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ARB Show Open Climbing Competition 2023 RULES

Last amended March 2023

Please read and familiarize yourself with the rules use the index to get an idea of how the rules are organized. The rules are presented from general to specific; that is, rules that apply to the entire event are at the beginning. It is the responsibility of the judges, officials, technicians, and contestants to review the rules in their entirety before the start of the competition. We know this might all sound a bit overkill and on the day we will try and guide all of the competitors as much as possible. We don't want anyone to be disqualified but we do need to lay out some guidelines to follow. If you have questions or would like to make a suggestion to the Rules Committee, or if you would like to volunteer your assistance, and/or have an idea for how the event could be improved, email asopen@trees.org.uk or telephone (44)(0)1242 522152, or write to The UK Open c/o Arboricultural Association, The Malthouse, Standish Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL.

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ARB Show Open RULES

Recent amendments to Rules are highlighted in red

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1 CONTESTANT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 Attendance at Competition Meetings

- 1.1.1 All contestants are required to attend any equipment inspection and event organization meetings as set out by the competition organizers during the event. Due to special circumstances, exceptions may be made only with the head judge's approval.
- 1.1.2 The pre-event meetings are conducted to necessitate equipment inspections; Rules and regulation reviews; introduce the contestants, judges, and officials; verify registrations and sign any outstanding waiver forms it is also an opportunity to discuss and answer questions in advance of the competition, failure to attend this meeting may lead to not being allowed to climb except in circumstances as laid out in section 1.1.1.
- 1.1.3 It is the contestant's responsibility to bring any questions about equipment or rules and regulations to the judges' attention at these meetings.
- 1.1.4 It is the contestant's responsibility to have all new techniques and equipment approved for competition by the Head Judge and Safety officer. This shall be done during the contestants' pre-event meeting. No new techniques or equipment will be reviewed on or during the competition.
- 1.1.5 It is the contestants' responsibility to read and understand the rules and conditions of the competition prior to the event. The contestants must conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during the competition. Failure to do so may result in immediate disqualification and dismissal from the event.

2 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 2.1.1 All contestants will be asked to confirm they are hold NPTC qualification CS38 / 203 or equivalent or be under supervision of College staff / Training provider.
- 2.1.1a College Students without CS38 or equivalent must be under the supervision of their college staff or trainer during their climb.
- 2.1.1b ARB Show Open year one teams must consist of three students with less than one year of practical climbing experience. Year one teams will all climb on either a prussic hitch or blakes hitch using suitable cordage. Hitches can be pulley assisted.
- 2.1.1c ARB Show Open year two teams must consist of three students with less than two years practical climbing experience. Year two teams may climb on any approved hitch system.
- 2.1.1d ARB Show Open event competitors at Novice, Expert or Premier level climb as individual climbers and may climb on any approved system meeting the requirements set out in section 2.2 of this document.
- 2.1.2 By entering the competition all participating competitors will agree to adhere our disclaimer terms and event rules.
- 2.1.3 The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by any climber will result in your Immediate disqualification and removal from further participation in this competition.
- 2.1.4 It is the responsibility of each contestant to attend the competition in advance of their allotted time.
- 2.1.5 Contestant/contestant's must report to the event judges before each event. If the contestant/contestant's do not report to the head judge, the contestant / contestants forfeits that event and their entry fee.
- 2.1.6 Contestants not currently competing shall not approach or talk to event judges whilst events are in progress without the prior consent of the event judge.
- 2.1.7 All protests shall be submitted by, or sponsored by, the competitor filing the protest to the challenge organizers in writing within 1 hour of the alleged rule infraction.
- 2.1.8 Protests must be made on an official protest form, which is available from the challenge organizers.
- 2.1.9 Misconduct in the presentation or discussion regarding any protest will lead to the immediate withdrawal of protest rights and/or possible competitor's disqualification.

- 2.1.10 It is the responsibility of the judges, technicians, and officials to read and understand the rules and regulations, to be able to interpret them in the spirit of the competition, and to enforce the contestants' adherence to them. All judges, technicians, and officials are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner at all times during the competition.
- 2.1.11 Contestants may not leave the designated event area or bring additional equipment into the event area once they have started the event.

