

BCTCC Rules 2015

British Columbia Tree Climbing Championships – Official Rules

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1.0 Introduction

The BC Tree Climbing Competition represents the work and effort of many dedicated individuals within the province of British Columbia and further abroad. The goal of this adventure is to dig deeper into the spirit of competition, to promote education within our ever growing trade, and to expose the art and science of arboriculture to the public at large. The focus of this year's event is on education, interaction, sportsmanship, camaraderie and friendly competition.

This competition features four preliminary climbing events: 1) Tree Climb, 2) Open Ascent, 3) Canopy Access, and 4) a special event which best suits the trees available at the venue. The final event showcases the skills of the top 3 male and 3 female preliminary qualifiers in a multiple station tree climb similar to the preliminary Tree Climb event but requiring a more complete set of skills.

2.0 General Rules and Regulations

2.1 Safety

2.1.1 Each climber, judge, technician, organizer and spectator has the right to enjoy a welcoming, fun, fair and primarily safe competition environment. It is the responsibility of all parties involved to ensure that this rule is met.

2.1.2 The use of any illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages by any climber, judge, or technician will result in the immediate removal of that individual from participating in any event. No refund of entry fee will be given.

2.1.3 Contestants must abide by the direction and discretion of all judges and technicians concerning matters of safety. At any point a contestant may be asked to immediately stop what they are doing and be directed to correct an unsafe action. These directions shall be followed with no exception or the contestant may face disqualification from the event.

2.1.4 Competition event arenas will be cordoned off during the course of setup and competition. Nobody shall enter the arena who is not currently judging or competing in the event at that moment and not before consulting the event head judge.

2.2 Scoring/Judging

2.2.1 Scoring and judging will be performed in the most objective and fair manner that is reasonable to expect. Judges are people and subject to all the same fallibilities as everyone else. Measures such as averaging of multiple scores are in place to account for potential aberrations.

2.2.2 Timing for events shall include multiple redundancies. Speed events shall have averaged times and finals will also be timed by more than one device.

2.2.3 Scores will be double checked prior to entry into an excel spreadsheet.

2.2.4 After scores have been entered into the spreadsheet and calculated, they will be posted for contestants to review.

2.2.5 Scoring/judging review requests shall be taken to the head judge for resolution. The head judge (not the contestant) will consult with the relevant judges/technicians and scoring volunteers to determine if there is an error. If an error has been made, the head judge will employ the best course of action to rectify the error which maintains the fairest outcome for the contestant and their fellow competitors.

2.3 Equipment

2.3.1 All event equipment that is provided by organizers or utilized in event setups will be in new, or near new condition and meet or exceed applicable safety standards.

2.3.2 Competent PPE inspectors shall inspect contestants gear prior to the gear being used in events with the objective to permit gear that is free from defects or deficiencies, and meets the requirements of use by the product manufacturer. Gear that is at or below the margins of these requirements will be subject to quarantine (at the discretion of the PPE inspector) for the duration of the competition or until the participant leaves the event.

2.3.3 Judges have the authority to stop what they deem to be an inappropriate use for an approved piece of equipment, and similarly may stop a participant if it is clear that that the contestant is not familiar or trained in the use of a piece of equipment or system. Contestants will be asked to stop what they are doing and follow the corrective actions as issued by the event judge. Penalty points may be deducted.

3.0 Contestants responsibilities

It is each contestant's responsibility to read and understand the rules of competition prior to the event. Any questions regarding the rules of competition or scoring of the events shall be brought to the organizers attention before competition day or at gear check. During the event walk through there will be opportunity to ask questions pertaining to the events themselves.

3.1 Safety

3.1.1 PPE must be inspected, approved and worn by all competitors during their events. P.P.E. must conform to ANSI/CSA industrial standards.

3.1.2 P.P.E. consists of approved head protection with a chin strap, approved eye protection, and boots which are supportive of the ankle.

3.1.3 A contestant may adjust or replace PPE during active competition provided that they first advise the judge that they wish to do so.

