



# Rulebook

BOULDERING | SPEED | LEAD | TOP ROPE | COMBINED  
ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | PARACLIMBING | RECREATIONAL

## **USA Climbing Rulebook**

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*This Rulebook shall remain in effect until a subsequent version has been published.*

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*Any amendments to these rules will be published on the USA Climbing website [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.*

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*This Rulebook is subject to approval by the Board of Directors of USA Climbing in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. In the event of any conflict between USA Climbing's Bylaws and this Rulebook, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control.*

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*Rules Committee: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Rulebook(s) for the organization, as well as keeping current with IFSC standards and practices. The Rules Committee may be reached via e-mail: [rules@usaclimbing.org](mailto:rules@usaclimbing.org).*

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## Significant Changes

*This Significant Changes section is not a binding rule. Only the rules themselves, beginning with the Order of Rule Precedence and Glossary sections, shall govern. USA Climbing strongly recommends that members, host facilities, and other interested parties review the actual text of the rules themselves.*

*This section summarizes for convenient review many of the significant changes made to the rules with this version and may not include every rule change (not every rule change that could potentially affect a competitor may be considered sufficiently significant to be included in this section) nor does it include the complete language of any particular rule change or rule.*

*Where practical, the changes have been highlighted using [blue text](#). However, some changes (e.g., text deletions or simple name changes like “National Cup Series” to “North American Cup Series”) may not be so highlighted.*

USA Climbing is pleased to introduce the 2021-2022 USA Climbing Rulebook, with updates in several areas.

This Rulebook is the result of proposals, review, and feedback from the USA Climbing Board of Directors, the CEO and USA Climbing Staff, the Rules Committee, and numerous additional USA Climbing stakeholders, including members of various committees, task forces, and working groups, as well as the National, Divisional, and Regional Coordinator community.

Like the prior year’s Rulebook, this Rulebook version is being released during a continuing global pandemic. However, the rules contained herein do not represent USA Climbing’s entire attempt to update or modify rules or practices in order to enhance the safety of any individual preparing for or attending a USA Climbing competition or to meet local, state, or federal requirements or recommendations. USA Climbing expects that additional policies and rules may be released as required or prudent, and that those additional policies and rules will work in conjunction with, or possibly replace, the rules herein.

The prior USA Climbing Rulebook version was a significant step toward alignment with the IFSC rules. IFSC rules are occasionally updated and USA Climbing evaluates IFSC Rulebook updates for consideration towards adoption in the USA Climbing Rulebook. In this way, some changes in this Rulebook are for continued alignment with the IFSC rules, such as rules regarding: Artificial Aid (Glossary); Gloves, Kneepads (Glossary, Rules 3.6 and 9.6); Natural Holds (Glossary); Speed Knockout races with ties (Rule 9.13.1).

During the 2020-2021 season, USA Climbing published Rulebook Addendums to the 2020-2021 USA Climbing Rulebook and some changes in this Rulebook reflect those updates. Some of these changes include those related to the North American Cup Series replacing the National Cup Series; Bouldering Starts (Rules 8.8.4 and 8.8.6), Speed False starts allowing Time Rank in certain races (Rules 9.12.3 and 9.20.7). Note: The Virtual Qualification event changes from the Addendum were NOT carried forward into this Rulebook.

A few sections have been removed from the Rulebook:

- The Team Selection Committee is no longer defined as part of the Rulebook – it has an organization-level committee charter.
- As the North American Cup Series replaced the National Cup Series and the North American Cup Series has its own Event Manual, the National Cup Series event has been removed from this Rulebook.
- Similarly, the Combined Invitational event rules have been removed as USA Climbing will no longer have such an event.
- As part of an effort to align with other USOPC National Governing Bodies as well as other climbing National Federations, USA Climbing is moving some content from the USA Climbing Rulebook to a new USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document. The content that was in “Part 4 - National Ranking, National Teams, and International Invitations” in the prior Rulebook will form the basis of the Team Selection Procedures document.

As the IFSC moves from the 2020 Tokyo Olympics toward the 2024 Paris Olympics, the All-Around Combined concept (Speed, Boulder, Lead) is generally being retired, in favor of the Boulder+Lead Combined concept. In some cases, exceptional achievement in the All-Around Combined at a 2020-2021 USA Climbing competition will result in a competitor being pre-qualified for certain events, but starting in 2021-2022, only Boulder+Lead Combined competitor achievement will be recognized. However, the All-Around Combined concept is maintained for the Team Championship. Competitor Combing ranking is found in Rule 3.21 and Team Championship All-Around Combined is found in Rule 3.11.5.

The method to qualify for the Collegiate National Championships in the Speed Discipline has changed. The Collegiate Divisional Championships will no longer include Speed. Instead, the Collegiate Series will use the same model as the Youth Series – qualification is through performance at a Collegiate Qualification Speed Trial. USA Climbing envisions that most Qualification Speed Trial events will include both Youth and Collegiate competitions.

For the (Elite) National Championship, the maximum quota of non-US citizen competitors allowed to advance from the Qualification Round to the Semi-Final Round has been increased to two (2) such competitors (Rule 13.4.1).

For the Youth Divisional Championship and the Youth National Championship, the maximum quota for non-US citizen competitor advancement between Rounds has been removed and additional US citizen competitors may be eligible to advance between Rounds if a non-US citizen competitor is eligible to advance (Rules 19.4.1 and 20.4.1). However, only US citizens are eligible to advance to a Speed Youth National Championship Final round using the Knockout format.

Additional changes in Section 1 include:

- Rule 1.7.5: Updates to provide more clarity around the concept of National Champion, including National Champion in a “Combined” ranking.
- Rule 1.8.5: Updates to appointment/approval of certain Competition Officials, including the Jury President.

Additional changes in Section 2 include:

- Rule 2.6: Several changes regarding the move to a single-round competition registration system. USA Climbing competitions will no longer have second (2<sup>nd</sup>) round registration. The single registration round has a Normal period, and may have additional registration periods (Extended and Late) with tiered additional registration fees. In conjunction, the advancement quota to the Youth Divisional Championship and Collegiate National Championship have been updated.

Additional changes in Section 3 include:

- Rule 3.12.2: Additional guidance regarding Accommodations.
- Rule 3.13.2: Updated language regarding facility access during setting week, including ability for USA Climbing to grant exceptions.

Section 7 contains changes for the Lead/Top Rope Discipline, including:

- Rule 7.1: Certain competitions now have Event Organizer discretion to select either 5-minute or 6-minute Climb Time or Rotation Period.
- Rule: 7.4.4: Allow Youth National Championship discretion for USA Climbing to use the wave-based Qualification round Starting Order for Lead/Top Rope, as used at the 2021 event.
- Rule 7.5.2: Update to the minimum time gap to be more consistent with IFSC.
- Rule 7.11.2: Simplify the rule regarding a pause in scoring, and bring it into better alignment with the related IFSC rule.
- Rule 7.12.3: Simplify the rule regarding when competitor ranking uses climbing time. (e.g., when competitors have the same score in the round and were tied in the prior round, if relevant.)

- Rule 7.13.7: Add a rule for the Redpoint appeal deadline.

Section 8 contains changes for the Bouldering Discipline, including:

- Rule 8.13.3: Simplify the rule regarding when competitor ranking uses tops on 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, on 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt, etc. (e.g., when competitors have the same score in the round and were tied in the prior round, if relevant.)
- Rule 8.14.5: Fix the appeal deadlines for any Bouldering Final Rounds using Continuous Rotation Format, such as the Bouldering Youth National Championships.
- Rule 8.14.8: Add a rule for the Redpoint appeal deadline.

Section 9 contains changes for the Speed Discipline, including:

- Rule 9.5: Clarify which Speed records are maintained.

Section 20 includes changes to Youth National Championship, including:

- Rule 20.4.1: For the Youth C Category only, a False Start results in the forfeit of only running that race, reflecting USA Climbing's belief that Youth C Speed at the National Championship is a developmental opportunity.

Section 25 includes changes related to the Paraclimbing National Championship, including:

- Rule 25.4.1: Updates to the Final round quota, guidance regarding rules that reference 'hands' for competitors without a hand on an upper-limb appendage, the use of electronics for communication between a Visually Impaired competitor and their caller, etc.
- Rule 25.8.5: The Paraclimbing Classification system, including the merging of such categories, is under review and will be published at a later date. Until such time, the Paraclimbing Classification system set forth in the 2020-2021 USA Climbing Rulebook shall be in force

## Order of Rule Precedence

In the event and to the extent any rules contained in this Rulebook address the same or substantially the same subject matter but do not actually conflict, the more recently added provisions or amendments shall be deemed to have superseded earlier provisions.

Any inconsistency between rules shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:

- a) The safety rules in Part 1.
- b) The safety rules in Part 2.
- c) The Event rules in Part 3.
- d) The Discipline rules in Part 2.

## Glossary

### 1. The following terms shall apply throughout these Rules:

**Including** shall be understood to mean “including without limitation”, and **for example** (or **e.g.**) shall be similarly understood to be not limited to the example(s) given;

**May** references a discretionary matter;

**Shall**, and the alternative **must**, states a mandatory requirement;

**Shall not**, and the alternative **must not**, states a prohibition;

**Should** and **should not** state recommendations; there may be reasons to ignore a recommendation but the full implications must be understood and the case carefully weighed before choosing a different course;

**They**, **Their**, and **Them** are personal pronouns used in both singular and plural contexts, a grammatical usage commonly accepted and chosen by USA Climbing toward gender identity inclusion; and

**USAC** is USA Climbing.

### 2. The following definitions shall apply throughout these Rules:

**Applicable Standards** has the meaning given in Rule 3.2 of these Rules;

**Appeal Fee** means the amount published by USA Climbing in relation to making in-competition appeals regarding compliance with an interpretation of these Rules;

**Artificial Aid** means Controlling or Using any of the following:

- a) any “T-Nut” placements **with the hands**, whether on the Climbing Surface or a Structure/Volume, provided for the fixing of Artificial Holds; or
- b) any part of the Climbing Surface, Artificial Holds, or Structures/Volumes demarcated as out of bounds by the use of continuous black tape, where the area beyond the black tape is out of bounds, but not the black tape itself; or
- c) any Artificial Hold or Structure/Volume demarcated as out of bounds by the use of

continuous red tape, where Artificial Holds and Structures/Volumes beyond the red tape are out of bounds, but not the red tape itself; or

- d) any advertising or informational placard fixed to the Climbing Surface; or
- e) any **open edge** to the Climbing Surface, unless specifically designated as part of the route/boulder; or
- f) any bolt hanger fixed to the Climbing Surface; or
- g) any Protection Point or the climbing rope;

**Artificial Hold** means a manufactured climbing hold attached to the Climbing Surface or a Structure/Volume by means of screws or bolts. Note that a hold is either an Artificial Hold, Structure/Volume, or the Climbing Surface, and a handhold is a hold intended by the Chief Routesetter for Control or Use by the hand(s), though a competitor Controlling or Using a hold with their hand(s) does not necessarily make it a handhold;

**Call Zone** means any designated area to which competitors must report prior to commencing their attempt(s) in any round of competition;