2.2 Equipment

- 2.2.1 All equipment shall be fit for purpose and manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard unless otherwise specified in this document. Equipment must be considered appropriate for use in tree climbing. (This determination shall be made by the Head Technician / Judge / Safety Officer / Head Judge.) If equipment is not clearly labelled to provide an industry standard mark, it is the competitor's responsibility to provide evidence to the head judge that the equipment is manufactured to meet the accepted standard for that piece of equipment and its application.
- 2.2.2 If the contestant's equipment does not meet or exceed required standards by the time the contestant is scheduled to start an event, the contestant forfeits the event and their entry fee. The required equipment for an event is specified in the rules for that event and is listed on the score sheet. This equipment must be checked off on the score sheet at the event gate for each contestant before the contestant begins the event.
- 2.2.3 If a contestant has a question about equipment or the legality of a climbing technique, it is the contestant's responsibility to have that equipment or technique approved by the Head Judge / Safety Officer prior to the event.
- 2.2.4 The tasks in the challenge have been set out to provide an opportunity for arborists to participate in an event that tests their skills. Equipment used by competitors must meet the minimum industry standards for safety and shall reflect best practice.
- 2.2.5a **All personal climbing equipment is now subject to a detailed pre-inspection by the competitor in advance of the event. This pre-inspection is to be registered on the new kit check forms which must be submitted along with your equipment for inspection by the judging team. NOTE: The kit check form now forms the event scoring section of these events you will receive time penalties for submitting substandard or unsuitable equipment, as well as time penalties for submitting substandard (illegible) or incomplete forms. (see section 3.a1)**
- 2.2.5b All personal climbing equipment is subject to inspection and approval by the judges before and or during each event.
- 2.2.6 If a contestant has a question about equipment or the legality of a climbing technique that cannot be answered by the judge of an event, the head Judge and Safety Officer will address the question and make a ruling.
- 2.2.7 The final decision as to the suitability of equipment or a climbing technique rests with the Safety Officer.
- 2.2.8 All Karabiners and rope snaps used for work positioning shall be of the self-closing three-way automatic locking type as per industry best practice.
- 2.2.9 Karabiners used as part of a climber's primary fall-protection/work-positioning system shall not be chain linked to other Karabiners or connecting links.
- 2.2.10 No equipment used in a fall-protection/work-positioning system shall incorporate quick-release mechanisms. Where applicable, quick-release mechanisms must be replaced with a manufacturer-approved bolt and nut assembly.
- 2.2.11 Contestants, judges, and technicians shall wear safety glasses / eye protection at all times while inside the event safety perimeter. Safety glasses to EN166 they must be impact resistant and provide wrap-around eye protection and be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard.
- 2.2.12a Contestants, judges, and technicians shall wear appropriate head protection at all times while inside the event safety perimeter. Mountaineering style climbing helmets to EN 12492 as recommended in 2009 AFAG 401 shall be worn by competitors at all times whilst judges and technicians on the ground may wear EN397 grounds helmets. Technicians who are working aloft should also be wearing climbing style helmets to EN 12492.
- 2.2.12b All helmets must be within acceptable life span as detailed by the manufacturer.
- 2.2.13a **All activities aloft including the Work Climb event must be done with the aid of a work-positioning or fall-protection system, including a backup system.**
- 2.2.13b The entire work position system including ropes and harness must be within current acceptable dates for safe use.
- 2.2.14 A suitable fall-protection system requires that the primary climbing line must always be anchored above the climber.
- 2.2.15 After leaving the ground, the contestant must be tied in, belted in, or belayed in at all times.
- 2.2.16 No unsecured foot lock climbing or free climbing is permitted.
- 2.2.17 Infractions of the work-positioning/fall-protection rule will result in lost points or disqualification at the discretion of the judges/safety officer. Infractions include failure to keep the system taut or maintain a backup or brief instances of being open to a fall or climbing above the tie-in point. Flagrant disregard for these rules will result in instant disqualification from the event.
- 2.2.18 Contestants, judges, technicians, and officials must wear appropriate footwear and clothing during competition in line with industry requirements.
- 2.2.19 Appropriate footwear is defined as a work boot that covers the foot and ankle and that is constructed with a heavy, synthetic sole with leather (or equivalent) upper covering.
- 2.2.20 The sole should provide proper traction for work on the ground and in the tree.
- 2.2.21 The sole and upper portion of the boot should provide protection from penetration and pinching from rolling or falling objects.
- 2.2.22 Trainers or other lightweight sport / recreation shoes are not allowed. An exception may be made for sport tree climbing boots where it can be demonstrated that the protection elements above (2.2.20-2.2.21) have been met.
- 2.2.23 Prussic loops, split-tails, utility cord used in hitches and work-positioning lanyards shall meet the minimum strength standards established for climbing lines and meet requirements of 2.2.1. Contestants must perform an "on-rope test" to demonstrate the effectiveness and adjustment of all friction hitches before commencing any climb.
- 2.2.24 A minimum of a double fisherman's knot shall be used to form the Prussic loop. Variations, including an endless splice, may be used with prior approval of the head Safety Officer.
- 2.2.25 When used as part of a rope access technique (SRT), neither the Prussic hitch nor any other approved friction hitch shall be used for descent unless it is part of an overhead belay system.
- 2.2.26 All rope / cordage used as a climbing hitch in a dynamic overhead belay climbing system or as a friction hitch as part of a static climbing system shall be approved by the manufacturer for use in that application.
- 2.2.27 Use of mechanical ascenders may be permitted, subject to the Head Judge & Safety Officers prior approval.

