

SCONES Rules & Disciplinary Policy

Foreword: SCONES (The Scotland and Northeast University Bouldering Series) strives to create a fair, accessible and just playing environments for all attendees. In order to maintain this, SCONES has the absolute authority to apply any disciplinary sanction deemed appropriate in effort to maintain the just and accessible climbing environment. We will always endeavor to be fair and transparent on all decisions we make, and this document serves to give understanding to all stakeholders on why and how a decision is made.

Definitions

Stakeholder(s)	refers to people and/or groups who are affected and/or responsible for the sociocultural environment of SCONES. Examples of 'stakeholders' include: competitors, venue staff and management, partner organisations, Club/Society Committee, team captains, photographers, members of SCONES team, universities and their respective student unions
SCONES environment	The 'SCONES environment' refers to any space where SCONES stakeholders interact, such as planned events, travel to and from events, and within university setups. If two or more SCONES stakeholders are interacting this automatically classifies as a SCONES environment
Disciplinary commission	The dispute resolution authority of SCONES composed of senior members of the SCONES Committee
Disciplinary Proceedings	The formal process by which complaints are reviewed, hearings are conducted, and sanctions are issued.
Complaint	A written report submitted to the Disciplinary Commission detailing the alleged offence and supported by relevant documents and evidence. The terms complaints, reports, and concerns are mutually interchangeable.
Jurisdiction	The authority of the Disciplinary Commission to handle specific complaints.

Notice of Complaint	The formal notification sent by the Panel to the Respondent, outlining The details of the complaints and providing relevant documents.
Respondent	The individual or organisation facing disciplinary action.
Sanction	The penalty imposed by the Panel for disciplinary infractions.
Suspension	A penalty that temporarily prevents a Respondent from participating in SCONES activities.
Ban	A penalty that permanently prevents a Respondent from participating in SCONES activities.
Deduction	A penalty that removes a stated number of points from any scorecard
Scorecard	An official form documenting the number of points earned from a round, series or team

RULES

Standards: The SCONES rulings will be based upon the latest World Climbing regulations and are adapted to SCONES unique needs as a university event. The Disciplinary Panel has full discretion in utilising both rule sets as and when needed in order to uphold the SCONES environment. SCONES is a boulder only event.

Qualifier Rounds:

Jurisdiction and environment:

1.1 The jurisdiction of SCONES cover all aspects and areas of the SCONES environment including but not limited to: The field of play, call zones, any environment or place involved in travel to and from SCONES events, gyms used for training by teams and individuals who compete at SCONES

Design

2.1 Each boulder will be designed to limit the risk of injury to a climber or any 3rd party however SCONES do not accept any liability for injuries incurred at SCONES

2.2 The impact area around each boulder must be kept clear from any obstructions and stakeholders can be sanctioned for obstructing said environment

- 2.3** Boulders will be constructed with visually distinctive holds that should clearly identify what holds are included within a single problem. Reasonable adjustments will be made for individuals with visual impairments.
- 2.4** Routes that cannot be made visually distinctive will have a written notice on a4 paper no more than 50cm away from the starting hold. Font must be in Ariel at a legible size
- 2.5** Any holds which do not share the visual distinction or otherwise noted are treated as out of bounds
- 2.6** T-Nut holes (Bolt holes) on walls and volumes will always be considered as out of play
- 2.7** Bolt and scrow holes on a resin hold can be used depending on its state
- 2.7(i)** Bolt holes may only be used if it has been used to affix the hold to the wall with a bolt or lonestar
 - 2.7(ii)** Screw holes may be used at all times on resin holds

Markings

- 2.8** Each boulder must be clearly to marked to show
- 2.8(i)** A starting position defined by 2 or 4 marked points on any marked holds/macros/volumes fixed to the climbing surface and marked for both upper limbs and or lower limbs. These markings will use a distinct system such as bright coloured tape, metal discs, or coloured bolts and will not indicate specific limbs
 - 2.8(ii)** A Top, which will either be a finishing hold marked in the same colour as the starting holds or a standing position at the end of the sequence of holds
 - 2.8(iii)** any Zone hold(s) marked using a different colour to the starting hold markers
- 2.9** Safety holds
- 2.9(i)** in qualifier rounds will utilise site specific rulings e.g. a specific colour to denote or brand specific safety hold (e.g. [Core Down Climb Jugs](#))
 - 2.9(ii)** in the series final safety holds that are not a brand specific safety hold will be clearly marked by a high contrast chevron tape X directly below the hold where possible and finalists will be shown all safety holds during observation period.
- 2.10** Wall and hold features that are out of bounds will be clearly marked as out of bounds by high contrast chevron tape