**Category** means a group of competitors within one specific Discipline, gender, and age group as set out in Rule 1.4;

**Championship** refers to the highest tier individual event(s) authorized by USA Climbing in each of the Boulder, Combined, Lead/Top Rope, and Speed Disciplines, open to competitors either:

- a) eligible for the Elite Series, in which case the relevant events will be referred to as “National Championships”; or
- b) eligible for the Youth Series, in which case the relevant events will be referred to as “Youth Regional Championship(s)”, “Youth Divisional Championship(s)”, or “Youth National Championship(s)”; or
- c) eligible for the Collegiate Series, in which case the relevant events will be referred to as either “Collegiate Divisional Championship(s)” or “Collegiate National Championship(s)”; or
- d) eligible for the Paraclimbing Series, in which case the relevant events will be referred to as “Paraclimbing National Championship(s)”,

and in each case listed on the calendar of events published by USA Climbing;

**Climbing Surface** means the usable surface of a climbing wall:

- a) including all Natural Holds; and
- b) excluding all Artificial Holds, volumes and other temporary Structures/Volumes fixed onto the usable surface;

**Competition Area** means that part of the event venue allocated for sporting activities forming part of a competition, including:

- a) any Isolation Zone or Warm-up Area; and
- b) any Call/Transit Zone; and
- c) any Competition Zone, including:
  - i) the Climbing Surfaces used within any round of a competition; and
  - ii) the areas immediately in front of and next to the climbing wall(s), and

- iii) any other area assigned specifically for the safe and fair conduct of a competition, for example, additional areas needed for video recording or playback;

**Control** means, for the purposes of judging and scoring, that a competitor has made use of some object/structure to:

- a) achieve or change a stable body position; or
- b) successfully brake any dynamic movement,

and the terms “Controls”, “Controlled”, and “Controlling” shall be interpreted in context;

**Cup or Cup Series** refers to the highest tier annual competition series authorized by USA Climbing in each of the Boulder, Lead, and Speed Disciplines, open to competitors eligible for the Elite Series, in which case these events will be referred to as “[North American Cups](#)”, and in each case listed on the calendar of events published by USA Climbing;

**Discipline** means a specific format for competition climbing which conforms to specific rules and standards;

**Did Not Start or DNS** means:

- a) in respect of any specific boulder, route or race within any round or stage of a competition, that a competitor failed to attempt that boulder, route or race, recorded alternatively as Not Started; and
- b) in respect of any round or stage of a competition, that a competitor:
  - i) where that round of the competition is conducted under Isolation Conditions, failed to report to the Isolation Zone by, or was not present within the Isolation Zone at, the time set out on the Starting List for that round; or
  - ii) failed to report to the Call Zone when called for that round or stage; or
  - iii) was otherwise recorded with a Did Not Start Invalid Results Mark (IRM) pursuant to the relevant provisions of Part 2 of these Rules,

and will be recorded as such on the relevant results. Competitors recorded as Did Not Start in any round or stage will not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round or stage of the same competition;

**Disqualified or DSQ** means a disqualification from competition for breach of these rules;

**Disqualified for Behavior or DQB** means a disqualification from competition for a violation of the World Anti-Doping Code (or, where applicable, the Olympic Charter) or any other serious breach of an applicable regulation issued by USA Climbing or, where relevant, the IOC or a NOC, including but not limited to:

- a) serious unsporting behavior or other serious disturbance; and
- b) abusive, threatening, or violent behavior to any person;

**Electronic Communication Equipment** means any device or object capable of data, voice or other communication, regardless of the operational state (e.g., airplane mode) of said device or object, including without limitation: telephones, smart watches, pagers, walkie-talkies, cameras, personal fitness devices, wireless headphones, etc. USA Climbing rules prohibit or restrict the possession or use of Electronic Communication Equipment in some areas;

**Event Organizer** means the individual or party responsible for the organization and preparation of any Sanctioned Event;

**Gloves** means any hand-made or manufactured glove, whether or not designed and sold for the purposes of climbing. For the avoidance of doubt, tape applied to the hands by the athlete themselves is not to be considered to be a Glove.

**Invalid Results Mark** or **IRM** means a non-scoring result, for example: Did Not Start, Disqualified, or Disqualified for Behavior. Competitors assigned an Invalid Results Mark applicable to:

- a) any individual race, boulder, or route within a stage/round (where the relevant stage/round comprises more than one race, boulder, or route) will have no result for that race, boulder, or route; or
- b) any stage/round of competition will be unranked within the applicable stage/round (and, where relevant, the competition);

**Isolation Conditions** means that competitors within any given round of a competition are to make their attempts on any route/boulder in that round with knowledge of the relevant route/boulder, limited to such information:

- a) obtained during any collective observation period for the relevant route/boulder, from the area designated for such collective observation, including such information as may be shared between competitors participating in that collective observation period (and only where such competitors have not yet made their attempts); or
- b) obtained during the competitor's attempt(s) on the relevant route/boulders;

**Isolation Zone** means a Warm-up Area to which access is controlled and limited as set forth in Rule 3.16;

**Kneepad** means any hand-made or manufactured covering for the knee made from or incorporating rubber or other similar materials, the purpose or effect of which is to provide increased friction or otherwise facilitate the use of kneebars while climbing;

**Legitimate Position** means, for the purposes of Lead/Top Rope competitions, that a competitor in the course of their attempt on a route:

- a) has not used any Artificial Aid; and
- b) has clipped each preceding Protection Point in sequence; and
- c) where the next Protection Point has not yet been clipped, the competitor has not yet reached, or has not made any climbing movement to pass beyond, any Safety Hold designated by the Chief Routesetter;

**National Competition** refers to all National Championship competitions, in any Series, and all Elite Series competitions;

**Natural Hold** means any irregularity or textured feature forming part of the Climbing Surface, or any closed edge of the Climbing Surface;

**Official Results** means the results published by USA Climbing at the conclusion of a competition (or any round of that competition), which must be marked as "Official" and signed by the appropriate USA Climbing Official;

**Original Decision** has the meaning given in Rule 6.3.4 of these Rules;

**Provisional Results** (alternatively referred to as Unofficial Results) means any results published or circulated by USA Climbing prior to the publication of the Official Results for any competition, or any route/round within that competition;

**Protection Point** means an assembly comprising:

- a) a Quick-Link connector, connected to a bolt fixed to the load-bearing structure of the Climbing Surface; and
- b) a Carabiner into which a competitor can clip the rope when climbing. The orientation of this carabiner shall minimize the possibility of cross loading; and
- c) a single continuous machine-sewn or cable sling of appropriate length (as determined by the Chief Routesetter) connecting (a) and (b);

**Qualification Event** means any Sanctioned Event counting toward eligibility for the relevant Championship event series;

**Ranking** means the relationship between a set of results such that, for any two items, the first is either 'ranked higher than', 'ranked lower than' or 'ranked equal to' the second. For the purposes of this Rulebook, 'ranking higher than' means better than and 'ranking lower than' means worse than. All Rankings referred to in these rules are calculated using the *standard competition ranking* scheme unless stated to the contrary:

- a) Standard competition ranking means that competitors who compare equally receive the same ranking number, and a gap is left in the ranking numbers. An example is a result that has 1<sup>st</sup> place, then a three-way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, then 5<sup>th</sup> place, then 6<sup>th</sup> place, etc.
- b) Fractional ranking means that competitors who compare equally receive the same ranking number, where that ranking number is the average of the competitors' ordinal ranks, which in turn are distinct sequential ordinal numbers. For example: an untied competitor in 2<sup>nd</sup> has a Fractional ranking of two (2); the competitors in a two-way tie for 5<sup>th</sup> each have a Fractional ranking of 5.5 (i.e.,  $(5+6)/2$ ); the competitors in a five-way tie for 10<sup>th</sup> each have a Fractional ranking of 12 (i.e.,  $(10+11+12+13+14)/5$ );

**Reaction Time** means the difference between the time at which a competitor leaves the Starting Pad and the commencement of the Starting Signal, measured to at least 1/100s, and may be zero, positive or negative;

**Rotation Period** means the climb time in a Single Rotation Format round of an Isolation Format competition or the climb/rest time in a Continuous Rotation Format round of an Isolation Format competition, which may also include a Transition Period;

**Route Map** (see Topo);

**Safety Hold** has the meaning given in Rule 7.3.1;

**Sanctioned Event** means a U.S. domestic climbing event including competitions in one or more of the Disciplines recognized by USA Climbing and governed by the USA Climbing Rulebook, planned and executed under a Host Agreement between USA Climbing and the host facility, and listed on the calendar on the USA Climbing website at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org);

**Seeding** means the preliminary ranking of a competitor used for the purpose of fixing their position in the initial Starting List for a competition;

**Single Rope** means a climbing rope meeting the EN-892 standard;

**Starting Group** means a subdivision of the competitors participating in a round of competition, who all compete on the same routes/boulders;

**Starting List** means a list of all competitors eligible to start a competition round or subdivision of that round, at the time noted on the document. Each Starting List will show:

- a) the relevant Category and round; and
- b) the starting order; and
- c) the name of each competitor; and
- d) the time:
  - i) at which the Isolation Zone or any Warm-up Area will be opened and closed; and
  - ii) of any observation or demonstration; and
  - iii) for the start of the round;

**Starting Signal** means a unique tone produced by the automated timing system to indicate the start of a measured climbing time;

**Structure or Volume** means any hollow or solid object providing either a single hold or multiple holds for hands or feet and which is attached to the Climbing Surface for the duration of at least one round;

**Technical Incident** means any event or circumstance that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor and which is not the result of that competitor's action(s);

**Tick Mark (Tick)** means a line or other shape of chalk or similar demarcation that is placed to gain a visual advantage regarding the location of a hold or ideal position. Tick Marks placed by a competitor are treated as set out in Rule 8.12.1. Note that Tick Marks placed by a Routesetter may be treated differently than Tick Marks placed by a competitor;

**Top Hold** has the meaning given in Rule 8.2.1 of these Rules;

**Topo or Route Map** means a symbolic map of a route, marking the scoring value for each handhold on a route;

**Transit Zone** means a specific area(s) within the Competition Area arranged to permit competitors to prepare for (or recover from) their attempts on a boulder/route. This may be an area behind or next to the climbing wall, or may be a cordoned off area with chairs facing away from any unclimbed route/boulder;

**Transition Period** means the time between consecutive Rotation Periods in a Continuous Rotation Format round of an Isolation Format competition. Transition Period may be zero;

**US Olympic Team** means those U.S. citizens who have qualified for the Sport Climbing event at the next upcoming, or current, Olympic Games, where the athlete qualified for said Olympic Games representing the U.S. U.S. Olympic Team members shall remain members of said Team until the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games.

