

Woodfest Wales

Pole climbing Rules and Safety

INTRODUCTION

Event: The Event is called "The 2009 Woodfest Wales Poleclimbing championship. It is a show to establish who can climb a free standing wooden pole with appropriate climbing aids in the fastest time.

Date & Venue: The event will be held during Woodfest Wales on the 5th, 6th and 7th June 2009. At Woodfest Wales, Glascoed Road, St.Asaph LL17 0LH

Eligibility for entry: All entrants must:-

1. Be fit, healthy and capable of the extreme physical exertion required by the event.
2. Have their own personal climbing equipment.
3. Be sufficiently experienced in tree climbing techniques to competently use the climbing equipment.
4. Complete the official entry form before participating
5. Notified the organisers in advance of any special health conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, etc. etc.

SAFETY

Equipment: All entrants Must use the following equipment:-

1. Climbing harness that must have a waist belt, 2 leg straps and proper point of attachment for the safety line.
2. Pole strop of a sufficient length to encircle the pole and be safely attached to both sides of the harness.
3. Sturdy footwear and gloves.
4. Set of tree climbing spikes.
5. Helmet with fitted chin strap.

All equipment will be inspected before the event to ensure that it is safe and appropriate for the situation.

Safety ropes and all fixings to the poles will be provided.

Safety procedures: An official will check each entrant on the following points prior to allowing a climb to proceed.

1. The climbing equipment is correctly fitted, secured and adjusted.
2. The pole strop is around the pole and secured to the harness at both ends.
3. The safety line is running free through the top of the pole and secured to the correct coupling on the climber's harness.
4. The persons belaying the climber understand the task and are ready.
5. The climber is ready and outwardly capable of completing the climb.

Once the officials are satisfied that these requirements have been met, they will allow the starter to start the climber. When the climb is completed, the climber should rest until sufficiently recovered to climb down the pole with the belayers controlling the decent. If the climber is incapacitated for any reason, the belayers will take his full weight and control his/her descent. A spare rope and set of equipment will be available at the time close to the pole.

ORGANISATION OF THE COMPETITION

- **Practice days:** Friday 5th Saturday 6th June will be practice days which will be run on the same format as the Woodfest Poleclimbing Championships on Sunday 7th June with prize money for each of the days.
- **Woodfest Championships:** This will be on Sunday 7th June and be a separate competition from the events of the practice days. As with the previous two days, there is a limited amount of time in the morning qualification for the afternoon competitions and pre-booked entries will be given preference to those arriving on the day. It is not necessary to attend the two previous days to compete in the Woodfest Poleclimbing Championships.
- **Novice event / Tree surgery Class** There will be a novice event running throughout the competition at the same time as the expert competition. For this competition a novice climber is defined as a climber who has not finished in the top novice placing in a national event in any previous competition. All Entrants in this class must use "off the shelf equipment " No custom made spikes or strops, It is advisable to use a steel core strop/flip line Novice climbers can elect to become experts and participate in the expert event but this must be indicated on the entry form prior to the competition. Once a climber has elected to become an expert, they cannot return to the novice class. One of the objectives of this competition is to encourage those who have not taken part in this sport to have a go. Novice climbers will be welcomed and all efforts made to ensure that they are able to practice outside the glare of the main competition with the possibility of taking part in the novice event if they feel happy with their practice.
- **Qualifying for each day:** Qualifying for the events on all three days will follow the same procedure. The timing of qualifying is flexible but has to fit in with the other displays which run throughout the morning and early afternoon. It will normally start between 9.30 and 11.00am and end about 4.00pm but final details will be up to the officials. The time available for qualifying may be limited and preference will be given to those who have pre-booked. All efforts will be made to fit in those who turn up on the day. The poles may be available before 8.30am for those wishing to practice before qualifying. One or two poles may be used and there will be one or two sessions at the discretion of the officials.
- **Novice and expert finals for each day:** These will be run on the two poles simultaneously and will consist of two separate races with one person on each pole. The number of climbers selected for the final will be at the discretion of the official. The poles for each climber will be decided by the qualifying times; the fastest climber in each pairing has the choice of poles. The slower climber can insist that the choice is made 30 minutes before the final starts and if a decision by the faster climber is not communicated by this time, the choice of poles reverts to the slower climber. The novice event will be run first followed by the expert final to determine the overall champion in each class. The qualifying time will dictate the running order with the slowest qualifiers first and the fastest in the final race. On the last day, this will decide the Woodfest Wales Poleclimbing Champion as a grand finale to the whole competition. Before the expert final there will be the novice final to determine the Woodfest Wales Poleclimbing Novice Champion. The exact number of races will be flexible depending on the number of climbers participating and the time available at the discretion of the officials.

