

Tower Rodeo Challenge RULE BOOK



Valid until November 2023



HOW TO USE THIS RULE BOOK

It is the responsibility of the judges and challengers to review the rules in their entirety before the start of the competition.

Each section is identified by a unique number to help navigate the Tower Rodeo Challenge Rule Book. A summary of the events can be found at the beginning of each event section. The summary is not a rule but an overview of the event. The actual rules for each event follow the summary. At the end of each section is a list of mandatory and discretionary penalties and reasons for disqualifications

This set of rules will be valid until November 2023, for which a new set of rules may be released.

If you have questions or suggestions that you would like to be added into the Tower Rodeo Challenge or would like to volunteer your assistance and/or have a idea for how the event could be improved, email info@trxchallenge.com



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INTRODUCTION

Tower Rodeo Challenge is established to create skills and education for real life aerial rescues and rigging to a climber.

Challenges promote safe working practices, demonstrate improvements and innovations in equipment, techniques, and provide industry recognition. They are also an opportunity for climbers to gather and exchange ideas with their professional peers.

The preliminary challenge will have eight events: Rescue, Installation, Whiteboard, and Rigging. Challengers who accumulate the highest combined point totals in the preliminary events earn the right to move on to the semi-finals.

Challengers who advance to the World Championship Challenge start fresh and no preliminary points earned are carried forward. A total of 50 points may be earned in the World Championship. The winners are named the World Champions and are also awarded an automatic position in the next year's Tower Rodeo Challenge.

The Tower Rodeo Challenge is an event intended to push climbers to think critically about their rigging systems and to innovate for safer and more efficient rescue and rigging systems.



1 CHALLENGER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

1.1 General Requirements

- 1.1.1 All Challengers are required to attend all mandatory meetings. Due to special circumstances, exceptions may be made only with the Head Judge's approval. Failure to attend mandatory meetings without prior approval of the Head Judge may result in disqualification from the entire event.
- 1.1.2 The pre-challenge meetings are conducted to inspect equipment; review rules and regulations; introduce the challengers, judges, and verify registrations and standard waiver is signed; and discuss and answer questions before the event.
- 1.1.3 It is each Challengers responsibility to bring any questions about equipment or rules and regulations to the Head Judges' attention at these meetings.
- 1.1.4 It is each Challengers responsibility to have all equipment approved for the Tower Rodeo Challenge prior to the event, no equipment must meet the ANSI, ASME B30.5 standards and equipment will be reviewed the day of the competition. All Tower Rodeo Challengers and Judges **MUST** wear their Tower Rodeoshirts to participate.
- 1.1.5 It is each Challengers responsibility to read and understand the rules and conditions of the competition prior to the event. Challengers shall always conduct themselves in a professional manner during the competition. Failure to do so may result in immediate disqualification and dismissal from the event.
- 1.1.6 **It is each Challengers responsibility to enter the facility with the required equipment stipulated for each event. Once an event has started, no additional equipment can be brought into the arena. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification from that event.**

2 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

2.1 Eligibility

To be eligible to be in the Tower Rodeo Challenge

- a. Physically and mentally capable of eight preliminary events, as outlined in the Tower Rodeo Rule Book, to determine finalists who compete in the preliminaries. The final competition champion is the winner of the World Championship in the Tower Rodeo Challenge. Adhere to all challenge rules as outlined in the Tower Rodeo Challenge as well as all other equipment notifications and requirements.

2.1.2 In the event the Tower Rodeo Challenge is impacted by influences outside the control of the organizers, such as inclement severe weather or other circumstances that do not allow for a safe and/or practical way to complete the Tower Rodeo Challenge, the organization should declare a winner using the results of the preliminary/semi-final events. The winner is the challenger with the highest combined total points from the preliminary/semi-final events.

2.1.3 All Challengers shall register for the TRx Challenge prior to the start of the challenge. All Challengers shall be at least 18 years of age prior to the start of the Tower Rodeo Challenge.