- 2.2.28 Contestants who utilize a mechanical ascender, as a part of a static climbing system, must also include a system of backup to protect against an ascender malfunction. Mechanical ascenders, on a static line, can be backed up with another ascender on the same line or a pliable Prussic cord that is placed above the mechanical ascender and on the same line as the ascender. If a double-line static climbing system is used, both sides of the static line must be backed up independently. Prussic cordage must meet the requirements of 2.2.1 - and must be able to immediately grip and hold the line and support the contestant's weight should an ascender fail. All mechanical ascender-climbing systems must be demonstrated and are subject to the Head Judge & Safety Officers prior approval.
- 2.2.29 Contestants may work from a static ascending line provided that a separate, approved overhead climbing system is anchored to the static ascending line, with suitable backup in place. Fall-protection anchoring systems must include an approved stopper knot or hitch on the static line below the anchoring system. Techniques for working from a static line with an anchoring system attached to the static line must be demonstrated prior to use and during gear inspection, and must have prior approval of the Head Judge & Safety Officer.
- 2.2.30 Contestants will not be permitted to place their hands on or near the cams of spring-loaded cam-type ascenders. The first offense will generate a warning; a second offense will generate a disqualification.
- 2.2.31a At the Head Judge's discretion a contestant may be disqualified for dropping an essential piece of equipment while working at height. This rule applies during the actual timed portion of an event. Contestants who drop equipment (accidentally or unannounced) must stop climbing immediately and await the judge's decision.
- 2.2.31b The judge may allow the climber to complete the climb after retrieving any equipment dropped. Until the equipment has been retrieved the climber must remain stationary. During this operation the contestant's time will continue to accrue. A warning for a first offense; a second offense will normally generate a disqualification.
- 2.2.32 A contestant may not throw and/or drop any piece of equipment or gear from the tree while working aloft, other than throw lines, throw weight, rope or a rope bag or items specified as part of a task. The contestant must also verbally notify the judges and technicians and receive an all-clear response from the head judge before a throw line, throw weight, rope, or rope bag is thrown, or the contestant will be disqualified from that event.
- 2.2.33 No climbing equipment (harness, work-positioning lanyards, ascenders, etc.) shall be altered in a manner that would compromise the integrity of the equipment. (i.e., drilling holes or welding ascenders). Any alterations to equipment from its original manufacturer's design will not be allowed without the express written consent of the manufacturer.
- 2.2.34a A contestant using a work-positioning lanyard (flip line, soft lanyard, side lanyard, etc.) that is attached to the side D-rings, upper or lower, shall not attach both anchoring points of the lanyard to the D-ring on the same side.
- 2.2.34b Steel core lanyards are no longer deemed acceptable for use as secondary anchor points in the ARB Show Open competition. (Following several high-profile failures relating to steel core lanyards their questionable suitability for use in tight bend radius scenarios and the difficulty in inspecting the core and crimps for signs of wear the judging team have decided to decline their future use in ARB Show Open events. Our decision relates to the ARB Show Open events alone, wider industrial and training use of steel core lanyards should be considered by the individuals concerned.)
- 2.2.35 Contestants may use the handsaws provided (with no teeth), or they may use their own handsaws. All handsaws shall have their teeth covered or removed.
- 2.2.36 Handsaws used in competition shall be no longer than 23 inches (58 cm) or shorter than 13 inches (33 cm) when measured from the tip of the blade to the end of the handle in a straight line.

