



Burn Bouldering Series

Rules & Guidelines

2022-23 Season

Welcome to the Burn Bouldering Series! This document contains the basic rules, guidelines, and structure for the 2022-2023 competition series. Below you will find the answers to questions about the competitions, including how our categories are structured, competition format, and rankings.

Contents

- **What is the Burn Bouldering Series?** 1
- **How does it work?** 2
- **When and where are the events?** 2
- **How do I register?** 2
- **What are the Categories?** 2
- **How Do Rankings Work?** 4
- **How Do I Get an Invite to the Series Championships?** 4
- **What are the Formats?** 4

- **What is the Burn Bouldering Series?**

The Burn Bouldering Series was formed to provide a series of competitive bouldering events, culminating in a Championship, for amateur and youth climbers in the North East and Mid-Atlantic regions. Our formats are chosen to be inclusive and simple--and to reward climbers for persistence, passion and ability. We believe competitions should be motivating and fun, and strive to have a wide variety of routes suited to all ability levels, ages, heights and experience. It is our goal to host events that are fair, fun and high energy!

To this end, we have developed a statistical ranking system for our amateur climbers, which is unique among climbing events, and designed to create balanced competitive categories that are as objective as possible. The system places climbers into categories which are based on performance relative to other climbers in the series, rather than the highly subjective, and often inconsistent, methods used in many other competitive climbing events. In this way we hope to eliminate the “guesswork” of choosing a category and allow climbers to not only compete with others of similar ability, but a concrete and transparent method to track their progress and move between categories.

All, of course, culminating in a high energy Championship where climbers can showcase their skills and root for their friends!

- **How does it work?**

The Burn Bouldering Series consists of four bouldering competitions – [Midnight Burn](#) (prelim), [Winter Burn](#) (prelim), [Heart Burn](#) (prelim) and the [Final Burn \(Championship\)](#) – three prelims and one final championship event. Each event will follow the same format as the Burn’s always have, and awards will be based for each event on performance in that event.

The Championship this year is an *open* event for all categories. Competitors can compete in the Championship like any other competition and place for awards in their category based on their performance that day. In addition, we will name the Burn Series Champions in each category, which will be selected based on their overall performance in the entire series (as determined by their Burn Series Ranking)!

To qualify for the Burn Series Championship a competitor must compete in at least two prelims.

- **When and where are the events?**

Dates: **Prelim Events**

Midnight Burn, PRG Oaks – October 29th, 2022

Winter Burn, PRG Malvern – December 10th, 2022

Heart Burn, PRG East Falls – January 21st, 2023

Final Burn (Championship), PRG Wyncote – February 25, 2023

Dates may be subject to change. Please check www.philarockgym.com or call 877-822-7673 for updates.

- **How do I register?**

Competitors may register for each event online, or you may call 877-822-7673 to register by phone.

- **What are the Categories?**

There are two sets of categories for the Burn Series–Youth and Adult.

Adult Categories

Beginning this year, our minimum Adult categories will be determined by a competitor’s overall ranking within their gender. Current categories and rankings will be published and available for download on the Burn Series webpage.

Which category you compete in will be determined by your ranking points, based on the following chart (please note: all percentiles are approximate):

Male Categories

Open	Over 1900	Top 15%
Advanced	1530-1900	51-85%
Intermediate	1200-1530	16-50%
Novice	Under 1200	Bottom 15%

Female Categories

Open	Over 1880	Top 20%
Advanced	1530-1880	51-80%
Intermediate	1200-1530	21-50%
Novice	Under 1200	Bottom 20%

Any competitor who participated in the prior year Series will have a rank and ranking points carried over from that year. That rank will be used to determine which Adult Category you compete in for your first Burn Series event of this year. For example, if your ranking points after the Championships in 2021 were in 1678 overall in female, that means you would be placed in the Advanced category (your minimum category) for the start of the 2022-23 season, and the first competition (unless you choose to climb in a higher category, see below).

After each competition your ranking will be re-evaluated based on your performance and others in your gender. Should your ranking change enough after a competition to move you into another category, then your new category will take effect at the next Burn Series event you attend.