**USA Climbing Official** means any official listed in Rule 1.8, appointed by USA Climbing at a relevant Sanctioned Event;

**Use** means, for the purposes of judging and scoring, that a competitor has made use of some object/structure to effect both: a progressive movement of their center of mass or hips; and a movement of either or both hands toward:

- a) the next sequential handhold along the line of progression; or
- b) any other handhold further along the line of progression that has been successfully Controlled by another competitor from the same handhold,

and the terms “Used”, “Uses” and “Using” will be interpreted in this context;

**Valid Appeal** has the meaning given in Rule 6.3.1 of these Rules;

**Valid Results Mark** or **VRM** means a scoring result;

**Volume** (see Structure);

**Warm-up Area** means any part of the Competition Area designated and equipped for the purpose of athletic preparation;

**Z-Clip** means a situation where the climbing rope is connected to two Protection Points out of sequence.

## Part 1 – General

# 1 USA Climbing

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 USA Climbing is recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) as the National Governing Body (NGB) for competition climbing in the United States, and is recognized by the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) as the National Federation (NF) for competition climbing in the United States.
- 1.1.2 In carrying out its authority and responsibility, USA Climbing is subject to the applicable requirements of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (as amended) and any applicable requirements of the USOPC.
- 1.1.3 USA Climbing conducts its activities in accordance with its Bylaws, which can be found on its website at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).

## 1.2 Executive Tasks

- 1.2.1 For matters concerning the organization of Sanctioned Events, the tasks of USA Climbing include:
  - a) receiving all applications to organize a Sanctioned Event; and
  - b) dealing with all enquiries, both of a general nature and with respect to approved competitions; and
  - c) issuing all official information regarding any Sanctioned Event; and
  - d) issuing all official information to coaches and competitors concerning each Sanctioned Event; and
  - e) managing the registration of memberships, coaching certifications, and competitors; and
  - f) issuing USA Climbing rules, regulations and other notices. Amendments may be published to these documents, which shall be read in conjunction with, and shall take precedence over, the original document. Each amendment shall incorporate a date of entry into force; and
  - g) publishing all official competition results and USA Climbing Rankings; and
  - h) appointing USA Climbing Officials for any Sanctioned Event.
- 1.2.2 For matters concerning the organization of international (IFSC) climbing competitions held within the United States, USA Climbing shall serve as the Event Organizer for the IFSC competition. (Refer to the IFSC Rulebook and IFSC website for more information.)

## 1.3 Competition Series

### 1.3.1 National climbing competitions under these rules include:

- a) Elite Series (formerly known as “Open”); and
- b) Youth Series; and
- c) Collegiate Series; and
- d) Paraclimbing Series; and
- e) Recreational Series.

### 1.3.2 All Elite Series (formerly known as “Open”) competitors shall:

- a) be sixteen (16) years of age or older on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the National Championship for the relevant Discipline; and
- b) compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
- c) have an active Competitor or Introductory Membership (Rule 2.3.1).

### 1.3.3 All Youth Series competitors shall:

- a) be nineteen (19) years of age or younger on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the Youth National Championship for the relevant Discipline; and
- b) compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
- c) have an active Competitor or Introductory Membership (Rule 2.3.1).

### 1.3.4 All Collegiate Series competitors shall:

- a) meet the requirements of a Collegiate Membership as set out in Rule 2.4; and
- b) compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
- c) have an active Collegiate or Collegiate Introductory Membership (Rule 2.3.1).

### 1.3.5 All Paraclimbing Series competitors shall:

- a) meet the qualifications of at least one Paraclimbing Category defined by way of the Paraclimbing Classification System in Rule 25.6.1; and
- b) compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
- c) have an active Paraclimbing Membership (Rule 2.3.1).

### 1.3.6 The Recreational Series is open to all competitors with an active Recreation Membership, of any age, although at the discretion of the Event Organizer each competition may provide for categories and/or registration restrictions based on age or other criteria, subject to the Bylaws and Rulebook of USA Climbing.

## 1.4 Categories

1.4.1 All USA Climbing athletes compete in male and female Categories. (USA Climbing's registration and scoring systems currently categorize competitors as male or female.)

- a) A competitor may register for a membership designating the gender, male or female, that is most aligned with the competitor's sincerely held core identity, subject to the following:
  - i) If that gender is different from the gender reflected on the competitor's birth certificate or is a different gender from that previously designated by the competitor as a USA Climbing member, the competitor must provide to USA Climbing an objective manifestation (documentation or other evidence) that shows the designated gender is more aligned than the birth gender (or than the previous gender, as applicable) with the competitor's sincerely held core identity. Documentation satisfying this standard generally may include, without limitation, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider or licensed counselor. The health care provider or licensed counselor must not be the athlete's first or second degree relative.
  - ii) With respect to US National Team selection and representation, and with respect to international competition, this rule is subject to any superseding rule or policy of any applicable national or international governing body. By way of illustration and due to the possibility of such a superseding rule or policy, a competitor electing to compete within the United States under this rule in a gender category that differs from the competitor's birth certificate gender accepts the risk of not being eligible for selection to a US National Team and/or participation in international competition.

1.4.2 Youth competitors are further classified based on year of birth, and compete in male and female age-based Categories:

USA Climbing Youth Categories for Sep 2021 through Aug 2022			
Birth Year	Age Category	(Competition) Category	
		Female	Male
2011 or later	Youth D	Female Youth D (FYD)	Male Youth D (MYD)
2009 or 2010	Youth C	Female Youth C (FYC)	Male Youth C (MYC)
2007 or 2008	Youth B	Female Youth B (FYB)	Male Youth B (MYB)
2005 or 2006	Youth A	Female Youth A (FYA)	Male Youth A (MYA)
2003 or 2004	Junior	Female Junior (FJR)	Male Junior (MJR)

1.4.3 Paraclimbing Categories are defined by way of Paraclimbing Classification System in Rule 25.8.

1.4.4 While all USA Climbing Sanctioned Events must adhere to the categories defined in this Rulebook for all aspects of the competition, from registration to results, a Youth or Collegiate Qualification Series or Recreational Series competition is allowed to also utilize the results in alternate additional categories, provided such categories are not contrary to the rules or policies of USA Climbing. Such alternate categories shall not, in any way, replace the categories defined and used in this Rulebook. By way of example, alternate additional categories could include a gender-inclusive category.

## 1.5 Disciplines

1.5.1 USA Climbing competitions under these rules include the following competition Disciplines:

- a) Lead/Top Rope, in which competitors are ranked based on their progression on one or more routes, where competitors may be secured by clipping into protection points or by a 'top rope', subject to the specific competition rules; and
- b) Bouldering, in which competitors are ranked based on the number of boulders completed and their progression on boulders not completed; and
- c) Speed, in which competitors are ranked based on the time needed to climb a standard route, with the exception of Youth-C competitors who climb on a non-standard route; and
- d) Combined, in which competitors are ranked based on a combination of their performances in multiple Disciplines, for example:
  - i) All-around Combined using Lead/Top Rope, Speed, and Bouldering; and
  - ii) Boulder+Lead Combined, using Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering.

1.5.2 Some events may include competitions in more than one Discipline.

- a) At the discretion of the Event Organizer in consultation with the Jury President, competitors may be allowed a rest period of at least thirty (30) minutes between the competitions.

## 1.6 Competitions

- 1.6.1 The dates for USA Climbing Sanctioned Events shall be published at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 1.6.2 The Elite Series (formerly known as “Open”) includes:
  - a) Lead, Bouldering, and Speed National Championships; and
  - b) Lead, Bouldering, and Speed National Team Trials; and
  - c) Select All-Around Combined and Boulder+Lead Combined competitions.
- 1.6.3 The Youth Series includes:
  - a) Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Youth Qualification Series competitions; and
  - b) Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Youth Regional Championships; and
  - c) Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Youth Divisional Championships; and
  - d) Youth Qualification Speed Trial competitions; and
  - e) Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Youth National Championships.
- 1.6.4 The Collegiate Series includes:
  - a) Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Collegiate Qualification Series competitions; and
  - b) Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Collegiate Divisional Championships; and
  - c) [Collegiate Qualification Speed Trial competitions; and](#)
  - d) Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Collegiate National Championships.
- 1.6.5 The Paraclimbing Series includes:
  - a) Paraclimbing National Championships.
- 1.6.6 The Recreational Series includes:
  - a) Recreational Series competitions.
- 1.6.7 Each competition shall have equivalent categories for both Male and Female. Category merging in the Paraclimbing series may result in categories merged differently between Male and Female.
- 1.6.8 Subject to Event Organizer discretion and USA Climbing approval, multiple competitions may occur at the same host facility at the same time, in which case competitors in each competition will be scored and ranked separately from competitors in the other competitions.
- 1.6.9 Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), competitions that may be hosted outside the relevant Youth Region, Youth Division, or Collegiate Division include:
  - a) Youth Qualification Series competitions; and
  - b) Youth Regional Championships; and
  - c) Youth Divisional Championships; and
  - d) Collegiate Qualification Series competitions; and
  - e) Collegiate Divisional Championships.
- 1.6.10 [The North American Cup Series is a joint venture comprising multiple National Federations and its events are governed by the North American Cup Series Event Manual \(“Event Manual”\). Where the Event Manual delegates authority to USA Climbing’s policies and regulations \(i.e., events hosted in the United States\), this Rulebook shall apply.](#)

## 1.7 U.S. Citizen Eligibility, Status, and Requirements

- 1.7.1 Only U.S. Citizens are eligible for National Champion status, for selection to a U.S. National Climbing Team, or for an Invitation to an International Competition. However, non-U.S. Citizens are eligible for Collegiate National Champion status.
- 1.7.2 A U.S. Citizen (including a dual citizen) who has competed at an IFSC event representing a National Federation other than the U.S., is subject to IFSC Rules (including IFSC Rule 2.13 in 2019 version 1.9.2) and may not be eligible to represent the U.S. at IFSC events. In the event a competitor is so ineligible, that competitor shall not be eligible to be awarded U.S. National Champion status, named to a U.S. National Team, or awarded U.S. quota Invitations to IFSC events. For the purposes of this Rulebook, the term U.S. Citizen shall be interpreted to exclude such ineligible competitors, including without limitation rules relating to ranking points, ranking, advancement, “extra quota,” National Teams, Invitations, etc. For the avoidance of doubt, such ineligible competitors shall be treated by these rules as if they are not U.S. Citizens.
- 1.7.3 USA Climbing welcomes and encourages non-U.S. Citizen competitors to compete at any and all levels of competition during the season, and such competitors are subject to all USA Climbing Membership and eligibility requirements.
- 1.7.4 In order to encourage non-U.S. Citizen competitor participation while still maintaining an equitable system for U.S. competitors to qualify for Regional, Divisional, National Championships and the U.S. National Teams, in some cases in the Elite and Youth Series:
  - a) for each non-U.S. Citizen competitor who places within the range of advancement to the next competition, an additional U.S. competitor may be advanced; and
  - b) only U.S. Citizens may be eligible for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) round registration; and
  - c) the number of non-U.S. Citizens that can advance between rounds at a competition may be limited.
- 1.7.5 All references in this Rulebook to competitors with Champion status are to be read as follows:
  - a) World Champions and Pan American Champions are those who achieved such status representing the U.S (for the avoidance of doubt, a World Champion who achieved such status representing a country other than the U.S. is considered a non-Champion competitor within the scope of this Rulebook); and
  - b) National Champions are those who achieved such status at a USA Climbing National Championship and otherwise satisfy the requirements of this Rulebook. For each of the Elite, Youth, and Collegiate Series, the National Champion is determined as follows (with the condition that for the Elite and Youth Series, the National Champion shall be the highest ranked US citizen competitor):
    - i) The National Champion in each of Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed is the highest ranked competitor at a USA Climbing National Championship. For the avoidance of doubt, the National Champion status is separate from any National Ranking, and the National Champion in Speed is determined without consideration of Time Rank.
    - ii) In the event there is a Boulder+Lead National Championship competition, the Boulder+Lead National Champion is the highest ranked competitor at that competition.
    - iii) In the event there is not a Boulder+Lead National Championship competition, the Boulder+Lead National Champion is the highest ranked competitor in the competition’s Boulder+Lead ranking, where such a Boulder+Lead ranking is determined as set forth in Rule 3.21 using the competition’s General Results in each of the Boulder and Lead Disciplines among competitors who received a General Rank in both Disciplines.
    - iv) Starting with the 2021-2022 National Championship competitions, at the conclusion of the competition, no All-Around Combined National Champion shall be recognized and all “current” All-Around Combined National Champions shall lose the “current” status.