3 THE ARB SHOW OPEN

3.1 Trial Summary

The ARB Show Open Climbing Competition tests the contestant's ability to climb and move about the tree using methods that comply with industry guidance TG1 i.e. prior to leaving the ground and at all times whilst aloft competitors must be attached to a primary system and backup system. The event setup is the same for both men and women. Student / Novice and Expert contestants will all start from the top anchor point. Premier climbers will start from the ground. Based on their entry level competitors are required to visit a number of targets as set out by the head Judge these target areas may include a number of target zones as described below to perform a specified task at each zone/station. Canopy stations/zones in the tree will be equipped with a bell; the contestant must ring the bell before continuing to the next station. Contestants score points for successfully completing the task at each station and ringing the bell. At work stations the competitor will be required to lanyard in securely please review the individual work stations for further information. And at some work stations, the contestant can earn bonus time points for completing additional tasks (see score sheet). However, time penalties are added when a contestant fails to properly complete a task, or when uncontrolled or unsafe practices are observed (see score sheet). The stations can be completed in any order the climber choose.

3a.1 KIT CHECK IMPORTANT RULES

With the introduction of LOLER in 1998 it became law to have equipment independently inspected. However, it is also the responsibility of personnel to carry out regular interim inspections on primary climbing equipment between independent inspections. With this new section of the 3ATC/ events we aim to highlight the importance of these interim inspections and help educate participating climbers in the process. Climbers should keep records of regular interim inspections of their equipment similar to our ARB Show Open gear check forms. We recommend climbers carry out a detailed visual tactile and manual operation any equipment they will be using. Check production and in use dates and compare these to current industry best practice. If in any doubt about any equipment contact the manufacturer, their representatives or an industry specialist in arboricultural equipment LOLER inspections for their advice. All equipment submitted should be individually identifiable.

- 3a.1.1 As part of the event scoring system all competitors are now required to carry out a detailed appraisal and inspection of their equipment in advance of the 3ATC/ event. Time penalties and bonuses are allocated accordingly.
- 3a.1.2 Equipment must be carefully and legibly detailed on the downloadable PDF Gear Check form available on the website correct forms and fully passed equipment checks will receive a time bonus (see score sheet/ gear check form).
- 3a.1.3 Equipment listed in the main section that is failed or retired by our judges will incur a time penalty per item. (see gear check form) if in any doubt retire the item from use and replace the item with a viable alternative.

- 3a.1.4 Competitors may list up to three borderline items on the gear check these items should not also appear in the main listing area. These three items of equipment will not incur a penalty if found in need of retirement. By allowing borderline items we hope our highly experienced team can help educate competitors on levels of acceptable and unacceptable wear.
- 3a.1.5 Any equipment submitted must be traceable we need to see evidence that cordage used for hitches is of an acceptable quality and strength for its PPE purpose. You may need to submit additional evidence of this e.g. manufacturers specifications. If a judge has no evidence that the equipment is suitable for use, they must fail the item and allocate penalty points against the climber.
- 3a.1.6 The judges are there to help guide and educate competitors their decision regarding equipment is final they have your safety to consider and the long-term good safety record of the ARB Show Open events to protect.
- 3.1.1 Climb challenge contestants shall wear, at a minimum, the following equipment: Arborists climbing style helmet meeting CE EN 12492 (mountaineering standard), handsaw and scabbard, tree worker's / work positioning harness, Suitable work clothing, boots, safety glasses and a work-positioning lanyard. Karabiners for use in work positioning shall have a self-closing three-way automatic locking type as per industry best practice.
- 3.1.2 For environmental reasons friction saving devices must be used on main anchor points during this event preventing unnecessary damage to the tree's crown. Static and or climbing ropes will be pre-installed at a pre-set location (excluding Premier climbers) with the assistance of a crown technician prior to the event starting. Ear defenders will also not be required allowing better communication between the climber and the judges.
We are keen to avoid damage to any trees being used and want everyone taking part to be able to complete the work climb and will be setting targets accordingly. The event is about participation, safety and learning not about who is more gung ho, so please climb safely.