Personal Equipment

- 3.1** Each competitor is entirely and solely responsible for the technical equipment and clothing they intend to use or wear during competition
- 3.2** Competitors may not use or wear any clothing that can be used to impair the decision making of on mat officials, e.g. legwear that purposefully obscures the shoe and foothold being used
- 3.3** Climbers must wear climbing shoes during attempts
- 3.3 NOTE:** *Medical exemption form may be submitted for both season for long term/permanent medical adjustment and individual rounds for short term medical adjustment*
- 3.4** Climbers may also use
- 3.4(i)** commercially available dry or liquid chalk for their hands
 - 3.4(ii)** a wearable chalk bag when on the wall
- 3.4(ii) NOTE:** *Climbers may be provided chalk mid attempt from a larger chalk bucket on proviso they do not utilise said chalk bucket for support or while moving between holds*

3.4(iii) A helmet

3.5 Climbers may not use

3.5(i) Any substance or equipment that damages or alters the material of a hold or climbing surface.

3.5(i) NOTE: *Soft fibre chalk brushes are allowed as these only remove chalk from the surface of a hold hard fibre brushes such as wire brushes removes material from the hold itself allowing the hold to be modified and is therefore outlawed*

3.5(ii) Gloves of any kind unless medically exempt or provided by SCONES

3.5(iii) Knee pads of any kind unless medically exempt or provided by SCONES

Technical officials

4.1 Judges will be present at all rounds

4.2 Head organisers will automatically assume the role of head judge and have final say on disciplinary verdicts

4.3 Qualifying rounds will have judges present to deter unsportsmanlike behavior and enforce disciplinary procedures correctly. Judges can be positioned on certain boulders or floating around the competition area

Route Judges

4.4 Within a final there will be route judges allocated to each individual finals climb (8 in total)

4.4(i) Route judging will be on a voluntary basis from participating institutions and SCONES committee

4.4(ii) Route judge recruitment should ideally have 1 judge per institution

4.4(iii) a Route judge cannot judge a climber of their own institution and should swap with a route judge for that climbing period

4.4(iv) Route judging will be done through a traceable system either digitally on Griptonite or manually by a recognised tally system

4.4(v) A route judge at any point can refer any decision to the appointed head judge for any reason

Head Judges

4.5 The head judge will preside over all disciplinary decisions

4.5(i) the head judge role will always be allocated to a SCONES committee member per annum

4.5(ii) if no-one nominates themselves for the role it will automatically be allocated to the head organisers

4.5(iii) the head judge role can be taken up by more than one person with a maximum of 2 filling the role

Starting and point scoring:

Pre-Climb

5.1 A climber must not touch any hold specific to the boulder bar from the denoted starting holds

5.1(i) Holds may be utilised as foot holds for downclimbing an adjacent route

5.1(ii) Holds may be utilised as hand holds for downclimbing in need of absolute safety

5.1(iii) Holds may be utilised as foot holds for brushing purposes though cannot be used as handholds

5.1(iv) A climber found to be breaking rule **5.1** or abusing subsection **5.1(i)-5.1(iii)** will be viewed to have used an attempt per hold touched/utilised

Starting a climb

5.2 An attempt will be initiated as soon as the last point of contact (PoC) with the floor no longer makes contact (e.g. A climber has 3 PoC with the wall and has one foot on the mat, as soon as the foot lifts and an air gap forms the climb has started)

Start holds

5.3 Climbers may only make hand contact with the identified starting holds

5.3(i) no other holds may be used by the hands before both hands have made stable contact to the starting holds

5.3(ii) Holds from other climbs will always be viewed as out of bounds and may not be used to climb into the starting position

5.4 There are no specific starting foot holds in qualifying rounds and any holds within the bounds of the climb may be used

Stability

5.5 A climber may only move from the starting hand holds once stability on the wall is achieved

5.5(i) stability is defined by the climber being able to hold a static position without actively falling off of the climb

5.5(ii) A climber may not utilise force off of the mat to propel them to the next hold

5.5(iii) A climber that does not demonstrate stability on the starting holds will have that attempt disqualified and counted as an attempt

During the climb

5.6 A climber may only use the holds, volumes and wall features specific to the climb

5.7 A climber may not use any hold or wall feature outside of the climb

5.8 Bolt holds on the walls or volumes may not be used

Zone

5.9 Zone holds will only be counted when the climber makes contact with the hold in control

Concluding an attempt/Finishing a climb

5.10 A climber will be deemed to have completed the climb when they make contact with the finish hold in stability with both hands defined by the same criterion of 5.5A

