:

- Practical route design and construction.
- Route testing and modification.
- Route-specific risk assessment and safety decision-making.
- Work-at-height and rope-system competence.
- The required rope-rescue assessment.
- Understanding and application of competition regulations.
- Portfolio and logbook review.
- Explanation and reflection on route-setting decisions.
- Communication, teamwork, problem-solving and professional conduct.

Assessors must be suitably qualified and approved in accordance with the current Level 1 assessment and provider requirements.

6.7 Status and Scope

After successful assessment and certification, the candidate may use the title UIAA Level 1 Competition Setter.

The qualification confirms competence to set independently as a member of a route-setting team. It does not qualify the individual to lead a UIAA international event and does not guarantee appointment to any competition.

7. Level 2 - World Cup Setter

7.1 Aim

Level 2 develops and assesses experienced competition setters who can create high-level international routes and contribute effectively within a World Cup route-setting team.

7.2 Entry Principle

Entry requires a current Level 1 qualification together with sufficient, relevant competition-setting experience. Candidates must demonstrate readiness through their portfolio, recent event experience, references and the published Level 2 entry requirements.

Holding Level 1 does not create an automatic entitlement to Level 2 training.

7.3 Qualification Outcome

A qualified Level 2 World Cup Setter should be able to:

- Design and build routes appropriate for World Cup qualification, semi-final and final rounds.
- Use advanced movement combinations and route architecture to achieve effective athlete separation.
- Analyse athlete performance and adapt routes based on testing and competition evidence.
- Maintain fairness and consistency across routes, categories and rounds.
- Work effectively within an international and multilingual setting team.
- Coordinate appropriately with the head setter, judges, jury and event personnel.
- Work accurately under significant operational and time pressure.
- Understand route demonstration, livestream, spectator and presentation requirements.
- Troubleshoot route issues and contribute to safe, timely modifications during an event.
- Support the development of less experienced route setters.

7.4 Training, Consolidation and Assessment

Level 2 must include formal training, supervised consolidation at suitable competitions, portfolio development and competency assessment. Assessment must include practical performance in an international competition environment and evaluation by approved assessors.

Detailed entry requirements, course content, required experience and assessment standards will be defined in the Level 2 syllabus and candidate handbook.

7.5 Status and Scope

After successful assessment and certification, the candidate may use the title UIAA Level 2 World Cup Setter. The qualification establishes eligibility to be considered for World Cup setting teams but does not guarantee appointment.

8. Level 3 - Head International Setter

8.1 Aim

Level 3 develops and assesses experienced international route setters who can lead a route-setting team and manage the complete route-setting operation at a UIAA international competition.

8.2 Entry Principle

Entry requires a current Level 2 qualification and substantial, relevant experience within international route-setting teams. Candidates must demonstrate technical excellence, leadership readiness, professional conduct and experience across different events, venues, rounds and athlete categories.

Holding Level 2 does not create an automatic entitlement to Level 3 training or appointment as a head setter.

8.3 Qualification Outcome

A qualified Level 3 Head International Setter should be able to:

- Plan the full route-setting operation for an international competition.
- Lead, brief, supervise and support a route-setting team.
- Create schedules, allocate tasks and manage resources effectively.
- Oversee route architecture across categories and rounds.
- Maintain safety, fairness, consistency and appropriate athlete separation across the event.
- Coordinate with the Event Director, judges, jury, technical officials, venue staff and media personnel.
- Lead route testing, walkthroughs, demonstrations, modifications and rebuilds.
- Make and communicate decisions under operational and time pressure.
- Manage equipment planning, work areas, risk controls and contingency arrangements.
- Resolve disagreements and maintain a professional team environment.
- Mentor developing setters and provide meaningful feedback.
- Review the setting operation and contribute to continued programme development.

8.4 Training, Consolidation and Assessment

Level 3 must include leadership-focused training, supervised consolidation in deputy or delegated leadership roles, evidence from international competitions and competency assessment in a suitable operational environment.

Detailed entry requirements, course content, required leadership experience and assessment standards will be defined in the Level 3 syllabus and candidate handbook.

8.5 Status and Scope

After successful assessment and certification, the candidate may use the title UIAA Level 3 Head International Setter.

Level 3 confirms competence to lead an international route-setting operation. Appointment as head setter for a specific event remains a separate operational decision made through the appropriate UIAA process.

9. Training, Consolidation and Assessment

9.1 Training

Training courses introduce, teach and develop the competencies required for a programme level. They must combine relevant theory with substantial supervised practical work.

Training providers must deliver the current approved syllabus, use appropriately qualified personnel and create a safe environment in which candidates can practise, receive feedback and reflect on their performance.

