



## Minnesota Society of Arboriculture 2026 Tree Climbing Championship Policy

1. The number of competitors will be capped at 65.
  - a. Two spots will be held for the previous year's first-place resident male and female finishers.
  - b. Guest climbers will be accepted if space is available and by invitation only.
2. Competitors shall be MSA chapter members at the time of the competition.
3. It is each competitor's responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to the rules in their entirety as outlined in the [International Tree Climbing Championship \(ITCC\) Rule Book](#) prior to the event.
4. Competitors are required to attend all mandatory meetings.
5. To be a MSA TCC division champion, competitors:
  - a. shall compete in all preliminary events and the Masters' Challenge
  - b. shall stay for the entirety of the Masters' Challenge event until the conclusion of the award ceremony. .
  - c. may be subject to [Appendix 4 of the ITCC Rule Book](#).
  - d. are strongly encouraged to volunteer for at least one chapter event within the championship year in order to promote, teach, and share their experience with other members.
6. Masters' Challenge finalists will be eligible as Representative Competitors for the MSA chapter at the following ISA TCC Events:
  - a. The first-place male and female finishers will be eligible as the Representative Competitors at ITCC. MSA will pay the registration fee and up to \$1,000 travel reimbursement for both first-place competitors to compete at ITCC.
  - b. The second-place male and female finishers will be eligible as the Representative Competitors at NATCC. MSA will pay the registration fee and up to \$500 travel reimbursement for both second-place competitors to compete at NATCC.
  - c. NATCC currently invites chapters to send a team of 3 competitors, where a maximum of 2 competitors may be male. A third place Masters' Challenge finisher (male or female) will be offered the spot, but is responsible for their own NATCC registration and travel costs. If both division finishers wish to compete, the qualifying competitor will be determined by whose score is closest to their division's second place competitor (not solely based on points).
  - d. If a qualifying competitor is not able to attend ITCC or NATCC, the next highest-placing competitor in their respective male or female division (not solely based on points) will be offered the spot. In matters of determining the third spot for NATCC, refer to 6.c.
  - e. International competitions that require expenses to exceed the reimbursement limit must have MSA Executive Committee approval within a limit to be no more than \$2,000 for each male and female competitor.