3.1.4 Contestants not compliant with P.P.E. requirements will be subjected to disciplinary action(s) and may result in event disqualification/termination (no refunds).

3.1.5 Contestants shall conduct themselves in a safe manner whether in active competition in order to not expose themselves or fellow contestants, judges, technicians, or spectators to undue risk.

3.2 Punctuality

3.2.1 This event shall be run on a schedule. Contestants will be divided into groups and made aware of your groups schedule on the morning of the event. Pay attention to the schedule.

3.2.2 Be at your event location(s) at least 10 minutes prior to the start, in order to register with the event judge.

3.2.3 Contestants shall be present for gear check the evening prior to competition or in the hour preceding the event start time with a legitimate reason that has been approved by organizers 24 hours prior.

3.2.4 Contestants are expected to be present at the event walk through, the timing of which will be announced to all competitors at gear check

3.3 Sportsmanship

3.3.1 This event is a fun sporting event entirely organized and run by volunteers. Contestants shall conduct themselves with fellow contestants and volunteers in a sportsmanlike and polite manner as one would expect in a

workplace environment. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the event with no refund of the entry fee.

3.3.2 Disputes on scores or a judging decision shall be brought to the attention of the event head judge first prior to discussion with fellow competitors.

3.4 Equipment

3.4.1 Each contestant is responsible for providing their own climbing and work positioning equipment that meets or exceeds the applicable standards for its intended use.

3.4.2 Contestants shall not use any technique and/or equipment that they have not used prior to competition and are reasonably familiar with.

3.4.3 Contestants may borrow a fellow competitors equipment so long as that equipment has been approved at gear check and has been unmodified from the state and orientation in which it was inspected.

3.4.4 Equipment that does not pass initial gear check may be repaired or replaced. The replacement equipment must be then inspected and approved, with any amendments updated on the gear check form prior to competition.

4.0 Tree climb event

4.1 Tree Climb Event Summary

The tree climb event will test the contestant's ability to move around a tree using a tree climbing saddle and single or doubled-line work positioning system. Each contestant will begin the event tied into their work positioning system at a staging area near the top of the tree and will make their way to various belled stations throughout the tree before descending to the ground within a five minute time limit. Points are awarded for each station completed as well as a potential 20 points awarded for time. More belled stations will be present in the tree(s) than are possible within the time limit and it is up to the climber to decide which to attempt. There are two additional stations which are the plumb bob or weighted limb station and the descent landing target. The climber must decide for themselves whether to maximize stations or aim for a fast time to maximize points as both strategies may produce a winning score.

Climbers earn subjective points at each station for poise, style, efficiency of movement, and safe practices in the completion of, and movement to and from each station. Points may also be deducted for unsafe acts such as uncontrolled movement or unsafe operation of work positioning systems. Multiple unsafe acts may result in a disqualification from the event and the competitor being asked to descend immediately.

Men and women will compete in the same setup within the same five minute time limit.

4.2 Tree Climb Event Rules

4.2.1 All contestants must wear appropriate PPE as outlined in rule 3.1.1 & 3.1.2 and have an approved work positioning harness, rope, lanyard, and work positioning system (SRT or DdRT)

4.2.2 All contestants shall be anchored to the same predetermined anchor point through the preinstalled hardware.

4.2.3 Contestants may choose their own rope placement and route through the tree unless otherwise specified by the event head judge

4.2.4 No equipment may be left in the tree during the course of the event.

4.2.5 Once the judges have indicated the contestant is cleared to begin the event, the time starts when the contestant rings a bell at the anchor point with their hand. The time is stopped when the climber is in a standing position with both feet on the ground and has fully detached from their work positioning system.

4.2.6 Contestants shall maintain a climbing system with minimal slack at all times and/or properly utilize a work positioning lanyard when rope angles or position exposes the climber to a potential unsafe swing or fall. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of points or disqualification from the event depending on the severity of the infraction as deemed by the event head judge.

4.2.7 For a contestant to receive points for a station, they will have to have reached that station and rung the bell.

4.2.8 All station bells will be rung with the hand only. No handsaw or tools are required for this event. Handsaws must be removed from the contestant's harness prior to the event.