## 1.8 Competition Officials

- 1.8.1 USA Climbing Competition Officials (Officials) are appointed to fulfill competition management duties to oversee the fair and impartial implementation of the competition rules outlined in this Rulebook. For the purposes of this Rulebook, the term Official shall include any individual appointed by USA Climbing to coordinate competition organization or execution and any individual with discretion to make field-of-play decisions (Rule 1.10.5). USA Climbing may formally appoint primary Officials to each USA Climbing Sanctioned Event, whose roles and responsibilities are outlined below. The primary Officials may appoint or assign secondary Officials to assist in fulfilling their duties.
- 1.8.2 All USA Climbing Competition Officials shall exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to all other Officials, competitors, coaches, staff, volunteers and host facility personnel.
- 1.8.3 USA Climbing, with the assistance of its staff, Committees, and Working Groups, may develop and maintain Certification and/or endorsement programs for individuals who serve as Competition Officials at USA Climbing competitions.
- a) USA Climbing has developed a training, evaluation, and certification system that provides for Certified Judge levels, such as: USAC Jury President (Level 6); USAC National Judge (Level 5); USAC Regional-Divisional Judge (Level 4); and Level 1 through Level 3 Certified Judges, in each of Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering endorsements.
  - b) USA Climbing has developed a training, evaluation, and certification system that provides Routesetter Certification Levels (e.g., Level 1 through Level 5), with appropriate Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering endorsements.
  - c) USA Climbing may develop a competition belaying process that includes training, supervision, and evaluation along with a competition belaying endorsement system that provides for multiple levels of competition belaying endorsement.
- 1.8.4 An individual may serve as more than one Official at any given Competition.
- 1.8.5 As appropriate, each competition in USA Climbing Sanctioned Event shall have the following Competition Officials:
- a) Event Organizer.
    - i) The Event Organizer is responsible for all USA Climbing-related organizational matters during the running of the competition. They have the authority to oversee that the facilities are in accordance with USA Climbing rules and regulations. In the absence of the Jury President and before the Jury President's arrival at a competition, the Event Organizer acts on the Jury President's behalf in respect of the organization of the competition within the Competition Area.
    - ii) At a National Championship, the Event Organizer is comprised of the USA Climbing staff working in conjunction with the host facility staff.
    - iii) At a Divisional Championship [and at a Collegiate Qualification competition](#), the Event Organizer shall be the Divisional Coordinator working in conjunction with the host facility staff. In the absence of a Divisional Coordinator [for a Youth competition](#), one or more of the Regional Coordinators from the included Regions shall be the Event Organizers, [and for a Collegiate competition, one or more of the Divisional Student Representatives](#), working in conjunction with the host facility staff.
    - iv) At a Regional Championship and at [a Youth Qualification competition](#), the Event Organizer is comprised of [one or more of the](#) Regional Coordinators working in conjunction with the host facility staff.
  - b) Jury President

- i) The Jury President has overall authority within the Competition Area. The overall authority of the Jury President covers all aspects of the running of a competition. This authority extends to covering the activities of the media and all persons assigned to the competition by the Event Organizer. The Jury President presides over all meetings of USA Climbing Officials and organization and technical meetings with the Event Organizer and competitors and Certified Coaches. The Jury President oversees all aspects of judging the competition and interprets and applies the rules in a fair and consistent manner.
  - ii) Although the Jury President does not normally have a judging role, they may at any time choose to carry out any judging task generally assigned to other judges should they deem that necessary. The Jury President is responsible for briefing all officiating Judges on the application of the USA Climbing Rules before the start of a competition.
  - iii) The Jury President is required to submit a detailed report to the USA Climbing Judges Committee on each Aspirant Judge undergoing the final phase of their training program.
  - iv) The Jury President shall preside over any field-of-play Appeals (Rule 1.10.5) by convening an Appeals Jury [as set forth in Rule 6.1.2](#).
  - v) At National Competitions, USA Climbing [shall](#) appoint the Jury President.  
 At the Divisional and Regional Championships, the Event Organizer [shall recommend](#) a Jury President [and such recommendation is subject to any relevant certification requirements set by USA Climbing and approval by an individual with Sport Discretion](#).  
 At Qualification competitions, the Event Organizer shall recommend a Jury President and such recommendation is subject to any relevant certification requirements set by USA Climbing and approval by the Events Management staff.  
 In each instance, approval of a recommendation shall be presumed if the recommendation is not disapproved within fourteen (14) days following receipt of the recommendation.
- c) USAC Judge.
- i) The USAC Judge is appointed by USA Climbing to assist the Jury President in undertaking all aspects of judging a competition. Additional USAC Judges may be appointed for a given competition. USA Climbing may also appoint Aspirant USAC Judges who undergo the final, practical phase of their training program by assisting the USAC Judge in their judging duties.
  - ii) The USAC Judge is responsible for announcing the publication of starting and result lists, appeals, and any important changes to the competition program, and any other duties assigned by the Jury President. The USAC Judge should be a member of the Appeals Jury with the Jury President.
  - iii) The USAC Judge is assisted in their judging by Certified Judges appointed by the Event Organizer.
  - iv) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the USAC Judge. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Event Organizer, in consultation with [the Jury President and](#) USA Climbing, appoints the USAC Judge.
- d) USAC Speed Judge.
- i) The USAC Speed Judge is appointed by USA Climbing to assist the Jury President and USAC Judge in undertaking all aspects of organizing and judging a Speed competition. USA Climbing may also appoint Aspirant USAC Speed Judges who undergo the final, practical phase of their training program by assisting the USAC Speed Judge in their duties.
  - ii) The USAC Speed Judge is responsible for announcing the publication of starting and result lists, appeals, and any important changes to the Speed competition program, and any other duties assigned by the Jury President.

- iii) The USAC Speed Judge should be a member of the Speed Discipline Appeals Jury with the Jury President and USAC Judge.
  - iv) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the USAC Speed Judge. At Qualification Competitions, the Event Organizer, in consultation with [the Jury President](#) and USA Climbing, appoints the USAC Speed Judge.
- e) Climbing Judge (aka Route Judge or Boulder Judge).
  - i) The main role of a Climbing Judge is to judge the performance of the competitors on routes or boulders. The Climbing Judges shall be fully informed of the technical rules and regulations governing competitions, and shall be instructed in their duties by, and work under the direction of, the USAC Judge.
  - ii) Climbing Judges may be Certified Judges. Certified Judges shall be persons holding a USA Climbing Judge Certification with the Discipline-specific endorsement, where the list of Certified Judges (including their levels/endorsements), the certification process, and the certification-level requirements are found on the Judges section on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
  - iii) At National Competitions, USA Climbing recruits and selects the Climbing Judges. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Event Organizer, in consultation with [the Jury President](#) and USA Climbing, recruits and selects the Climbing Judges.
- f) Chief Routesetter.
  - i) The Chief Routesetter consults with the members of the routesetting team to plan and coordinate all matters concerning the routesetting and route maintenance, including the design of each route or boulder, the placement of holds and other equipment, and the repair and cleaning of routes or boulders. They are responsible for checking technical standards, which are designed, among other things, for safety, advising the Jury President on all technical matters within the Competition Area, assigning “zone” hold placements, assisting in compiling the Topos for the routes, and advising the judges on the positioning of video cameras and the maximum time allotted for each route or boulder.
  - ii) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the Chief Routesetter and may appoint additional members of the routesetting team. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Regional Coordinator(s) and/or the Event Organizer, in consultation with USA Climbing, appoints the Chief Routesetter.
- g) Chief Belayer.
  - i) Each USA Climbing National Competition or USA Climbing-hosted international event with a Lead/Top Rope competition shall have a designated Chief Belayer who is appointed by USA Climbing; other USA Climbing events shall each have a Chief Belayer designated by the Event Organizer. The event may also have a designated Assistant Chief Belayer (or ACB) appointed by Chief Belayer.
  - ii) The Chief Belayer and Assistant Chief Belayer shall be responsible for working with the host facility, Jury President and other competition officials to create an event belay plan that includes assembling an experienced belay team, supervising the belay team, and conducting belaying practices in accordance with the USA Climbing Competition Belaying Handbook found on the USA Climbing website at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
  - iii) The Chief Belayer works with the belay team to manage, inspect, and maintain competition ropes and belaying gear, check tie-in knots for all competitors, and inspect the field-of-play for safety concerns and belaying anomalies. The Chief Belayer works with the USAC Judge to maintain the field-of-play flow, safely getting competitors to and from competition routes.
  - iv) The Chief Belayer is responsible for belayer evaluations and incident reports as warranted.

- v) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the Chief Belayer. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Event Organizer, in consultation with [the Jury President and](#) USA Climbing, appoints the Chief Belayer.

## 1.9 USA Climbing Staff Official Authority & Discretion

### 1.9.1 USA Climbing CEO Authority & Discretion.

- a) Notwithstanding other rules within this Rulebook, the USA Climbing CEO, in consultation with the Event Organizer and Jury President of the affected competition, has the authority and discretion (“CEO Discretion”) to cancel competitions, modify competition formats, or advance a category or categories of competitors (e.g., either between rounds or to a championship event), in unavoidable circumstances such as in the case of a major weather event impacting a significant number of competitors or in circumstances where an error has occurred that, without the exercise of such discretion, would materially undermine the integrity of a round or the competition, so long as:
  - i) all material changes are communicated in as timely a manner as practicable under the circumstances via means reasonably designed to reach all or substantially all of the affected individuals; and
  - ii) the changes are designed in good faith to impact all or substantially all such similarly-situated competitors similarly to the extent practicable; and
  - iii) no bye or waiver is declared for an individual competitor due to weather, injury, illness, personal hardship or other personal circumstances.
- b) CEO Discretion also rests with any senior employee of USA Climbing so designated by the USA Climbing CEO in a written notification to the Event Organizer and Jury President for the applicable Event.
- c) USA Climbing shall designate that the USA Climbing CEO, or other USA Climbing senior employee designated by the CEO to have CEO Discretion, maintains on-call availability to USA Climbing Competition Officials during each USA Climbing championship event.
- d) The USA Climbing CEO or the CEO’s delegate shall notify the Board of Directors no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting of any exercise of CEO Discretion.