3.2 Access to Trees Crown and Top Bell Station (Premier Climbers ONLY)

- 3.2.1 Contestants must carry out a visual tree assessment before starting any climb
- 3.2.2 If the contestant sets climbing lines into the tree from the ground the climber must request that the judges test the lines before ascent. Climbers failing to do so will be asked to unhitch whilst their lines are tested and will also gain a time penalty.
- 3.2.2 The contestant will then ascend in to the tree using a method of their choice in line with industry standard or as previously agreed with the head judge and safety officer. Jet packs, ladders, catapults or MEWPS will not be admissible for this purpose.
- 3.2.3 The contestant must have set their anchor points and be attached with a side lanyard before ringing the bell with a handsaw before continuing to the next station.
- 3.2.4 If the contestant rings the bell with anything other than a handsaw for example a hand or foot a time penalty will be incurred.

3.3 The Top Bell Station (all other climbers)

- 3.3.1 The contestant will move around the tree using a method of their choice or method stipulated in line with industry standard or as previously agreed with the head judge and safety officer.
- 3.3.2 The contestant must reach the top bell station, lanyard in to a suitable point, issue a clear audible warning and ring the bell with a handsaw before continuing to the next station.
- 3.3.3 If the contestant rings the bell with anything other than a handsaw for example a hand or foot a time penalty will be incurred.
- 3.3.4 If the contestant fails to issue a clear audible warning before striking the bell a time penalty will be incurred.

3.4 The Handsaw Station

- 3.4.1 The contestant must reach the station, lanyard in at a suitable point, and ring the bell with a handsaw before continuing to the next station.
- 3.4.2 If the contestant rings the bell with anything other than a handsaw for example a hand or foot a time penalty will be incurred.
- 3.4.3 If the contestant fails to issue a clear audible warning before striking the bell a time penalty will be incurred.

3.5 The Log Toss Station

- At the station contestants will find a bag holding a number of 350 to 450 mm batons of timber allocated for the event. On the ground below will be a basket, tub or ring style target of approximately 700 to 2000mm in diameter.
- 3.5.1 Upon reaching the work station the contestant must lanyard in to a suitable point, give a warning, ring the bell. (using a handsaw), before throwing or lowering a limb baton the climber must clearly calling an audible warning to the judges and receive a verbal reply before proceeding further. Failure to lanyard in or call warning will result in a time penalty.
- 3.5.2 The contestant may only throw or lower one baton of timber on to the target at a time.
- 3.5.3 The contestant may throw two batons in total but must give an audible warning **before** each throw.
- 3.5.4 The contestant receives a time bonus for correctly "throwing" the baton in the "target" area (see score sheet).
- 3.5.6 Batons landing within the target but finishing outside the target area will still incur a time bonus. (see score sheet)
- 3.5.7 If the contestant rings the bell with anything other than a handsaw for example a hand or foot a time penalty will be incurred.
- 3.5.8 If the contestant fails to issue a clear audible warning before throwing any baton a time penalty will be incurred.

3.6 The Pole Saw Station

- 3.6.1 The contestant must reach the station and lanyard in at a suitable point.
- 3.6.2 Using the pole saw provided at the station ring the target bell using the saw end of a pole saw.
- 3.6.3 A time penalty will be added if the contestant does not use both hands on the pole when ringing the bell.
- 3.6.4 A time penalty will be added if the climber rings the bell with anything other than the pole saw blade.
- 3.6.5 Before moving to the next station, the climber must successfully re-hang the pole saw in the same location and position as it was found.
- 3.6.6 If the competitor fails to hang the pole saw back in the correct position the event judges can request that they return to the station to re-hang the pole saw. During this operation the contestant's time will continue to accrue.
- 3.6.7 If the contestant fails to issue a clear audible warning before striking the bell a time penalty will be incurred.