4.2.9 A dropped piece of equipment will result in a 10 point deduction and must be retrieved before the contestant moves from that position. The contestant may seek the assistance of judges/technicians to tie on the dropped equipment to their climbing line. The contestant must lanyard in during this operation and the clock will continue to run.

4.1.10 To complete of the various hand bell stations the contestant must reach the station and ring the bell with their hand. Lanyarding in is not required unless positioning or rope angles dictate its necessity.

4.2.11 To successfully complete the weighted limb station the contestant must only reach the station and ring the bell with their hand without the plumb bob touching the ground. The station may be begun or ended from any point.

4.2.12 The landing station is the only station that does not require ringing of a bell. To successfully complete and receive points for this station the contestant must land with both feet entirely within the descent target while not making contact with the tree below a predetermined height/mark.

4.2.13 A warning will be given for unsafe acts that warrant discretionary deductions in points. A second infraction of the same type will result in disqualification and the climber being asked to immediately descend safely from the tree.

4.3 Tree Climb Event Scoring

4.3.1 The total number of potential points for this event is dependent on the number of stations placed in the event tree(s). Each station is worth 8 potential points and there are up to 20 potential points awarded for time.

4.3.2 There will be three judges for this event, scores and times will be averaged to give a contestants final score for the event.

4.3.3 The contestant with the fastest time will receive the maximum 20 time points. Other contestants will receive a one point deduction for each 10 seconds over the fastest contestants time.

4.3.4 Each station will be awarded 5 points for successful completion of that station as well as 0 to +3 discretionary points for style and efficiency of movement to and from each station.

4.4 Tree climb event disqualification

A contestant will be disqualified from the event by the head judge for the following infractions:

4.4.1 Multiple unsafe acts that warrant point deductions

4.4.2 Gear left in the tree that must be retrieved by an in-tree technician. This does not include the contestant's work positioning system as long as it may be removed from the ground.

4.4.3 Breaking of a branch larger than the size which is pre-determined by the head judge depending on tree species and structure.

4.4.4 Failure to remain tied into at least one of either the contestants work positioning system or lanyard.

4.4.5 Unsportsmanlike conduct.

5.0 Ascent event

5.1 Event Summary

The open ascent event measures a contestant's (male and female) ability to perform a rope-climb ascent up a fixed line to a height of 15m with the object of achieving the lowest possible time. Ascent lines will be (11mm in diameter) and secured for use as single or double leg configurations and are not interchangeable to the climber's preference. Both traditional footlock technique on a prussic loop and SRT ascent on cammed ascenders or approved hybrid devices are accepted for this event. Timing stops when a climber hand-rings a bell located 38cm horizontally from the ascent line. The climber with the lowest time wins the event.

5.2 Ascent event rules

5.2.1 All contestants must wear appropriate clothing and PPE in accordance with rule 3.1.1 & 3.1.2 and an approved tree climbing saddle and or fall protection harness with dorsal attachment.

5.2.2 Contestants must use the installed line provided for the event.

5.2.3 Contestants advise the judges when ready and wait for the event head judge to signal that the judges and timers are ready to proceed.

5.2.4 For a single contestant, the judges/timers will start the clock when the contestant's second foot leaves the ground

5.2.4.1 If a head-to-head race between two contestants is opted for, the judges/timers will start the clock on the number "three" of a count to three. A digital audio device may be substituted for this task if available.

Ex: One... Two... **THREE** at which point the clock will simultaneously begin.

5.2.5 The judges/timers stop the clock when the contestant hand-rings the bell with their hand at the top of their climb.

5.2.6 If a contestant does not reach the top of the climb within the 60 second time limit, the contestant will receive a score of zero for the event and the event head judge will instruct the climber to stop and descend to the ground.

5.2.7 All contestants will be on belay for the duration of their ascent and descent via dorsal attachment. This attachment must remain in place at all times until the contestant touches down on descent and has both feet on the ground.