### 1.9.2 USA Climbing VP of Sport Authority & Discretion.

- a) Where so granted in this Rulebook, USA Climbing Sport Authority & Discretion (“Sport Discretion”) grants to the USA Climbing CEO or VP of Sport (or equivalent) the authority to select or exercise an option listed in the relevant rule, or to waive or amend the relevant rule to the extent provided by that rule.
- b) Upon any exercise of Sport Discretion, the CEO or such person having exercised the authority shall notify the Board of Directors and the Rules Committee within thirty (30) days or no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- c) Where Sport Discretion impacts a below-listed Series of USA Climbing competitors or events, the relevant USA Climbing committee or persons shall be consulted in advance if time allows or shall be notified in a timely manner after exercise of Sport Discretion.
  - i) Where the Series is Elite, the relevant committee is the USA Climbing Athletes’ Advisory Committee.
  - ii) Where the Series is Collegiate, the relevant committee is the Collegiate Committee.
  - iii) Where the Series is Paraclimbing, the relevant committee is the Paraclimbing Committee.
  - iv) Where the Series is Youth, the relevant persons are the National Coordinators.

## 1.10 Disputes, Grievances, and Other Complaints

- 1.10.1 The procedures set forth under Article 15 of the USA Climbing Bylaws, the Judicial Committee Procedures, and this Rulebook govern the processing of all disputes, grievances and other complaints. These procedures are intended to facilitate the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of USA Climbing's members and are intended, among other things, to avoid inappropriate direct confrontation between members. Failure to abide by these procedures may constitute intimidation or harassment.
- 1.10.2 The primary processes for resolving disputes occurring on the field of play are set forth in Section 6 (Appeals) and in the Technical Incidents and Appeals section for each discipline in Part 2 – Discipline Rules.
- 1.10.3 Disputes, grievances and other complaints that are not resolved by the procedures outlined in Section 6 (Appeals) or in the Technical Incidents and Appeals section for each Discipline in Part 2 – Discipline Rules may be reviewed by USA Climbing's Judicial Committee. These include, but are not limited to, administrative grievances, right-to-participate complaints, and disciplinary proceedings. Certain matters are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport or the United States Anti-Doping Agency and are not reviewable by the Judicial Committee. For information refer to the USA Climbing Bylaws and Judicial Committee Procedures at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 1.10.4 The Judicial Committee protocol, as set forth under Article 15 of the USA Climbing Bylaws, the Judicial Committee Procedures, and this Rulebook, provides a process whereby complaints may be submitted to the USA Climbing Judicial Committee.
- Complaints shall be submitted via email to [judicial@usaclimbing.org](mailto:judicial@usaclimbing.org), with a copy to [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org).
  - Complaints shall be written in English.
  - There shall be no charge to report a violation of USA Climbing's SafeSport policies or reports of athlete safety violations, and USA Climbing itself shall not incur any complaint fee for bringing its own complaint of any kind before the Judicial Committee.  
  
All other complaints submitted to the Judicial Committee shall be accompanied by a non-refundable administrative fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), though as set forth in Section 15.4 of the USA Climbing Bylaws, the complainant may request that the filing fee be reduced or waived for reasons of significant financial hardship.
  - All submissions should grant USA Climbing permission to charge the administrative fee to the complainant's credit card on file.
  - The administrative fee must be paid or waived prior to the Judicial Committee making a ruling on the matter.
  - Complaints pertaining to registration deadlines or issues shall not be heard or considered within ninety-six (96) hours of the start of a Championship competition.
  - Complaints that do not follow the Judicial Committee protocol shall be dismissed.

1.10.5 Under the USAC Climbing Bylaws, Section 15.8, the final decision of a referee regarding a “field of play” decision that is within their authority to make is not reviewable by the USA Climbing Judicial Committee unless the decision is the product of fraud, corruption, partiality, or other misconduct of the referee.

- a) For purposes of Rule 1.10.5, the term “referee” shall include any individual with discretion to make “field of play” decisions, including any and all competition judges and officials as set forth in Rules 1.8 and 1.9.
- b) For purposes of Rule 1.10.5, the term “field of play” shall be defined as any area or areas of the competition venue used by competitors in preparation for, and execution of, the climbing procedures. This includes all climbing walls used for the competition and other areas of a competition venue such as the Isolation and Transit Zones. Any ruling or decision that a competitor or coach wishes to formally challenge, relating to a matter outlined in this Rulebook as within the discretion of a competition referee (refer to Rules 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10.5) shall be considered a “field of play” appeal. This includes, for example, any challenge relating to the physical area(s) prepared for and utilized during the competition (i.e., the venue and climbing walls), the competition format and schedule, the routesetting or specific design of the routes/boulders, judging or scoring of competitors during the competition, and any rulings otherwise made at the discretion of a referee, or in the exercise of CEO Authority & Discretion under Rule 1.9.1 or Sport Authority & Discretion under Rule 1.9.2 if in preparation of or during a competition.
- c) For the purposes of this Rulebook, the terms “field of play”, field of play, and field-of-play shall each be defined as set forth in (b) when the term is used in relation to discretion or authority.

Note: while the latest version of the USA Climbing Bylaws shall govern, the relevant text in the January 30, 2020 USA Climbing Bylaws, Section 15.8, is as follows:

*“The final decision of a referee during a competition regarding a field of play decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be the subject of, or reviewable through the procedures for, Administrative Grievances or Right to Participate Complaints unless the decision is: (i) outside the authority of the referee to make, or (ii) the product of fraud, corruption, partiality or other misconduct of the referee. For purposes of this Section, the term “referee” shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions, including any and all competition judges and officials.”*

1.10.6 A decision concerning a SafeSport rule violation decided by the United States Center for SafeSport shall not be reviewable through, or the subject of, the procedures in this Rulebook. To enhance SafeSport practices and to investigate and resolve SafeSport violations, USA Climbing has agreed to comply with the SafeSport policies of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) and has incorporated by reference the provisions of the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (Code), including its appendices, into these policies. The Center may update its policies at any time and the changes are effective when published. For the most current SafeSport rules, policies and procedures, go to [www.safesport.org](http://www.safesport.org). The delegation of authority and jurisdiction to the U.S. Center for SafeSport as set forth above shall include matters involving allegations of sexual misconduct, including sexual abuse, and shall also include the investigation and issuance of sanctions related to allegations of other violations of USA Climbing SafeSport Policies (e.g., physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment and hazing) that are reasonably related to and which accompany an allegation that involves sexual misconduct. Additionally, at the discretion of USA Climbing or at the recommendation of the Judicial Committee, USA Climbing may request that the U.S. Center for SafeSport accept jurisdiction of matters that do not involve sexual misconduct but do involve allegations of physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment or hazing.

## 1.11 Team Selection Committee

- 1.11.1 The Team Selection Committee roles and responsibilities are set out in the charter for that committee.

## 2 Memberships, Regions, Divisions, and Teams

### 2.1 Membership – General

- 2.1.1 USA Climbing has multiple membership categories as outlined in Section 5.1 of the USA Climbing Bylaws. Members may register for membership in more than one category, subject to eligibility, and in some cases may be required to register in more than one category. Membership in multiple categories is subject to the limitations on Athlete voting rights set forth in the Bylaws. As of the 2021-2022 season, USA Climbing has the following membership categories:
- a) Competitor Membership.
  - b) Collegiate Membership.
  - c) Paraclimbing Membership.
  - d) Introductory Membership.
  - e) Collegiate Introductory Membership.
  - f) Recreation Membership.
  - g) Coach Membership: Level 1, Level 2.
  - h) Routesetter Membership.
  - i) Certified Routesetter Membership: Level 1, Level 2, Level 3+.
  - j) Certified Judge Membership.
  - k) Supporter Membership.
  - l) Team Membership.
  - m) Gym Membership: Basic, Full, [Additional Facility](#).
  - n) Volunteer Membership: Covered, Non-Covered.
  - o) USAC Staff Membership: [Covered](#), [Non-Covered](#).
  - p) Coordinator Membership: Regional, Divisional, National.
- 2.1.2 Competitors must hold an active Competitor, Collegiate, Paraclimbing, Introductory, Collegiate Introductory, or Recreation Membership in order to compete in a USA Climbing Sanctioned Event.
- 2.1.3 Basic information regarding the different types of coach and athlete Memberships can be found in Rules 2.2 and 2.3.2 below. Additional Memberships outlined above may be required based on an individual's participation with USA Climbing and as dictated by the USA Climbing Bylaws. Additional information regarding USA Climbing Memberships, including purchasing and other information, may be found at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org). Memberships are valid for twelve (12) months from the date of purchase and are processed online at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org). In addition to the requirements set forth in this Rulebook and in the USA Climbing Bylaws, Members must acknowledge and adhere to all requirements applicable to their membership(s) set forth in USA Climbing's other codes, rules and policies, and in the applicable codes, rules and policies of any third parties referenced therein.

### 2.2 Coach Membership and Certification

- 2.2.1 USA Climbing Coach Certification is subject to review by USA Climbing, and revocation is subject to the USA Climbing's Bylaws.
- 2.2.2 A coach must meet both membership and qualification requirements in order to be considered for recognition as a USA Climbing Certified Coach.
- a) To qualify for an active USA Climbing Level 1 Coach Certification, a coach must have a USA Climbing Level 1 Coach Membership and meet the following qualification requirements:

- i) submit verification of their coaching role in the form of either a letter from the coach's employer stating that the coach is employed as a coach, or a personal letter and *curriculum vitae* documenting their coaching experience, accompanied by references; and
  - ii) via the coach's USA Climbing account, authorize USA Climbing to conduct a criminal background check, respond timely to any requests from the background check vendor for additional information, and successfully complete that background screening under USA Climbing's SafeSport Screening and Background Check Policy; and
  - iii) complete all required SafeSport training under USA Climbing's SafeSport Policy which is accessed through their USA Climbing account. If the coach has a current SafeSport training that was completed outside their USA Climbing account, the SafeSport completion certificate must be submitted to [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org) for manual addition to the coach's account.
- b) To qualify for an active USA Climbing Level 2 Coach Certification, a coach must have a USA Climbing Level 2 Coach Membership and meet the following qualification requirements:
- i) meet all USA Climbing Level 1 Coach Certification qualification requirements; and
  - ii) submit documentation evidencing current First Aid and CPR certification.

For the avoidance of doubt, a USA Climbing Coach Certification immediately becomes inactive when any qualification requirement (e.g., criminal background check, SafeSport training, or First Aid and CPR certification) expires or otherwise lapses or is cancelled.

#### 2.2.3 Certified Coach Rights at a competition are subject to the following:

- a) The right to enter a Coaches-only area is limited to coaches holding an active USA Climbing Level 1 or Level 2 Coach Certification.
- b) The right to file an appeal on behalf of a competitor is limited to coaches holding an active USA Climbing Level 1 or Level 2 Coach Certification.
- c) The right to enter the Isolation Zone is limited to coaches holding an active USA Climbing Level 2 Coach Certification.

2.2.4 Summary Chart (\*subject to all other Rules within this Rulebook):

		Level 1 Coach	Level 2 Coach
Certified Coach Requirements	Active Membership	Level 1 Coach Membership	Level 2 Coach Membership
	Coaching Role Verification	Required	Required
	Background Check	Required	Required
	SafeSport	Required	Required
	First Aid and CPR	Not Required	Required
Certified Coach Rights	Coach Area Access	Yes*	Yes*
	File Appeals	Yes*	Yes*
	Enter Isolation	No	Yes*

2.2.5 To be eligible for the Certified Coach Rights at a Championship or National competition, either:

- the relevant membership, authorization, training, certification, and documentation must be completed and submitted at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the competition; or
- such items must be completed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the competition and accompanied by a \$50 late fee; or
- such items must be completed prior to the start of the competition and accompanied by a \$100 late fee.

