

2011 TECHNICAL RESCUE COMPETITION

OFFICIAL RULES and CONDITIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Competition and Registration. A team may compete in one or more categories, but may only compete once in the same category. Categories for competition are: Basic, Advanced and Vertical. A maximum of ten (10) 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 (5) points from the team's total score.

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

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

4. Park Rules. All park rules must be strictly followed. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.

5. Publicity. This event may or may not be televised; contestants will act accordingly and refrain from foul or vulgar language. All contestants will be required to complete and sign a waiver allowing any and all use of printed and televised media taken during the competition without any expectations of remuneration, royalties or any other compensation.

6. Inappropriate Behavior. Contestants and/or teams may not behave in a manner that is inappropriate, illegal, or 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 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 or more than five years in duration. Teams or individuals accused of 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.

7. Weather. This is an all-weather event. The competition will 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.

8. Competition Times. Teams will be notified of their assigned competition day. At the discretion of the competition administration, teams may not be notified of their competition time in advance. Teams must be available for competition by 0800 hours on the assigned competition day. Teams may be placed "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.

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9. Alternate Competition Day. Sunday is the designated alternate competition day should weather delay competition on Friday or Saturday.

10. Site Time. Teams are allowed maximum **three (3) hours** on the competition site. The time begins when a team member arrives on the trailhead at the site. The team has **two and one-half (2 ½) 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 (2 ½) hours. An additional **one-half (1/2) hour** is allowed for the team to exit the competition site completely. At the end of this additional one-half (1/2) 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 (1/2) hour, ten (10) points will be deducted from the team's score.

11. Team Members. 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 a RIT Team, the team will be disqualified. Team members must be in good physical condition. This is a strenuous exercise.

12. Emergencies. In the event of an actual emergency, local EMS and the Emergency Response Team (competition staff) will respond to evaluate and evacuate the injured (if required). Competing teams may be requested to assist. Report **ALL** emergencies to the Command Post immediately.

13. Teams. Teams are 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.

14. Rescue Categories. 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 mandatory raising techniques, typically involving cave / crack situations.

A difficulty factor of five (5) bonus points is added in the ADVANCED category and ten (10) bonus points is added in the VERTICAL category.

15. Medical Categories. Teams will be evaluated on rescue and emergency medical skills. Only Basic Life Support (BLS) skills will be evaluated and scored. If a team desires to provide ALS skills, a "practice" feedback will be provided by the judges but ALS skills will not be scored as part of the competition.

16. Communications. All communications will be non-emergency, simulated communications unless an actual emergency is declared.

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17. 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 13.**

Relating to PATIENTS:

18. Patient. Each team must supply a "patient". The patient **MUST BE** an adult (minimum 18 years old). 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 they are familiar with, water, harness, carabineer, helmet, gloves and eye protection (meeting ANSI Z-87.1).

19. Patient. The patient must be an adult (minimum 18 years old) in good physical condition. If the patient becomes ill or injured, the team will be disqualified. **See Rule 10.** 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 the Chief Judge immediately).

20. Patient. 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.

21. Moulage. Unless otherwise instructed by competition officials, teams are responsible for delivering their patient to the moulage area at 0700 hours 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 the team may be disqualified. Once in the moulage area, no further communication will be exchanged between the 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 several hours. Team members will stay clear of the moulage areas and patient staging areas at all times.

22. Patient Evaluation on Arrival at Base Camp. All patients will be presented to a competition judge(s) on arrival at base camp. The team's medic(s) will give a patient report. Judges will check medical care provided by the team such as packaging, splinting, etc. Trail Judges will be used to monitor team performance during patient evacuation to base camp.

Relating to EQUIPMENT:

23. 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.

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24. Minimum personal equipment. Each team member shall be equipped with the following equipment or supplies: Helmet with (minimum) 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 carabineer), locking carabineer, sturdy boots or shoes that provide ankle protection, personal first aid/survival kit, lighting device or signaling device.

25. Unsafe Equipment. 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. They will not allow inappropriate or unsafe equipment to be used. Inadequate equipment is grounds 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.

26. Equipment. 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.

27. Equipment. Motorized power winches, aircraft or land vehicles WILL NOT be permitted during the competition. Teams utilizing a High / pre-tensioned HIGH-LINE must bring a Dyno / Load Cell to insure that the HIGH-LINE is properly tensioned or not over tensioned. Other systems such as Guiding Lines, English Reeves, Drooping / Kooteny systems (often referred to as High-lines) will NOT be required to use a Dyno / Load Cell but the team must keep the judges aware of their intentions and methodology.

28. 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.

29. Equipment. 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 the competition.

30. New Equipment. 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 (or email any member of the Board) 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.

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Relating to SAFETY:

31. Safety. Teams will refrain from using alcoholic beverages or non-prescription drugs twelve (12) hours prior to their competition time.

32. Judges. 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 their 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 only should report problems to site judges as quickly as possible. The Chief Judge will review all terminations before a team is dismissed from the site.

33. Safety. 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, their injuries, or procedures that they have observed to any competing team. This would unfairly influence the competition. Teams receiving such information will be disqualified.

34. Minimum system safety factor. The minimum safety factor for the *weakest* part of all anchors, systems, rigging, hardware, software, etc. used to support human life during the competition **shall be not less than 5:1.**

35. 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.

Exception:

If a team member has successfully passed the single rope techniques (SRT) check-off prior to the competition, proving competency, they may utilize SRT techniques. ***ONLY individuals that pass these check-offs shall be allowed to utilize SRT techniques.*** A list of teams and the names of those who have passed the check-off will be provided to the Category judges PRIOR to the team competing.

36. 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

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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.

37. Rock fall. Contestants and teams must not allow or create rock fall. It poses a serious hazard to competition participants and park guests. Avoid unstable areas. Rock fall 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 rock fall.

38. Administrative Hold. The judges may place teams / sites on an "Administrative Hold" indefinitely for problems out of the control of the team or judges, such as weather, rock fall or other unforeseen events. The Chief and Category judges will be notified immediately and advised of the nature of the problem. During an Administrative Hold, the site time is stopped until the "Hold" is discontinued. There is no time or point deduction assessed during an Administrative Hold.

39. Safety Warning. Judges may warn a team of unsafe actions or conditions that are caused by the team or team members. Three (3) "Safety Warnings" are allowed each team. Five (5) points will be deducted for each Safety Warning. A fourth (4th) Safety Warning will result in termination.

40. 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 the team or team members. Two (2) "Safety Freeze" actions are allowed each team. Maximum time duration of each Freeze is fifteen (15) minutes which will extend the on-site 3-hour limit. Ten (10) points will be deducted for each Safety Freeze. A third (3rd) Safety Freeze will result in termination or if a Safety Freeze has a time duration longer than thirty (30) minutes.

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

42. 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 the 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.

43. Terminated teams. 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.

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Related to the SITE:

44. Terrain and Vegetation. Participants 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. Bystanders. Teams may not use "bystanders" for assistance.

46. Observers. Teams are allowed on the mountain to observe other teams during the competition but shall not interfere in any way with the competition.

Tie Breaker:

47. Tie Breakers. In the event of a tie, the team with the most points in the "Personnel Safety" category will be declared the winner. The Chief Judge will determine an alternate method if an additional tie breaker is required.

Misc:

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.