2.2 Equipment

2.2.1 All equipment used shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard of ANSI z359, ASME B30.5 and ANSI 10.48, unless otherwise specified in this document, and shall reflect industry best practices. Equipment shall be considered appropriate for use in the wireless industry. If equipment is not clearly labeled to provide an industry standard mark, it is the user's responsibility to provide written evidence in English, to be retained by the Head Judge, that the equipment is manufactured to meet the accepted industry standard for that piece of equipment and its application.

2.2.2 All components used **within any configuration** shall meet the criteria of Rule 2.2.1 and be compatible with one another.

2.2.3 It is the responsibility of each Challenger, judge and/or volunteer to ensure that all equipment meets Rule 2.2.1 and is fully functional.

2.2.4 If a Challenger has a question about the legality of a climbing technique or system, it is the Challenger's responsibility to have that technique, or system approved by the Head Judge during the premeetings, Tower Rodeo Challenge Head Judge will address the question and make a ruling. Final approval for Challenger's climbing techniques will be made at the gear inspection.

2.2.5 Any equipment that does not meet the TRx Challenge gear inspection standards will be tagged and quarantined prior to the competition and will not be returned until the completion of the event. It is the Challenger's responsibility to claim the equipment.

2.2.6 During the challenge, if a Challenger has a question about equipment or the legality of a climbing technique the Head Judge will address the question and make a ruling.

- 2.2.7** All personal climbing equipment is subject to reinspection and approval by the judges before each event. Challenger's equipment shall meet or exceed required standards by the time of the scheduled to start an event. The Challenger shall forfeit that event if the Judges decide not. The required equipment for an event is specified in the rules for that event and is listed on the scoresheet
- 2.2.8** A carabiner used as part of a climber's primary fall-protection/work-positioning system shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard. It shall be self-closing and double autolocking and require a minimum of two separate operations to prepare the gate to open. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.
- 2.2.9** Carabiners used as part of a climber's primary fall protection/work positioning system shall not be chain-linked to other carabiners or connecting links.
- 2.2.10** Carabiners will not be used for rigging telecom equipment, unless it meets the ASME B30.5 and ANSI 10.48 standards.
- 2.2.11** No equipment used in a fall-protection/work-positioning system shall incorporate quick-release mechanisms.
- 2.2.12** Challengers, Judges, and other approved individuals shall always wear appropriate head protection while inside the event safety perimeter. Hard hats and climbing-style helmets shall be manufactured to meet or exceed the minimum accepted industry safety standard and have been approved by the manufacturer for use in that application.
- 2.2.13** Challengers, Judges, and volunteers shall wear appropriate footwear and clothing during competition. Appropriate footwear is defined as a boot that covers the foot and ankle and that is constructed with a suitable sole and upper portion. The upper portion of the boot should provide protection from penetration. The sole should provide proper traction for work on the ground as well as when working at heights.
- 2.2.14** All activity at height shall be done with the aid of a work-positioning or fall-protection system. A Challenger shall be secured at all times while ascending the tower, while performing the event task, and until he/she returns to the ground, A suitable fall-protection system requires that the climbing line always be anchored above the climber.

- 2.2.15** Infractions of the work-positioning/fall-protection rule will result in lost points or disqualification at the discretion of the judges. Infractions include brief instances of being open to a fall. Flagrant disregard for this rule will result in disqualification.
- 2.2.16** It is a Challenger's responsibility to show that all cordage used as a climbing system has been approved by the manufacturer for use in that application.
- 2.2.17** Rope used for work positioning while traversing around the tower shall be a minimum of 11 mm diameter and shall have a minimum breaking strength of 22.2 kN.
- 2.2.18** The non-working end of any lanyard used in a fall-protection/work-positioning system shall have a fixed termination, such as a fixed stopper knot, eye splice, stitched eye, etc., that does not permit the non-working end of the lanyard to advance through the friction device or be securely connected to a rated connection point on the harness.
- 2.2.19** A minimum of a double fisherman's bend shall be used to form the Prusik loop. Variations, including an endless splice, may be used with prior approval of the TRx Head Judge.
- 2.2.20** A Challenger who utilizes a mechanical descender/ascender as a part of a stationary rope system shall also include a system of backup to protect against an ascender malfunction. Mechanical descenders/ascenders, on a stationary (static) rope system must have a secondary rope with approved rope grab and fall arrest. All mechanical ascender- climbing systems shall be demonstrated and are subject to the Head Judges prior approval.
- 2.2.21** The Challenger may not throw any piece of equipment or gear from the tower while working at height without prior approval from the Head Judge. Violation of this rule will result in the Challenger being disqualified from that event.
- 2.2.22** A Challenger will have points taken away for dropping a piece of equipment (**accidentally or unannounced**) while working at height.

