



TRC

Tree Rescue Company

Tree Rescue Competition Rules

Introduction

Tree Rescue Competition is a competition to rescue an injured tree climber. The issue of helping an injured colleague who, due to various factors, is unable to get from the tree to the ground without assistance to the care of doctors is obviously a very strong topic. Despite the fact that everyone who works as an arborist knows how challenging it is to provide such a service to a colleague, we felt that the much needed training in the different variants of rescue and the honing of this activity is at least neglected in common practice in favour of more pragmatic values. Rescuing a seriously injured colleague, who is often your own

by a friend also brings with it very important complicating factors, which are significant stress, time pressure and general discomfort in dealing with such a situation. The atmosphere of such an event is very difficult to induce during normal training sessions and therefore we thought how to at least approach it.

We can't simulate fear for the life and health of a friend, but we agreed that all other factors are best simulated by a race. We have managed to create a format that, at least we hope, faithfully simulates the time pressure, the stress, the need to make independent decisions very quickly and the confidence in your plan and abilities. We have bet on the collective spirit of the community, the desire to meet and spend time together, the competitiveness of its members and it has resulted in an event that we hope we are rightly proud of.

Discipline description

Rescuing an injured climber from the tree canopy is a time-limited skill discipline. It tests the competitor's ability to safely climb to an injured climber who is unable to descend unassisted and to safely, controllably and efficiently transport the climber to the ground. The preparation and rules of the discipline are the same for both men and women.

During the pre-event inspection of the disciplines, the head judge of the discipline will explain the injury scenario and the event to the competitors. The injury scenario describes the details of the injury and the situation the climber is in. ***The competitor then has one hour to prepare the procedures of each rescue scenario, which they will score on a pre-printed sheet. Included in this sheet is a list of equipment the competitor will use during the rescue.***

During the actual rescue, the competitor should demonstrate site risk assessment, tree risk assessment prior to ascent, and injury assessment. The competitor should use all permitted techniques to ensure a smooth rescue of the injured person so that the rescue situation is not mishandled. The injured climber (dummy) must be brought to the ground safely, carefully and efficiently. The competitor, as the first person at the casualty, should check the current condition of the site, follow all relevant safety regulations and ensure that local emergency services are called..

The injured climber (dummy) is placed in the tree crown with his own harness and climbing rope at such a height and position that the judges can control all the activities of the competitor during the rescue. The weight of the injured climber (dummy) is approximately between 60-100 kg. The competitor may use a pre-prepared rope, a rope installed by him/her, or any other ascent technique allowed at the given position. The permitted methods of ascent depend on the nature of the scenario and are specified by the Chief Judge when introducing the stand. The competitor must

transport the injured climber to the ground within the time limit, which will also be specified by the Chief Judge during the inspection of the stations.