5.2.8 Contestants must use an appropriate harness for the system they intend to use. A fall arrest harness may be used in combination with a fall restraint harness if required. Contestants shall use an approved prussic, mechanical, or hybrid ascending system during their climb.

5.2.9 Contestants must demonstrate an on-rope test prior to ascent to demonstrate the adjustment and security of their ascent system

5.2.10 If the traditional footlock technique is utilized, the contestant may not place his/her hand on or above the friction hitch during the ascent. For the descent, the climber may place his/her hand on the friction hitch to disable it, only after an approved descending system has been installed and the climber has communicated with the belayer his/her intent to change over to the descending system to return to the ground.

5.2.11 Contestants must use an approved descending device with hands-free backup for the descent, which the contestant shall be secured to before any ascent hardware is deactivated or removed from the ascent line or contestants harness.

5.2.11.1 Contestants must demonstrate the effectiveness of the hands-free backup prior to descent by removing hands and feet from the line or equipment after complete transfer from ascending to descending systems has been completed.

5.2.12 Ascent lines may be modified by means of taping or weighting to assist in the contestants ascent, so long as those modifications are non-permanent and easily removable prior to the next competitor's ascent.

5.2.13 Competitors will complete two separate ascents and the best of these two ascents will be scored for points. For each ascent, three separate timers will be averaged to give a time for that individual ascent.

5.2.14 The descent will not be part of the timed portion of the event.

5.3 Scoring ascent event

5.3.1 Scoring for the event is based solely on time.

5.3.2 Men and women are timed and scored together for this event.

5.3.3 Contestants who do not reach the bell within the 60 second time limit on at least one of two attempts will receive 0 points.

5.3.4 The contestant with the fastest time will receive a maximum of 20 points.

5.3.5 The remaining contestants scores are calculated by subtracting the fastest competitors time (in seconds) from the times of each of the other contestants. For every one second difference in time between those scores, one point will be deducted from the climbers score.

5.3.6 A score for this event may not be less than zero.

5.4 Disqualification from Ascent event

A contestant will be disqualified from the event for the following infractions:

5.4.1 Performing an unsafe act while aloft that exposes the contestant to a potential fall (with or without the belay).

5.4.2 Performing an action that exposes judges, technicians, or spectators to undue hazard or risk.

Ex: Dropping a piece of equipment in such a way that demonstrates clear negligence on the climbers behalf such as an intentional act without prior notification of “stand clear”.

5.4.3 Unsportsmanlike conduct.

6.0 Canopy Access Event

6.1 Event Summary

Competitors in this event will be judged primarily on the technical skill, efficiency and safety demonstrated in performing a single predefined task in the canopy, from ascent to descent. Climbers will be required to enter the tree from the ground and access a station situated in a slightly challenging location in the canopy. Once there, climbers will lanyard in, ring the station bell and complete a predefined task. Climbers must then return to ground and unclip from their climbing system within the fixed time limit of 5-6 minutes (depending on setup). No points will be awarded for time though time will be used to determine a leader in the event of a tie. An access line in an imperfect location will be provided that will be suitable for single line or doubled line access techniques. Equipment may be left in the tree that an in-tree technician will remove after timing stops. Men and women will compete on the same setup within the same time limit.

Climbers will be judged on their setup (safe/efficient), their movement, work positioning, and their rope management skills. This event has a maximum potential score of 72 points.

6.2 Canopy Access Event Rules

6.2.1 All contestants must wear appropriate PPE as outlined in rule 3.1.1 & 3.1.2 and have an approved work positioning harness, rope, lanyard, and work positioning system (SRT or DdRT)

6.2.2 An access line will be preinstalled through a friction saving sling so that the contestant may use it to access the canopy on SRT or DdRT climbing techniques. Use of this access line is not mandatory.

6.2.3 Contestants may install non-removable redirects or other hardware that will be left in place at the end of the climb. An in-tree technician will be available to remove these items after competition time has elapsed.

