



GOCLIMB HARAKA

BOULDERING CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

RULES & REGULATIONS HANDBOOK

The rules and regulations contained herein shall be known as the GoClimb's HARAKA Bouldering Championship Rules & Regulations 2026 and shall not be read in conjunction with the World Climbing Rules and Regulations.



CATEGORY & ELIGIBILITY

GoClimb's HAKA Bouldering Championship 2026 will organise the following category(s) with the respective eligibility:

Youth Category

- Open to all nationalities
- Aged 12-14 only (Born between 2012 -2014)
- Male & Female

Open Category

- Open to all nationalities
- Aged 12 & above (Born in 2014 or before)
- Male & Female

Emirati Category

- Open to UAE nationals only
- Aged 12 & above (Born in 2014 or before)
- Male & Female



COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition format to be used for the Youth, Open & Emirati Category (Male & Female) are as follows:

Qualification (Session Format)

- Competitors will be assigned to different waves in the qualification round.
- Each wave accommodates a maximum of 35 climbers, and no spectators are allowed to facilitate crowd flow.
- Climbers in each wave will have **120 minutes** to complete 30 routes.
- Every route will have judges assigned to ensure fair scoring for competitors.



Semi-finals (Session Format)

- 5 routes for each male and female category.
- **30 minutes** to complete all 5 routes.
- Climbers can start on any route, in any order.
- Climbers are expected to queue while waiting for their turn to climb.
- If a climber falls during an attempt, they must re-queue so others can continue.
- The female category will begin first, followed by the male category, with a 1-hour break in between for changeover and isolation.
- There will be no observation time for Semi-Finals.



Finals (Single Rotation Format)

- 3 routes per category for the Finals.
- Finalists will be introduced and given 2 minutes per boulder as a group for observation.
- Male and female categories will run concurrently.
- Finalists will have 4 minutes to complete each boulder.
- Climbing order will be based on semi-final results, with the 6th place as the first climber and the top qualifier as the last climber.
- Once a competitor has finished their attempts, they will return to a separate *Transit Zone*, and the next competitor will start; and once all competitors have completed their attempts on a boulder, the competitors will move on to the next boulder as a group.



SCORING & TIE-BREAKER

The competition scoring & ranking to be used for the Youth, Open & Emirati categories are as follows:

Qualifications

- Point-based scoring.
- Each route will be assigned a certain number of points.
- Points earned only when the route is completed.
- Routes will be scored strictly on a **TOP** or **NO TOP** basis only.
- Attempts will be counted, with 0.1 points deducted for every unsuccessful attempt.
- Total points from the climber's 8 best routes completed on the scorecard will be used for ranking.

All Youth, Open and Emirati climbers will compete on the same routes during the Qualification round, and their rankings will be combined to select the Top 20 climbers who will move on to the Semi-Finals.



Semi-Finals & Finals

- Point-Based Scoring
- Each route will have a total of 25-points.
- 10-points for ZONE
- 25-points for TOP (zone included)
- Total points will be added up to determine their final ranking.
- The points tally will comprise 25 points for TOP and 10 points for ZONE on each boulder, with 0.1 points deducted for each unsuccessful attempt.

Tie Breaker

Qualification: If two or more climbers are tied at the scoring points, the Chief Judge will compare their scorecards, and the climbers who top more hard routes will be ranked to break the tie.

Semi-Finals: If athletes are tied at the end of the Semi-Finals, a countback to the Qualification round will determine who advances to the Finals.

Finals: If athletes are tied at the end of the Finals, a countback to the Semi-Finals round will determine the final ranking.

All Youth, Open and Emirati climbers will compete on the same routes during the Semi-Finals round, and their rankings will be combined to select the Top 6 climbers who will move on to the Finals.



***YOUTH* CATEGORY**

The *Youth* category provides direct performance benchmarks and a clear record of athletic progression. This enables youth athletes to test their skills against elite standards while ranking exclusively against their own age group.