Falling or infraction

5.11 An attempt will be concluded when

5.11(i) there is a PoC with an off the wall surface after the initiation of an attempt defined by 5.2

5.11(ii) A climber touches or utilises any surface that is out of bounds

5.11(iii) The climber has been deemed to have cheated by any legitimate means

Points Scoring

5.12 Points will be awarded by number of attempts:

- 1st attempt - 10 Points
- 2nd Attempt - 7 Points
- 3rd Attempt - 4 Points
- 4th Attempt - 2 points
- Zone - 1 Point

5.12 Note: Zone points are counted whether the climb has been completed or not

Count back

5.13 When a climber draws on points a countback will be used to determine placing with priority given to:

1. Number of ascents
2. Number of zones
3. Number of flashes

5.13(i) If all 3 measures are exhausted and the climbers are not eligible to qualify for finals then they will be given a drawn position

5.13(ii) If all 3 measures are exhausted and the climbers are both eligible for finals, they may agree who will appear first in the running order by any means agreed by both parties

5.13(iii) If all 3 measures are exhausted when separating two climbers between the qualification rank (6th) then both climbers will qualify for finals and may decide running order by any agreed means

Team Score:

5.14 Team Scores per round are calculated by aggregating the top 5 scores registered for said team in *Open and Women's* and the top 3 scores from *Novice*

5.14(i) Novice score contribution is capped at 100 points per person. If an individual scores above 100 this will be reflected on their scorecards however only 100 points will be added to the team score

5.14(ii) In the event of a climber being disqualified their score contribution will be removed from the team score also and the climber in the next ranked positions score will contribute instead

5.15 Overall team rankings are calculated by combining the team scores from all rounds the team has entered in

5.16 Individuals scores will only be counted once per round meaning that if a team registers less than 5 scores in a category only those registered will be counted with no duplication or compensatory calculations

National Ranking

5.17 National Scores per round are calculated by aggregating the top 20 scores registered for said Nation in *Open and Women's category* and the top 10 scores from *Novice*

5.17(i) In the event of a climber being disqualified their score contribution will be removed from the national score also and the climber in the next ranked position will contribute their score instead

5.18 Overall national rankings are calculated by combining scores from all rounds the nation has entered in

5.19 Individuals scores will only be counted once per round meaning that if a nation registers less than 20 scores in a category only those registered will be counted with no duplication or compensatory calculations

Sporting misconduct

Scorecard falsification

6.1 Climbers must complete their scorecard accurate to the climbs they have completed within the qualifying time frame

Bullying and Harassment

6.2 there is a zero-tolerance policy to bullying and harassment and is outlawed completed from SCONES

6.2(i) individuals found to be bullying or harassing others will face sanctions unique to the specifics of the situation

Performance Enhancing Drugs (PEDS)

6.3 Climbers may not utilise any PEDS as outlined by WADA prohibited list

Distraction

6.4 Competitors may not purposefully distract other individuals who are actively climbing

Negative alteration of climbing surface

6.5 climbers are not permitted to purposefully tamper with the holds of a climb to negatively impact other climbers

6.5(i) Sanctions will be unique to the severity of the act

Violent conduct

6.6 Climbers may not commit any violent act at SCONES and will face permanent bans if found to do so with relevant authorities contacted

Finals:

***NOTE:** All qualifying rules automatically pertain to the SCONES Finals unless specified otherwise.*

Qualification

7.1 Top 6 climbers in *Open* and *Women* category will qualify for the finals. If an individual is not present at the final round the place will be allocated to the next highest scorer available

Isolation

7.2 All finalist will be required to enter isolation at a specified time decided by the head judge

7.3 Finalists are forbidden from acquiring any information about the finals climbs

7.4 Finalists will have access to an area to warm up, an area to climb and toilet facilities within the defined isolation zone

7.5 Finalists will have consistent access to toileting and washing facilities

Observation

7.6 Before the finals begin athletes will be able to view each climb for 2 minutes

7.7 Athletes will be notified of the bounds of the climb and specific rules of a climb during the observation period

Format

7.8 Both categories will be competing at once in a Climb:Rest rotation from Bloc 1 through to Bloc 4

7.9 A rotation will consist of 4 minutes+ meaning a climber in an active attempt will have time to complete their attempt if they are on the wall when time elapses

Starting

8.1 All qualifier starting procedure rules are in effect bar from 5.3-5.4

8.2 Final climbs will utilise 4 starting tags for both upper and lower limbs

8.2(i) Volumes and specific wall features such as an arete may be utilised as a starting hold and will be ruled as a specific hold