New competitors: For climbers who enter their first Burn competition this year, therefore without a ranking, you will be given default ranking points prior to competing in your first event. Your category at your first event will be determined by how well you rank at that event. In other words, you will be placed into your category *at the end* of your first event, based on how you performed. After your first event, your ranking will be adjusted as per the description above.

Entering a Higher Category: Competitors may request to climb in a higher category than their minimum, at any prelim event. For example, a competitor ranked in Advanced may request to climb in Open, or a climber in Novice may request to climb in Intermediate. Selection of a different category must occur *before the commencement of climbing* of the Burn event in question, and may not be changed during that event.

If a climber chooses to compete in a higher category in any two prelim events, they will be tracked as a competitor in that category for the duration of the series, and will not be eligible to compete in their original category at the Championships. If a climber *chooses to compete in more than one higher category* (i.e. above their minimum) during the series (e.g. Advanced in one competition and Open in another), their final ranking will be in the highest category in which they climbed.

Youth Categories

9 & Under | 10-11 | 12-14 | 15-18 — M & F.

Age categories are automatically calculated on the basis of birthdates, with the cut-off being March 1, 2022.

Competing in Open: Youth (16 & Over) may compete as Open competitors if they so choose, but their Series Ranking will only be calculated (for awards) in that category for that event. Selection of a category must occur *before the commencement of climbing* of the Burn event in question, and may not be changed during that event. **Youth competitors (under 18) may not climb in Novice, Intermediate or Advanced categories.**

If a Youth chooses to compete as an Open competitor in any two prelim events, they will be tracked as an Open competitor for the duration of the series and will not be eligible to compete in a Youth Category at the Championships. For questions about Youth competitors competing in Open, please contact the series coordinator at comps@philarockgym.com.

- **How Do Rankings Work?**

The basic idea is as follows: At the end of a given comp, your Ranking points will be adjusted based on how many other competitors in your category placed above you or below you. For those you place higher than, your points will increase based on how their points compare to yours at the beginning of the event—you get a larger bump for placing above someone who was ranked higher than you, less of one for placing above someone who was ranked at or below you. And, the converse is true for those that place above you—your points will decrease for each person placing above you, less for those who are already ranked higher than you, more for those ranked lower. In the end, the balance of these adjustments to your Ranking points will update your Ranking for each successive comp. What does it all mean? Basically, the higher your points, the better your rank in the Burn Series.

As of the 2016/17 Series, *our Ranking System will be used to determine overall Final Series Ranking and the Overall Burn Series Championship titles and awards for all categories.*

- **How Do I Attend the Final Burn (Burn Championship)?**

Space will be limited, but you may sign up online to reserve a spot for the Final Burn. If you hold a Series Pass, you are already signed up.

- **What are the Formats?**

The format of each event will be an Open Redpoint Format with a Modified (Highpoint) World Cup Finals for Open Competitors. Climbers' rank in prelims will be based on their top 5 problems. There is no limit on the number of tries. For Open Categories there will be a final round, for up to 8 competitors, or one more than half of competitors present, whichever is smaller. The format for Finals will be Modified (Highpoint) World Cup (sometimes called Onsite). All competitors are expected to be familiar with these rules prior to attending the competition.

Redpoint Format

The Redpoint Format for bouldering competitions ranks climbers based on the top 5 most difficult problems sent during the event. During this portion of the event, climbers will have approximately 3 hours to complete as many problems as they can.

- 1) **Sends:** A send is defined as a climber moving from the starting hold(s) to the finish hold(s) of a marked problem, without a Fall. To receive credit for a Send, unless otherwise indicated by the Head Judge, climbers must match the marked finish hold(s).