3.7 The Limb Walk Station IMPORTANT RULES

This station is a test of a climber's ability to manage their weight distribution between the anchor point, ropes and harness maintaining as little weight on the limb whilst moving along it to the target station. The limb is fitted with a weight sensitive monitor to gauge your loading whilst you are on the work station bonus points as well as penalty points can be gained here (see score sheet). Listen to guidance from spectators to help you judging your loading during this event.

- 3.7.1 To complete the station correctly, the contestant must start the station by touching the predetermined start/stop area marked on the limb with at least one foot. The contestant must then walk out on the limb, lanyard-in to a suitable point and ring the bell with a handsaw, walk back in on the limb, finishing the section by touching the predetermined start/stop area again, without activating a buzzer line attached below the limb.
- 3.7.2 Once past the predetermined mark, must walk on and keep in contact with the limb at all times. If the contestant loses control and falls, or swings from the limb, he or she must return to the predetermined area and start the station again.
- 3.7.3 Both feet must be used for poise and balance in this event, climbers attempting to pull themselves along the limb without using their feet will receive a time penalty.
- 3.7.4 If the contestant successfully works through the station and rings the bell without activating the sensor, a time bonus is allocated. (see score sheet)
- 3.7.4 If a climber hits the first section of the sensor they lose their time bonus but incur no penalties.
- 3.7.5 If a climber hits the second section of the sensor they gain time penalties. (see score sheet)
- 3.7.5 If the contestant rings the bell with anything other than a handsaw for example a hand or foot a time penalty will be incurred.
- 3.7.6 If the contestant fails to issue a clear audible warning before striking the bell a time penalty will be incurred.

3.8 The Landing Station

- 3.8.1 At this final station, the contestant must stop with both feet above the marked area on the tree stem and then perform a controlled descent in to a circular landing zone of approximately 1000 to 2000mm set out on the ground below.
- 3.8.2 The contestant can receive a time bonus for landing in a standing position with both feet within the target. (see score sheet)
- 3.8.3 A contestant who fails to land (and remain) in a standing position (i.e., touches the ground with any part of the body other than feet) will receive no reduction in their time.
- 3.8.4 When the climbing contestant has landed they must fully unclip from the climbing system.
- 3.8.5 To end the climb the climber must unclip from their climb system.
- 3.8.6 Contestants must demonstrate a smooth, controlled descent and landing. When the contestant lands, neither foot can be moved from the point where it first touched the ground. If a contestant moves their feet from the first point of contact to try and amend or improve their time will receive no time bonus.
- 3.8.7 If the contestant lands uncontrolled, time penalties will be added. The contestant is considered to have landed uncontrolled at the discretion of the Event Judge / Head Judge / Safety Officer.
- 3.8.8 Once a foot has come in contact with the ground, the contestant may not move on to the target. For example, if the contestant lands with a foot outside the target and then jumps or drags into and lands on the target zone the landing will receive no time benefits.
- 3.8.9 Failure to leave a work station as it was found will incur a time penalty e.g. to intentionally scuff out the landing zone.