For the avoidance of doubt, to be eligible for the Certified Coach Rights at any competition, all relevant membership, authorization, training, certification, and documentation must be completed and submitted.

2.2.6 The submission of any required coach certification information or authorization less than fourteen (14) days prior to the start of a competition is subject to the best-efforts of USA Climbing and its relevant subcontractors, and may not result in certification in time for the start of the competition.

2.2.7 An individual is not eligible for Certified Coach Rights unless they meet the requirements set forth in Rule 2.2.2. For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, a criminal background check that is in process and not yet successfully completed does not meet such requirements.

2.2.8 Refer to the Coaches section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) for instructions on submitting documentation and for any additional information on coach membership and certification requirements and deadlines.

## 2.3 Athlete Membership Types

2.3.1 Each Athlete Membership Type allows for competition registration at particular competitions as outlined in the following table:

Competition	Competitor Membership	Introductory Membership	Collegiate, Collegiate Introductory, Paraclimbing, or Recreation Membership
North American Cup Series	Competitor	Introductory	-
National Championships	Competitor	-	-
Youth Qualification Series	Competitor	Introductory	-
Youth Regional, Divisional, and National Championships	Competitor	-	-
Collegiate Qualification Series	-	-	Collegiate or Collegiate Introductory
Collegiate Divisional and National Championships	-	-	Collegiate
Paraclimbing National Championships	-	-	Paraclimbing
Recreational	-	-	Recreation

Note: USA Climbing may provide for USA Climbing members with certain Membership Types to add additional Membership Types with a discounted (or no) fee. See the Membership section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) for more information.

2.3.2 North American Cup Series competitions and Youth Qualification Series competitions are open to athletes with an Introductory Membership, but athletes competing without a Competitor Membership at the time of the competition will not be awarded:

- in the case of North American Cup Series competitions, North American Cup Ranking Points (see North American Cup Series Event Manual); and
- in the case of Youth Qualification Series competitions, Youth Qualification Series Ranking Points (Rule 17.7).

## 2.4 Collegiate Membership Eligibility

- 2.4.1 To be eligible for a Collegiate Membership, an athlete must be an undergraduate or graduate student with a high school diploma or equivalent and enrolled at a university or college during the Collegiate season. Competitors who may be graduating during the Collegiate season, participating in an internship, travel or work-study program during a portion of the Collegiate season, or who otherwise may not be enrolled full-time but can demonstrate they have had or will have Collegiate student status during all or part of the Collegiate season shall be eligible to compete during the entire Collegiate season.
- 2.4.2 An active Collegiate Membership requires an athlete to:
- a) purchase a USA Climbing Collegiate Membership; and
  - b) upload proof of enrollment within the USA Climbing registration process for approval in order to confirm Collegiate student status; and
  - c) complete all required SafeSport training under USA Climbing's SafeSport Policy which is accessed through their USA Climbing account. If the athlete has a current SafeSport training that was completed outside their USA Climbing account, the SafeSport completion certificate must be submitted to [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org) for manual addition to the athlete's account.
- 2.4.3 The submission of necessary items for an active Collegiate Membership or Collegiate Introductory Membership less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the competition is subject to the best-efforts of USA Climbing, and may not result in activation of the membership in time for the start of the competition. For the avoidance of doubt, a purchased but not yet active Collegiate Membership or Collegiate Introductory Membership does not meet the requirements for registration for a Collegiate series competition.
- 2.4.4 Refer to the Collegiate section of [www.usacimbing.org](http://www.usacimbing.org) for instructions on submitting documentation and for any additional information on Collegiate membership and proof of enrollment requirements and deadlines.

## 2.5 Competition Eligibility

- 2.5.1 As outlined in relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), competitors may be subject to eligibility requirements at select competitions.
- 2.5.2 It is the competitor's responsibility to verify their eligibility status. Competitors may review their eligibility status and their competition results at the results section of [www.usacimbing.org](http://www.usacimbing.org). In the event a competitor discovers an error, they should immediately contact USA Climbing at [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org).
- 2.5.3 USA Climbing shall grant eligibility status only as outlined in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules) in this Rulebook. Except for CEO Discretion, eligibility shall not be awarded for any other reason, including but not limited to medical injuries/conditions or academic graduation ceremonies.

## 2.6 Competition Registration

- 2.6.1 Registration for all USA Climbing competitions except Recreational Series competitions is only conducted directly with USA Climbing, through a competitor's USA Climbing account accessed online at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 2.6.2 If agreed between USA Climbing and the Event Organizer, registration for Recreational Series competitions may be conducted directly with USA Climbing, through a competitor's USA Climbing account accessed online at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 2.6.3 Registration for a competition may be capped at a maximum number of registrants (Registration Cap):
- a) for Elite series competitions, on a per-Category basis; or
  - b) for Youth and Collegiate Qualification Series competitions and Recreational Series competitions, on a per-Category or per-session basis.
- 2.6.4 Registration for each USA Climbing competition requires that:
- a) the athlete must have an appropriate active USA Climbing Membership as outlined in this Rulebook; and
  - b) the athlete must meet all eligibility requirements for the event, as outlined in the specific event's rules; and
  - c) the athlete's membership, eligibility, and registration must meet the registration deadline, subject only to a late period deadline allowed for under the Rules. *A registration application rejected because the athlete missed the deadline for registration shall not be subject to appeal.*
- 2.6.5 Unless the time is otherwise specified, all deadlines for registration through competitor's USA Climbing account shall be at 11:59pm Mountain Time on the day of the deadline. All USA Climbing deadlines are in U.S. Mountain Time, subject to the official daylight-saving time schedule, notwithstanding any typographical errors (e.g., MST vs MDT) in any USA Climbing communication.
- 2.6.6 USA Climbing competitions shall have one (1) registration round, where that registration round has one (1) or more registration periods.
- a) USA Climbing competitions shall have a registration period termed the Normal Registration period.
    - i) The Normal Registration period duration shall be at least four (4) days.
    - ii) The Normal Registration period deadline shall be fifteen (15) days prior to the start of competition.
  - b) A USA Climbing competition may have a registration period termed the Extended Registration period.
    - i) The Extended Registration period shall begin at the Normal Registration period deadline, and the Extended Registration period deadline shall be ten (10) days prior to the start of competition.
    - ii) Registrations during the Extended Registration period shall incur an additional \$50 Extended Registration fee.
  - c) A USA Climbing competition that has an Extended Registration period may have a registration period termed the Late Registration period.
    - i) The Late Registration period shall begin at the Extended Registration period deadline, and the Late Registration period deadline should be one (1) day prior to the start of the competition.
    - ii) Registrations during the Late Registration period shall incur an additional \$250 Late Registration fee. (The Late Registration fee shall not be in addition to any Extended Registration fee.)

For the avoidance of doubt, discretion regarding the inclusion or exclusion of an Extended Registration period and/or Late Registration period is only as explicitly stated in this Rulebook

(e.g., Rule 2.6 or Part 3 – Event Rules).

- 2.6.7 All Youth and Collegiate Qualification competitions, and all Recreational Series competitions, shall be subject to the following registration rule modifications, Rule 2.6.6 notwithstanding:
- a) The Normal Registration period deadline shall be at the discretion of the Event Organizer, but no earlier than three (3) days prior to the competition. For the avoidance of doubt, the deadline could be as late as the start of the competition.
  - b) The Extended Registration period is at the discretion of the Event Organizer. If there is an Extended Registration period, the Extended Registration fee and deadline shall each be at the discretion of the Event Organizer, but the fee shall be no greater than \$25.
  - c) There shall be no Late Registration period.
- 2.6.8 For competitions whose registration is conducted through a competitor's USA Climbing account, USA Climbing shall publish a continually updated list of registrants for a competition, and such publishing should start no later than halfway through the Normal Registration period and should end no earlier than the start of the competition.
- 2.6.9 For any USA Climbing competition, the host facility may require additional agreements, certifications, or attestations, subject to agreement by USA Climbing and inclusion in the Host Agreement between the host facility and USA Climbing. These additional requirements may include, but are not limited to, liability waiver agreements and certifications or attestations of lead climbing capability.
- 2.6.10 Upon registering for any competition at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org), a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided by the competitor. A competitor who does not receive such a confirmation email within thirty (30) minutes should contact USA Climbing immediately at [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org).

## 2.7 Youth Membership Regions and Divisions

2.7.1 When registering for a USA Climbing Membership, Youth competitors shall select a Youth Membership Region as follows:

- a) The competitor shall select their Youth Region based on either the location of their primary residence or the location of a primary climbing gym, where:
  - i) if a competitor is affiliated with a team, their Youth Region shall be either the location of their primary residence or the location of their team's primary gym; or
  - ii) if a competitor is not affiliated with a team, their Youth Region shall be either the location of their primary residence or the location of the competitor's primary gym.
- b) If either relevant location (but not both) is outside of the US, the competitor's Youth Region shall be the relevant location inside the US.
- c) If both relevant locations are outside of the US (e.g., living and training in Canada), the competitor's Youth Region shall be: **if the competitor is a US Citizen**, the one closest in distance to their primary residence; **otherwise, the Youth Region of their choice**.

Note: USA Climbing recommends that competitors affiliated with a team consult with their coach about the selection of a Youth Membership Region, in relation to Rule 2.8.2.

2.7.2 In the case of a change to a competitor's primary residence, team affiliation, or primary climbing gym, the competitor may request a change of their Membership Region during the season by submitting a request to [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org). USA Climbing should respond in a timely manner to either grant or deny such a request. Any update to a competitor's Membership Region is subject to at least the following:

- a) A Youth competitor's Membership Region shall not be changed during a period that begins two (2) weeks before the registration deadline for a Regional Championship and ends the Monday after the Divisional Championship in that same Discipline, in the same season.
- b) Unless the Membership Region change request is due to a change in the geographic location of the competitor's primary residence, a competitor's Membership Region shall not be changed to a region that was their Membership Region at any time during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months.

For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor may compete in the Regional and Divisional Championships of one Youth Region for a first Discipline, and compete in the Regional and Divisional Championships of a different Youth Region for a second Discipline. If the competitor is eligible to compete in the National Championships for both Disciplines, the registration quota for each Discipline will respect the competitor's Youth Region at the time of that Discipline's Divisional Championships. That is, such a competitor may register for the National Championships as a competitor of one Youth Region for a first Discipline, and as a competitor of a different Youth Region for a second Discipline, though a competitor is a member of only one Youth Climbing Team at a time.

2.7.3 In the event that:

- a) USA Climbing grants a competitor's Membership Region change request (Rule 2.7.2) due to a change in the geographic location of the competitor's primary residence; and
- b) the competitor's Membership Division changes; and
- c) the competitor has Qualification Series competition results, in the Discipline of the upcoming Youth Regional Championships, in the Youth Region they changed from,

then USA Climbing shall make the Qualification Series competition results from their old Youth Region provisionally available to the competitor for use in their new Youth Region, subject to Rule 18.2.3.