8.2(ii) Setters may utilise an area of a wall as a starting hold/zone

- 8.2 (iii)** All starting holds will be highlighted clearly with high contrast tape, a box will be used if a specific section of wall is denoted as a hold
- 8.3** Climbers may only be allowed to touch the starting holds with their hands and feet otherwise occur an attempt per holds touched

Zone

8.4 All zone holds will be identified with a differing colour of tape that is accessible for individuals with colour vision deficiencies

8.5 Zone holds will have clear labels denoting their numeric worth

Finishing

8.6 Climbers will be notified that they have successfully finished a climb via 2 systems

8.6(i) Visually by the allocated route judge displaying two thumbs up in the air

8.6 (ii) Audibly by the allocated route judge announcing to the climber “*Top*”

8.6 (iii) There will also be an audible horn however this is for atmospheric purposes and should only be sounded after the clean symbol is viewed

Route Judging

9.1 Route judges have the authority to stop any active attempt for any on wall infraction

QUALIFIER RULES 5.1-5.11

9.2 Route judges must alert climbers to when they have committed an on-wall infraction by utilising the infraction signal (Arms in the air with forearms crossing to form an ‘X’ over their head) and by stating the climbers name and the word “Fault!”

9.3 The climber can then be told the infraction when they have left the wall

9.4 Route judges must alert climbers to when they have successfully topped a climb utilising the clean signal (Two thumbs up high into the air) and by stating the climbers name and the word “clean!”

Referring

Judge to judge referral

10.1 Judges must refer any decision that has led to an ascent to the head judges

10.2 To begin a referral the judge will perform the referral signal to the head judge table

10.3 The head judges will note the time remaining before deliberation

10.4 Once a decision has been made it will be announced over the PA for clarity

10.5 If the attempt was deemed unsuccessful the climber will have the noted remaining time to complete the climb

Athlete appeal

10.6 An athlete is allowed to make 1 appeal of a judged decision

10.7 To begin an appeal the athlete will inform the route judge who will then perform the referral signal to the head judge

10.7(i) An appeal must be made within 5 minutes of the decision that the athlete wants to appeal

10.8 The head judges will then note the remaining time left for the athlete

10.9 The head judge(s) will then approach and hear the athlete's appeal

10.10 The head judge will announce the decision over the PA for clarity

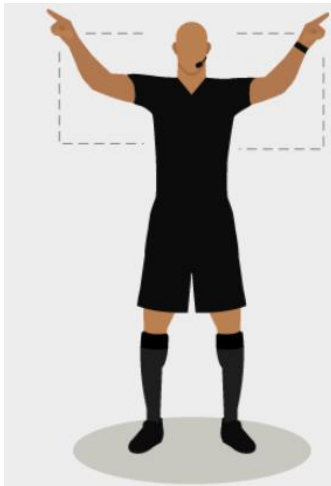
10.11 If the outcome means a top has not been completed the athlete will have the noted time left to continue their attempts

Scoring

11.1 Scoring will be based on the new world climbing system in the finals

- Top = 25 points
- Zone = 10 points
- Falls incur a -0.1 penalty

Signals

Clean	Fault	Referral
		

Points and Rankings

Finals will determine the final ranking of *Open* and *Women's* category

Institutions will receive bonus points based upon the placing of individuals in the finals

- 1st Place – 50 points
- 2nd Place – 30 points
- 3rd Place – 20 points

Novice Eligibility:

12.1 Novice category will not produce a ranked league table

12.2 To enter the novice category individuals must have:

12.2(i) Climbed longer than 1.5 calendar years

12.2(ii) Climb consistently at a grade higher than V3

12.3 SCONES retains the right to reallocate an individual's category retrospectively if found to use the category outside the spirit of the competition

12.3 Note: To give example we may reallocate if a team has purposefully placed a v6 climber to maximise points return

Reporting

Reporting:

Stakeholders can report disciplinary concerns through 3 modalities.

- Non-anonymous
 - In person during a SCONES event to a judge or member of Disciplinary Commission
 - Online using our email (info@sconeunibouldering.com) or using our 'contact us tool' on our website
- Anonymous
 - Online using our 'contact us tool' and not inputting an email address

Disciplinary Process Visualisation:

Disciplinary Process Visualisation can be found on the website homepage.

Standardised Sanctions:

This section contains all standardised sanctions for breaches in the SCONES Policy. For record keeping and publication purposes, all standardised sanctions will be coded with an alphanumeric numbering system as shown below.

