



**WORLD
CLIMBING**

EQUIPMENT CODE

VERSION

No 2

DATE

January 2026

DISTRIBUTION

World Climbing National Federations
World Climbing Technical Commissions
World Climbing Continental Councils
World Climbing Executive Board Members
Local Organising Committees

PREPARED BY

World Climbing 2025 Rules Commission
Authors
Tim Hatch



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	SCOPE AND PURPOSE.....	1
2	VENUE REQUIREMENTS	1
3	EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY ORGANISERS	2
4	PERSONAL EQUIPMENT.....	2
5	ENFORCEMENT.....	3
6	UPDATES	3

ANNEXES

A - PARA-CLIMBING SPORT CLASS SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT	1
---	----------



1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 This code outlines the requirements for equipment and safety measures in climbing competitions to ensure fairness, consistency, safety, and compliance with international standards.
- 1.2 This code applies to all climbing structures, holds, ropes, and safety equipment provided by the event organisers and technical equipment used by competitors.

2 VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Climbing Structures

- 2.1 Climbing walls and associated structures must be designed and constructed to meet the following standards:

Item	Relevant Standard
Artificial climbing structures for lead climbing	EN12572-1
Artificial climbing structures for speed climbing	EN12572-1*
Artificial climbing structures for boulder climbing	EN12572-2

*n.b., excluding articles 3.2.1 and 4.1

- 2.2 Climbing walls and associated structures must have a valid certification in force for the duration of the competition.

Climbing Holds

- 2.3 All climbing holds, macros and volumes used must be designed and manufactured to meet the following standards:

Item	Relevant Standard
Artificial climbing structures for lead climbing	EN12572-3

- 2.4 Holds must be securely attached to the structure and regularly inspected to prevent rotation, damage, or unexpected failure.

Safety Matting

- 2.5 Safety matting used in boulder competitions must provide sufficient cushioning to minimise the risk of injury from falls. The safety matting and its installation must extend across the entire expected impact area and must meet the following standards:

Item	Relevant Standard
Artificial climbing structures for boulder climbing	EN12572-2



3 EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY ORGANISERS

Ropes

3.1 All ropes and/or automated belay systems must be designed and manufactured to meet the following standards:

Item	Relevant Standard
Dynamic Climbing Ropes	EN892
Automatic Belay Devices	EN341:2011 Class A

3.2 Ropes must be of adequate length for the climbing route and inspected for damage or wear before each round.

Belay Systems

3.3 Man-in the loop belay systems must be designed and manufactured to meet the following standards:

Item	Relevant Standard
Manual Belay Devices	EN15151-2
Locking Belay Devices	EN15151-1

Karabiners/Quicklinks

3.4 Karabiners and quicklinks must be designed and manufactured to meet the following standards:

Item	Relevant Standard
Screwgate Karabiners:	EN12275 (Types D, H)
Self-Locking Karabiners	EN12275 (Types D, H)
Quickdraw/ Connector (Karabiner)	EN12275 (Types B, D)
Quickdraw/ Connector (Quick link)	EN12275 (Type Q)
Tape slings	EN566

3.5 Karabiners and quicklinks should use materials as follow:

- A) quicklinks: **steel**
- B) karabiners: **aluminium**.

4 PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

4.1 Competitors are solely responsible for the safety, condition, and proper use of their personal equipment. All personal equipment must meet the relevant standards outlined in this code and must be maintained in a condition that ensures its safety and functionality.

4.2 Competitors' personal safety equipment must meet the following standards:



Item	Relevant Standard
Harness	EN12277 (Type C)
Helmets	EN12492

- 4.3 Competitors' climbing shoes must be of a type and design commercially available to the public. Climbing shoes must be in good condition and while no specific standard applies, the on-field officials have the right to prohibit footwear deemed unsafe or unsuitable for competition use.
- 4.4 Competitors may use commercially available dry or liquid climbing chalk. For the purposes of this code, **chalk** means magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃) whether in pure form or containing additives. Competitors are not permitted to use of compounds (a) where the principal active ingredient is not magnesium carbonate, or (b) which alters, or may alter, the condition of the holds or climbing surface for other competitors.
- 4.5 Specific provisions applicable to athletes competing in para-climbing events are set out in Annex A (Para-Climbing – Sport Class Specific Equipment).

Prohibition of Modifications

- 4.6 Competitors are strictly prohibited from modifying their equipment in any way that may compromise its safety or compliance with the required standards. Any such modifications, alterations, or unauthorized repairs to equipment will result in the disqualification of the participant.