Scoring

Competitors registered in the *Youth* category will climb the same routes as those in the *Open & Emirati* category and advance to the semifinals & finals if they qualify; therefore, scoring rules remain the same.

Ranking

Rankings in the *Youth* category will be determined by their best overall points in the competition, including qualifications, semifinals & finals.

Awarding

If a *Youth* climber wins in finals, they will be awarded both *Youth & Open* Category prizes.



***EMIRATI* CATEGORY**

The *Emirati* category is included to encourage and recognise local participation in bouldering and to build a stronger base of Emirati climbers who can represent the UAE in future local, regional, and international competitions, thereby contributing to the long-term growth of the sport in the country.

Scoring

Competitors registered in the *Emirati* category will climb the same routes as those in the *Youth & Open* category and advance to the semifinals & finals if they qualify; therefore, scoring rules remain the same.

Ranking

Rankings in the *Emirati* category will be determined by their best overall points in the competition, including qualifications, semifinals & finals.

Awarding

If an *Emirati* climber wins in the finals, they will be awarded both *Emirati* & *Open* Category prizes.



COMPETITION SCHEDULE

QUALIFIERS

25th Sept, Friday

26th Sept, Saturday

SEMI-FINALS & FINALS

27th Sept, Sunday

The GoClimb Haraka Bouldering Championship schedule is subject to change. Final timings for the qualifiers, semi-finals and finals will be updated once registration closes.

Please refer to the final schedule on Instagram for the latest updates.



COMPETITOR'S PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

On the day of the event, all competitors are expected to practice personal & professional responsibility as individuals & competitors.

- All competitors are required to wear the event shirt on the day of the competition.
- While the organisers will ensure that the safety standards for a bouldering event are met, all competitors are reminded to take care of their own safety during competition.
- All competitors who registered are liable for their own wellbeing and any medical expenses incurred during the course of the competition, including hospital evacuation, shall be borne by the competitors/representatives themselves.



CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

These regulations ensures that fairness and safety are observed, that competition is conducted without disruption, and any incidents that damage the sport's image are sanctioned, and the spirit of good sportsmanship is upheld.

- All competitors and their representatives, including coaches and family members, are expected to adhere to the rules and regulations of the competition area, including all facilities of GoClimb & Junction Mall.
- The Jury President/Chief Route Judge will have final authority over all activities and decisions affecting the competition within the competition area.
- The Chief Route Judge, as well as the Route Judges to whom authority over the playing field is delegated, shall be authorised to take the following actions in response to breaches of the competition rules and in relation to matters of indiscipline by any competitor:
 - a. An informal, verbal warning; and**
 - b. An official warning.**



Official Warning

An official warning may be issued for any of the following infringements of the rules:

- Infringements committed in the competition area by a competitor & its representatives.
- Unsporting behaviour of a relatively minor nature.
- Use of obscene, abusive language or behaviour of a relatively mild nature.
- Failure to obey instructions from any official appointed to the competition.
- Undue delay in leaving the Call Zone and entering the Competition Zone when instructed to do so.
- Failure to start in accordance with the Route Judge's instructions.



Disqualification (DQ)

The Jury President/Chief Judge alone shall be authorised to disqualify a person from a competition. The following breaches of the rules shall result in the immediate disqualification of the person from the competition:

- Infringements committed in the competition area, at the competition venue, including any public facilities used in connection with the competition, by a competitor and/or its representatives, including:
- Use of non-approved equipment in the competition area.
- Distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for or attempting a route.
- Failing to comply with the instructions of the judges or organisers' officials.
- Unsporting behaviour or other conduct causing serious disturbance during a competition.
- Abusive, threatening or violent behaviour towards officials, organisers, competitors or any other person.
- Disobeying the rules and regulations stated by the venue owner.
- Breaking Dubai's state rules & regulations, including GoClimb's and Junction Mall's facility policy.



