

Arboriculture Australia009  
Australian Tree Climbing Championships™

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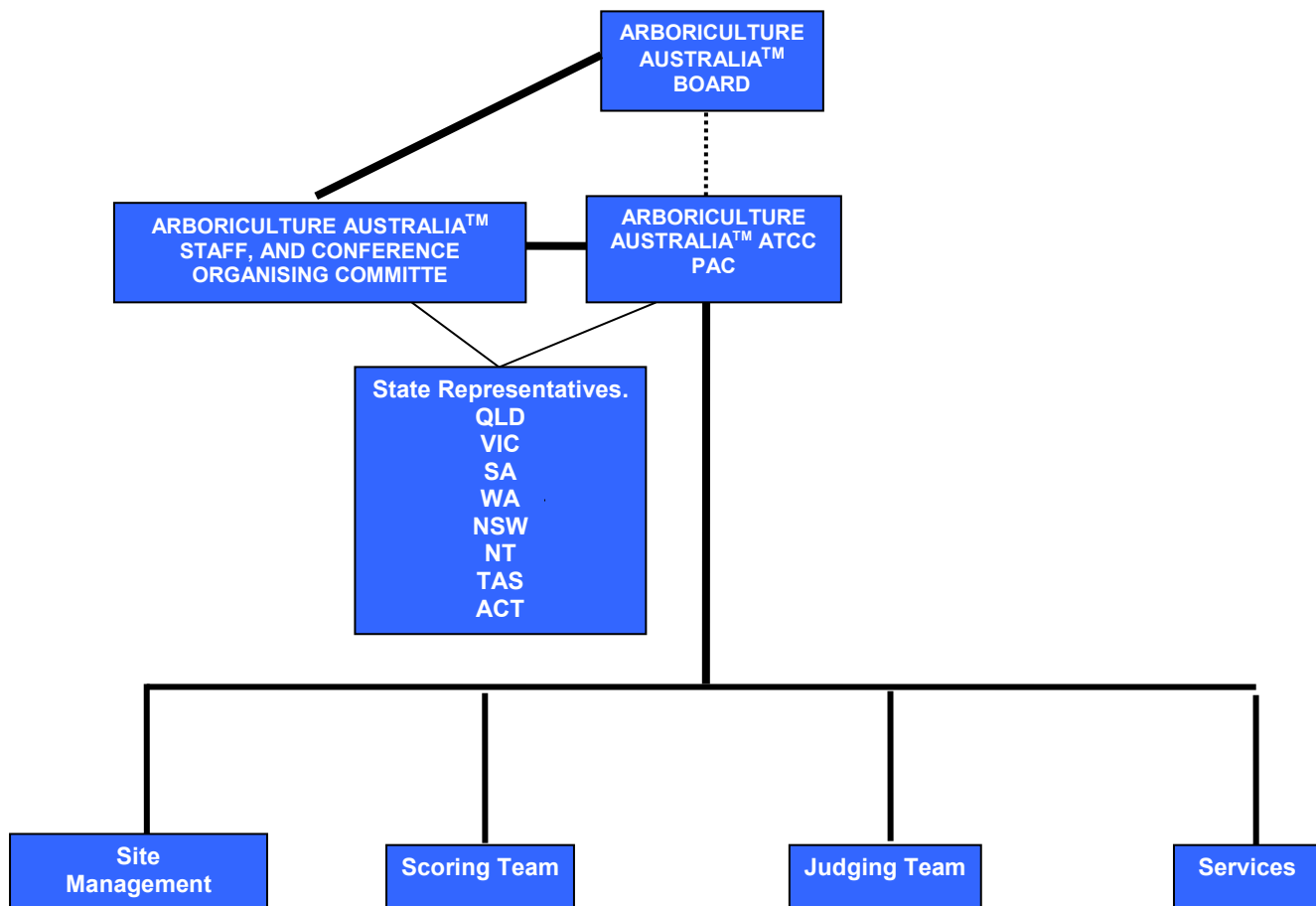
## Australian Tree Climbing Championship™ (ATCC) - Protocol

This protocol is a guide for Arboriculture Australia™ Committees, competitors and volunteers for the Australian Tree Climbing Championships™ (ATCC).

The ATCC is to conform to all rules and regulations as set out for the International Tree Climbing Championships.

