

**ONTARIO CLIMBING FEDERATION (OCF)  
PARTICIPATION WAIVER**

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS AND LIABILITY AGREEMENT**

**This is a binding legal agreement. Please read carefully. Please clarify any questions or concerns before signing.**

This Agreement must be signed by the Participant and/or the Participant's parent/guardian (if applicable, when the Participant is younger than 18 years old) prior to participation. The Participant acknowledges and agrees to the terms outlined in this document. When applicable, the Participant's parent/guardian acknowledges and agrees to the terms on behalf of the Participant and references in this document to the Participant agreeing to or acknowledging a risk or term is understood to be referring to the Participant's parent/guardian agreeing to or acknowledging the risk or term on behalf of the Participant.

**ACTIVITIES**

The Participant is voluntarily participating in the sport of climbing and the spectating, orientation, instruction, activities, competitions, programs, and services (collectively the "Activities") of the Ontario Climbing Federation. The Activities may include but are not limited to competitive series, recreational series, training camps, personal or strength training, dry land training, training using machines or weights, nutritional and dietary programs, orientation or instructional sessions or lessons, aerobic and anaerobic conditioning programs, volunteer duties, spectating and coaching.

The Ontario Climbing Federation and its Directors, Officers, committee members, members, employees, coaches, volunteers, officials, participants, agents, sponsors, owners/operators of the facilities in which the Activities take place, and representatives (collectively the "Organization") are not responsible for any injury, personal injury, damage, property damage, expense, loss of income or loss of any kind suffered by a Participant during or as a result of the Activities and/or, when the Participant is 18 years old or older, when caused by the negligence of the Organization.

**RISKS**

The Activities have foreseeable and unforeseeable inherent risks, hazards and dangers that no amount of care, caution or expertise can eliminate, including without limitation, the potential for serious bodily injury, permanent disability, paralysis, illness and loss of life. These risks include:

- a) Health: executing strenuous and demanding physical techniques; physical exertion; overexertion; stretching; dehydration; fatigue; cardiovascular workouts; rapid movements and stops; lack of fitness or conditioning; traumatic injury; sprains and fractures, spinal cord injuries, bacterial infections; rashes; and the transmission of communicable diseases, including viruses of all kinds, COVID-19, bacteria, parasites or other organisms or any mutation thereof
- b) Premises: defective, dangerous or unsafe condition of the facilities; falls; collisions with objects or barriers that are a part of the premises, dangerous, unsafe, or irregular conditions on boulders, walls, or other surfaces; and travel to and from the premises
- c) Use of equipment: mechanical failure of the equipment; negligent design or manufacture of the equipment; the provision of, or the failure by, the Organization to provide any warnings, directions, instructions or guidance as to the use of the equipment; failure to wear safety or protective equipment; and failure to use or operate equipment within the Participant's own ability
- d) Contact: contact with participants, surfaces, ropes, or other persons; and other contact that may lead to serious bodily injury, including but not limited to concussions and/or other brain injury or serious spinal injury
- e) Advice: negligent advice regarding the Activities
- f) Ability: failing to act safely or within the Participant's own ability or within designated areas
- g) Sport: the sport of climbing and its inherent risks, including but not limited to slipping, falling, becoming tangled in ropes, failure or breakage of the equipment used as an aid or safety measure while climbing

- (including hardware, harnesses, or rope), and structural failure or hazards related to the climbing structures or surfaces or hardware, volumes or holds on the structures or surfaces
- h) Conduct: the Participant's conduct and conduct of other persons including any physical altercation between participants
  - i) Travel: travel to and from the Activities
  - j) Exposure to communicable disease and/or illness, pandemic related or otherwise.

**By agreeing to this Waiver, the Participant accepts the sport-specific risks**

Cyber. The Organization may offer or promote online programming (such as webinars, remote conferences, workshops, and online training) which have different foreseeable and unforeseeable risks than in-person programming. These risks include privacy breaches, hacking, technology malfunction or damage.

**By agreeing to this Waiver, the Participant accepts the online programming risks**

COVID-19. The COVID-19 disease has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and is extremely contagious. The Organization has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the Organization cannot guarantee that the Participant will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, participating in the Activities could increase the Participant's risk of contracting COVID-19 or any other contagious disease.

**By agreeing to this Waiver, the Participant accepts the COVID-19 risks**

Negligence. The Organization has put in place measures to make our Activities as safe as possible. Despite these efforts, the Organization may still be negligent, which may include failure by the Organization to take reasonable steps to safeguard or protect the Participant from the risks, dangers and hazards associated with participation in the Activities.

**By agreeing to this Waiver, Participants 18 and older accept that the Organization may be negligent**

**TERMS**

In consideration of the Organization allowing the Participant to participate in the Activities, the Participant agrees:

- a) That the Participant is not relying on any oral or written statements made by the Organization or their agents, whether in a brochure or advertisement or in individual conversations, to agree to participate in the Activities
- b) That when the Participant practices or trains in their own space, the Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) is responsible for the Participant's surroundings and the location and equipment that is selected for the Participant
- c) That the Participant's mental and physical condition is appropriate to participate in the Activities and the Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) assumes all risks related to the Participant's mental and physical condition
- d) To comply with the rules and regulations for participation in the Activities
- e) To comply with the rules of the facility or equipment
- f) That if the Participant observes an unusual significant hazard or risk, the Participant will remove themselves from participation and immediately bring their observations to a representative of the Organization or host facility
- g) The risks associated with the Activities are increased when the Participant is impaired and the Participant will not participate if impaired in any way
- h) That it is the Participant's (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) sole responsibility to assess whether any Activities are too difficult for the Participant. By the Participant commencing an Activity, the Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) acknowledges and accepts the suitability and conditions of the Activity
- i) That COVID-19 is contagious in nature and the Participant may be exposed to, or infected by, COVID-19 and such exposure may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, or death
- j) That the Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) is responsible for choosing the Participant's safety or protective equipment and the secure fitting of that equipment