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- In the case of disqualification, all results involving the climber personally shall be considered null and void. The issuance of 2 official warnings to the same person within a single competition shall result in that person's immediate disqualification from the competition.
 - The Jury President/Chief Route Judge is authorised to demand the immediate removal of any person from the competition area in contravention of the rules and, if necessary, to suspend all competition activities until this demand has been complied with.



REGISTRATION & CALLZONE

On the day of the event, all competitors are expected to register within the stipulated time before their scheduled climb to avoid immediate disqualification.

- An announcement will be made for each wave to register and report to the call zone before the climbs begin.
- All competitors must be at the call zone for attendance and a technical briefing before their round begins. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- Once in the call zone, competitors are not permitted to use any unauthorised devices, including those used to communicate with spectators. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- The organisers retain full discretion in deciding whether to permit latecomers to compete. No additional warm-up time will be provided.



THE BOULDER PROBLEM

START

- The 'START' tag will be used to indicate the START hold(s).
- A '4-point' starting position will be used for each problem.
- 4 strips of tape, matching the colour of the TOP hold(s) of the problem, will be used to mark the designated starting points.
- A competitor's attempt will be counted when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground.
- If a competitor commits a false start, 1 attempt will be added to the respective problem, and they will be asked to return to the ground.
- A false start includes, but is not limited to, situations where a competitor fails to achieve a stable, controlled position with both hands and both feet on the starting holds, OR uses any artificial holds or structures not marked with 'START' tags before achieving a stable position.

Understanding START Control:

The competitor must achieve a stable, controlled position with both hands and both feet on the marked **START** hold(s) without using any other artificial holds, volumes, or structures not marked before moving on to the next hold.



THE BOULDER PROBLEM

ZONE

- A number '10' points tag will be used to indicate the ZONE hold(s).
- If there is only one ZONE hold, there will be only one strip of tape with the tag.
- If a competitor skips the ZONE hold but falls before reaching the TOP, no ZONE will be awarded.
- Competitors should check with the route judge during their climbing rounds if they are unsure whether they were awarded the zone.

Understanding ZONE Control:

A zone will be awarded when a competitor uses the zone hold with 1 hand to create a new body position or change their current position. Competitors cannot merely touch the zone hold; they must use it to shift their centre of gravity with control, with the intention of moving to the next hold.



THE BOULDER PROBLEM

TOP/END

- The 'TOP' tag will be used to indicate the TOP/END hold(s).
- Competitors will need to secure the problem with two hands, with control on the TOP hold.
- The Route Judge will signal to the climber to confirm the top.
- For special ending positions not mentioned, the Chief Route Judge will explain them during the technical briefing before climbing.

Understanding TOP/END Control:

Top will be awarded when the competitor establishes a controlled, stable position with both hands touching the finish hold.

The climber does not need to move or progress past the position they establish to have both hands touching the finish hold; however, route judges will not award any TOP to competitors if their risk of falling/instability is deemed higher than the risk of being in control while matching their hands.



TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

Brushing & Chalking

- Competitors may chalk and brush the holds themselves, but only with the equipment provided by the organisers.
- Brushing holds is only allowed from the ground. Climbing a neighbouring boulder to brush holds is not allowed.

Boundaries

- Boundaries, if any, will be marked with black tape.
- Competitors must not touch the black tape.
- Competitors must not come into contact with any hold, volume or part of the wall that lies beyond the boundaries of the problem they are attempting.
- If any part of the climber touches the wall or an object affixed to it, their attempt ends and they must start from the beginning of the climb.
- Wall side panels can be used if there is no boundary tape.



Wall Structure & T-Nuts

- T-Nut holes in the wall are not permitted for use as handholds.
- All natural features of the walls may be used, except for T-Nut holes and the wall's terminating top edges when attempting the boulder problems.
- If any holds or volumes protrude beyond the wall's top edge, the surface that extends beyond the wall is unusable.