### 1. Structure

Arboriculture Australia™ ATCC Organising Committee Organisational Structure



#### 1.1 Arboriculture Australia™ Board

The Arboriculture Australia™ Board appoints the Arboriculture Australia™ the chair of the Practising Arborist Committee (PAC). The Chair of PAC is responsible for organising on ground running of the ATCC.

#### 1.2 Arboriculture Australia™ Staff

The staff of Arboriculture Australia™ is responsible for overall planning of educational events, which includes the ATCC. Arboriculture Australia™ Finance committee will set the 'ATCC budget' in consultation with the PAC chair, the budget will form part of the overall conference budget.

This budget requires final approval by the Finance Committee.

### 1.3 Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair

The PAC Chair is responsible for overall planning and operation ie. Delegating appropriate responsibilities, including but not limited to the following:

- Approve the park for ATCC with Arboriculture Australia™ Staff
- Report on all aspects of the ATCC to Arboriculture Australia™ General Manager (GM)
- Co-ordinates efforts between the state organisations and Arboriculture Australia™
- Assist GM to correspond with state-based groups regarding their states' representation
- Liaise with the state association in which the event is to be held
- Assist GM to correspond with climbers (following nominations procedure)
- Finalise the field of competitors
- Ensure Arboriculture Australia™ Sponsors needs are met, through direction from the GM
- Conducts a written event risk analysis and implement event safety management plan
- Ensure any and all event safety assessment (e.g. WHS) sheets are completed correctly and filed at the administration office
- Liaise with GM to develop and finalise events program
- Liaise with GM to arrange trophies (with the relevant sponsor logos).
- Liaise with GM to arrange other prizes (e.g. money vouchers).
- Ensure power is available at the site for scoring and any other requirements
- Assist GM to arrange security if required
- Assist GM to arrange computers and printer for scoring
- Ensure judges and officials are organised and available
- Set time frame for completion of various objectives and responsibilities with the event set up
- Ensure events are set up
- Organise and supervise any required inspection of equipment e.g. events and gear inspection
- Delegates responsibilities to volunteers
- Ensure volunteers understand their individual roles and responsibilities
- Plan contingencies to allow for wet and windy weather events
- Ensure First Aid kit is available, and some volunteers hold a current first aid certificate including CPR
- Provide staff with the current scoring sheets from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) website
- Oversee running of all events on the day; ensuring start times are adhered to, and address any issues regarding WHS, and/or problems preventing the competition from continuing.

### 1.5 Site management crew

The 'Site management crew' is the body assisting with preparing the trees for the ATCC, the PAC Chair. They are to ensure that the trees have the main preparation works completed seven (7) days in advance of the Event. This is to make sure all deadwood and branches with failed structural defects are removed or pruned.

The nominated team leader for the 'Site management crew' shall ensure all permits and WHS requirements are completed.

## **1.6 Scoring Team**

The scoring team are the nominated persons collating and entering the scores of the events. The scoring team require:

- 2 x Notebook computers, office, Windows 2010 minimum
- 1 x printer
- Microsoft excel skills
- Current International Tree Climbing Competition (ITCC) rules for Men and Women
- Suitable scoring operations centre.

## **1.7 Judging/Officials Team**

The Judging /Officials Team consist of:

- ATCC Head Judge
- Up to five additional judges/technicians as required for each event (one to be a dedicated safety observer ie. ensure climber is always connected and scope for fall/swing back potential, and positioning/lanyard application)
- Head judge for each event.

## **1.8 ATCC Head Judge**

This position should not be confused with the Event Head Judge who manages a single competition event. The ATCC Head Judge oversees all events and has the final ruling over any issues arising from competition disputes, including official protests and scoring.

- Head Judges adjudicates discussions during the event
- Head judge is not to be a timing judge or tree technician
- Refer to the Event Head judge for clarification.
- Complete a Hazard and Risk Analysis before the start of competition
- Ensure all competitors read and sign all WHS forms
- Establish judging team for Master's event
- Is usually Master's head judge
- Must ensure that those officials assisting complete their task with accuracy, due diligence and without bias
- Act on any disputes/protests presented
- Allocate duties to their team; timers, technicians, scorers, returning the limb toss bucket, calling the limb walk plumb bob etc.

## **2. Services**

Relates to the selected site which must have access to the following:

- Onsite power - mains are preferable
- Public amenities/toilets
- Scorers operation centre (can be the Tree Climbing Trailer)
- Secure storage area (Tree Climbing Trailer)
- Shelter
- Security
- First Aid Kit.