Ruling Number	Subdivider	Instance indicator	Modifier indicator
Identifies what rule group the sanction attains to	Specifies which specific rule(s) have been violated	Only applicable to sanctions which are modified by the number of incidents, the rule has been broken by an individual or group. E.g. i=1st ii=2nd iii=3rd incident	Used to discern different considerations that affect a sanction
1	1	i	a

1 Personal Equipment: Rules 3.1-3.5:

1.1: Hold damage and alteration, Climber evidenced with purposeful permanent alteration to any climbing surface

1.1(i) Climber disqualified from round and fined repair/replacement cost

1.1(ii) Permanent banning order and fined repair/replacement cost

1.1(iii)(a) Damage and alteration to create a disadvantage will be fined the cost for repair/replacement of the hold and will be permanently banned

1.2: Glove/Pad infringement, Climber utilising any form of glove or pad without medical exemption

1.2(i) Warning will be given to the individual using the illegal equipment and their current attempt will be spent, climber may continue to attempt after said equipment is removed

1.2(ii) All tops made with the illegal equipment to be converted to attempts. Climber may continue without the illegal equipment to attempt a top on left over attempts

1.2(iii) All tops made with the illegal equipment to be converted to attempts. Climbers may continue without the illegal equipment to attempt a top on left over attempts. Additional 30-point deduction applied to scorecard

1.2(iv) All tops made with the illegal equipment to be converted to attempts. Climbers may continue without the illegal equipment to attempt a top on left over attempts. Additional 50-point deduction applied to scorecard

2 Judging: 4.1-4.5

2.1 Fixing, any volunteer judge that is found to attempt to purposefully alter the results of SCONES grand finale. Individuals will be given a permanent ban from judging and a 1 round competition ban

3 On wall infractions: 5.1-5.13

3.1: Contact of none starting holds with the hand without safety exemption. Climber will receive an attempt per hold touched

3.2.: Intentional deception of starting procedure. Climbers found to be intentional breaking the starting procedure to gain an advantage

3.2(i) All climbs ascended with broken start procedure to be removed from scorecard

3.2(ii) All climbs ascended with broken start procedure to be removed from scorecard. 30-point additional deduction

3.3: Intentional deception of finishing procedure. Climbers found to be intentionally breaking the finishing procedure to gain an advantage

3.3(i) All climbs topped with broken finishing procedure to be removed from scorecard

3.3(ii) All climbs topped with broken finishing procedure to be removed from scorecard. 30-point additional deduction applied to scorecard

4 Sporting Misconduct 6.1-6.6

4.1 purposefully and maliciously manipulating the number of attempts, zones and tops on their scorecard.

4.1 NOTE: *Genuine errors such as mismarking an ascent from one climb onto another or mis-inputting/miscounting number of ascents will not be punishable within reason*

4.1(i) Climber will receive a 2-round ban and a barring order from finals qualification for the year

4.1(ii) Climber will be disqualified for the competition year

4.1(iii) Climber will be permanently banned

4.1(i)(a) Climber with recorded history of scorecard falsification from any other competition will automatically receive sanction **4.1(ii)**

4.1(i)(b) If 3 individuals from the same institution are to receive sanction **4.1(i)** the university's representative will be contacted. 150 team point deduction will then be applied to final team scorecard

4.2 PEDS usage, Climber utilising prohibited PEDS within SCONES environment. Permanent ban will be applied, and university representative will be contacted

4.3 Distraction, Climber intentionally distracting another climber whilst on the wall

4.3(i) On first instance competitors are to be warned

4.3(ii) on second instance a competitor will be docked 30 points from their scorecard

4.3(iii) on third instance a competitor will be disqualified from the round that they commit this act

4.3(iv) on 4th instance they will be disqualified for the year

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Title: SCONES Rules & Disciplinary Policy

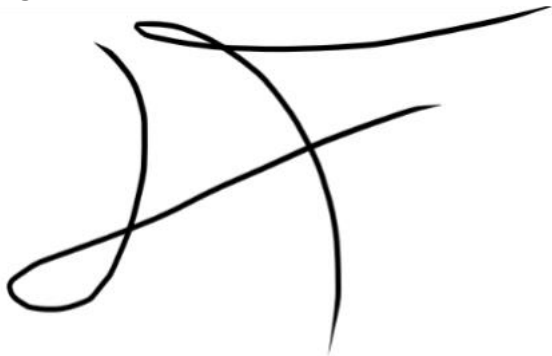
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Policy written by: H.Thomas

Signature:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Thomas'.

Date: 01/09/2026

Approved by: Louise Flockhart

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Flockhart'.

Signature:

Date: 25/09/2026