

2002 TECHNICAL RESCUE COMPETITION OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. A team may compete in one or more categories, but may only compete once in the same category. A team member may not compete on more than one team per category. Categories for competition are: basic, advanced, and vertical. A maximum of ten teams may compete in each category. Competition slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Advanced registration is requested. Late registration (at the event) automatically deducts five points from team total score.
2. "General Rules And Conditions" issued by mailout before the event remain in effect, except where they specifically deviate from this edition, in which case these rules prevail.
3. Teams will be limited to twelve (12) members. Each team may have two alternate team members, who may compete only if a team member is unable to compete when called for mission briefing. No substitutions may be made once mission briefing is completed. The team may have communications, medical control, logistics, liaison, command or other incident support personnel in the base camp area for use as needed. Support personnel are not allowed to take equipment or supplies to sites or ascend the mountain during the team's competition time; they must remain in base camp.
4. RIT Team. A team may have a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) at the base camp for use in a situation where their team requires actual emergency evacuation or assistance. There are no restrictions placed on the size or composition of this team. See rule 26.
5. Each team must supply their "patient". The patient must be an adult. Minimum patient weight will be ninety (90) pounds. Patients must know how to rappel, tie off on rappel, and the team must supply the patient with a descent device that he/she is familiar with, water, harness, carabiner, helmet, gloves and eye protection (meeting ANSI Z-87.1).
6. The patient must be an adult in good physical condition; if the patient becomes ill or injured, the team will be disqualified. See Rule 26. If the patient refuses to rappel or be placed on the site, or is frightened (causing safety concerns) and the problem causes significant delay, the patient will be excused and the team will be terminated (contact Chief Judge immediately for a ruling).
7. The patient will be suspended or secured on a rope supplied by the site judges. The patient may be directly tied off to a rope or anchor point, or may be suspended on a rappel rack or figure eight. No team is allowed to specify or request special placement, rope, device or tie-in for their site. Patient suspension, device, and tie-off shall be consistent at the site throughout the competition.
8. Teams are responsible for delivering their patient to the moulage area at 0700 hrs. on the assigned competition day. Teams whose patients have not reported to the moulage area at the designated time causes delays in the competition and teams may be disqualified. Once in the moulage area, no further communication will be exchanged between patient and team. Staff will escort the patient to the competition site. The patient must bring adequate weather protection, water, and food for a 24-hour period. Patients will be staged on the mountain, and they may be there for hours. Team members will stay clear of the moulage areas and patient staging areas.
9. Team Equipment/Supplies. Each team is responsible for providing appropriate climbing, rescue, safety and emergency care equipment for their level of training and competition category. Supplies must include adequate survival equipment and provisions to support the team and the patient for a twenty-four hour (24) period of time. Adequate supplies of water or other fluids are necessary to prevent dehydration during the competition. Two quarts per team

member (per day) and two quarts per patient (per day) are recommended. Foul weather gear should be included.

10. Minimum personal equipment. Each team member shall be equipped with the following equipment or supplies: Helmet with (min.) three-points of suspension, eye protection (meeting ANSI Z-87.1), appropriate sturdy clothing, rescue/climbing harness or Swiss seat (tied or knotted Swiss seats must have a backup [independent] 1" or 2" tubular nylon waist belt to be tied with an appropriate knot around the waist and included in the main harness carabiner), locking carabiner, sturdy boots or shoes that provide ankle protection, personal first aid/survival kit, lighting device, signaling device.

11. Judges may check equipment at any time during the competition, and points may be deducted for inadequate gear. The Base Camp/Safety Judge will inspect all teams prior to their departure to the competition site. Inspection of the equipment will be made in order to reduce the risk of injury. The Safety Judge has the right to add or subtract points during the inspection; he will not allow inappropriate or unsafe equipment to be used. Inadequate equipment is ground for disqualification. Team members are expected to be knowledgeable in the operation and safety aspects of all equipment. Teams may be required to unpack equipment for inspection.

12. Teams are not allowed to cache supplies or equipment on the mountain prior to their competition time. Teams are not allowed to leave equipment or supplies on the mountain, or abandon or jettison gear or supplies on the mountain during their competition time.

13. This is an all-weather event. Expect the competition to continue through inclement weather or darkness. Competition staff will monitor weather conditions. The Chief Judge may temporarily suspend the competition during extremely hazardous weather events. Follow instructions provided by the judges from the Chief Judge.

14. All participants of the Technical Rescue Competition will be required to sign a waiver of liability, releasing TRC, Garner State Park, and all other groups or individuals involved in conducting the competition, of any liability in case of accident, illness or injury.

15. Each competition site will have at least two Site Judges. Each category of competition will have a Category Judge, who will oversee all sites within his category. The Chief Judge will oversee the entire competition. Problems shall be reported to: (1) Site Judge(s) → (2) Category Judge → (3) Chief Judge. Team leaders should report problems to site judges as quickly as possible. Chief Judge will review all terminations before team is dismissed from the site.

