

# TRx Challenge RULE BOOK



Valid until December 2021



## HOW TO USE THIS RULE BOOK

It is the responsibility of the judges, officials 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 TRx 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

Kathy Gill, Committee  
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This set of rules will be valid until December 2021, 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 TRx Challenge or would like to volunteer your assistance and/or have a idea for how the event could be improved, email [info@trxchallenge.com](mailto:info@trxchallenge.com)

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## INTRODUCTION

TRx 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 six events: Rescue, Whiteboard, Quality 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 TRx Challenge.

The TRx Challenge is an event intended to push climbers to think critically about their rigging systems and to innovate for safer and more efficient climbing 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 officials; verify registrations and standard insurance waiver; 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 judges' attention at these meetings.
- 1.1.4 It is each Challengers responsibility to have all new equipment approved for competition by TRx Challenge at least three months prior to the event, no new equipment will be reviewed the day of the competition.
- 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 a TRx Challenge

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

**2.1.2** In the event the TRx 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 World Championship 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 TRx 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 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 pre-meetings, TRx 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 that cannot be answered by the Event Head Judge, the TRx Chairperson, 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, shall only use equipment that 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, can be backed up with another ascender on the same line or a pliable Prusik cord that is placed above the mechanical ascender and on the same line as the ascender. 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 **or** lower 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 be disqualified for dropping a piece of equipment (**accidentally or unannounced**) while working at height.
- 2.2.23** A Challenger shall sound **an** audible warning in any situation where there is the potential for an item (any equipment) to fall. Unless otherwise specified in an individual event, failure to call **an audible** warning will result in a 3-point penalty. A second offense will result in disqualification.



**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 not currently 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](mailto:info@trxchallenge.com).
- 2.2.8** All protests shall be signed and submitted in writing by the Challenger to the TRx Chairperson within 1 hour of the alleged rule infraction. The TRx Chairperson, Head Judge will review the protest and make a ruling.
- 2.3** Misconduct in the presentation or discussion of protest is cause for immediate 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, technician, or official during an event will result in immediate disqualification and removal of the individual.
- 2.4** It is the responsibility of the judges, technicians, and officials 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, technicians, and officials 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 Event Head Judge may instruct the Challenger 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 Challenger. Official time will begin again when the Head Judge says "Go" and instructs the Challenger 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/QUALITY 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, performing a specified task at each station. Each station on the tower is equipped with a bell (or horn); the Challenger shall ring the bell (or sound the horn) before continuing to the next station.

Challengers earn objective points for successfully completing the task at each station and ringing the bell (or sounding the horn). 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 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 a Challenger has been identified to the judges, the Challenger is asked if he or she has any questions and is reminded of the event requirements.

- 3.2.5** The judges start the clock when a Challenger signals to the judges by sounding an air horn or bell on the tower. 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.
- 3.2.6** Challengers shall always be safely tied in with a secured fall arrest and fall restraint systems while on the tower. A Challenger who breaks 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 a Challenger 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** A Challenger shall complete the task at each workstation to earn points for that station. If a Challenger fails to complete the task, no scoring or discretionary points are earned or lost for the station(s).

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