2.7.4 A competitor's Youth Membership Division is the Division that contains their Youth Membership Region.

## 2.8 Youth Climbing Teams

2.8.1 A Youth Climbing Team consists of USA Climbing Member climbers who compete and train together under the guidance and direction of a coach or coaches, provided:

- a) the team has a USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach; and
- b) the team members are in good standing with their coach, team policies, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing; and
- c) the team's USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach maintains and submits a team roster as set forth in Rule 2.8.2(b).

2.8.2 Eligible Youth Climbing Team members may have their results counted towards Team Championships at Championship events, subject to the following:

- a) A Youth Climbing Team Certified Coach must personally run, and eligible members attend in person and participate in, at least three (3) days of practice every two (2) weeks during the six (6) week period ending the Monday immediately prior to the relevant Regional Championship.
- b) The team's USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach must enter and submit the official roster of team members online within the USA Climbing membership registration system as outlined in the Coaches section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org), where the roster includes competitors planning to compete in Championship events as eligible Youth Climbing Team members.
- c) For a competitor to be an eligible Member of a Youth Climbing Team:
  - i) the competitor's Youth Membership Region must match the Youth Climbing Team's selected Region; and
  - ii) the competitor must represent the team at all Youth Qualification Series and Youth Championship competitions at which the competitor participates in the relevant season.
- d) At all Championship competitions, eligible Youth Climbing Team members must wear a team jersey as set out in Rule 3.7.
- e) In the event a competitor wishes to change team affiliation or joins a team during the season, USA Climbing must be notified in order to review, approve (or disapprove), and make the appropriate adjustments. Any and all team designations or affiliations must be submitted and approved, following the instructions on the Coaches section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).

Note: the procedure for Youth Competitors changing Membership Youth Region is found in Rule 2.7.2.

## 2.9 Collegiate Membership Divisions

- 2.9.1 When registering for a USA Climbing Collegiate Membership, competitors shall select a Collegiate Membership Division that corresponds to the geographic location of their university or college or, in the case of an online university or college, their primary residence.
- 2.9.2 Collegiate competitors may change their Collegiate Membership Division upon permanently transferring from one university or college to another, provided the competitor has submitted documentation of such a university or college transfer, along with a request to change their Collegiate Membership Division at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Collegiate Divisional Championships. Refer to the Collegiate section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) for instructions on submitting the above documentation.
- 2.9.3 Collegiate competitors may request a temporary change of their Collegiate Membership Division based on an educational program that results in temporary residency away from their university or college location. USA Climbing may, in its discretion, grant the request provided the competitor:
  - a) is participating in a temporary educational program related to their studies (such as a co-op, internship, semester abroad or at another college or university) or has a hardship requiring the student to temporarily live away from campus and complete regular coursework offered online by the college or university during the time when the Collegiate Divisional Championships will be held; and
  - b) has submitted documentation from their college/university outlining the temporary educational program or hardship and the location and duration of the educational program, along with a request to change their Collegiate Membership Division for said duration, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Collegiate Divisional Championships. Refer to the Collegiate section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) for instructions on submitting the above documentation.

## 2.10 Collegiate Climbing Teams

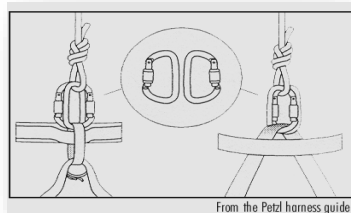
- 2.10.1 A Collegiate Climbing Team shall consist of undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at the same university or college, provided:
  - a) all members of the team are currently enrolled at the same university or college; and
  - b) the university or college recognizes the team; and
  - c) the team has a Collegiate Team Captain or USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach; and
  - d) team members are in good standing with their coach, team policies, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing; and
  - e) the team's Collegiate Team Captain or USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach enters and submits the roster of team members online within the USA Climbing membership registration system as outlined in the Collegiate section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).See the Collegiate section of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) for Collegiate Team Captain and Collegiate Team Roster information, including the method of obtaining the Collegiate Team Captain designation for a Collegiate competitor.
- 2.10.2 Eligible Collegiate Climbing Team members may have their results counted towards Team Championships at a Championship event, provided:
  - a) eligible members regularly attend and participate in practices together as a team; and
  - b) the coach submits an official roster at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the event; and
  - c) each eligible member represents the team at all Collegiate Qualification Series and Collegiate Championship competitions at which the member competes in the relevant season.

## 3 General Rules

### 3.1 Safety

- 3.1.1 Climbing poses the risk of serious injury or death. Competitors, officials, coaches and others participate in climbing competitions at their own risk.
- 3.1.2 The Event Organizer shall be responsible for overseeing safety within the Competition Area and in the public section of the arena, and in relation to all activities connected to the running of any event or competition.
- 3.1.3 The Jury President, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, shall have the authority to make decisions in respect of any issue of safety within the Competition Area, including declining to give permission to start or continue any part of the competition. Any official or other person deemed by the Jury President to have infringed, admittedly intending to infringe, or being imminently likely to infringe, any safety guideline, rule, or procedure shall be subject to removal from their duties, dismissal from the Competition Area, or both.
- 3.1.4 The Jury President and Chief Routesetter shall perform an inspection to check each route/boulder prior to the start of each round of a competition, for the maintenance of technical standards.
- 3.1.5 Appropriate floor padding, for protection, must be used.
- 3.1.6 Each route/boulder shall be designed so as to avoid the likelihood of a competitor's fall injuring the competitor or injuring or obstructing another competitor or third party.
- 3.1.7 For safety reasons, only competitors, judges, belayers, and other individuals approved by the Jury President are permitted to be in the Competition Area. The Jury President shall instruct all other individuals to leave.
- 3.1.8 Either the Jury President or Event Organizer will replace Competition officials, including without limitation belayers, exhibiting unsafe or improper practices. A Chief Belayer will replace belayers exhibiting unsafe or improper practices.
- 3.1.9 Competition Officials, including without limitation Belayers, may not have any physical contact with a competitor during an attempt.
- 3.1.10 The Climbing Judge may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated (and the highest scored handhold recorded), if the Climbing Judge decides that to proceed further would contravene the regulations regarding the safety of the competitor, another competitor, or another individual in the Competition Area, and may declare a Technical Incident if no other rule addresses the termination of the attempt in the particular circumstance.  
For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, Rule 3.1.10 shall not require a Technical Incident to be declared if Rule 7.7.4(a)(i) applies.
- 3.1.11 All equipment used by a competitor shall comply with equipment manufacturers' guidelines. Use of non-approved equipment or non-approved modification of equipment, including but not limited to harnesses, ropes, etc., may subject the competitor to disciplinary action, in accordance with Section 4.
- 3.1.12 All climbing equipment used, including the tie-in knots in rope climbing competitions shall be inspected and approved by the appropriate Competition Official(s), subject to Rule 3.1.3, for safety and compliance with other USA Climbing regulations before the competitor shall be permitted to proceed with their attempt on the route/boulder.
- 3.1.13 Each competitor shall be entirely and solely responsible for the equipment and clothing they use and wear when competing and at all other times during any competition. The competitor's responsibility extends not only to the existence and use of all articles of clothing and equipment, but also to all aspects of the clothing and equipment's performance and safety, including but not limited to its condition, fit, and suitability.
- 3.1.14 Competitors shall tie in with a figure-8 knot plus a "safety knot."

- 3.1.15 USA Climbing recognizes that some host facilities utilize a pre-tied rope as a method for tying-in. In such a case, it is recommended that a captive-eye, triple-action auto-locking carabiner be used at the tie-in point, or alternatively two opposite-facing auto-locking carabiners be used at the tie-in point, subject to full compliance with both host facility policies and manufacturer specifications.



- 3.1.16 Lead climbing competitors shall be capable of lead climbing safely and shall, upon request of the host facility, provide documentation or attestation, as outlined by the host facility, of the competitor's lead climbing certification. See Rule 2.6.9.
- 3.1.17 All competitors shall adhere to the host facility's policies. See Rule 2.6.9.
- 3.1.18 A competitor is permitted to down-climb at any point during their attempt on a route/boulder as long as they do not violate any rule – safety or otherwise.

## 3.2 Equipment

- 3.2.1 Any technical equipment used in any Sanctioned Event must meet the relevant EN Standard or comparable International equivalent (the "Applicable Standard") unless otherwise specified by USA Climbing. The provider of such equipment is responsible to review that the equipment meets all appropriate Applicable Standards.

## 3.3 Medical

- 3.3.1 The Jury President shall verify that a medical professional is on-site to attend to any accident or injury to a competitor, coach, or Official, if such a medical professional is required in the Host Agreement. Any such medical professional shall be present from the scheduled opening of the Isolation Zone/Warm-up Area until the end of the final attempt of the last competitor in any round of competition.
- 3.3.2 If the Jury President reasonably believes a competitor is unfit to compete for any reason, such as injury or illness, the Jury President shall stop the competitor from competing. Should there later be evidence that the competitor has recovered and the Jury President believes the competitor is fit to compete, the Jury President shall allow the competitor to compete.
- If a medical professional is required by the Host Agreement and is on site at the competition, decisions regarding a competitor's fitness to compete should be delegated to the medical professional, though the Jury President may, in extraordinary circumstances, stop the competitor from competing if the Jury President believes the competitor is unfit to compete, the medical professional's opinion notwithstanding.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor shall not receive extra time for the period of time in which they were declared unfit to compete.
- 3.3.3 If a competitor is bleeding, they shall not be allowed to compete so long as a white cloth (e.g., handkerchief) or gauze applied to the wound (after having put tape on it) shows any sign of blood, so as to reduce the probability of the competitor leaving blood on the holds or wall. A bleeding Youth D or Youth C competitor should be allowed to receive assistance to stop the bleeding; the Jury President may restrict assistance to be from only Competition Officials.
- 3.3.4 Under no circumstances shall special provisions be granted prior to an attempt at the request of any competitor, e.g., descent to the ground from the top of a boulder by a ladder because of an injury, except those accommodations requested and granted using the protocol set forth in Rule 3.12.

- 3.3.5 In the event that USA Climbing publishes a set of policy and practice rules related to injury, sickness, or disease, for application at Sanctioned Events, the Jury President, USAC Judge, and Event Organizer shall have the authority to enforce such rules, including without limitation: denying entrance, denying eligibility to compete, and ordering the removal of any individual from the host facility.

### 3.4 The Competition Area

- 3.4.1 The Competition Area will be demarcated from any area open to the public.
- 3.4.2 In an Isolation/Onsight competition round, no competitor or Certified Coach is permitted to carry or use any Electronic Communication Equipment (see Glossary) while in the Competition Area unless the Jury President has permitted such equipment in advance in writing.

### 3.5 Access to the Competition Area

- 3.5.1 Only the persons specified below shall be permitted to enter the Competition Area:
- a) USA Climbing Officials; and
  - b) Event Organizer's officials; and
  - c) competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition; and
  - d) USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coaches (the Isolation Zone/Warm-Up area only); and
  - e) other persons specifically authorized by the Jury President. Such persons shall, throughout their stay in the Competition Area, be escorted and supervised by an approved official to oversee the maintenance of security of the Competition Area and prevent any undue distraction of, or interference with, any competitor.
- 3.5.2 Animals are not allowed in the Competition Area. Exceptions from this rule can be authorized in advance in writing by the Jury President.