4 ARB SHOW OPEN CLIMBING COMPETITION RULES

- 4.1.1 Excluding Premier climbers the contestant's lines are to be set at predetermined anchor points. The same anchor points are to be used by all contestants. The contestant may choose his or her own route and rope placement through the work stations, unless otherwise directed by the head judge, but the contestant must finish on to the landing station.
- 4.1.2 Once the contestant has been identified to the judges, the contestant is asked if he or she has any questions and is reminded of the event requirements.
- 4.1.3 The judges start the clock when the contestant signals to the judges by sounding the bell or horn placed on the start position in the tree. The judges stop the time when the contestant has safely landed, is in a standing position, and has unclipped from the climbing line. The contestant must be completely detached from the climbing system for the clock to stop.
- 4.1.4 The contestant must be safely tied in with the climbing lines at all times while in the tree. Failure to use a work-positioning lanyard will result in disqualification at the discretion of the Event Judge / Head Judge / Safety Officer.
- 4.1.5 If the contestant breaks a large branch or is for any reason considered by the judges to be performing in an unsafe manner not in accordance with industry standards, a time penalty will be added and/or the contestant may at the discretion of the judges/safety officer be disqualified.
- 4.1.6 Contestants must visit and successfully complete the task at each work station to maintain their time.
- 4.1.7 If a contestant fails to visit a station, they will incur a time penalty for any stations missed.
- 4.1.7 All contestants are set a predetermined maximum time for the climb. This time is allocated by the head judge and will be set for each category. The time allocated should allow the climb to be finished successfully and safely. If the contestant is too slow, they may be given a warning in the first instance such that they can return to the ground and still score some points subject to penalties for missing any stations, if they choose to continue after such a warning and exceed the time limit their score will be voided and they will be marked as did not finish (DNF). Exceeding the maximum time will automatically lead to the contestant being asked to stop and return to the ground in a safe and controlled manner by the most convenient direct route.
- 4.1.8 Contestant should climb to industry standards and never allow more than 500mm of slack in the climbing line. If this occurs a maximum of two verbal warnings will be given and time penalties will be added for each warning, if the Event / Head Judge / Safety Officer considers the breach of this rule sufficient in the first instance the contestant may be disqualified from this event for their own safety and asked to return to the ground.
- 4.1.9 Judges will add multiple time penalties at any work station if the contestant performs any number of uncontrolled fall or slip allow too much slack in their climbing system, fail to lanyard in to correct location during tasks ring the bells incorrectly.

5 PENALTIES

5.1 Potential Time Penalties

- 5.1.1 A mandatory time penalty agreed by the judges will be added for each of the following violations:

- 5.1.2 Failure to use work-positioning lanyard when required
- 5.1.3 Failure to ring bell with handsaw were required.
- 5.1.4 Failure to use two hands on the pole saw to ring the bell.
- 5.1.5 Failure to use the working end of the pole saw to ring the bell.
- 5.1.6 Failure to properly re-hang the pole saw.
- 5.1.7 Failure to throw a baton at the limb toss station.
- 5.1.8 Failure to ring the bell at the limb toss station.
- 5.1.9 Uncontrolled landing.
- 5.1.10 Failure to maintain a taut climbing system.
- 5.1.11 Performing an uncontrolled swing.
- 5.1.12 High-speed or dangerous descent.
- 5.1.13 Failure to reattach your side lanyard karabiner or snap safely to your harness before moving between stations.
- 5.1.14 To overload the limb walk station (see 3.8.5)

5.2 Potential Disqualification

A contestant may be disqualified, at the discretion of the judges, for the following infractions:

- 5.2.1 Dangerous or repeated uncontrolled swing or fall.
- 5.2.2 Repeated failure to use work-positioning lanyard.
- 5.2.3 Failure to maintain a taut climbing system or climbing above the tie-in point.
- 5.2.4 High-speed or dangerous descent.
- 5.2.5 Any action or undertaking considered dangerous to the climber or others during the event
- 5.2.6 Dropping a piece of equipment (judge's discretion depending on the safety related to the item).
- 5.2.7 Repeated swearing (judge's discretion).

5.3 Disqualification

- 5.3.1 Any piece of equipment left in tree.
- 5.3.2 Breaking of sizable branch (branch size to be decided prior to the event).
- 5.3.3 Failure to remain tied in to the tree on at least two points of secured attachment.
- 5.3.4 More than 5 minutes late for event.
- 5.3.5 Misconduct. (verbal or physical abuse of the public, judges, safety officer, technicians or organisers, other competitors, spectators).
- 5.3.6 If considered to be under the influence of drink or drugs or for other medical reasons deemed in any way unfit to carry out this event.

6 APPEALS

- 6.1 Appeals regarding timing or judging must be made by the effected competitor to the head judge within one hour of the appeal occurrence.
- 6.2 Having investigated the appeal the decision of the head judge is final and not open to further negotiation.
- 6.3 Any competitor found trying to intimidate, coerce or bribe the judges will be instantly disqualified from the challenge.