



# THE MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF SCOTLAND

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## CLIMBING WALL FACILITIES

### Strategy

2010

#### **Aim:**

This *Scottish National Climbing Facilities Strategy* supports the development of a range of artificial climbing facilities across Scotland which will enable the MCoS to deliver its targets of increasing participation in climbing by increasing access to facilities, provide a coherent network of integrated facilities, give a structure to participant's progression in the sport, provide for performance coaching initiatives, provide for next-steps from indoor climbing to outdoor climbing, support a series of national competitions for youth and adult and host international competitions.

#### **Drivers:**

- The MCoS is to take forward initiatives in a holistic manner through the Mountaineering Development Framework: specifically the Climbing Development Framework
- The MCoS Player Pathway for climbers takes a progressive approach to skills and experience acquisition and is an integral part of that framework.
- It is recognised that the present club structure does not cater for the majority of entry level climbers (particularly youth).
- Player Pathways require the development of both human resources to deliver the initiatives and suitable venues with suitable facilities for delivery.
- It is a reality now that young climbers and novice adults access the sport through indoor climbing walls rather than the club structure.
- Aligned to this is an increasing investment by local authorities to provide expanded sport facilities within schools as part of a drive to have 'more people more active'.
- The Association of British Climbing Walls (ABC) operates the National Indoor Climbing Achievement Scheme (NICAS) to give a structured approach to the development of young climbers' skills: a scheme supported by the MCoS.
- Scottish University Sport (SUS) have approached GB's of sport to help in developing sport at University and to reverse the 'drop-off' of activity identified after graduating.

## Facility Requirements:

- Each wall requires specific facilities for the proposed level in the Player Pathway
- Entry level at schools require differing designs: for play and simple competitions (Primary age); for intro instruction; for bouldering & routes competitions (High School)
- Entry level participation initiatives require minimum standard facilities
- Facilities that are integrated into recreational parks across Scotland should offer realistic climbing opportunities for entry level and expert use
- Performance coaching specific facilities are required at different levels in the Player Pathway
- Coaching specific facilities for introducing climbers to traditional outdoor climbing styles
- Wall facilities are required that cater for delivery of specific elements of the National Awards
- Competition Requirements range from local to international status as follows:
  - Regional and National Primary School Competitions
  - Regional and National High School Competitions
  - Scottish Youth Climbing Series (YCS: entry-level – Intermediate)
  - Scottish Youth Climbing Championship (SYCC: The National Event 8yr – 19yr)
  - Scottish Leading Ladder
  - Scottish Bouldering Series / Championships
  - Scottish Lead Climbing Series / Championships
  - Scottish Tooling Series (STS: Adult and Youth)
  - British Competitions (BLCC & BBC)
  - International Cups and Championships (World Cup / World Championships / European Series)

*The Wall Development Schematic* (below) shows how we need to fulfil the requirements in the Player Pathway by providing facilities at different levels applicable to the provision required in the pathway. Wall design and scale should allow for instruction, coaching and competitions as well as general recreation at the various levels. Human resources at walls should mirror the provision.

*Climbing Walls Strategy: Specifications* (Appendix 1) classifies wall types, styles and designs that MCofS consider necessary to fulfil this strategy.

*The National Facility Review* (Appendix 2) shows a summary of current provision, the quality of that provision and the strategic aims of the MCofS in the period 2010 – 2013.

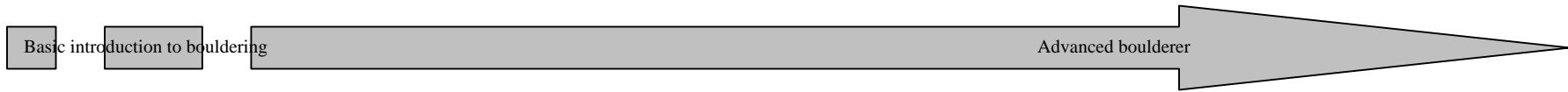
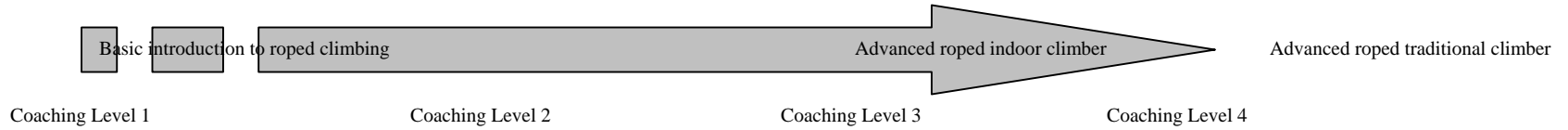
## Player Pathways and Facility Development:

The following player pathways define the facility requirements.

*The Player Pathway Schematic* (Appendix 3) puts climbing wall provision into context with the myriad of disciplines of climbing and mountaineering. It shows how a climber may access the sport at different levels and how they may progress from one discipline to another; from beginner to elite; in competition or recreation; as sport climbers or as mountaineers. It also indicates what the instruction and coaching requirements are for different stages of this progression. These elements are then linked to the venue (climbing wall – in bold type).

*MCofS Youth Player Pathway Schematics* (Appendix 4 and 5) show the usual pathways available for children to access the sport and progress.

# SCOTTISH CLIMBING WALL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY Facility requirements



<p><b>Boulder Parks</b></p> <p>Outdoor Boulders situated within village / town or city parks as part of children's play facilities</p> <p>Unsupervised, open-access facilities</p> <p>Designed for all levels of ability – beginner to elite</p> <p>Community projects</p>	<p><b>Primary School walls</b></p> <p>Low level bouldering traverse facility in playgrounds</p> <p>Designed for P1 – P7 children as basic introduction to climbing movement – integrated into play</p> <p>Closed facilities for School use only</p>	<p><b>Small Walls</b></p> <p>Bouldering facility and / or leading facility</p> <p>Community Projects</p>	<p><b>Universities</b></p> <p>Open-access facilities</p> <p><b>LA Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>Open-access facilities</p> <p><b>Secondary School</b></p> <p>Designed to cater for S1-S5 where other facilities do not exist</p> <p>Open-access facilities</p> <p><b>Private</b></p> <p>Open-access facilities</p>	<p><b>Regional Centres</b></p> <p>Full range of wall facilities: Bouldering Leading (sport) Leading (traditional)</p> <p>Performance coaching facilities (tbc)</p> <p>Ancillary facilities: National Competition standards (tbc)</p> <p>Next Steps: REALrock associations</p>	<p><b>National Centre</b></p> <p>Full range of wall facilities on an increased scale: Bouldering, Leading (sport) Leading (traditional)</p> <p>Performance coaching facilities including Gym</p> <p>Ancillary facilities: International Competition standard (tbc)</p> <p>Lecture Facilities, event facilities</p> <p>Next Steps: REALrock associations Mountaineering next steps</p>
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