

# 7<sup>th</sup> annual Firefighter Challenge Jihlava 2025

## I. General regulations

Main organizer: AVIKA z.s. ČHSF, SPORTOVNÍ SVAZ HASIČŮ, z.s.

Date: July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> 2026

Place: Jihlava, Masarykovo náměstí, 586 01 Jihlava (N 49°23.78138', E 15°35.35748')

Start of the competition: July 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 11:00 am

The organizer reserves the privilege to assign the order of participants along with the track. The track is random and cannot be changed based on preferences or upon competitor's request. Every competitor will receive starting number which they will be following throughout the whole competition. Each competitor is required to be present at the start 20 minutes prior to his starting time, fully equipped. The competitor who will not be present as requested will be disqualified.

**The track of the competition is built to allow two competitor for the run-up.**

## II. Equipment and personal gear

The insulating breathing equipment will be provided by the organizer. Every competitor is required to have his/her own gear, outfit, helmet and shoes. The gear is in accordance to EN 469 level 2 regulations (Protective clothes for firemen –Technical requirements of the protective gear for firemen), helmet designed for fires at construction and enclaves CSN EN 443 (discarded or historical helmet is acceptable, but has to fulfil above mentioned regulations), shank's boots specified for firemen EN 15090 Level 2 and A3, also F2A or F3A and gloves for firemen as per EN 659+A1 (no holes are permitted).

The referee is allowed to check the gear anytime during the competition. The decision made by referee regarding the used gear is final and unchangeable. If competitors are out of EU, the gear has to follow valid regulations and valid requirements as per the home country.

### General Policies:

- All gear must be serviceable (i.e., without holes), and have been approved for structural firefighting consistent with the above outlined standards.
- Turnout gear that has been deemed 'expired' by a department (exceeding the 10-year life span rule) is eligible for use, however tags in the gear must be attached to prove they met the requirements at time of manufacturing.

### Coat Policy:

- Coats must be appropriately sized and cover the area of intended protection as would be expected to fight a structural fire.

This means that coats should be fully zipped up to the collar bone.

- Collars must be showing (not tucked in).
- Patches, decals, and a pocket for a baton are allowed on coats.

### Boots Policy:

- Boots must be 'fire service' designated and comply with the approved standards outlined above.

- Boots can be no less than 8" in height from ground to top of boot and must include a distinct heel breast (not less than a 1/2 inch heel).

#### Trousers Policy:

- Trousers of the turnout gear cannot be tucked in the boot.
- Trousers must fully cover the top edge of each boot. When the athlete bends forward to touch their toes, no portion of the boot's top edge may be visible at any point around the perimeter.
- Patches, decals, and a pocket for a baton are allowed on trousers.

#### Gloves Policy:

- Gloves must be designated for structural fire suppression and bear a compliant label.
- Gloves with standard wear may be worn in competition until which point would be deemed unsafe. (i.e the exterior outer shell has been worn through exposing the thermal liner.) No holes are permitted!
- Due to the high use of gloves, we recognize that labels tend to fall out or become unreadable. If a pair of gloves meets this criterion, and are in working order, they may be able to be reviewed by the onsite gear inspector.

#### Helmets Policy:

- Helmet must contain chin strap, edging, helmet shell, high temperature foam liner and impact protection / system.
- MODIFICATIONS TO HELMETS: Painting of helmets, decorations and a baton clip are allowed. Helmets are not required to have Face Shield / Visor / Goggles / Burke Shields, Heat Shield, and/or Reflective materials.
- Vintage helmets are not allowed and must meet the current approved gear standards by country as outlined above.

**In case of not following the above mentioned rules, the competitor can be disqualified even after the end of the competition – the final decision is made by the main referee of the competition.**

**All questions related to the gear have to be addressed to the main referee prior to the start of the competition.**

#### Track description:

##### Start:

Prior to the start, the flag man commands "ready" – "set" and upon the sound signal the competitor starts.

##### Evolutions:

###### Evolution 1: High-Rise Hose Pack Carry

The competition starts by the tower footing, the hose package in the packing of 19 kg is laid in front of the base and could be touched before the start, competitor may place their hands on or under the hose, with the backs of the fingers touching the ground, but no upward or forward movement of the hose package or body may be carried out before the start signal. If there is a false start, the participant in question will receive a 5 second time penalty. Once the competition starts, the

competitor grabs the hose package and runs up to the third floor where he/she places the hose package into prepared box, the hose package has to be inside the box. One foot must be in contact with the upper platform before the hose is placed down – penalty: 2 seconds. No protruding part of the hose package should touch the platform of the tower. If the hose package touches the platform of the tower outside the box, a 2 second time penalty will be awarded. The hose package must not be used as a step.