- 2) **Falls:** A Fall is determined by some part of a climber's body touching the flooring surface or crash pads *after the climber has stepped off the ground to begin climbing*. In addition, a Technical Fall is determined by a climber stepping "off route" while attempting a problem. "Off route" is using or weighting any hold or feature not explicitly indicated as part of the problem the climber is currently attempting.
- 3) **Flash:** A Flash is any problem Sent on the first attempt (i.e. without any previous Falls).
- 4) **Scoring:** A climber's total score will be calculated by adding up the values of the 5 highest point valued problems they have Sent, at the end of the round.
- 5) **Tie-breaks:** If two or more climbers in the same category have the same total score after their 5 highest point problems are added, there are two methods for breaking ties.
 - a. **First Tie Break**—The total number of Flashes for each climber are calculated. The highest total of Flashes wins the tie.
 - b. **Second Tie Break**—If two or more competitors are tied after Flashes are calculated, then each climber's 6th highest value problem is examined. Whomever has the highest valued problem wins. If the 6th problem has the same value for each climber, then if one climber flashed and the other did not, then the climber who Flashed wins. If the climbers flashed, then the 7th problem is examined and the process repeated until either a winner is determined, or the 10th problem is examined. *If two or more competitors are tied after the 10th problem is examined for Flashes, then the competitors tie.*
- 6) **Technicals:** A Technical Incident (Technical) is defined as any action or occurrence which is outside of a climber's control which interferes with a climber's fair attempt on a problem. The most common Technicals are:
 - a. Spinning or broken holds
 - b. Interference from another climber (e.g. bumping into a climber)If a Technical occurs during a climber's attempt, the climber may call it to the judge for that problem. If the call is legitimate the climber may re-try the problem after the problem is fixed, and the previous attempt (when the technical was discovered) will not be counted, so long as:
 - a. The climber does not continue climbing after the technical has occurred.
 - b. The climber informs the judge for that problem *immediately after the technical has occurred*.
 - c. The judge of that problem, or the Head Judge, agrees that there has been a Technical under the guidelines above.

Finals Format

The format for Finals in the Burn Series will be Highpoint, or sometimes referred to as Onsite Highpoint, format. The basic idea is that climbers will attempt to climb 3 to 4 problems, getting scored on the highest hold reached on each problem, using the lowest total number of falls to break ties. In other words, the climber who gets the furthest on each problem with the fewest falls wins.

Simple.

The details: Climbers will be set 3 problems for finals. Each climber will have 5 minutes to attempt each problem, followed by a 5-minute rest period. Climbers must start each problem from the start holds for each attempt. Climbers will be scored for each handhold they control. Control is defined as either maintaining contact with the usable surface of a hold with one hand for 2 or more seconds, or obviously pulling on a hold and demonstrating positive motion. Falls will be tracked and the total number of falls to the highest hold controlled will be summed for each problem. If two or more climbers are tied on the total number of holds controlled, then the climber with the fewest total falls to their highpoints will be

ranked first, and so on. Should any two climbers be tied in finals, then their score in the preliminary round will be used to break the tie.

Technical: For calling technical please refer to the Redpoint rules. If a technical incident occurs, the clock for that competitor for that problem will be stopped and the problem fixed. The competitor will then move on to the next rest period and climb the remainder of his or her problems. After the last competitor in that climber's group is finished, the climber will be given the balance of his or her time to continue to attempt the problem on which the technical occurred. There will be no fall counted against the competitor for the attempt when the incident occurred.

Summary of key rules

- 1) **Number of Problems** per round: 3
- 2) **Climbing Time:** 5 minutes per problem, with 5 minutes rest in between
- 3) **Scoring:** Sum of the highest hold controlled per problem with the fewest falls
- 4) **Tie Break:** Ties in Finals will be broken by Prelim scores

Awards Presentation

Awards for each competition will be presented at the end of each round (e.g. Youth round or Adult round). For Youth rounds, the official results will be announced following the conclusion of the Youth red-point competition. For Adult rounds, official results will be announced following the conclusion of the Open Finals competition. Prior to the official announcements preliminary results will be posted for competitors to check. After official results are posted, however, ***all scores will be considered final.***

Competitors who are eligible to claim prizes at any Burn Series event should be present at the Awards presentation for the respective event. We realize that sometimes unexpected circumstances may make being present at this time impossible for some competitors. In such cases we ask that competitors alert the competition director via email (comps@philarockgym.com) and decide to pick up their prizes at a later date. **All prizes which remain unclaimed will be returned to the prize purse and used (at the discretion of the PRG) for future events.**

Please note: Formats are subject to change at any time, subject to the discretion of the PRG and the Head Judge.