6.2.4 Once the judges have indicated the contestant is cleared (and ready) to begin the event, the time starts when judges say "GO". No gear may be pre-staged in the competition arena. The time is stopped when the climber is in a standing position with both feet on the ground and has fully detached from their work positioning system.

6.2.6 Contestants shall maintain a climbing system with minimal slack at all times and/or properly utilize a work positioning lanyard when rope angles or position exposes the climber to a potential unsafe swing or fall. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of points or disqualification from the event depending on the severity of the infraction as deemed by the event head judge.

6.2.7 For a contestant to receive points for a station, they will have to have reached that station and rung the bell.

6.2.8 The station bell will be rung with the hand only. No handsaw or tools are required for this event. Handsaws must be removed from the contestant's harness prior to the event.

6.2.9 A dropped piece of equipment will result in a 10 point deduction and must be retrieved before the contestant moves from that position. The contestant may seek the assistance of judges/technicians to tie on the dropped equipment to their climbing line. The contestant must lanyard in during this operation and the clock will continue to run.

6.1.10 To be eligible for full points for the canopy station the contestant must complete the following tasks in sequence:

1. lanyard in
2. ring the station bell
3. complete the predefined task .

6.2.12 This event does not contain a predefined landing target however climbers will still be awarded points based on the smoothness of their descent, suitability of their landing area, the path of their climbing line, and their composure on landing.

6.2.13 A warning will be given for unsafe acts that warrant discretionary deductions in points. A second infraction of the same type will result in disqualification and the climber being asked to immediately descend safely from the tree.

6.3 Canopy Access Event Scoring

6.3.1 There will be three judges for this event, scores will be averaged to give a contestant's final score for the event.

6.3.2 The event will be scored on eight separate components representing different aspects of the climb with point values from 1-10

6.3.3 Five of the 8 event sections will be evaluated by the judges and given a point value from 1-10. These are:

- Ascent setup (Safe, secure, appropriate configuration)
- Ascent (Safe, smooth, and efficient access)
- Movement to station (Safe and efficient climbing maintaining acceptable rope angles)
- Descent (Safe, smooth egress with an appropriate choice of route)
- Rope management (free of tangles, care in rope routing, and no struggles)

6.3.4 The remaining three of 8 sections will be awarded 5 points for successful completion of that station as well as 0 to +3 discretionary points for style or efficiency of movement to and from each station. These are:

- Rang bell at station (Lanyard, work position)
- Completed task at station (approach to task, work positioning)
- Landing (safe, composed)

6.3.5 A 3 point deduction will be given for any 'unsafe act' that warrants a verbal warning. A second infraction will result in disqualification from the event.

6.4 Disqualification from Canopy Access event

A contestant will be disqualified from the event for the following infractions:

6.4.1 Multiple unsafe acts that warrant point deductions

6.4.2 Breaking of a branch larger than a pre-determined size which is decided by the head judge depending on tree species and structure.

6.4.3 Failure to remain tied into at least one of either the contestants work positioning system or lanyard.

6.4.4 Unsportsmanlike conduct.

7.0 Traverse Event

7.1 Traverse Event Summary

This event is designed to test a competitor's speed and work positioning while moving across a tensioned traverse line (tyrolean). For the event, a tensioned line will be in place no higher than 8' off the ground and suspended between two trees no greater than 70' apart. Points will be awarded for time as well as discretionary points for setup and positioning while working on the traverse line. A ladder will be in place to access the start and end of the traverse line with time starting when the contestant's second foot leaves the ground. The contestant will ascend the ladder and secure themselves to the traverse line once they reach it. Contestants will then move across the tensioned line toward the finish bell. At approximately the midway point, contestants are required to ring a bell with their hand. This midpoint bell will be positioned in a such way that it cannot be simply rung 'on the fly' and will require a work positioning system to bring the climber within reach of the bell. After this bell is rung, contestants will continue to the end of the line ringing the finish bell with their hands at which point time will be stopped.