#### Evolution 2: Hose Hoist

The hose package into 19 kg roll are hanged on a 15,5 mm rope. The rope is tied to stair landing on third floor; lower part of the roll is touching the ground. The event is considered done once the hose package are brought up to the tower and placed in a box. The competitor can be disqualified based on: losing control, slipping more than one length of a floor, fall of the hose package from the tower, if the hose package is rolled on stairs as well as for blocking opponent. No protruding part of the hose bundle, after being placed in the box, should touch the tower platform. If the hose package touches the platform of the tower outside the box, a 2 second time penalty will be awarded. This task has to be completed in less than 3 minutes, otherwise the competitor is disqualified. While walking down the tower, the competitor must hold the handrail and has to step on each stair; every missing step/touch means 2 seconds penalty.

#### Evolution 3: Forcible Entry

In order to complete this task, the competitor has to relocate, while using hammer, weight in Kaiser Box to the end of the track. The competitor has to stand astride above the guiding rail. If the competitor steps into the guiding rail, he/she is disqualified. It is not allowed to push, lever or drag the weight. The only allowed manipulation with the beam is by using the head of the hammer. Pushing, raking or hooking the beam is not allowed; only the mallet's (hammer's) head can strike the beam. Any other part of the hammer that touches the weight means 5 seconds penalty. The grip of the mallet cannot touch the weight. If the competitor finishes the task earlier, he/she will be penalized with 2 seconds for every unfinished 2,5cm. After the task is done, the competitor is required to place the hammer onto the designated mat of a size 60 x 90 cm. At least a part of the hammer has to be touching the base. In case of violating this rule, 2 seconds penalty follows. If a competitor loses control of the hammer and the hammer moves beyond the vertical boundaries of the Kaiser box (front or rear) or is lost in any direction that, in the referee's judgment, creates a dangerous situation for others, the competitor will be disqualified.

#### Evolution 4: Hose Advance

The competitor races through the slalom track 43 m long. He/she is not allowed to shorten the track or toss a standing cone. The competitor is allowed to touch the cone. if the cone is tossed, the penalty remains even if the cone is put back. The competitor must negotiate the slalom course without missing or knocking over any delineator; doing so will result in a 5 second penalty for each infraction. After running through the slalom track, the competitor grabs a nozzle which is connected to a wet water-hose line. Competitor towers a hose with water through the trace, i.e., crosses beyond the line of the swinging doors. As soon as the competitor runs through swinging door, he/she can open the nozzle and using the water course to bring down the target. As soon as the target is down, the competitor closes the nozzle and places it on the ground. It can also be dropped on the

ground. The nozzle must first land on the carpet; otherwise, a 5-second penalty will be imposed. If the nozzle is not fully closed, the competitor has to go back and close it fully (or 2 seconds penalty will be assessed). If the nozzle opens because of hitting the ground, there is no penalty and the organizer closes the nozzle, letting the competitor to continue towards the victim rescue evolution. If the target is not knocked down by the water stream, a 10-second penalty will be applied.

#### Evolution 5: Victim Rescue

The competitor holds and lifts the figurine and by dragging it behindhand relocates the figurine to the end of the track. A baton, which a competitor has with him/her all the time of the attempt, may be used to transport the figurine. Any loss of the baton (and not obtaining it back), will result in disqualification. At least heels of the figurine have to be touching the ground. The task is over as soon as the competitor along with the figurine is behind the end line. Carrying of the figurine is not allowed. If the competitor draws out of the track or holds the figurine by its clothes or harnesses, the penalty of 5 seconds follows (applies to each violation of this rule). Any contact made with the competitor means disqualification. The main referee is allowed to interrupt the task if he thinks that the competitor's condition is not good to continue the task. It is prohibited to drop the figurine at the end of the task; it needs to be laid by squaring up elbows. Spiking the figurine at any time will result in disqualification

#### **Every competitor is responsible for finishing each task.**

In rare cases, when the technical squad or the competitor creates blocks, the referee can approve the reparation of the act – subtracting time or having the task redone.

Time limits to complete the task:

- Individual categories (male/female): 6 minutes

If the time limit is not met, the attempt will be called off and the competitor will be disqualified no matter where he/she is standing at the moment.