5 ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1 This Equipment Code will be enforced in-competition by the on-field officials, who have the right to inspect personal equipment at any time during the competition.
- 5.2 Unsafe or non-compliant equipment will be prohibited, and its use may result in disqualification. The priority is to safeguard the health and safety of participants and to ensure the fairness of the competition.
- 5.3 No equipment can be used if the standards compliance or safety of that equipment is uncertain.

6 UPDATES

- 6.1 This document will be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with updates to international standards. Any in-season changes should be briefed to team officials at the each Technical Meeting following the change.



ANNEX A
PARA-CLIMBING – SPORT CLASS SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Athletes' personal equipment must comply with the principles set out in the IPC Policy on Sport Equipment, in particular:
 - A) All equipment in use must protect the health and safety of the user, other competitors, officials, spectators and may not cause damage to the competition environment (e.g., the Field of Play).
 - B) The (principal components of) equipment must be available to a sufficiently large number of athletes in the sport to ensure equity,
 - C) the impact of technology and equipment used in competition must be secondary to Human performance as the critical element in sport performance.
- 1.2 Equipment that results in sport performance not primarily being generated by the athlete's own physical prowess but being generated by mechanical, electronic, or robotic devices is prohibited.

2 VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SPORT CLASSES

- 2.1 The purpose of this §2 is to ensure competitive equity among athletes in the **B1** sport class by eliminating any residual visual perception during competition. Within this §2:

Blindfold means any device designed to prevent all visual perception, including but not limited to blackout goggles, opaque eye-cups, or blackout masks.

Application

- 2.2 All competitors in the **B1** sport class must wear a blindfold when either preparing for or attempting a route. Competitors in the **B2** and **B3** sport classes are not required to wear a blindfold but may do so at their choice.
- 2.3 Blindfolds must be worn from the moment the athlete enters the Field of Play (including any period of observation) until they have completed their attempt and returned to the ground.

Equipment Specification

- 2.4 All blindfolds must meet the following minimum standards:
 - A) **Opaqueness:** Blindfolds must completely block all light transmission. When tested under bright illumination (e.g., lamp or daylight), no light, shadow, or outline shall be visible through any part of the device. Transparent, translucent, or perforated materials are not permitted.

- B) **Coverage:** Blindfolds must fully cover both eyes and the surrounding eye sockets, extending to the brow and upper cheekbones to prevent peripheral light entry. Side shields or contoured eye-cups are required to block vision around the edges.
- C) **Fit and Security:** Blindfolds must include an adjustable headband or strap ensuring a stable, secure fit throughout the climb. Blindfolds must not be easily displaced by head movement, contact with holds, or safety equipment. Blindfolds must not be modified or loosened during an attempt.
- D) **Comfort and Safety:** Blindfolds must not exert excessive pressure on the face or interfere with a helmet, if worn and must allow for adequate ventilation and not present a risk of entanglement with rope, helmet straps, or belay devices.

2.5 Acceptable blindfolds include blackout goggles, moulded opaque eye-cups or rigid/shell-style eyeshades with adjustable straps. Thin fabric “sleep-mask” style coverings without side-shielding or rigid shaping are **not permitted**. Blindfolds must be in clean, safe condition and free of damage (tears, holes, translucent wear).

Inspection and Approval

- 2.6 All blindfolds must be approved prior to use in competition. Approved devices will be marked or recorded.
- 2.7 Any blindfolds not already approved must be presented to the Chief Classifier for inspection prior to use to confirm that they comply with the requirements of this annex. If a Chief Classifier is not appointed or is unable to perform their duties, the Event Delegate will arrange for an inspection.
- 2.8 The Jury President may arrange for or perform in-competition tests to confirm continuing compliance with these regulations.

Use During Competition

- 2.9 Blindfolds must remain correctly positioned for the duration of any attempt. Should a blindfold shift or become dislodged or fail (e.g., a retaining strap breaks or the device shifts) such that the performance of the device is materially impaired, the affected competitor must immediately stop their attempt.
- 2.10 An attempt may be restarted only if the Jury President determines that the failure was due to equipment malfunction, not athlete action.
- 2.11 Any deliberate adjustment, removal, or use of a non-approved device constitutes a serious breach of this code and will result in disqualification.

3 PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT SPORT CLASSES

- 3.1 Athletes competing in any Physical Impairment Sport Class may use mechanical aids (prothesis, etc.) where such aids have been approved by the classification panel.
- 3.2 Use of mechanical aids (prothesis, etc.) of a design, or manufactured from materials, which presents any material risk of damage to the climbing surface or holds is not permitted.