



Requirements and Standards for Rock Climbing Route Development in Saudi Arabia

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Definitions:

SCHF:

Saudi Climbing and Hiking Federation

Personal bolting:

Developing rock climbing routes for personal purposes without any financial gains

Commercial bolting:

Developing rock climbing routes for commercial purposes with financial gains

UIAA:

International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation

Bolts:

A permanent anchor fixed into a hole drilled in the rock, and it is either self-anchoring mechanical bolts (expansion bolts) or glued in using epoxy.

Climbing Anchors (Chains):

Two bolts with rings either linked with a chain or not and used for climbing protection at the end of each route.

Epoxy:

An adhesive used to anchor bolts to the rocks.

Hangers:

A plate gets attached to mechanical bolts for clipping.

Sport climbing:

It is a form of rock climbing that rely on permanent anchors fixed to the rock for protection in which a rope that is attached to the climber is clipped into the anchors to arrest a fall.

Traditional climbing:

It is a form of rock climbing in where the climber places all gear required to protect against falls and remove it when a pitch is complete.

Bouldering:

It is a form of rock climbing that is performed on small rock formations or artificial rock walls without the use of ropes or harnesses.

Overview:

This document is made to set the standard quality of outdoors bolting (bouldering excluded), and the Saudi Climbing and Hiking Federation (SCHF) has identified the requirements and standards that suites Saudi Arabia's nature.

Purpose:

- To ensure sustainable bolting.
- To ensure safe bolting.
- To facilitate and avoid access issues.
- To avoid bolting in prohibited area, such as heritage sites

Bolting requirements:

Personal bolting and commercial bolting are required to have a **written approval** from the SCHF. Approved applications will be communicated to related government agencies.

These requirements were set to standardized bolting in Saudi Arabia. If any routes were found installed without approval, the SCHF has the right to do the following:

- Remove the bolts of the routes installed without approval.
- Report the issue to related government agencies.

For commercial bolting, the commercial entity is responsible and must submit this request to SCHF, and for personal bolting, individual must submit this request to SCHF.

The requirements to be submitted to SCHF:

1. Developer's climbing and development resume:

Must include, but not limited to:

- o Climbing Experience.
- o Development/bolting experience.
- o References to experiences.

2. Detailed plan of the development in Saudi Arabia:

Must include, but not limited to:

- o Detailed location of the intended development area.
- o Timeline of the development.
- o Expected number of routes.
- o Photos of the area if applicable

3. Detailed bolting equipment to be used. All bolting equipment must be approved prior to bolting, and SCHF will not take any responsibility for purchased unapproved bolting equipment.

Must include, but not limited to:

- o Specifications of bolts (Type, size, brand, material, etc).
- o Specifications of anchors (Type, size, brand, material, etc).
- o Specifications of hangers (Type, size, brand, material, etc), if used.
- o Specifications of epoxy (Type, brand, etc), if used.

Minimum Equipment Standards for Bolting:

- Glue in bolts are required in Saudi Arabia. Mechanical bolts can be approved on case-by-case basis.
- All bolts and hangers must meet the EN 959 / UIAA 123 standards.
- All bolts and hangers must be Stainless steel 316 Inox.
- All bolts, hangers, chains and maillon must be of the same grade stainless steel .
- All bolts must be 10mmx80mm as a minimum for glue-ins bolts.
- All bolts must be 10mmx90mm as a minimum for mechanicals bolts.
- Lower-off combo chain/anchors with a ring must be used for sport climbing.
- For glue-ins bolts, pure epoxy must be used with the European technical approved guideline (RE or EN standards).

Bolting Regulations:

Personal bolting and commercial bolting must adhere to the following:

- LNT principles must be applied.
- Chipping holds is prohibited.
- Climbing area must be prepared as the following:
 - o Clean loose rock and top of the routes.
 - o Clear the base of routes with minimum damage to vegetation.
 - o Avoid cutting trees.
 - o Set a single walking trail to reach the climbing area.
- Old climbing routes, if exist, must not be altered without approval.
- Existed Traditional climbing routes must remain Traditional.
- In sport climbing, safe bolt spacing must be used to avoid dangerous situations.
- Complete details of the following must be submitted to SCHF after the bolting project has been completed:
 1. How to get there from the nearest parking.
 2. Grades of each route in French Grading System.
 3. Number of bolts for each climbing route.
 4. Length of each climbing route.
 5. Lower offs of each climbing route, if applicable.
 6. Photos with climbing routes marked (topo).