CAM

Youth Athlete Parent Volunteer Policy

Effective Date: November 2, 2026
Review Date: annually

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for the involvement of parents and guardians of youth athletes, as volunteers within CAM. As our youth athletes and competition numbers grow, parental support is essential to the success of our athletes, teams, and events. This policy ensures that such involvement enhances the safety, integrity, and experience of CAM competitions.

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2. Parent/Legal Guardian Expectations

Starting for the season of 2026-2027, **one parent or legal guardian or family member from each youth athlete's household is required to volunteer at one event in the climbing season**.

Volunteer Roles (role descriptions below):

- Hold Removal (prior to competition)
- Route Setters (prior to competition)
- Set Up Assistant
- Athlete Check in
- Qualified Judges, Assistant Judges
- Isolation Monitor or Athlete Marshal (depending on format)
- Tear Down Assistant
- Belayers

A typical competition includes two waves of athletes. In the past, each wave has required:

- 3 Set Up Assistants
- 1 Athlete Check In
- 6 Qualified Judges
- 6 Assistant Judges

- 2 Isolation Monitors / Athlete Marshals
- 2 Teardown Assistants
- 4 Belayers (Lead climbing competitions only)

All roles will be coordinated through the CAM President and/or Event Lead.

Volunteer Role Descriptions

Timelines are approximate and subject to change.

Hold Removal (3:45 - 5:00 pm, day prior to competition)

- Remove existing holds and routes in the hosting facility
- Includes use of ladders and impact drivers
- Clean up holds, bolts, screws to leave a clean slate for route setters

Route Setters (Friday: 7 am - 4pm, Saturday: 4:30 pm - 1 am, days prior to competition)

- Set boulders/routes following Head Setter's guidelines

Set Up Assistant (12:30 to 1:30 pm, on comp day)

- Assist with setting up chairs, signage and other materials prior to competition starting

Athlete Check in (1 hour prior to each wave, on comp day)

- Check in athletes as they enter the facility, hand out scorecards, pass along any relevant information

Qualified Judges, Assistant Judges (~2:00 - 5:00 pm, ~6:00 - 8:30 pm, on comp day)

- Ensures competitors follow the rules, and records attempts, tops and zones (or points, depending on format), and communicates rulings clearly and consistently to maintain fair, safe competition.

Isolation Monitor or Athlete Marshal (depending on format, on comp day)

- Depending on format
    - Iso Monitor - ensures athletes remain in the isolation zone, call up athletes at the appropriate time for on deck and climb times, and escort them to the washroom/water fountain
    - Athlete Marshal - call up athletes at the appropriate time for on deck and climb times

Belayers (duration of the wave, on comp day)

- For top rope and lead climbing competitions only
- Manages the rope to keep the climber safe and ensure fair, consistent conditions

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3. Restrictions and Boundaries

To protect athletes, maintain coaching standards, and promote fairness:

- **No Coaching by Parents (Unless Authorized):**
  Only certified coaches or those approved by the Head Coach may provide technical instruction or feedback to athletes.

- **No Interference During Training or Competition:**
  Parents must not communicate with athletes or coaches during isolation or competition unless there is an emergency. (We recommend not signing up for the same wave as your child!)

- **Confidentiality & Privacy:**
  Parent volunteers must respect athlete privacy and avoid sharing personal information or images without consent.

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4. Eligibility and Training

Athlete Marshal, Isolation Monitor, Set Up Assistant, and Athlete Check In:

- A written description.
- In-person training on the day of the competition.

Hold Removal:

- Comfortable on a ladder
- Comfortable using an impact driver

Route Setter:

Must meet CAM Route Setter Standards*

Qualified Judge:

- Ages 14+
- Must take a short online judging course (no charge) and email the certificate to the CAM President.
    - https://thelocker.coach.ca/home (E-learning: Multisport: Climbing: course is called “Introduction to Judging in Competition Climbing”)
- Must attend In Person training on the day of the competition (before each wave).
- Must have previous judging experience.
- Athletes cannot judge in the same event they are competing in.

Assistant Judge:

- Ages 14+
- Recommended: take a short online judging course (no charge) and email the certificate to the CAM President.
    - https://thelocker.coach.ca/home (E-learning: Multisport: Climbing: course is called “Introduction to Judging in Competition Climbing”)
- Must attend In Person training on the day of the competition (before each wave).
- Assistant judges will be paired with more experienced judges (Qualified Judges).
- Athletes cannot judge in the same event they are competing in.

Belayer:

- Must have passed Top Rope and Lead Belay tests at the ALC Climbing Wall.
- Must meet CAM Belayer Standards*
- Athletes cannot belay in the same event they are competing in.

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5. Supervision and Accountability

Parent volunteers will report to the designated Event Lead and Head Judge.

- Any concerns or issues should be raised through the Event Lead, Head Judge, or CAM President.

If you would like to opt out of completing one volunteer shift in the 2026 - 2027 season, you may do so by purchasing a $100 Volunteer Buy-Out (please contact Climbing Manitoba by email for link to purchase).

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6. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by CAM Board of Directors and updated as needed to reflect the evolving needs of our programs and best practices in youth competitive climbing.

Contact Information

For questions or to register as a volunteer, please contact:

CAM President: Kerri Cuthbert
Email: climbmanitoba@gmail.com

*Belayer and Route Setter Standards are still in progress. Please contact the CAM President to apply in the meantime.