ORGANISATION OF EACH CLIMB

- **Starting and finishing the climb:** When the Officials are satisfied that the safety preparation is satisfactory, the starting will be undertaken by the Starter. When the climber and belayers are ready, the climb will be started by the words "*Climber by your pole; three, two, one, GO*". On "GO", the climber will start the climb and finish at the top of the pole by banging an electronic timing button.
- **Timing and recording:** Timing can be manually with stopwatches or electronically. Manual timing will be by a minimum of two time keepers using stopwatches based on visual observations of starting and finishing and the average will be the recorded time for the climb. Electronic timing will be by mechanical switches at the start and finish of the climb that will precisely record the time. All electronic times should be backed up by a manual time in case of failure in the timing equipment.
- **Time checking and disputes:** The time for each climb will be recorded in writing. It is the responsibility of each climber directly after the climb to check the recorded times and agree them with the timekeepers. Any disagreements must be brought to the attention of the Officials before the following climb commences to allow a rapid investigation and decision. The Officials will be responsible for settling any disputes and their decision will be final.

Prizes and awards: The following cash prizes will be available:-Subject to change

- 1st & 2nd Days: Winner - £50, 2nd - £40, 3rd - £30, 4th - £20, 5th £10
- Woodfest Wales Poleclimbing Championships: Winner - £50 + Sponsors Trophy, 2nd - £40, 3rd - £30, 4th - £20 -5th £10
- Novice event on all 3 days: Winner - £50, Runner up - £40, 3rd - £30 4th - £20 -5th £10

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Sponsorship:** It is normal for the main sponsors of the event to provide T-Shirts for all the climbers and it will be compulsory for the competitors to wear them during the events.
- **Tickets and parking:** All pre-booked entries will receive two complimentary tickets & Free camping Pass. There will also be a complimentary BBQ with Beer on the Friday and Saturday evenings
- **Useful hints:** The following may save you problems on the day
 - Arrive early - all access routes are busy by 0830 and arriving before this may save a long wait
 - Pre-booking - qualifying is very much a first come first served situation. Pre-booking guarantees your place. If you arrive after 10 am you may not get a chance to qualify
 - Drinks - even in Wales the weather can be hot; make sure you bring sufficient soft drinks!

WOODFEST Wales 2009

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2009 Woodfest Wales pole climbing Competition
5th, 6th and 7th June 2009

NAME	
ADDRESS	
POSTCODE	
TELEPHONE NO:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	@
AGE (min16 years)	
MEDICAL CONDITIONS which the emergency service should be aware	

Days intending to compete (please tick)

Fri 5th Sat 6th Sun 7th

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY BY COMPETITORS (Read and understand before you sign)

The term 'competitor' shall include all persons taking part in the pole climbing competitions at the 2009 Woodfest Wales. Save for death or personal injury caused by breach of its duty, the organisers will not be responsible for death, injury, disease, damage or loss caused to any competitor from whatever cause may arise. Save as aforesaid the competitor shall indemnify the organisers against all claims, damages and expenses whatsoever if any way arising out of the presence of the competitor and shall assume full responsibility therefore.

DECLARATION BY COMPETITOR

I agree to make this entry at my own risk and subject to the regulations and instructions of the organisers. I further agree to notify the organisers of any medical condition which might be to the detriment of my ability to take part in the pole climbing competitions, and fully and effectually indemnify the organisers from or against any claim or action in respect of any personal injury I might sustain taking part in this competition.

SIGNED..... DATE.....