9.2 Consolidation

Consolidation is the period between training and assessment during which the candidate applies learning in genuine route-setting environments. Its purpose is to develop reliable performance rather than one-off course performance.

Consolidation requirements may specify minimum hours, events, route types, responsibilities, mentor involvement and evidence. Candidates remain trainees at the level being undertaken until assessment and certification are complete.

9.3 Logbooks and Portfolios

Candidates must maintain the evidence required for their level. This may include:

- Event, venue and date.
- The candidate's role and hours worked.
- Routes, rounds and athlete categories involved.
- Tasks and responsibilities undertaken.
- Route plans, photographs, video or other supporting material.
- Testing notes, modifications and safety decisions.
- Learning reflections and development priorities.
- Mentor, head-setter or supervisor verification.

Evidence must be accurate, attributable and sufficient for an assessor to judge the relevance and breadth of the candidate's experience.

9.4 Competency Assessment

Assessment must be practical, evidence-based and consistent with the published standard for the level. It should evaluate whether the candidate can perform reliably and safely in the relevant environment, not simply recall course content.

Assessment may combine direct observation, practical tasks, route construction and testing, risk assessment, rope competencies, portfolio review, regulation knowledge, reflective discussion and professional-performance evidence.

9.5 Assessment Decisions

Assessment outcomes should be recorded using the approved process.

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.

Defer - 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.

Candidates must receive clear feedback explaining the decision, strengths demonstrated and any further development required.

9.6 Recognition of Prior Learning

Recognition of prior learning may be used only where it is explicitly permitted by the relevant level documentation. Evidence must demonstrate the same current competencies and standard; experience alone must not be assumed to equal competence.

10. Certification and Qualification Status

10.1 Certification

Certification is awarded after the candidate has satisfied all training, consolidation, evidence and assessment requirements for the relevant qualification level.

Certificates and programme records should identify the holder, qualification level, award date and any applicable validity or revalidation conditions.

10.2 Protected Programme Titles

- UIAA Level 0 Aspirant Setter - course-completion status, not a competition-setting qualification.
- UIAA Level 1 Competition Setter - qualified competition route setter.
- UIAA Level 2 World Cup Setter - qualified high-level international route setter.
- UIAA Level 3 Head International Setter - qualified to lead an international route-setting operation.

10.3 Training and Qualification Records

The responsible programme body should maintain accurate records of course completion, trainee status, assessments, certification, revalidation and any suspension or withdrawal of status.

10.4 Limits of Qualification

A qualification does not remove the setter's responsibility to work within their current competence. Setters must consider recent activity, venue conditions, team role, physical capability and event requirements before accepting work.

Qualifications must not be represented as appointment, employment, authorisation to deliver courses or authority to assess candidates unless those permissions have been separately granted.

11. Appointment to UIAA Competitions

11.1 Principle

Appointment to a UIAA competition is an operational decision separate from qualification. The appointment process must select an appropriate team for the specific event.

11.2 Appointment Considerations

- The qualification level required for the role.
- Recent and relevant setting experience.
- Performance and professional conduct at previous events.
- The event level, format, venue and athlete categories.
- The balance, experience and development needs of the setting team.
- Recommendations or feedback from head setters, assessors and officials.
- Availability, language, travel and other operational requirements.
- Compliance with UIAA regulations, policies and appointment procedures.

11.3 Responsibilities of Appointed Setters

- Accept and follow the direction of the appointed head setter.
- Comply with event safety systems and UIAA regulations.
- Work professionally with the full event team.
- Participate in required briefings, testing, walkthroughs and demonstrations.
- Maintain confidentiality where required.
- Report safety, equipment or route concerns promptly.
- Remain within their assigned role and personal competence.

11.4 Development Appointments

Where appropriate, UIAA events may include supervised development opportunities for trainees or newly qualified setters. Such appointments must have a clear role, suitable supervision and must not compromise event safety or quality.

12. Continuing Development and Revalidation

12.1 Continuing Development

All qualified route setters are expected to continue developing and maintaining their competence.

- Active participation in suitable competitions and route-setting projects.
- Experience with different teams, venues, categories and formats.
- Review of route outcomes and athlete performance.
- Regulation and safety updates.
- Courses, seminars and workshops.
- Peer review, mentoring and structured feedback.
- Practice and maintenance of work-at-height and rescue competencies.
- Contribution to National Federation or UIAA route-setting development.

12.2 Maintaining Currency

Setters should maintain evidence of recent activity and continued learning. Long periods of inactivity, major regulation changes or changes in role may require additional supervised experience or reassessment before returning to certain duties.

12.3 Revalidation

The UIAA may introduce revalidation or renewal requirements to ensure qualification holders remain active, competent and current.

