



ARB Show Open Tree Climbing Competition

16–17 May 2025,
Westonbirt Arboretum



Ten Bell Challenge Rules

1. The competition is a test of the climber's ability to ascend, and move throughout the canopy of a tree.
2. Ten workstations (bells) are set in the tree for the climber to visit and carry out a task mimicking a working arborist.
3. Climbers are judged on safety, being secure at the workstation, management of slack in the climbing lines and correct route planning to and from the workstations.
4. To score maximum points all ten bells must be rung; at each workstation the climber would be correctly lanyarded in, issue an audible warning ('all clear') and use two hands on a handsaw to ring the bell. Judges' discretionary points may be awarded for good work positioning, maintaining a tight lanyard and good route planning.
5. Five landing points will awarded for any climber who lands, remains standing and unclips, within the allotted time. If any part of the body other than their feet touches the ground, no landing points will be awarded.
6. Lanyards must be clipped up whilst moving between stations; any climber who forgets will be stopped and not permitted to move until the lanyard is correctly stowed.
7. Handsaws must be stowed between stations.
8. If the climber drops any equipment while aloft, they must remain stationary until it is returned to them from the ground; time will not be stopped.
9. All climbing will follow Industry Best Practice guidance (TG1, WAHR). Any dangerous or unsafe acts as determined by the judges will result in disqualification.
10. All Climbers will use the same anchor positions. Climbers can install their own ropes before they climb. Each climber will start from the ground, ascend their ropes and ring the bells in any order they choose. The time starts when the climber's second foot leaves the ground. The time stops when the climber descends from the tree and unclips one of their climbing systems or when the allotted time expires (this will be established during setup).
11. Climbers can receive assistance from the judging team to manage/tail ropes as requested from the climber anytime during the climb.
12. There will not be a gear check this year **BUT:**
All climbing equipment used must be presented in good condition and be accompanied by an in-date LOLER Report of Thorough Inspection if more than six months old.
13. Equipment used by the climber will be checked by the judges at the start of the climb; it is the climber's responsibility to have equipment configured in accordance with the manufacturer's user instructions, be in a good condition and be compliant with TG1.
14. Any equipment presented that doesn't meet industry standards will result in a disqualification from the event and forfeit of the entry fee.

(If in doubt, ask before!!)