Individual categories:

- Men/women open
- Men/women up to the age of 30
- Men/women 31 - 39 years
- Women 40 – up years
- Men 40 - 44 years
- Men 45 - 49 years
- Men 50 – 54 years
- Men over the age of 55

It's Organizers privilege to determine which categories will apply due to registered individuals.

The track is equal for all the categories!

**Rules of the relay race:**

The rules for the competition Firefighter Challenge Jihlava 2026 are valid as per below if not specified alternatively.

**Gear:**

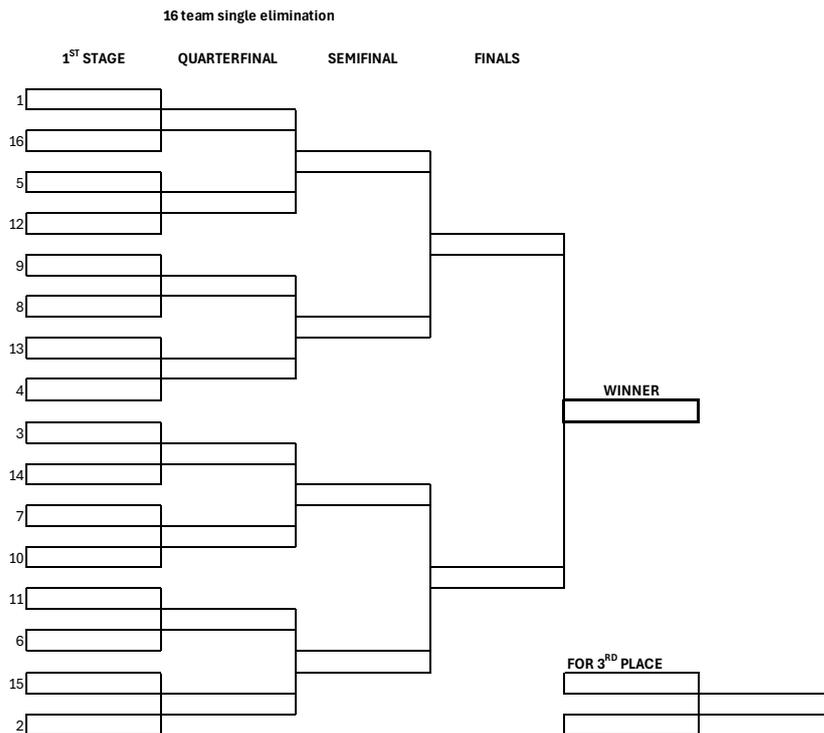
The gear requirements are equal for all the competitors based on valid regulations for firemen. The insulating breathing equipment is carried only as a static cargo; it is not used for breathing. The insulating breathing equipment is provided by the organizer.

**Relay race category:**

- Men
- Women
- MIX (gender ratios 2:1, 2:2 or 3:2)

The relay race team is composed by 3 - 5 members. One team member is appointed as a captain of the team. During the relay race, the team members are passing the baton one to another. This baton has to be passed from hand to hand. If the baton is dropped while handing it to another competitor, the last one holding the baton has to pick it up and hand it to the team member again. Any type of a "loss" of the baton stops the whole team until the baton is back in the game (e.g. If the handover is forgotten). Once the baton is handed to another team member, the race can continue. The team members are allowed to change on specified spots during the relay-race. Based on the decision of the team, one team member is allowed to compete in more evolutions. All the hand-overs have to follow above mentioned rules.

The relay-race is eliminative run. That means the best 16 relay-races make it to qualification. After that, the regular play-off follows (1 – 16, 2 – 15 etc.) – the run-ups are done up to the run-up for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and finals for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



### Baton Passing Overview

A maximum of six (6) baton handoffs are possible but only at the five (5) passing zones on the Course. Each passing zone has its own set of guidelines as outlined below:

#### Pass Zone 1:

- At the top of the tower, following the deposit of the high-rise hose pack into the box, a legal handoff takes place when both athletes' feet are on the top platform.
- The athlete receiving the Baton must have one (1) hand on the top rail of the tower with the thumb visible to the official, i.e., facing the backside of the tower.
- The athlete must not grasp the hoisting rope or release the rail until receiving the Baton.
- Incidental contact while holding the top rail is not a penalty.
- A second handoff at the top of the tower may occur after the second athlete has completed the hoist evolution. This exchange must take place with all parties on the top deck.

