

Vertical Rescue Challenge

Rules

1. Teams may consist of no more than 5 members. Reserves are permitted. There is no restriction on the number of reserve members.
2. All team members must be an operational member of the unit they represent.
3. All teams must contain at least two fully qualified vertical rescue operators. The remainder of the team must be "suitable to carry out the function of the operation".
4. All teams and members must be covered by their own unit's/service's insurance for the event.
5. An operator suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the event will be disqualified from the event on the spot.
6. Teams must be punctual. Teams must present themselves to skins events 5 minutes before their scheduled time to start. Teams not ready to commence a skins event at the scheduled start time will forfeit that event. During the scenario competition, teams must present themselves and their gear to the appropriate marshalling area 30 minutes prior to their scheduled start time. Failure to do so will result in a five-point penalty. Teams that are late for the scheduled start of their exercise will forfeit that event. Teams must register in person in full by the nominated time or they will be considered a "no show".
7. Entry fees for teams are not refundable unless the event is cancelled.
8. All rescue equipment must meet the criteria listed below (derived from New South Wales State Rescue Board Policy specifications). Any equipment outside these specifications (e.g. lightweight personal mechanical advantage systems, "home made" gear, etc) must be presented equipment scrutineering. If accepted, the team and all judges shall be informed of the conditions of use. Use of an unapproved device/equipment not meeting the specifications will result in disqualification of the team from the event.

Equipment	Minimum Specification
Karabiners	MBL 2000 kgf along spine, 600kgf across the spine, Manufacturer's stamp, double action gate, D shaped (no ovals), alloy is acceptable. Single action karabiners are acceptable as accessory krabs only.
Descenders	MBL 2000 kgf, inline, variable friction, good heatsink, Manufacturer's stamp
Ascenders	MBL 2000 kgf (body strength), must not damage rope below 600 kgf, Manufacturer's stamp
Pulleys	MBL 2000 kgf, sheave diameter >4 x rope diameter, Manufacturer's stamp
Maillon Rapides	MBL 2000 kgf for rescue loads, MBL 1000 kgf for personal use only
Helmet	UIAA approved or equivalent, 3 or 4 point suspension
Prusik Loops	6mm static cord for personal use, 8mm static cord for rescue loads
Rope	Static Life Rescue Line meeting requirements of all appropriate Australian Standards (in summary: 11mm+ diameter, >3000kgf MBL)
Hardware	All metal fittings >2000kgf MBL

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Harness	Of commercial manufacture and identifiable manufacturer
Personal Lightweight Haul Systems	Must be backed up unless all components are rated to MBL 2000kgf and the system is fitted with a safety.

9. During the scenario events Judges may call a "freeze" for real, perceived or imminent breaches of safety. When a "freeze" is called, ALL action must stop until the unsafe condition is rectified to the satisfaction of the judges. One additional minute will be added to the team's allowable time to correct the unsafe condition, for the first instance only. Subsequent "freezes" will not attract any time compensation. Failure to adequately address a judge's safety concerns or to follow directives given by a judge or official is grounds for disqualification of the team.
10. Teams are responsible for supplying all their own personal gear, rescue gear and ropes. For the scenario events, it is planned to make available a Larkin Rescue Frame and associated rigging for each evolution for those teams unable to bring their own. Any other edge management machines or requirements are the team's responsibility.
11. It is the responsibility of the team on completion of their finals scenario, to de-rig and clear the site as quickly and safely as possible to avoid hold ups to the competition schedule. Teams taking longer than 15 minutes to de-rig and clear the site will be penalized.
12. Teams are responsible for the security of their own gear. The event management cannot be held accountable for loss or damage of equipment or gear due to theft, careless handling or fire.
13. Teams will be held accountable for damage to event-supplied gear, rope or equipment as a result of carelessness or malicious act. Normal wear and tear is accepted.
14. The committee and event management reserve the right to use any information obtained during the Challenge, from participants or symposium sessions for educational purposes.
15. The event management reserves the right to change symposium session topics and venues as well as to limit numbers for entry to each session.
16. Substitutions may be granted by the committee or relevant officials in the event of a "no show" by any team previously scheduled to participate.
17. All exercise activities will halt immediately at the audible signal indicating the end of the allocated time. The event judge(s) can, however, order a team to complete a specific action in progress that may endanger the safety of any participant, judge or other personnel. The result of that action is, however, not eligible for evaluation.
18. In the interests of good order and the promotion of a professional appearance of all teams a code of conduct has been prepared. Disregard for the Code of Conduct by any participant or team can, at the discretion of the Chief Judge, lead to the disqualification of the respective team and/or the suspension of the team from the Challenge.

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19. Decisions of the Judges and Chief Judge are final. Approaching any event official, sponsor, or official of outside organization or parent service on a point of dissatisfaction can lead to disqualification.
20. Judges have the authority to intervene and control any aspect of the operations when, in his/her judgement, a potential or existing danger or unsafe condition exists or will be caused to exist.
21. Judges have the authority to suspend any exercise when, in the judge's opinion, his/her commands (or those of another judge) have been blatantly ignored or misrepresented.