7.2 Traverse Event Rules

7.2.1 All contestants must wear appropriate PPE as outlined in rule 3.1.1 & 3.1.2

7.2.2 Contestants must wear an approved work positioning saddle for the duration of the event.

7.2.3 A contestant must connect to the traverse line with an approved and rated locking or closed connecting link that may not be opened while on the line. Other equipment such as micro-pulleys or tandem pulleys may be used if they are configured for use according to manufacturer requirements.

7.2.4 A contestant may use any *approved* combination of harness attachment points to connect to the traverse line.

7.2.5 Official time starts when the contestants second foot leaves the ground and stops when they ring the bell at the other end of the traverse.

7.2.6 No equipment shall be preinstalled on the traverse line prior to official timing.

7.2.7 The contestants run will be stopped if any body part touches the ground at any time they are connected to the traverse line. Points are accrued up to that point and no time points will be awarded.

7.2.8 The contestant *may* touch nearby trees with any body part or equipment.

7.2.9 The station bell will be rung with the hand only. No handsaw or tools are required for this event. Handsaws must be removed from the contestant's harness prior to the event.

7.2.10 No motorized devices may be used in this event

7.3 Traverse Event Scoring (35 possible points)

7.3.1 The fastest competitor may score a maximum of 20 possible points for time.

7.3.2. Each contestants time will be subtracted from the fastest recorded time with one point deducted for every 5 seconds slower.

7.3.3 For correctly completing the midway station 5 points will be awarded

7.3.4 An additional 5 discretionary points may be earned for technique, style, and composure while completing the midway station

7.3.5 An additional 5 discretionary points may be earned for connection, positioning and technique moving across the traverse line.

7.3.6 A dropped piece of equipment will result in a 10 point deduction and must be retrieved before the contestant moves from that position. The contestant may seek the assistance of judges/technicians to tie on the dropped equipment to their climbing line. The contestant must remain stationary during this operation and the clock will continue to run.

7.3.7 If any part of the contestant's body (excluding gear) makes contact with the ground while connected to the traverse line, the run is over. The contestant will receive discretionary points accrued up to that point. No points will be awarded for time

7.38 In the event of a points-tie, the contestant with the fastest time is declared the winner.

7.4 Disqualification from Traverse event

A contestant will be disqualified from the event for the following infractions:

7.4.1 Multiple unsafe acts that warrant point deductions

7.4.2 A second dropped piece of equipment

7.4.4 Unsportsmanlike conduct.

7.4.5 Opening of closed connectors while suspended from the traverse line during competition time.

8.0 Final Event

8.1 Qualification for final event

Scores from preliminary events will be tallied in an excel spreadsheet and the top 3 male and top 3 female competitors will be selected to compete in the final event. This is an open competition and registration is the only requirement necessary to be eligible to compete in the finals.

8.2 Final Event description

The final event is the championship round for the competition and the top male and female contestants of this event will become the winners of the competition overall. This event will test the contestant's abilities as a 'complete climber' from their ability to formulate a plan to their climbing skill and technique in order to execute that plan and adapt to changing scenarios.

Once the contestant enters the area cordoned off under the final event tree(s) the time will begin. There is a predetermined time limit for the event and time will not count for points, however, time will be used to break a tie. As this is a sporting event and the tree(s) have been pre-climbed by setup technicians, no pre-climb inspection is necessary as they have already been deemed safe to climb. Throwlines will also be preinstalled in ideal locations for competitors to use to install their own access lines and climbing systems. No installation of throwlines will be necessary or permitted. The contestant will have to install their working lines and access four stations within the tree(s). These consist of two hand bell stations, one stick toss station, and one plumb bob station. At the two hand bell stations, the contestant must reach the bell and ring it with their hand before proceeding to the next station. The contestant must also ring the bell at the weighted plumb bob station without weighting the branch so much as to cause the plumb bob to touch the ground. The stick toss is the only station where the use of a positioning lanyard is mandatory. At this station the contestant will have two attempts to land a tossed stick or other supplied object into a target on the ground.

After completing all the stations the competitor must descend to the ground and extract all of their equipment from the tree at which point the time will be stopped.

8.3 Final event rules

8.3.1 All contestants must wear appropriate PPE as outlined in rule 2.1.1 and have an approved work positioning harness, rope, lanyard, and work positioning system.