### **2.1 Setting up**

All event hardware is to be installed the day prior to the preliminary events. This is generally completed by each events head judge with the assistance of the Head Judge and Head Technician and checked/tested the morning before competition.

The site setup crew will include three technical experts crew; these three individuals will have the primary responsibility for all final setup of events. Travel to and accommodation for three days/nights for the ATCC will be budgeted for.

Sponsors equipment will be set up the day before competition if park permit allows.

Security is required to ensure the sponsors and Arboriculture Australia™ is not at risk of theft and/or damage during the evenings.

Security will be arranged for any period that the site is unattended if required under the permit.

- A handover to security is done by the PAC Chair
- Security to have contact details for the Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair and GM
- Arboriculture Australia™ holds no responsibility for the loss of any valuables or equipment during the event, including during set up and take down.

## 2.2 Competitors

Arboriculture Australia™ calls for nominations from each state to compete in the ATCC, consisting of five (5) male and three (3) female entries.

- Entries must be made via a state or territory association.
- The maximum number of competitors is capped at 56, if all state and territory's fill their quotas of climbers
- If 56 entries are received no wild cards entries will be considered.
- Independent wildcard entries will not be considered initially but capped at 3 male and 3 female climbers.

To represent Australia at the ITCC, the representative must be an Australian Citizen.

## 2.3 Conditions of Entry

- Competitors MUST represent the state or territory where they currently reside (i.e. their current residential address).
- Competitors MUST have competed in the current year's state championships in the state where they reside. If no competition has been held in that state for the current year, then the climber is eligible to apply for a wild card entry.
- Entries close unconditionally 20 days prior to the event; wildcards will be offered for a further 14 days only. The entry fee is set by the Arboriculture Australia™ board and reviewed annually. All competitors must be Arboriculture Australia™ members to be eligible to compete in the ATCC.
- Entry fees MUST be paid in full one week prior to the event.
- Competitors MUST attend the compulsory gear inspection at the time specified by the PAC Chair.
- Competitors MUST complete the gear check sheet and advise officials of all equipment intended for use during the competition (ITCC rules will apply)
- Competitors MUST complete and sign the Arboriculture Australia ATCC Waiver form provided
- A random draw is made allotting the competitors into groups, generally 3 or 5.
- Competitors are supplied with the draw at the gear check; manipulating the draw or changing places is not allowed
- Competitors MUST attend the event briefing at the time stipulated by the PAC Chair
- On the day of competition, competitors MUST be at their first allocated preliminary event 5 minutes prior to roll call at the prescribed starting time. Any competitor who is late and/or misses roll call will not be permitted to compete in the preliminary event and will result in zero points being allocated for that event.

Entrants will receive by reply post:

- A letter confirming acceptance
- A current copy of the Rules
- Details for mandatory pre-competition meeting
- Details of date, time and location of the competition grounds.
- A copy of the ATCC protocol will be available from the Arboriculture Australia website

International competitors who are ISA members or members of their local chapter may enter provided they have documented competition experience and there are wild card vacancies. The international competitor must become a general member of Arboriculture Australia to be eligible to compete.

### **2.3.1 Eligibility for Master Competition**

Only Australian Citizens may compete in the Master's Challenge. Permanent residents can represent multiple countries and thus are ineligible to compete in the Master's Challenge.

### **Other ISA components**

When a state-based association has an arrangement with the ISA to send their state representative to the ITCC direct, this association's competitors will not be eligible to compete in the Master's Event (male and female) of the Australian Tree Climbing Championships unless a written agreement is in place between both associations.

### **2.4 Competitors Responsibility**

- Be at each event on time
- Have a knowledge of the rules
- Adhere to timelines stipulated by the PAC Chair or Head Judge
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times
- Be responsible for their own equipment
- Shall not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol (or prescription drugs that do or can be argued to alter perception, awareness and affect decision making); if so, immediate disqualification will occur.
- Arboriculture Australia may conduct Drug and Alcohol testing on one or all competitors at their discretion. A zero reading is only acceptable.
- Competitors are obliged to report any behaviour or an act they feel may lead to a risk of injury.

### **2.5 Arboriculture Australia™ Representatives at ITCC**

The 1<sup>st</sup> placed male and female of the Master's Challenge win the right to represent Australia at the International Tree Climbing Championships.