Rules

1. General rules

- 1.1. Each participant of the Tree Rescue Competition who signs up to participate on the specified date will receive an official information email in due time, in which they will learn all the necessary organizational information, including the timetable. Everyone is obliged to follow this timetable and adhere to it. Failure to meet the scheduled arrival time, and therefore failure to complete the mandatory registration and equipment check, is a legitimate reason for not being allowed to participate without a refund of the entry fee. The competitor is obliged to complete the registration immediately and without delay upon arrival!
- 1.2. All equipment subject to PPE inspection that the competitor has with him/her at the venue and plans to use during the event must be inspected by the technicians present. All equipment used by the competitor must meet the relevant technical standards or be certified by the manufacturer for the purpose and use, unless otherwise stated in these rules. Equipment must be designed for use in tree work and must be used by the competitor in accordance with good tree climbing practice. The competitor is fully responsible for the condition of his/her equipment throughout the event and acknowledges that the discovery of any serious defect during the event will result in the removal of that equipment, possibly resulting in disqualification. This authority is vested in each Chief Judge of the event.
- 1.3. Before the official inspection of the sites there is a strict ban on viewing the race trees and moving near them. Violation of this rule may be assessed as unsportsmanlike conduct (section 5.3 of these rules). The designated area in which competitors are prohibited from moving will be communicated to the competitor at registration immediately upon arrival at the site.
- 1.4. The allocation of competitors into groups and their order in the group will be done by lot during registration. The groups will be marked with a letter, the order of the competitor in it with a number. Each group will start the race at the station marked with the same letter and after the entire group is completed and the next station is vacated, they will move in the system A to B, B to C, C to A, etc., depending on the number of groups. The number one competitor goes first at the initial station and after moving to the next station the order moves by the system :first station 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 - second station 2,3,4,5,6,7,1 - third station 3,4,5,6,7,1,2 etc. in relation to the number of stations and the number of competitors in the group. Each participant will know his/her individual time schedule based on the draw and rotation system and is obliged to follow it. The planned schedule will be published by the organizer before the start of the race according to the maximum time allocation for the disciplines. The planned schedule may change during the race due to unforeseen circumstances. Participants will be informed of any adjustments by the organizer through the judges at the stations. Delay of a competitor to start is a reason for disqualification.
- 1.5. When entering the marked area of the discipline, the competitor must have all necessary equipment with him/her at that moment and must not leave the area or be provided with anything by anyone during the discipline. He/she may only enter the marked area of the discipline after the start of the discipline by the head judge. If necessary, during the course of the discipline, the Chief Judge may stop the competitor from continuing and consult with a colleague or ask the competitor about a specific ambiguity in the procedure. If approved, the competitor may continue. During this time the competitor's time will be suspended.
- 1.6. During the entire duration of the race, each competitor is obliged to observe the basic rules of good conduct and fair play. Rude and vulgar behaviour will be judged in the same way as in 5.3 Unsporting behaviour.
- 1.7. For all direct participants of the event, a strict ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages and intoxicants applies throughout the entire event. They must also not be under their influence at the start. Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification.
- 1.8. A minimum age of 18 years is required to participate in the race.
- 1.9. Each participant acknowledges that the Tree Rescue Competition is an outdoor event and as such, weather conditions are a factor. Just as a real rescue needs to be carried out in all weather conditions, this event has no boundaries of regularity in this respect.

At the same time, a change of conditions during the race is considered as force majeure and will not be taken into account in the evaluation of the discipline.

- 1.10. In case of feeling of injustice from the referees, the organizer or other competitors (e.g. from detection of undetected rule violation), the competitor is entitled to lodge an official protest. The protest must be submitted in writing (briefly: by whom to whom and why) to the event organizer no later than half an hour after the last competitor has finished. A committee consisting of one representative of the organizer, one chief judge of the discipline (unaffected), the chief technician and one (unaffected, by rule, demonstrably experienced) competitor shall decide on the validity of the protest immediately before the results are announced
- 1.11. It is the duty of every participant, whether as a competitor, referee, technician, or member of the organizing team, to familiarize themselves with the current rules and to follow them throughout the race.