2.2.24 No climbing equipment (harnesses, work-positioning lanyards, fall arrest, etc.) shall be altered in a manner that would compromise the integrity of the equipment. (i.e., drilling holes in or welding ascenders together). No alterations to equipment from its original manufacturer's design will be allowed without the express written consent of the manufacturer.

2.2.25 A Challenger using a secondary work-positioning system (lanyard) shall not attach both anchoring points of the system to the same side D-Ring(s) of the harness. Correct loading configurations include:

- Connection from side D-Ring to opposite side D-Ring for horizontal work positioning; shall not be used for suspension.
- Connection to both front D-Rings where available; may be used for suspension if so indicated by manufacturer of the harness.
- Connection to a fixed or sliding ventral attachment point, singled or doubled; may also be used for suspension. When connecting from the ventral attachment point in a singled configuration and attaching the work-positioning system around a limb back onto a tie-in point on itself, correct loading of the connecting link shall always be ensured.

2.2 Other

2.2.1 Challengers will be advised in advance of the competition of any rule changes or modifications to the competition setup deemed necessary for the safety of the competitors or the competitive requirements of the event.

2.2.2 Challengers shall not watch or be in the immediate area during the setup of the events. Failure to abide by this rule will be viewed as misconduct.

2.2.3 A random drawing is held by the Head Judge to determine the order in which the participants will complete the events.

2.2.4 It is the responsibility of each Challenger to be at each event at the scheduled time.

2.2.5 Challengers shall report to the Judges of each challenge before they are scheduled to start an event. If a Challenger does not report to the Judges within 5 minutes of the scheduled starting time, the Challenger forfeits that event.

- 2.2.6** Challengers competing shall not approach or talk to event judges while the **event** is in progress. Failure to abide by this rule may result in disqualification.
- 2.2.7** Challengers may file an official protest if they feel they have been judged unfairly or incorrectly. Protests shall be made on an official protest form to info@trxchallenge.com.
- 2.2.8** All protests shall be signed and submitted in writing by the Challenger to the TRx Head Judge within 1 hour of the alleged rule infraction. The TRx Head Judge will review the protest and make a ruling.
- Misconduct in the presentation or discussion of protest is cause for
- 2.3** im-mediate withdrawal of protest rights and/or possible disqualification.
- 2.3.1** A misconduct disqualification will be enforced by the Head Judge on any challenger who has displayed inappropriate, unprofessional, and/or unsportsmanlike behavior during participation in or after the completion of an event. Head Judge will enforce the rules for their individual event including infractions of the misconduct rule.
- 2.3.2** The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by any Challenger, Judge or official during an event will result in immediate disqualification and removal of the individual.
- 2.4** It is the responsibility of the Judges and Challengers to read and understand the rules and regulations, to be able to interpret them in the spirit of the competition, and to enforce the competitors' adherence to them. All Judges and Challegners are always expected to conduct themselves in a professional and appropriate manner during the challenge.
- 2.5** Once a challenger has begun an event, the Head Judge may instruct the Challengers to stop if the judges need time to assess potential safety concerns, clarify rules, or take a closer look at equipment installation. The clock will stop with no time penalty to the Challengers, official time will begin again when the Head Judge says "Go" and instructs the Challengers to proceed.
- 2.6** Challengers may not leave the designated event area once event time has started.
- 2.7** Challengers cannot score less than 0 in any of the six preliminary events.