- Minimum relevant event participation.
- Continuing professional development activity.
- Completion of regulation or safety updates.
- Evidence of maintained practical and rope-system competence.
- Portfolio, peer or assessor review.
- Targeted reassessment following inactivity or identified concerns.

12.4 Conduct and Safety Concerns

Where credible concerns arise regarding safety, competence, professional conduct or compliance with programme requirements, the responsible body may review an individual's status in accordance with the applicable policy and governance process.

Any suspension, restriction or withdrawal of qualification must follow a fair, documented process and be distinguished from a separate decision not to appoint an individual to an event.

13. Programme Delivery, Quality Assurance and Governance

13.1 Approved Programme Documents

This programme framework is supported by level-specific documentation, which may include:

- Syllabuses.
- Candidate handbooks.
- Provider and tutor guidance.
- Application and exemption forms.
- Logbooks and portfolio requirements.
- Assessment criteria and recording documents.
- Assessor guidance.
- Certification and revalidation procedures.

Where requirements differ, the current approved level-specific documentation should be applied within the principles and qualification structure established by this programme.

13.2 Course Providers

Courses must be delivered only by providers authorised through the appropriate UIAA process. Providers are responsible for safe delivery, suitable facilities and equipment, candidate screening, qualified personnel, accurate records and use of current programme documentation.

13.3 Tutors, Mentors and Assessors

Individuals delivering or supporting the programme must be appropriately experienced for their role. Qualification as a route setter does not automatically authorise an individual to teach, mentor formally or assess.

Role requirements, minimum qualification levels, approval processes and any independence requirements must be defined within the relevant provider and assessment guidance.

13.4 Consistency and Quality Assurance

The UIAA should maintain systems that promote consistent delivery and assessment across countries and providers. These may include:

- Approval and periodic review of providers and personnel.
- Standardised course and assessment documentation.
- Tutor and assessor training or moderation.
- Sampling of candidate evidence and assessment decisions.
- Candidate and provider feedback.
- Review of safety reports and event performance.
- Regular updating of syllabuses and guidance.

13.5 National Federation Delivery

National Federations may support or deliver elements of the programme where authorised and where the required standards, personnel, facilities and quality-assurance processes are in place.

National delivery should build local capacity while maintaining the same qualification standard and programme identity internationally.

13.6 Programme Review

The programme should be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in competition regulations, movement, equipment, work-at-height practice, athlete development, event presentation and operational experience.

Changes should be communicated clearly, with appropriate transition arrangements for candidates, qualification holders, providers and officials.

13.7 Appeals and Complaints

Candidates and qualification holders should have access to published processes for raising concerns, making complaints or appealing assessment and status decisions. These processes should be fair, proportionate, documented and appropriately independent.

14. Definitions and Programme Terminology

Term	Meaning
Applicant	An individual applying to enter a course, assessment or exemption process.
Candidate	An individual formally undertaking training, consolidation or assessment within the programme.
Trainee	A candidate who has completed the training course for a qualification level but has not yet completed consolidation, assessment and certification.
Aspirant Setter	The status used after successful Level 0 completion. It confirms introductory training but is not a competition route-setting qualification.
Qualified Setter	An individual who has successfully completed all requirements and has been certified at Level 1, 2 or 3.
Training	Structured instruction and supervised practice based on the approved syllabus.
Consolidation	Practical experience undertaken after training to develop and evidence reliable competence before assessment.
Assessment	The formal process used to determine whether a candidate meets the published competency standard.
Certification	Formal confirmation that all requirements for a qualification level have been successfully completed.
Qualification	A formally recognised programme level confirming demonstrated competence. Level 0 is not a qualification.
Appointment	Selection of an individual to a specific event role. Appointment is separate from qualification.
Exemption	Approval to bypass Level 0 based on verified equivalent prior learning and experience. It is not a qualification and does not remove any Level 1 entry requirement.
Course Provider	An organisation authorised to deliver specified programme training or assessment.
Tutor	An appropriately approved person responsible for delivering training.
Mentor	An experienced person supporting a candidate's practical development and providing feedback or verification.
Assessor	An appropriately approved person responsible for making or contributing to a formal competency-assessment decision.
Head Setter	The individual appointed to lead the route-setting operation at a particular competition. This event role is distinct from holding the Level 3 qualification.
National Federation	A UIAA member federation responsible for the sport within its national context.
Current	Actively maintaining the experience, knowledge, practical skills and any revalidation requirements relevant to the role.

Document Status

This document establishes the overall structure and principles of the UIAA Ice Climbing Route Setter Education and Qualification Programme. Level-specific requirements are governed by the current approved syllabus, candidate handbook, provider guidance and assessment documentation for that level.