2. Rules for rescuing an injured person

- 2.1. Each competitor must have the following equipment:
 - an approved climbing safety helmet
 - approved eye protection
 - approved tree climbing harness
 - an approved adjustable stem loop
 - appropriate work clothes and footwear
 - first aid equipment
- 2.2. Once the competitor has introduced himself, he is asked any questions by the discipline judge and is briefly reminded of the requirements of the discipline.
- 2.3. The competitor's time is measured from the moment he is started by the chief referee by the verbal command "start".
- 2.4. Time is stopped when the contestant gives the word "stop"
- 2.5. The competitor must ascend to the crown of the tree using a pre-prepared or installed ascent rope or otherwise safely ascend to the crown. A competitor may not use the climbing rope of an injured climber to ascend or descend on his/her own unless otherwise directed by the discipline judge.
- 2.6. If the competitor uses a technique not approved for descent or sideways movement when ascending to the crown, he/she must be belayed with a stem loop before moving sideways, then belay with one of the techniques approved for descent and sideways movement (climbing system) and then continue the rescue. The maximum distance allowed to move laterally away from the ascending rope before the obligation to belay on the climbing system is determined by the Chief Judge of the discipline. The first violation of exceeding this distance is dealt with a warning and the second with disqualification.
- 2.7. The competitor can perform the rescue of the injured person using a pre-prepared climbing rope in the crown, or he can take his own climbing rope to the crown to rescue the injured person.
- 2.8. The competitor must lower the injured person to the ground on the injured person's rope or on another rope. The injured person may be moved and lowered on the competitor's climbing system only if the competitor uses only the equipment intended by the manufacturer and in accordance with the instructions. If the competitor's climbing system is used to raise and lower the injured person, the anchor point must be sufficiently oversized to handle the increased load.
- 2.9. The competitor shall sound an audible warning signal before unlocking the injured person from his/her system.
- 2.10. The competitor shall sound an audible warning signal before commencing the descent of the injured person, or commencing the descent with the injured person.
- 2.11. The competitor must remain aloft at all times, secured to his climbing rope or stem loop.
- 2.12. If the time limit of the discipline expires before the time stops, the competitor will complete the rescue and follow the instructions of the Chief Judge of the discipline.

- 2.13 A competitor who exceeds the time limit is stopped and asked to dismount. The competitor will only receive points for those tasks completed within the time limit. In this case, the competitor is still entitled to receive points from all five scored sections, even though he/she did not complete the task belonging to that section of the evaluation.
- 2.14 the competitor may leave equipment in the tree crown that will no longer be needed to rescue the injured person.

3. Discipline evaluation (max. 50 points)

- 3.1. There are at least two judges and at least two technicians for each discipline.
- 3.2. The highest score awarded is 45 points overall from the 9 sections scored. Each of the 9 scored sections is awarded a maximum of 5 points (see below):
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|---|------------|----------|
| - Risk analysis and rescue | plan | 5 points |
| - ascend to the crown and move to the | wounded | 5 points |
| - securing the | injured | 5 points |
| - handling of the | injured | 5 points |
| - communication with the | injured | 5 points |
| - descent to the | ground | 5 points |
| - placing the injured / handling on the | ground | 5 points |
| - first | aid | 5 points |
| - personal performance evaluation from the judge of the | discipline | 5 points |
- 3.3. Up to 5 bonus points are awarded to competitors based on time achieved
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|--------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| - 0 to 15 seconds or less under time | limit | 0 points |
| - 15.01 to 30 seconds under time | limit | 1 point |
| - 30.01 to 45 seconds under the time | limit | 2 points |
| - 45.01 to 60 seconds under the time | limit | 3 points |
| - 60.01 to 75 seconds under the time | limit | 4 points |
| - 75,01 or more under time | limit | 5 points |
- 3.4. In the case of equal points, the competitor with the fastest time wins the discipline.

4. Penalties Optional

penalty

Three demerits and a loud warning are given by the head judge of the discipline for:

- 4.1. The penetration of the climbing rope below the knees of the competitor, or the movement of the climber above the level of the anchor point.
- 4.2. Dangerous and uncontrolled slipping/sliding of the climber.
- 4.3. Dangerous climbing.
- 4.4. Failure to give a voice warning if the situation requires it (except when starting a descent with an injured climber)

5. Disqualification

Compulsory

disqualification

Disqualification is decided by the chief judge of the discipline):

- 5.1. Tree belay, competitor must be secured with at least one belay.
- 5.2. Late arrival for a discipline exceeding the five-minute tolerance.
- 5.3. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 5.4. Breaking a large branch (the size of the branch will be determined by the head judge of the discipline before the start of the discipline).
- 5.6. ***Rough deviations from the developed rescue scheme.***