16. Appeals. If a team feels that a problem, situation or judge's decision requires further examination, an appeal may be made to the Appeals Committee, chaired by the Chief Judge, after the team has completed the competition. The team leader will notify the Chief Judge of nature of the problem and will submit an appeal fee of \$ 25.00 with a written description of the problem to be examined. The Chief Judge will call the Appeals Committee to meet as soon as possible, along with appropriate witnesses and the team leader. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final. The Appeals Committee will refund the appeal fee upon a favorable decision.

17. Teams are responsible for the safety and management of their site. This includes observers, photographers and bystanders. Proper safety techniques and equipment must be applied. Photographers and observers will not be allowed to endanger their lives or the safety of others. Teams may be disqualified for the uncorrected actions of their observers or photographers; individuals not associated with teams who are unsafe or who interfere with the competition in any way will be asked to leave the site. Observers and photographers and other contestants are not allowed to exchange or provide any information about a site, a team, a patient or his injuries, or procedures they have observed to any competing team; this would unfairly influence the competition. Teams receiving such information will be disqualified.

18. Teams will be evaluated on rescue skills and emergency medical skills. Levels of skills recognized during the competition will be: BASIC MEDICAL- Red Cross or equivalent, ECA or EMT. ADVANCED MEDICAL-EMT/I or EMT/P, R.N. or M.D.. These designations are independent of the rescue site category designation. A paramedic team may compete in the advanced, vertical or basic rescue category, but will be evaluated medically in the advanced medical category.

19. Protocol required. For competing teams using advanced medical skills, a copy of the team's official medical protocol is required for review and use by the judges. The protocol must reflect the skills and treatments actually available for use for the team in their normal response area.

20. Rescue sites and categories of competition are: BASIC- Steep slope/talus rescue and evacuation. ADVANCED- Cliff face rescue and evacuation. VERTICAL- Rescue and evacuation requiring raising techniques, typically involving cave/crack situations. A 5-point bonus is added to ADVANCED category and a 10-point bonus is added to VERTICAL category teams final score to compensate for difficulty factor.

21. Teams may not use "bystanders" for assistance.

22. All park rules must be strictly followed. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

23. Inappropriate Behavior. Contestants and/or teams may not behave in a manner that is inappropriate, illegal, causes unfavorable attention to be focused on the competition, causes problems for other users of the park, park staff or competition staff or may damage to the reputation of the competition. After proper and careful investigation by the competition staff/TRC Board, teams or contestants found to be in violation of this rule will be disqualified from the competition. The disqualification period will be set by competition staff/TRC Board, based on the nature of the infraction, but shall be not less than one year nor more than five years in duration. Teams or individuals accused if such infraction will be notified in writing of the investigation and will be given an opportunity to respond to the charge. The results of the investigation and description of the penalty (if any) will be provided in writing to the team or individual under investigation, and a copy of the results will be mailed to the team or individual's sponsoring agency.

24. Judges may terminate a team at any time for gross safety violations or unsafe conditions. Appeal to category judge. Chief Judge will review all terminations prior to team dismissal from the site.

25. Motorized power winches, aircraft or land vehicles will not be used at the site during the competition.

26. If a team member or patient becomes injured or ill during the team's competition time requiring evacuation or intervention by the judges, staff or RIT Team, the team will be disqualified. Team members must be in good physical condition. This is a strenuous exercise.

27. Site Time. Teams are allowed maximum three hours on the competition site. This time begins when a team member arrives on the trailhead at the site. The team has two and one-half hours to treat and extricate the patient to the trailhead. The team will be terminated if the patient has not been successfully extricated (raised to the trailhead/starting point on site or lowered to a trailhead off site) within two and one-half hours. An additional one-half hour is allowed for the team to exit the competition site completely. At the end of this additional one-half hour, all equipment will be at a place other than at the competition site and out of the way of the next competing team or a team passing close to the site. If a team fails to exit the site within one-half hour, ten points will be deducted from the team's score.

28. Administrative Hold. The site judges may place teams/sites on "Administrative Hold" indefinitely for problems out of the control of the team or judges, such as weather, rockfall or other unforeseen events. The chief and category judges

will be notified immediately and advised of the nature of the problem. During Administrative Hold, site time is stopped until the Hold is discontinued.

29. Sunday is the designated alternate competition day, should weather delay competition on Friday or Saturday.

30. Safety Freeze. A site or category judge may "freeze" or stop all action at a site in order to suggest/direct repair of a profoundly unsafe action or condition caused by a team or team members. Two "Safety Freeze" actions are allowed each team. Maximum time duration of each Freeze is fifteen minutes, which will extend the on-site 3-hour limit. Ten points are deducted for each Safety Freeze. A third Safety Freeze results in termination, or a Safety Freeze of time duration longer than thirty minutes results in termination.