- With this honour there is the responsibility to become an ISA member
- Prepare sufficiently as to attain the highest level of personal achievement possible
- Shall not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol (or prescription drugs that do or can be argued to alter perception, awareness and affect decision making). A zero reading is only acceptable.
- Compete in a manner of good sportsmanship
- Treat all competitors and organising officials with respect
- Represent Arboriculture Australia™ and our Nation with honour and pride
- Wear shirts and apparel supplied at all time during the event and at official ceremonies

- Prepare a 400-word minimum article of the ITCC event and personal life experience for the next edition of *The Bark*.

ITCC entitlement representatives to the ITCC shall receive the following;

- \$2500.00 Cash for airfares and accommodation to be used to attend the ITCC.
- ITCC entry fee

It is the competitors' responsibility to organise and pay for all travel and accommodation expenses and appropriate travel insurance.

Competitors are responsible for any out of pocket expenses that may be incurred outside of the competition prize money awarded to them.

### **3. All Judges and Officials Responsibilities**

- Attend the briefing prior to competition
- Full understanding of allocated tasks
- Enter their name into the JSA sheet
- Read and understand the ITCC rule book
- Tree technicians must have their gear inspected as per competitors
- Check stop watches (group)
- Wear the shirt provided, a hard hat and safety glasses
- Meet with Head judge to discuss roles
- Maintain a safe working environment and report any unsafe or potentially unsafe behaviour or situation
- Shall not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol (or prescription drugs that do or can be argued to alter perception, awareness and affect decision making)
- Correctly complete score sheets.
- Correctly record times

#### **3.1 Event Head Judge**

Event Head Judge is responsible for delivering to the time schedule. As outlined in Section 3 and further; for ensuring events run smoothly and on time.

- Consult with the PAC Chair
- Should liaise with their team prior to the event, at the gear inspection and briefing meeting
- Perform an event risk assessment before event start
- Tasks may be delegated by the Event Head Judge
- Instruct judges on score sheets
- Make decisions regarding rules and disputes
- Be clear that the judging team and the competitors understand starting procedures
- Ensure the event is running to schedule
- Ensure all score sheets are returned to the scoring team
- Arrange to have hardware removed from the tree after the last competitor has finished
- Return all gear to the ATCC equipment boxes
- All decisions with rule interpretation is final by the head judge.
- Ensure their competition area is left clean and tidy

#### **3.2 Official time keepers and scorers (as per Section 3 and)**

- Ensure group check of Stop Watch performance
- Test stopwatch and ensure they are at zero and ready to start
- Time keepers should make themselves aware of the starting procedure for their event; liaise with the event head judge and follow all determinations
- Timers should confirm with the event head judge that they are ready to start

- Declare as soon as is practicable if their time could not be counted on as accurate
- Ensure their correct time is recorded at the completion of the event
- Be observant and report any unsafe practices to the event head judge.

### **3.3 Tree Technicians (as per Section 3 and)**

- Remain attached to the tree and supported on a high line at all times
- Tree Technicians should ensure their equipment at no time interferes with the competitor in any way
- Maintain close watch for unsafe actions and report to the event head judge immediately
- Ensure that event Head Judge instructions are repeated in the same manner and content for every climber
- Ensure ropes and equipment is in the exact same location for every climber e.g. work climb, aerial rescue
- Tree technicians should liaise with the event head judge on how their task is to be conducted
- Ensure belaying neither assists nor hinders any climber. The attachment point should remain above the knee and below the chest on all competitors.

### **3.4 Scorers**

The scoring team has the important task of recording actual scores as recorded by the Event Judging Team. Sometimes these records may be inaccurate or poorly recorded. The score team can only record the information on the score sheets as they see it. If there is any doubt, the score sheets pertaining to that competitor for the event in question should be returned as soon as possible to the appropriate official/s for clarification.

- Must understand the score programme and how it calculates scores between competitors
- Ensure all scores are entered accurately as the Judges have recorded them
- Back up the program regularly on the computer being used, and externally i.e. USB memory stick, external hard drive and/or another computer
- Send back for clarification any discrepancies on score sheets
- Make available, at the end of each round, event times and scores
- Record discrepancies on the sheet note outcomes and recommended corrections.
- Produce the preliminary events final scores within 30 minutes after the completion of the final preliminary event.