Grey Volumes

- All grey volumes are part of the boulder problems and are permitted for use.
- T-Nut holes on volumes are not allowed to be used as handholds.



TIME-KEEPING

Qualification (Session)

- **Time:** 120 minutes per wave (2HRS)
- **Double Whistle/Buzzer** – Start of Qualification round
- **Single Whistle/Buzzer** – 1 minute till end of the Qualification round
- **Triple Whistle/Buzzer** – End of Qualification round

Semi-Finals (Session)

- **Time:** 30 minutes per category
- **Double Whistle/Buzzer** – Start of Semi-Finals round
- **Single Whistle/Buzzer** – 1 minute till end of the Semi-Finals round
- **Triple Whistle/Buzzer** – End of Semi-Finals round

Finals (Single Rotation)

- **Time:** 2 minutes observation time per boulder
- **Time:** 4 minutes climb time per boulder
- **Double Whistle/Buzzer** – Start of climber's round
- **Single Whistle/Buzzer** – 1 minute till end of climber's round
- **Triple Whistle/Buzzer** – End of climber's round



TECHNICAL INCIDENTS

A Technical Incident is any occurrence that results in a disadvantage or an unfair advantage to a competitor and is not the result of an action by the competitor.

The Chief Route Judge, in consultation with the Chief Route Setter (if necessary), shall provide a declaration on whether a technical incident has occurred.

In the event of a technical incident during the Semi-Final, the round will be suspended and time will be paused until the issue is resolved.

In the event of a technical incident during the Finals, the routesetting team will rectify the issue within a minute. If the routesetting team takes more than a minute to rectify it, the affected climber will be given a chance to re-climb, and the timing will be compensated accordingly.

If any holds or volumes spin or shift during an attempt, the climber must immediately end that attempt if they wish to strike said attempt from their scorecard. If the climber elects to continue the attempt, it is valid and will be recorded.

The climber must alert the route judge or comp official about the loose hold after the attempt is over, regardless of the attempt's validity.



APPEALS

Climbers who wish to appeal must submit the Appeal within the following period after they have climbed all the routes.

Qualification/Semi-Finals:

15 minutes after the round ends.

Finals:

5 minutes after the round ends, while in the holding area.

- The Chief Route Judge shall review all Appeals after the climber has finished their climbs, having regard to video evidence submitted from the official HARAKA Bouldering Championship recording devices.
- All Appeals must be presented to the Chief Route Judge.
- All Appeals, and all responses to Appeals, must be made in the English language.
- Upon receipt of an Appeal, the Chief Route Judge will assess whether the relevant Appeal is:

a. "Invalid", in which case any Appeal Fee and/or Appeal letter will be returned, with

the Appeal letter marked as such; or

b. "Valid", in which case the Chief Route Judge shall proceed to determine the outcome of the Appeal.



To be valid, an Appeal must, unless specifically stated otherwise in these rules:

- Be made in writing on the official Appeal Form.
- Be accompanied by video evidence from the authorised and official HARAKA Bouldering Competition's camera/recording devices.
- Be accompanied by the relevant Appeal Fee of AED 200, paid in cash.

The Chief Route Judge may rule the appeal invalid if:

- Fails to comply with the time limits specified in these rules.
- Proposes a matter not relevant to any article of these rules.
- The Chief Route Judge otherwise deems it invalid.

If the available evidence is inconclusive, or the Chief Route Judge is unable to reach a verdict, then the Appeal shall be "Undetermined", in which case the original decision of the route judge will stand and the Appeal Fee will be returned.



RIGHTS OF THE ORGANISERS

The Officials reserve the right to decide who shall participate in the competition, to disqualify any competitor at any time, and to amend these Rules and Regulations as they deem necessary, without notice.

Any other matters not covered by these Rules and Regulations shall be decided by the Organisers at their discretion.