#### Pass Zone 2:

- After the last step exiting the tower and before mounting the Keiser Box. Ex: if the athlete performing the forcible entry evolution is not the individual descending the tower, the exchange must be made before mounting the Keiser Box.

#### Pass Zone 3:

- Only after stepping off the Keiser Box and placing the hammer onto the mat (fully releasing the hand from the hammer), can the baton be passed anywhere between the Keiser Box and the first turn marked by a solid line near the target system.
- The individual performing the activity on the forcible entry evolution must pick up (if it is on the ground) and hand the Baton to the next athlete.

#### Pass Zone 4:

- Before the line at the last delineator, the receiving athlete's feet must not contact the line or the ground past the line until the handoff is made.
- No contact with the nozzle or attack line is permitted until the athlete is in possession of the Baton.

#### Pass Zone 5:

- The athlete must penetrate the swinging saloon doors with the nozzle, strike the target and then fully shut off the nozzle before the baton can be passed.
- The nozzleman is the only individual that may shut down the nozzle.
- The athlete cannot touch the manikin until they are in possession of the Baton.

Team members cannot be swapped not even when hurt or sick. If the change is needed, the number of team member will be lowered (e.g. from 5 to 4).

#### General rules of the baton include:

- It is the responsibility of the athletes, when applicable, to grab a Baton at the starting area before entering the course. Batons are provided by the Organizers. Starting the event without a Baton will result in a **Disqualification**.
- A Baton may be used by an athlete, if needed, to assist them in the Victim rescue evolution. Athletes electing to do so, **MUST** be in possession of the Baton throughout their run.
- At no time is carrying the Baton in the mouth allowed. Violators will be **Disqualified**.
- The Baton must be in possession of the team member when running during a tandem or relay category run. The Baton passing must be hand-to-hand, and a clear transfer must occur. There can be no forward progression without possession of the Baton.
- No hands should touch the baton until the task is completed, when the baton may be passed from one competitor to another. Touching or shadowing the baton with an empty hand will result in **disqualification** due to presumed loss of grip
- Athletes may elect to put the Baton down while completing the evolution, but the same athlete must pick up the Baton before advancing or passing it to the next team member. Failure to comply will result in **Disqualification**.
- Loss of control of the Baton (such as forgetting to pick it up) will stop the team's forward progress until the member dropping the Baton regains possession. The member who dropped the Baton cannot move forward and complete the evolution (except Kaiser Box) until they have regained possession. Failure to comply will result in **Disqualification**.

#### Rules for tandems

The rules for the competition Firefighter Challenge Jihlava 2026 are valid as per below if not specified alternatively.

Gear:

The gear requirements are equal for all the competitors based on valid regulations for firemen. The insulating breathing equipment is carried only as a static cargo; it is not used for breathing. The insulating breathing equipment is provided by the organizer. The race is divided into two parts; each competitor runs just one half of the race. The handover point is at Kaiser box and it is upon the competitor decision, if they hand over the baton prior to the activity on Kaiser box or after placing the mallet (hammer) on the designated mat.

Tandem categories:

- Men
- Women
- Men over 40
- Mix (woman + man)
- Mix over 40 (woman + man)

Tandems/relays (all categories): 4 minutes

It's Organizers privilege to determine which categories will apply due to registered tandems.

### **Summary of penalties:**

#### **The reasons for disqualification:**

- If a relay team is left with less than three (3) members the team.
- If a member of a tandem team must forfeit due to injury.
- Exceeding Maximum Time Allowed to Complete Course
- Health & Wellbeing Crisis/Concern (Course Official Call)
- Progression Stops (Course Official Call)
- If a disqualifying infraction occurs during the Bracket Round of the Relay Category competition.
- Assistance rendered to a team member by any other member of the same team during the Relay competition (i.e., if a member completing a task drops the Baton, they alone must be the one to pick it up).
- Athletes begin Tandem or Relay Category event without a baton.
- A Baton falling down the stairs and not leaving the tower was not retrieved by the person who dropped it during the Relay Category competition.
- If any object falls off the tower (i.e., the Baton, donut, or high-rise pack).
- If any teammate crosses the course delineator, intentionally or unintentionally, and causes interference to the athlete in the opposing lane.
- Any intentional contact that materially affects the opposing athlete.
- If more than 5 members of a team enter the course.
- Starting the Relay Category event without a baton.
- Carrying the Baton in the mouth.
- Baton is not in possession of the team member when running during a tandem or relay category run. There can be no forward progression without possession of the Baton.
- Team members do not pass the Baton hand-to-hand. A clear transfer must occur.
- Hands over the or touching the baton before the evolution is completed.