8.3.2 All contestants will be sequestered prior to their running of the event and will not watch or listen to fellow competitors compete beforehand.

8.3.3 Prior to beginning the event the contestant may place their gear in a central location within the competition arena.

8.3.4 A time limit for the event will be set by the head judge to allow adequate time to efficiently complete the tasks within the tree(s) and extract all gear.

8.3.5 Official timing begins when the contestant re-enters the competition arena and stops when the contestant has returned to the ground and removed all gear from the tree excluding throwlines which were preinstalled. It is not necessary for contestants to reinstall throwlines. Time will not count for points in this event though it will be used to break a tie.

8.3.6 If a contestant fails to extract all their gear from the tree(s) before time elapses no penalties will be awarded however the contestant will not receive the available judges discretionary points for overall plan, innovation, style and execution as these elements will not be complete.

8.3.7 No pre-climb inspection is necessary for this event. The tree has been inspected prior to the event by the event organizers and has been deemed safe to climb.

8.3.8 The contestant shall use the preinstalled throwline(s) to install their access or working line(s) into the tree(s)

8.3.9 If a contestant accidentally pulls out one of the preinstalled throwlines, they may not attempt to install another throw line and must use the remaining preinstalled throwline(s) if any remain.

8.3.10 There will be 3 or 4 predefined stations and one undisclosed station within the tree to be completed within the time limit for each the contestant will receive 10 points for successfully completing the task at that station

- One or two handbell stations will be present where the contestant is required to ring the bell at the flagged station with the hand only.
- One stick toss station will require the contestant to first lanyard in and demonstrate free use of both hands. They will then ring the bell with their hand and call “stand clear” and wait for the response “all clear” before tossing the first of two stick toss attempts into a set target on the ground. If the stick lands within the target a second attempt is not necessary. It is not necessary to call “stand clear” for the second attempt.
- The weighted station will consist of a weighted plumb bob on a flexible branch. The contestant must reach the bell located at the station and ring it

with their hand without the plumb bob touching the ground. If the contestant rings the bell although the plumb bob touches either on access or egress, they will not receive the 10 points for successfully completing that station.

- An undisclosed station will be revealed at a predetermined point in the contestants climb. At this point the contestant will be told “climber stop”, at which time they will be provided with clear instructions on how to proceed. Successful completion of the requirements for this station will award the contestant 10 points. The contestant will also be judged on their ability to adapt to a changing plan.

8.3.11 As with the tree climb preliminary event, a dropped piece of equipment will result in a deduction of 10 points and must be retrieved before the contestant moves from that position. The contestant may seek the assistance of judges/technicians to tie on the dropped equipment to their climbing line. The contestant must lanyard in during this operation and the clock will continue to run.

8.4 Scoring of the final event (Max possible score 282 points)

8.4.1 Depending on availability of volunteers, there will either be three or five judges for this event. In the event of 5 judges the highest and lowest scores will be discarded and the remaining three scores averaged to give a final score for the contestant.

8.4.2 Judges will score the contestants actions from when official timing begins until such time that they have extracted all their gear, or time has elapsed. If a contestant is disqualified at any time during the event they will be asked to return to the ground and will receive no score.

8.4.3 When official time elapses the contestant will receive a score that includes tasks fully completed up to that point.

Ex: If the contestant has not yet reached the ground when time elapses they would not receive points for descent and touch down but would receive points for the last station completed up to that point.

8.4.4 The winner of the final event will be the contestant with the highest points from that event only. Points from preliminary events do not carry forward to the final.

8.5 Final event disqualification

A contestant will be disqualified from the event for the following infractions:

8.5.1 Multiple unsafe acts that warrant point deductions.

8.5.3 Breaking of a branch larger than a pre-determined size which is decided by the head judge depending on tree species and structure.

8.5.4 Failure to remain tied into at least one of either the contestants work positioning system or lanyard.

8.5.5 Unsportsmanlike conduct.

Most importantly, everybody have FUN!