### **3.5 Designated Runners**

- Pick up score sheets from events and return them to the scorer's office/location
- Act as the go between for event judges and score office/location
- Must stay in contact with PAC Chair and Head Judge
- Deliver equipment, and/or messages to the event judges, volunteers and officials
- Be observant for what might be considered a WHS concern and report back to the Head Judge.

## **4. Additional duties**

### **Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair and GM**

Invitations to be sent to State based groups at least 60 days prior to the event; State



based groups are to assist in recruiting volunteers.

- Send invitations with competitor invites
- Write letter to site manager requesting use of site
- Conform to all local regulations
- Entry date closing is 14 days prior to the event. This is not negotiable
- Advise what level of experience is suitable to be able to compete or judge
- Remind volunteers to provide their own safety helmet, safety glasses and safety shoes.

## **4.1 Tree Preparation**

### **4.1.1 Pruning Requirements**

- All pruning should be carried out by appropriately trained Arborists under the guidance of either the Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair, or ATCC Head Technician.
- All pruning should be done to meet best arboriculture practices and/or AS 4373 - 2007 *Pruning of amenity trees and Arboriculture Australia MIS Environmental Arboriculture*.
- All work and equipment must exceed the Arboriculture Australia Minimum Industry Standards
- ATCC requirements are met
- The work is of a high standard (as this could reflect on the reputation of both Arboriculture Australia™ and the industry)
- Pruning should not be restricted to that part of the tree that competitions wish to use; the safety of all present should be considered
- Any potential or hazardous defect identified should be inspected and/or control measures put in place to manage the defect.

### **4.1.2 Rigging**

- All rigging equipment is to conform to current industry and/or appropriate Australian Standard requirements
- Rigging only to be installed by and/or supervised by credentialed and experienced Practicing Arborists.
- Rigging and climbing systems shall be implemented in such a way as to not injury or damage trees

## **4.2 Ground Preparation**

Liaise with site managers to arrange for the grounds to be prepared prior to competition.

### **4.2.1 Barricades**

- Suitable barricades must be used to delineate the competition/event area; a clearly defined entry/exit gate must be available to either the competition area and/or individual events.
- The emergency entry to the park/reserve must be unlocked in case an emergency vehicle has to enter
- Pig's ears and bunting is to be stored in a suitably marked box in the ATCC trailer.

### **4.2.2 Habitat**

Arboriculture Australia™ will do their utmost to not harm any fauna that may be on the site. Where possible Arboriculture Australia will have an ecologist on site to conduct pre-inspections of the trees.

### **4.2.3 Storing Equipment**

The equipment required for each event is stowed in one allocated event storage box for that event. Additional equipment is available from the spare equipment box if required due to the set up of a specific tree.

After rigging has been finalised, all unused equipment must be stowed away in the events box and returned to the ATCC trailer.

### **4.3 Presentations**

Ceremonies associated with the presentations must begin with acknowledgement to all persons and sponsors involved in the organising and supporting the production of the ATCC up to the day of competition.

Accolades may then be afforded to those individuals that contributed to the setting up of the competition trees and preparing the competition site.

Recognition should then be made to all volunteer Judges and Officials contributing throughout competition.

All competitors should then be congratulated for their efforts.

Event place getters, beginning with third place (if appropriate), may then proceed.

Sponsors for that event should be called to deliver the plaque.

The women's Master's may be presented before the Men's. This award may be preceded with an explanation as to the responsibilities that will belong to the Masters.

- The Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair and the Arboriculture Australia™ Chair should lead the Ceremonies
- Separate special acknowledgement for the ATCC event sponsor
- List for special mention e.g. individuals or companies
- Arrange prizes and trophies prior to ceremony

#### **4.3.1 Trophies**

Trophies style and size should continue as previous years, though the difference between 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> should be noticeable.

- Trophies should be presented to men's and women's division of each event
- Sponsors name must be blazoned on the trophy
- A Masters Trophy is presented to the winner of both the men and women's division.

#### **4.3.2 Event Prizes**

Additional prizes may be awarded to Rookie of the Year and or Most Innovative. Refer to the Event Head judge for clarification.

- Prizes must be presented for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each event
- The value of each prize can be adjusted to suit budgets; however, a guide is as follows, 1<sup>st</sup> = \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> = \$100 and 3<sup>rd</sup> = \$50
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize will only be offered if there are more than seven competitors in either the women's or men's preliminary events.
- Prizes should be presented to men's and women's event place-getters.