3 CLIMB/RESCUE/RIGGING EVENTS

3.1 Event Summary

The six challenges are setup to test the Challengers ability to traverse about the cell towers using rope, PPE, and appropriate hardware. Each Challenger starts from a staging area near the towers and is required to visit six workstations throughout on day 1 and the semi-finalists and finalists will perform 2 challenges, performing a specified task at each station. Each station on the tower is equipped with station adjuncts and before continuing to the next station.

Challengers earn objective points for successfully completing the task at each station and announcing "DONE". At certain stations, Challengers can earn points for completing the additional tasks. Challengers can also lose points for failing to properly complete certain other tasks.

Challengers earn subjective points based on safety, control, style, poise, and creativity at the discretion of the judges. Finally, a Challenger can be penalized for unsafe or uncontrolled acts at the discretion of the Head Judge. A second unsafe or uncontrolled act could result in disqualification.

All six events are timed at 30 minutes each.

3.2 Work Climb Rules

3.2.1 Each Challenger shall be equipped with, and use, (an):

- approved climbing-style helmet,
- approved eye protection,
- approved harness,
- approved (work-positioning) lanyard,
- approved descender/ascender/carabiners,
- approved slings,
- appropriate clothing (only Tower Rodeo Shirts for Judges and Challengers) and footwear

3.2.2 All equipment and practices shall satisfy applicable industry safety standards- ANSI z359, ANSI 10.48, OSHA CFR 1910 & 1926, NFPA, ASME B30.5.

3.2.3 The Challengers may choose their own route and climbing line placement through the workstations unless otherwise directed by the Head Judge.

3.2.4 Once the Challengers have been identified to the Judges, Challengers may ask if he or she has any questions and is reminded of the event requirements.

3.2.5 The Judges start the clock when Challengers signal to the judges by saying "READY". The Judges stop the time when a challenger has safely landed, is in a standing position, or when the appropriate minutes for the challenge on the time clock has been reached.

2) **Unprofessional behavior** - Pushing, shoving or hitting other team members, contestants or judges. Swearing or threatening other team members, contestants or judges. Throwing tools or materials in anger or disgust before, during or after the event will be immediately disqualified.

3) Practicing on the Rodeo field prior to the Rodeo. No one is permitted to practice on any of the event structures at the rodeo grounds prior to the rodeo.

4) Intentional sabotage or tampering with materials, tools, or equipment on the Rodeo field Any one tampering with or seeking to hamper the use of tools to be used by following participants will be disqualified.

5) Unapproved use of alternates or changing status of team members during the Tower Rodeo.

6) Protests need to be by team only (No help from spectators or others.) Protests from those other than the team will result in the team being disqualified. All protests must be made to the Head Judge of the event before the team leaves the event. No pictures or video will be allowed to use for protest.

7) Modifying PPE in any way that is not manufactured approved.

8) Entering Competition Area before day of Rodeo All spectators, contestants, company representatives or other non-association persons must not enter the immediate event areas (inside the competition ropes) during the week of the Rodeo. This is a work area and only authorized persons are allowed in the immediate event area (no exceptions. Failure to stay out of the event area may result in your team's disqualification.

3.2.6 Disqualifications:

1) Challengers shall always be safely tied in with a secured fall arrest and fall restraint systems while on the tower. Challengers who break this rule will receive a warning A second failure to use the fall arrest/fall restraint lanyard correctly will result in disqualification.

3.2.7 If Challengers for any reason considered by the Judges to be performing an unsafe practice, penalty points will be assessed and/or the Challenger may be disqualified at the discretion of the Head Judge.

3.2.8 Challengers shall complete the task at each workstation to earn points for that station. If Challengers fail to complete the task, no scoring or discretionary points are earned or lost for the station(s).

On behalf of Tower Rodeo Challenge Judges, volunteers, and sponsors, we would like to thank you all for participating!