

## EKCA BOLT FUND: GUIDELINES TO APPLYING FOR BOLTING REIMBURSEMENT (2018)

### 1) WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

1) Any **accredited member of EKCA** is eligible for funding.

Membership (annual): \$10.

Accreditation Requirement: 4 approved routes or pitches, totalling about 100m of bolt protected climbing, each with an independent anchor.

Rationale: this is a reasonable minimum to expect as a demonstration of competence and of commitment to the climbing community.

2) The above does not apply in the case of retrofitting. EKCA may reimburse the hardware for retrofitting regardless of membership status.

3) All reimbursement requests subject to approval by EKCA and hardware/inventory available and are to be accompanied by a hardware reimbursement application form.

### 2) WHAT IS ELIGIBLE?

1) Fixed protection: **Stainless steel bolts and hangers only.** (No pins, non-stainless bolts or hangers, fixed wires etc.) Minimum bolt size: diameter 3/8"; length: 3" on every rock type. All nuts and washers should also be stainless steel.

2) Anchors: Brand name (e.g. Fixe) stainless steel anchor systems or rap hangers; chains and quick links (minimum SWL (WLL) 5kN or approx. 1100 lbs). Although for reasons of saving weight 1/4" chain is acceptable (e.g. on multi-pitch routes), 5/16" (or larger) chain is preferred wherever possible so that climbers can clip 'biners more easily through the chain links.

Note: Non-stainless chain and quick links are acceptable since stainless steel chain is prohibitively expensive. If corrosion becomes an issue, they can easily be replaced.

**No slings, pitons, wires etc. NO LAP LINKS!!** Chained trees are a **last resort only. DO NOT** bolt anchor chain directly to the rock - use a quick link with the **same** or **higher SWL** to attach the chain to a hanger. If you install 'biners for lowering, use wire-gate steel 'biners. (NO aluminium 'biners as these wear out too easily.) N.B. [Fixe Clip Wiregate #662 steel 'biners](#) can be special ordered through MEC.

**Hangers and anchors should be camouflaged wherever possible to make the climb as unobtrusive as possible.**

3) **Redpointed routes only** (but not necessarily by the route's builder).

4) Full details of all routes to be claimed should be reported to EKCA and/or have been made public on EKCA's Facebook Page. Please attach a topo if this is a new crag or sector (PDF preferred), otherwise give a detailed description of the new route's location e.g. between route X and Y at Z Crag).

Rationale: "Secret" crags do little to foster our sport and we are an organization dedicated to, and supported by, the general climbing community. In addition, new route information engenders visits to EKCA's Facebook Page, raising awareness about the organization's activities and possibly, therefore, encouraging donations.

5) Routes on which there has been manufacturing or importation of holds, painting of route names, tree cutting, or other practises defined therein as unacceptable are ineligible for support, **regardless of the perpetrator.**

**Remember, bolting is a privilege, not a right! Be especially careful building climbs or installing fixed hardware in a National or Provincial Park or in any highly visible location used by others.**

- 6) Squeezed-in routes that compromise the integrity of adjacent routes are ineligible for the reasons cited above. Further to this, any routes that are developed in sensitive ecological areas (including birds, bees, endangered plants, bats etc.) or those that involve crossing or development on private lands will not be eligible for the bolting fund.
- 7) Reusable gear that is replaced can be returned to EKCA for use elsewhere.
- 8) All routes claimed should be the applicant's projects only. In the case of joint projects, the amount that is eligible for funding is proportional to the number of accredited EKCA members contributing to the project. (e.g. on a joint claim from one member and one non member, 50% of the hardware is eligible).
- 10) Every effort should be made to receive prior approval from the first ascensionist(s) before retrofitting a route *except* in the case of replacement of top anchors, fixed pins or unsafe bolts. This courtesy can avoid unpleasant exchanges!
- 11) Hardware (bolts, hangers, and anchors) will be reimbursed piece for piece provided the application is approved and inventory and funds exist to facilitate reimbursement.

**EKCA sometimes makes bulk purchases of bolts. Check with EKCA before you buy your bolts.**

12) Please refer to the EKCA Best Practices Guidelines for Bolting Policy for more information. Always obtain permission before bolting in a new area to ensure there are no infringements with existing stakeholders. Please contact the EKCA prior to bolting in a new area so we can establish communication with land managers and stakeholders.

### **3) APPLICATIONS FOR HARDWARE/FUNDS**

- 1) Send an email or Facebook request for an EKCA claim form and one will be provided.
- 2) Approval by a simple majority of EKCA directors is required. (i.e.  $\geq 4$  of 6).

### **4) PRIORITIES**

1st) **Approved** retrofits (replacement of substandard anchors and protection) and enviro projects (like trail work and anchor camouflaging) take precedence. Where the costs of such projects are likely to exceed \$250, the protagonist(s) should submit a budget to EKCA for approval **before** commencing the work to ensure that sufficient funds are set aside and that the project is deemed worthy of support.

2nd) **New** routes. Priority: 1<sup>st</sup> Sport climbs; 2<sup>nd</sup> Mixed rock climbs (i.e. bolts and gear); 3<sup>rd</sup> Mixed ice/rock routes. If there are insufficient funds to cover all claims for new routes, the funds remaining after retrofits and enviro projects have been paid will be proportioned amongst eligible claimants. Claims for developments that have been identified as being especially valued by the climbing public may receive higher levels of funding than other efforts.

3rd) Any surplus funds remaining after all claims for the year have been settled *may* be used to compensate additional costs incurred, or to settle unfunded portions of approved claims from previous years.