

Level 1-3 Climbing Judge Certification

An Aspirant Judge (any person 18 or over seeking Climbing Judge certification) must meet the requirements described below for Climbing Judge certification at the specified level, and with the particular endorsements. One can achieve up to Level 3 certification in one or both disciplines (Bouldering and/or Lead/TR).

Level 1 Climbing Judge Certification

- Complete Level 1 registration through the online USAC membership system, which requires:
 - Completion of SafeSport training,
 - Background check,
 - Signed Judges Code of Conduct,
 - Completion of online basic Judge training,
 - Completion of online Bouldering and/or Lead/TR training.
- Bouldering endorsement: Complete online Bouldering Judge Training.
- Lead/TR endorsement: Complete online Lead/TR Judge Training.
- Level 1 certification is awarded automatically upon completion of requirements through the USAC online membership system.

Level 2 Climbing Judge Certification

- Level 2 Climbing Judge certification is awarded in Bouldering and/or Lead/TR after successfully judging at Regional or Divisional Championship events. Aspirant Judges should work with Level 2 (or higher) Climbing Judges for mentoring and evaluation.
 - Level 2 Bouldering endorsement is earned by judging at Regional or Divisional Bouldering Championship event(s) and receiving a positive evaluation from the event's Jury President and/or a Level 2 (or higher) Climbing Judge serving at the event.
 - Level 2 Lead/TR endorsement is earned by judging at Regional or Divisional Lead/TR Championship event(s) and receiving a positive evaluation from the event's Jury President and/or a Level 2 (or higher) Climbing Judge serving at the event.
- Those ready to apply for Level 2 certification must have an active Level 1 certification with appropriate endorsements and should email the USAC Judges Committee (judges@usaclimbing.org) stating their intent and including a document that details their judging experience, i.e., for each event provide the event name (e.g., Region 22 Bouldering Regionals), date, location (e.g., gym name, city), Jury President's name and email, the name and email of any certified judge they worked with, and description of the applicant's role at the event. The Judges Committee will either approve the request or specify the additional steps needed for certification approval.

Level 3 Climbing Judge Certification

- Level 3 Climbing Judge certification is awarded with endorsements in Bouldering and/or Lead/TR after successfully judging at National Championship events. Aspirant

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Judges should serve under Level 3 (or higher) Climbing Judges for mentoring and evaluation.

- Level 3 Bouldering endorsement is earned by judging Bouldering at a minimum of one National Championship event (the National Team Trials, Elite National Championship, and/or Youth National Championship) and receiving a positive evaluation from the event's Jury President and/or a Level 3 (or higher) Climbing Judge serving at the event.
- Level 3 Lead/TR endorsement is earned by judging Lead/TR at a minimum of one National Championship event (the National Team Trials, Elite National Championship, and/or Youth National Championship) and receiving a positive evaluation from the event's Jury President and/or a Level 3 (or higher) Climbing Judge serving at the event.
- Those ready to apply must have an active Level 2 certification with appropriate endorsements and should email the USAC Judges Committee (judges@usaclimbing.org) stating their intent and including a document that details their judging experience, i.e., for each event, provide the event name (e.g., Youth National Championship), date, location, Jury President's name and email, the name and email of any certified judge they worked with, and description of the applicant's role at the event. The Judges Committee will either approve the request or specify the additional steps needed for certification approval.

The Judges Committee will review all applications for Level 1-3 certification and grant certification to qualified candidates. The Jury President, at every Regional and Divisional Championship event where an Aspirant Climbing Judge volunteers, should complete an Aspirant Judge Performance Review form and submit it to the Judges Committee to be kept on file. Additionally, the Level 2 (or higher) Climbing Judge who oversees an Aspirant Climbing Judge at the Regional, Divisional, or National level should submit an Aspirant Climbing Judge performance review form to the committee. The committee will use this information to help determine a candidate's eligibility for certification.

Individuals who have been certified as a Level 1, 2, or 3 Climbing Judge are expected to:

- Carry out, in a professional manner, the duties of a Climbing Judge as outlined in the USAC Rulebook.
- Stay updated on all USAC Rules.
- Complete performance reviews for all Judges who apprentice under them (e.g., a Level 3 Climbing Judge at a championship event should submit performance review forms for any Level 1 or Level 2 Judges interested in higher certification).

Depending on experience level, Level 3 Climbing Judges may have the opportunity to serve as Jury President, USAC Judge or Apprentice USAC Judge at local, Regional, and Divisional events.

At all National Championships, the Jury President, with support of the USAC Judge(s), will be responsible for completing performance reviews of all certified Climbing Judges serving at the event.