## **COVID CODE OF CONDUCT**

**By signing this waiver, The Participant agrees that they will not attend an OCF event if they:**

1. Have travelled internationally during the previous 14 days;
2. Have visited a COVID-19 high risk area, region or location in Canada during the previous 14 days;
3. Knowingly have COVID-19;
4. Are experiencing known symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath and that they will immediately depart from the event if they experience such symptoms during the event; and
5. Have, in the past 14 days, knowingly come into contact with someone who has COVID-19, who has known symptoms of COVID-19, or is self-quarantining after returning to Canada.

## **ACTIVITIES STATUS**

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees that the Organization has the discretion to cancel any scheduled Activities. The Organization has no responsibilities to the Participant (including refunding registration fees or paying for any costs associated with travel) if an Activity is canceled or postponed by the Organization or for any other reason including a public health or safety issue.

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees that the Organization has the discretion to modify the structure of any Activities due to a public health or safety issue, which may include removing specific disciplines or age groups from a competition, changing a competition format, or changing the manner in which individuals become eligible to participate.

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees that the Organization may implement and enforce guidelines for participation that may include adhering to 'Return to Play' protocols, signing declarations of compliance, or requiring that personal protective equipment be worn by Participants (and their parents/guardians, if applicable). The Organization has the discretion to remove any Participant (and their parents/guardians, if applicable) who does not comply with the Return to Play protocols, sign a declaration, or wear personal protective equipment. When required, the Participant is responsible for providing their own personal protective equipment.

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION AND IMAGE CONSENT**

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) authorizes the Organization to collect and use personal information about the Participant for the purpose of receiving communications (newsletters, publications, announcements, invitations and other news or information) and posting articles of interest, newsletters, promotions, statistics, images and results on their website(s) or social media. The consent obtained in this section complies with the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*.

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) grants permission to the Organization to photograph and/or record the Participant's image and/or voice on still or motion picture film and/or audio tape, and to use this material to promote the sport, the Organization, and/or the Organization's Activities through social media, newsletters, websites, television, film, radio, print and/or displays. The Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) understands that they waive any claim to remuneration for use of audio/visual materials used for these purposes.

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) understands and agrees that while participating in or attending any online training session or video conference or meeting hosted by the Organization, the Participant's image, likeness and live video feed (if available) will be distributed to other individuals participating in the session or video conference. If the session is recorded with the knowledge of the Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable), the Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees that the Participant's attendance and/or participation in the session constitutes their agreement that the session may be distributed for the purposes explained prior to the Participant attending the session and that they waive any claim to remuneration for use of the Participant's image, voice, or written comments.

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) understands that they may withdraw any authorization or permission granted in this section by contacting the Organization's Privacy Officer. The Privacy Officer will advise the implications of such withdrawal. Contact: [registrar@climbontario.ca](mailto:registrar@climbontario.ca).

## OCF POLICIES

The Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees to abide by and comply with all OCF rules and policies, including future rules and policies. The OCF may, from time to time, amend, alter, change, delete or establish new rules and policies to meet the needs of the organization, and the Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees to abide by the updated rules and policies, which may be announced orally or in writing.

## DISCLAIMER

When the Participant is 18 years old or older, the Participant assumes all risks arising out of, associated with or related to, participation in the Activities and waives any and all claims that the Participant may have now or in the future against the Organization. The Participant, when 18 years old or older, accepts and fully assumes all such risks and possibility of personal injury, death, property damage, expense and related loss, including loss of income, resulting from participation in the Activities.

When the Participant is 18 years old or older, the Participant forever indemnifies and releases the Organization from any and all liability for any and all claims, demands, actions, damages (including direct, indirect, special and/or consequential), losses, actions, judgments, and costs (including legal fees) (collectively, the "Claims") which the Participant has or may have in the future, that might arise out of, result from, or relate to, participation in the Activities, even though such Claims may have been caused by any manner whatsoever, including but not limited to, the Organization's negligence, gross negligence, negligent rescue, omissions, carelessness, breach of contract and/or breach of any statutory duty of care of the Organization.

For all Participants. The Organization is not responsible or liable for any damage to the Participant's vehicle, property, or equipment that may occur as a result of the Activities. This Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law of the Province of Ontario and if any portion thereof is held invalid, the balance shall continue in full legal force and effect. The Participant (or the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) agrees to file any lawsuit against the Organization in the Province of Ontario and further agrees that the substantive law of the Province of Ontario will apply with regard to conflict of law rules.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, the Participant (and the Participant's parent/guardian, if applicable) acknowledges that they have read and understand this Agreement, that they have executed this Agreement voluntarily, and that this Agreement is to be binding upon themselves, their heirs, spouse, children, parents, guardians, next of kin, executors, administrators and legal or personal representatives. They further acknowledge that by signing this Agreement they have waived their right to maintain a lawsuit against the Organization on the basis of any claims from which they have released herein.

**When the Participant is younger than 18 years old, the undersigned acknowledges and agrees that they are a parent/guardian of the Participant and have full legal responsibility for the decisions of the Participant.**

Policy History	
Policy Ref	OCF-Risk-01
Last Review	September 2022
Next Review Date	Summer 2023