31. Safety Warning. Judges may warn a team of unsafe actions or conditions that are caused by the team or team members. Three "Safety Warnings" are allowed each team. Five points are deducted for each Safety Warning. The fourth Safety Warning results in termination.

32. Terminated teams will be scored up to the point when they are terminated. Judges will critique the team to the point of termination and submit the critiques to the scoring staff via the category judge. Terminated teams are eligible to win awards in their category; however, they may not displace teams with a lower score that have successfully completed the competition in the same category. Terminated teams are not eligible to win the High Point Award.

33. In the event of a tie, the team with the most points in the safety category will be declared the winner.

34. Teams are allowed on the mountain to observe other teams during the competition, but will not interfere in any way with the competition.

35. Teams will refrain from using alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs twelve hours prior to their competition time.

36. In the event of an actual emergency, local EMS and the Emergency Response Team (competition staff) will respond and evacuate the injured. Competing teams or RIT Teams may be requested to assist. Report emergencies to the command post.

37. All communications will be non-emergency simulated communications unless an actual emergency is declared.

38. Staff personnel will wear nametags. Call on them for assistance whenever necessary.

39. Teams will be notified of their competition day only. Teams will not be notified of their competition time in advance. Teams must be available for competition by 0800 hrs. on the assigned competition day. Teams will be on standby for dispatch to their rescue competition site. A competition official will notify the team leader of the approximate location of the call and the nature of the situation. A witness or reporting person may be available for interview by the team.

40. This is a realistic simulation. Teams are expected to perform all skills as if the situation was real. Points will be subtracted if simulation of procedures is incorrect. Invasive techniques, such as I.V. lines, intubation, etc. will not be performed on the patient. Catheters will be taped on the surface of the skin. I.V. lines will be flowed, discharging away from the patient. If a team exhausts its supplies (I.V. fluids, oxygen, etc.) the team may discontinue use. The team may send team members down to base camp to re-supply from the team's stock. The team's base camp (support) personnel may not bring supplies or equipment up the mountain. Competition base camp will not supply equipment or supplies to teams.

41. Equipment or supply simulation. The team must bring all equipment and supplies it intends to use during the competition to the competition site. No substitution or “simulated” equipment or supply is allowed. Expired medications and I.V. fluids may be used.

42. Belay required. On sites where personnel are exposed to significant risk of injury due to vertical fall hazard or when an individual is climbing above placed protection or anchor points or when rappelling or ascending a fixed rope (or being raised, lowered, or moved on a rope) all personnel, while exposed to the hazard or potential hazard, will be provided with an independent rope/safety belay system attached to an independent anchor capable of developing sufficient strength to hold the person should a fall or rope system failure occur. Belays must continue in effect until the fall hazard no longer exists; i.e., the person anchors to a cliff feature another rope system or reaches a place of safety. It is the intent of this rule that, for safety of the staff, patients and contestants, no individual shall be suspended only by a single rope during the competition.

43. Fall protection required. On sites where patients or rescuers are exposed to significant risk of injury due to vertical fall hazard, all personnel approaching or working around cliff edges, holes, cracks or other substantial elevation changes shall be secured by belay, lanyards, safety ropes or other such devices secured to anchors capable of holding the person should a fall occur. Free climbing and non-belayed movement on the site is allowed in situations where there is no significant elevation exposure or other risk of serious injury should a fall occur.

44. Contestants are not permitted to alter the natural terrain or vegetation. Do not damage or destroy the plants, animals or rock. Teams will collect any trash, waste or refuse generated by their activities on the site and will pack it out for proper disposal.

45. Contestants and teams must not allow or create rockfall. It poses a serious hazard to competition participants and park guests. Avoid unstable areas. Rockfall or instability caused by the activities of the team will cause point deductions or termination if serious. Teams should recon and plan rigging and personnel movement in order to avoid rigging rescue systems or moving across areas which could loosen rocks or cause rockfall.

46. Teams introducing new equipment or technology or using non industry-standard equipment must make the equipment available to judges for safety inspection prior to the competition. Teams should include a letter with the entry application outlining/describing the new equipment/technology and proposed use. Judges will contact the team to obtain additional information or view the equipment as necessary.

47. Minimum system safety factor. The minimum safety factor for all anchors, systems, rigging, hardware, software, etc. used to support human life during the competition shall be 10:1.

48. Judge participation in competition. There is no time restriction (in years) that a judge must wait before becoming eligible to compete as a contestant, except that a judge may not participate as both a judge and a contestant during the same competition.

49. Mission Time. "Mission Time" begins at the start of the mission notification/briefing and ends when the patient is delivered to the designated patient receiving area at base camp. Points are awarded based on mission time, with each 10-minute interval under 4 hours total mission time accruing 20 points. Maximum point score is 300 (mission time 1hour 30 minutes to 1hour 40 minutes). Time spent on Administrative Holds and Safety Freezes (if any) will be deducted from the Mission Time.