- Touching or shadowing the baton prior to a clear hand.
- The same athlete does not pick up the Baton they placed onto the ground before advancing or passing it to the next team member.
- Team members forward progression does not stop when loss of control of the Baton (such as forgetting to pick it up) occurs and member completes the evolution without having regained possession.
- Athlete is absent and does not enter the course when it is their time to race.
- Athlete or Team not in staging area ready for the start signal.
- An athlete's family member enters the course and does not adhere to the verbal instruction to exit the course.
- Athlete entering the course that was not part of the current race.
- Unsportsmanlike Behavior
- High-rise pack, hose roll, or any other object falls off the tower.
- Loss of control, such as slippage of the hose roll dropping more than one balcony.
- Hose roll does not remain on the top platform.
- Second strike of the Keiser Force Machine without both feet on the diamond plate.
- Loss of control of the mallet while on the Keiser Force Machine and it travels outside the vertical boundaries of the con-fines of the tray (front and back of tray) or is lost in any direction that creates a dangerous situation to others as determined by the Course Official.
- Skipping any evolution.

## **2 seconds penalties**

- Any early exchange of the baton or touching any tool or prop including hose hoist rope, forcible entry hammer, nozzle, manikin, before it is permissible.
- If both athletes do not have both feet on the top platform before the Baton pass takes place.
- If the athlete receiving the Baton on the top platform does not have one hand on the top rail of the tower with the thumb visible to the official.
- If the athlete grasps the hoisting rope or releases the rail before receiving the Baton.
- Failing to fully close the nozzle after hitting the target requiring the staff to shut the nozzle off.
- High-rise pack is not fully deposited into the container box on the top platform and is touching the deck outside of the box.
- One foot was not on the top deck before releasing the high-rise pack
- Hose Roll is not fully deposited into the container box on the top platform and is touching the deck outside of the box.
- Athlete fails to step on each step while descending the tower with the handrail always grasped. Each missed step is a 2 - second infraction.
- Every 2.5 cm or fraction thereof that the Kieser Force Machine sled is short from the end of the tray will be assessed a penalty.
- Failure to place the mallet (hammer) onto the mat next to Keiser Force Machine.
- Failing to fully close the nozzle after hitting the target requiring the staff to shut the nozzle off.

## **5 seconds penalties**

- Direct dialogue with the Timer to dispute a final run time or penalty.
- Team members competing on course that fail to remain to the sides of the rescue victim lanes causing path and streaming obstruction of the Course Official.

- Movement of any kind of the high-rise pack after the Starting Officials directive to enter the starting space.
- False Start. Athlete leaves the marked boundary of the starting area after the Starting Official directs them to stand in their starting space and before the whistle blows.
- First strike of the Keiser Force Machine without both feet on the diamond plate.
- Mallet (hammer) handle touches the beam. Penalty is assessed for each infraction after the first handle strike.
- Missing or knocking over a delineator.
- Dragging the manikin by its clothing or appendage.
- Failing to fully close the nozzle after hitting the target requiring the staff to shut the nozzle off.

### **10 seconds penalties**

- Delay of Start.
- High-rise pack used as a step on the top platform of the stair tower.
- Failing to advance the hose 23 m and cross the threshold of the saloon doors before laying the nozzle down.
- Failing to drop the target with the water stream.
- Requested Official Video Review does not result in the reversal of a penalty or disqualification on the course.

### **15 seconds penalties**

- Damage to the course equipment.
- Turnout Gear Violation

### **Protests:**

**All protests against penalization are discussed by the competitor or the team captain with the referee only.**

**The protest has to be raised immediately prior to leaving the track and another run-up.**

**Referee's statement is the final statement.**

### **Fees**

Fees are in EUR/CZK. The registration fee includes starting pack.

|                 |          |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Individual      | 30 EUR / | 700 CZK  |
| Tandem team     | 50 EUR / | 1200 CZK |
| Relay-race team | 100 EUR/ | 2400 CZK |

### **Compensation and cancellation**

Any claim of returning the registration fee that will be received 2 weeks prior to the start of the competition will be positively processed. Any latter claims will not be processed; the fee is given over to the organizer of the competition.