#### **4.3.3 Masters Prizes**

As a separate event, the Masters (men's and women's) are presented with prizes and a trophy. The Masters winner at state level is expected to travel to the Australian TCC at

the next Arboriculture Australia™ ATCC. The male and female Master's winners at the ATCC are expected to compete at the following years International TCC.

- Masters Trophy to be larger than the individual 1<sup>st</sup> place event trophies

## 5. Breakdown and Cleanup

### 5.1 Retrieving Competition Equipment

At the completion of the event, the judges and technicians must uninstall all equipment and return to the specific events storage box.

Any defect equipment should be marked and reported to the PAC Chair for replacement.

Scoring computers should back up all data externally and return equipment and files to the GM.

### 5.2 Rubbish Collection

Leaving the site clean and tidy is the responsibility of every official, volunteer, competitor and/or the public.

Event Head Judges should lead the way in encouraging all individuals to take their rubbish with them.

- Have PA announcements about the need for rubbish collection
- Remind Arborists and their families of these requirements.
- Remind sponsors and stand/stall holders of their responsibility to take their own rubbish
- Dedicate persons to follow up with rubbish collection.

### 5.3 Remediation

Often as a matter of park hire commitments, soil or ground remediation may have been negotiated. The Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair should ensure that this work has been completed to negotiated determinations. This type of work should be organised on the completion of the ATCC.

- Organise remediation work to be carried out on all areas of heavy traffic
- Never promise to carry out remedial work, if this commitment cannot be met. Letting a Council Park Manager down in this way **will** destroy the industry's reputation, as well as make it difficult to run future events.

## 6. Entitlements

The success of the ATCC only occurs with the support of volunteers. For this event some essential volunteers are required at the ATCC for pre-set-up. This often incurs additional costs, and without these key volunteers the event would not occur.

- PAC Chair: Is entitled to three (3) nights' accommodation; this is for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night
- ATCC Head Judge: Is entitled to three (3) nights' accommodation; this is for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night
- ATCC Head Technician: Is entitled to three (3) nights' accommodation; this is for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night
- ATCC Senior Technician: Is entitled to three (3) nights' accommodation; this is for Thursday, Friday and Saturday night
- ATCC Head Scorer: Is entitled to two (2) nights' accommodation; this is for Friday and Saturday night.

No other allowances will be provided to volunteers. The GM will make all accommodation arrangements.

## 7. Follow-up Articles

### **Responsible Person**

#### **Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair**

##### **7.1 Articles to Industry Magazines**

The PAC Chair must write an article at the completion of each ATCC which will be included in the next edition of the Arboriculture Australia™ publication of *the Bark™*.

The article will aim to summarise the event with an opening paragraph outlining the success of the event and the industry support and participation. The article will include the acknowledgement of all volunteers pre and post the event and should outline the duties performed. The event winners must be congratulated and the table of 'event winners' should be included. An acknowledgment and thank you must be given to all Arboriculture Australia™ Sponsors and Volunteers for their generous support and/or assistance.

- Article must be sent to Arboriculture Australia™ staff no later than 2 weeks after the event
- Article will appear in the next edition of *the Bark™* following event
- Australian, English, European, New Zealand and American Industry organisations should be given the opportunity to use the article in their respective magazines; there may be restrictions to the size of the article
- Local Arboricultural Organisation's newsletters should be given the opportunity to feature this event
- A letter of acknowledgement and congratulations should be sent to both the female and male winner and will include an outline of the Master's prize

##### **7.2 Printing and Stationery**

### **Responsible Person**

#### **Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair and GM**

Document	Receiver	Number of copies
Competitors packs ITCC Rule book, event program, roster, ATCC protocol and shirt	1 per competitor	56 maximum ITCC rule book is to be provided electronically to all climbers
Judges/officials pack ITCC Rule book, event program, roster, ATCC protocol and shirt	1 per official	25. ITCC rule book is to be provided electronically to all judges
Score sheets	Work Climb	3 per competitor
	Aerial Rescue	3 per competitor
	Throwline	1 per competitor
	Speed Climb	1 per competitor
	Ascent Event	1 per competitor
Masters		10 per judge

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WHS sheets	Arboriculture Australia™ PAC Chair	1 only
	Tree Management Team	5 copies
	Event Head Judge	5 copies
ATCC Protest Form	Score Team	5 copies
Score Discrepancy Reporting	Score Team	1 copy