### 3.6 Clothing and Equipment

- 3.6.1 All technical equipment used by a competitor shall comply with the relevant rules in Section 3.1 and all relevant Applicable Standards.
- 3.6.2 A competitor must wear a top, bottoms, climbing shoes and (where relevant) a harness during their attempts.
- 3.6.3 Subject to Rule 3.1.17, a competitor may use:
- a) a chalk bag and commercially available dry or liquid climbing chalk for their hands. No other performance enhancing agents may be used (e.g., resin/rosin); or
  - b) [elasticated compression bandages/wraps \(for arms/legs\); or](#)
  - c) [kinesiology and similar](#) tape where necessary for the prevention or management of injury; or
  - d) a climbing helmet.
- 3.6.4 A competitor must not wear, use, or carry audio equipment when climbing, unless authorized in advance in writing by the Jury President (e.g., a Visually Impaired competitor in a Paraclimbing Competition).
- 3.6.5 [A competitor must not wear or use Gloves or Kneepads other than specifically permitted by these rules, e.g., Rule 9.6.1.](#)
- 3.6.6 If provided by the Event Organizer, an alphanumeric bib shall be displayed prominently on the back of the competitor's top. The Event Organizer may provide additional bibs to be placed on competitors' trouser leg.

### 3.7 Team Uniforms

- 3.7.1 Competitors representing a Climbing Team shall, when climbing, wear a distinctive team uniform:

- a) which shall include a uniform top (which may be long sleeved, short sleeved or a tank) in the Climbing Team sporting colors or of similarly distinct design/colors. Such tops may also bear the logo of the Climbing Team; and
- b) the colors and designs of the team uniform shall be the same for all Team Members, however the apparel styles may be different.

### 3.8 Advertising

3.8.1 In Elite Series competitions except for North American Cup Series competitions, all equipment and clothing shall be in compliance with the following advertising rules:

- a) Headwear: The manufacturers and/or sponsors' label in the total size limit of eighteen (18) square centimeters (~2.8 square inches);
- b) Team Tops/Legwear: Sponsors' labels – no larger than three-hundred (300) square centimeters (~46.5 square inches) in total. A graphic or figurative logo of the manufacturer (not including name or any text) may also be used as a decorative “design mark” once or repeatedly as a strip not exceeding five (5) cm (~2 inches) in width. Design marks may be displayed in one of the following positions, provided such use does not dominate or unduly detract from the appearance of the garment:
  - i) across the bottom of the sleeves; or
  - ii) on the outer seam of the sleeves; or
  - iii) down the outer seams of the garment.
- c) Chalk bag: The manufacturer's name and/or logo and sponsors' labels – no larger than one-hundred (100) square centimeters (~15.5 square inches) in total;
- d) Shoes and socks: Only the manufacturer's name and/or logo.
- e) Any advertising name or logo placed directly on a competitor's body, e.g., a visible tattoo, shall be counted within the size limits specified for the respective part of the body above.

### 3.9 Rankings and Records

3.9.1 USA Climbing maintains and publishes all of the following:

- a) Youth Qualification Series Rankings (and Ranking Points) for each Category, relevant Discipline, and Youth Region, calculated in accordance with the relevant section of these Rules.
- b) Youth Qualification Speed Trial results and resultant Speed Youth National Championship eligibility lists.
- c) Collegiate Qualification Series Rankings (and Ranking Points) for each Category, relevant Discipline, and Collegiate Division, calculated in accordance with the relevant section of these Rules.
- d) Collegiate Qualification Speed Trial results and resultant Speed Collegiate National Championship eligibility lists.
- e) North American Cup Series Rankings (and Ranking Points) for each Category, and relevant Discipline, calculated in accordance with the relevant section of these Rules.
- f) National Rankings (and Ranking Points) for each of the Elite, Youth, and Collegiate Series calculated in accordance with the relevant section of these Rules.
- g) National Records for the Speed Discipline as set out in Rule 9.5.

### 3.10 Wall maintenance

3.10.1 The Chief Routesetter shall verify that an experienced maintenance team is available throughout each round of competition in order to perform any maintenance or repairs ordered by the USAC Judge in an efficient and safe manner. Safety procedures shall be strictly enforced.

- 3.10.2 On the instruction of the USAC Judge, the Chief Routesetter shall immediately arrange for any repair work. On completion of a repair, it shall be inspected by the Chief Routesetter who shall advise the Jury President whether the repair results in any unfair advantage or disadvantage to subsequent competitors. The decision of the Jury President to continue, or to stop and re-start, that round of the competition shall be final, and no appeal shall be accepted in respect of this decision.

### 3.11 Team Competitions

- 3.11.1 At Youth and Collegiate Championship competitions, Team Championship awards shall be awarded for each individual Discipline (Boulder, Lead/Top Rope, and Speed).
- 3.11.2 At the Collegiate National Championship and at the Youth National Championship, an All-Around Combined Team Championship shall be awarded.
- 3.11.3 To be eligible for the Team Championships, a team must meet the requirements of a Climbing Team and all team members must meet the requirements of an eligible member of the team in order to be considered eligible for team ranking points for that team, where:
- the rules for a Youth Climbing Team and its eligible members are set out in Rule 2.8; and
  - the rules for a Collegiate Climbing Team and its eligible members are set out in Rule 2.10.
- 3.11.4 For each individual Discipline Team Championship, team ranking points shall be calculated for the Discipline for each team by summing the team ranking points awarded to select team member competitors, where:
- at a Youth Championship competition, only the team's one (1) highest ranked eligible team member competitor in the Discipline in each category shall be awarded team ranking points; and
  - at a Collegiate Championship competition, the team's three (3) highest ranked eligible team member competitors in the Discipline in each category shall be awarded team ranking points; and
  - such highest ranked eligible team members are awarded team ranking points based on the following table, where the points gained by tied competitors in a competition will be the average of the points for the tied rank positions, rounded down to a whole number:

Team Competition - Points					
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	100	11 <sup>th</sup>	38	21 <sup>st</sup>	18
2 <sup>nd</sup>	90	12 <sup>th</sup>	36	22 <sup>nd</sup>	16
3 <sup>rd</sup>	80	13 <sup>th</sup>	34	23 <sup>rd</sup>	14
4 <sup>th</sup>	70	14 <sup>th</sup>	32	24 <sup>th</sup>	12
5 <sup>th</sup>	65	15 <sup>th</sup>	30	25 <sup>th</sup>	10
6 <sup>th</sup>	60	16 <sup>th</sup>	28	26 <sup>th</sup>	8
7 <sup>th</sup>	55	17 <sup>th</sup>	26	27 <sup>th</sup>	6
8 <sup>th</sup>	50	18 <sup>th</sup>	24	28 <sup>th</sup>	4
9 <sup>th</sup>	45	19 <sup>th</sup>	22	29 <sup>th</sup>	2
10 <sup>th</sup>	40	20 <sup>th</sup>	20	30 <sup>th</sup>	1
Competitors ranked 30 <sup>th</sup> or lower shall each receive one (1) point.					

- 3.11.5 For All-Around Combined Team Championships, team ranking points shall be calculated for each team by summing the team's team ranking points in all individual Disciplines for the relevant season.
- 3.11.6 Team ranking points are *not* carried over from one Championship event to another; i.e., from the Regional Championship to the Divisional Championship or from the Divisional Championship to the National Championship.
- 3.11.7 Team Championships rankings are calculated for each individual Discipline and the Combined as follows:
- Teams are ranked in descending order of team ranking points; the team with the greatest number of team ranking points shall be ranked in first (1<sup>st</sup>) place.

- b) Tie(s) amongst the top three (3) ranked teams shall be broken as follows:
  - i) For individual Discipline Team Championships, in the event of any ties amongst the top three (3) ranked teams, for each tied team, points corresponding to the rank of the team's next highest ranked single team member for each category in the Discipline shall be added to their team's team ranking points. For any ties remaining, an additional team member shall be added until all ties are broken. For the avoidance of doubt, any such points added to the team ranking points in this rule are not used to calculate the All-Around Combined team ranking points.
  - ii) For All-Around Combined Team Championships, in the event of any ties amongst the top three (3) ranked teams, the team with the best ranking in any individual Discipline Team Championships shall be ranked higher (better). For example, if team A and team B have the same ranking points for the All-Around Combined Team Championships, where team A finished first (1<sup>st</sup>) in an individual Discipline Team Championship and team B did not have a first (1<sup>st</sup>) placed rank, team A shall be ranked higher (better). If any ties remain, the next individual Discipline Team Championship ranking shall be considered until all ties are broken.

### 3.12 Accommodations

#### 3.12.1 USA Climbing encourages the participation of competitors with disabilities.

- a) The Paraclimbing Series is open to eligible competitors with a disability that results in physical impairment.

The eligibility requirements for competitors in the Paraclimbing Series are set forth in Rule 1.3.5, and Section 25 sets forth further information regarding the Paraclimbing Series, the Paraclimbing Classification system and requirements, and Paraclimbing competitions.
- b) The Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and Recreational Series competitions are open to competitors regardless of ability, and competitors with disabilities may request accommodations as set out in Rule 3.12.2.

#### 3.12.2 For any competitor or coach requesting an accommodation (e.g., color-blindness, Type-1 Diabetes, serious allergies, [neurodivergence](#), [physical disorders or disabilities that require a Competitor Aide](#), etc.), it is the responsibility of the requesting individual to notify USA Climbing via email to [accommodation@usaclimbing.org](mailto:accommodation@usaclimbing.org), at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of each competition, that the individual requests an accommodation. To the extent reasonable and fair to the requester and to others, USA Climbing and the Jury President for the competition, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter as applicable, will endeavor to make an accommodation. [In the event that an accommodation is to be granted, USA Climbing will establish, in consultation with the Jury President as well as relevant group\(s\) \(e.g., Rules Committee, Medical Committee, DEI Committee, etc.\), an accommodation policy and provide a copy of that policy to the requester and the Jury President. The Jury President shall have the authority to implement such policies.](#)

### 3.13 Host Facility Preparation and Routesetting

- 3.13.1 Host facilities shall set new routes/boulders for a competition. If this is not the case, any person, including any competitor, shall inform the Jury President of this immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken by the Jury President to eliminate those routes/boulders from the competition, disqualify all competitors who had prior knowledge of the routes/boulders but failed to inform USA Climbing, or adjust scores. If the Jury President is not made aware of such a situation prior to the completion of the competition, the results will not be adjusted.
- 3.13.2 From the initiation of the routesetting process (with the exception of the standard Speed climbing route) for a competition, including any wall preparation (e.g., “stripping”) period, to the allowed entrance at the competition for the individual:
- a) no potential competitor shall enter or view into the competition’s Competition Area; and
  - b) for Championship and National Competitions, no potential [competitor or representative of a potential competitor](#) (e.g., coach, parent, [sibling](#), [teammate](#)) shall enter or view into the competition’s host facility, [without prior written approval from USA Climbing](#), and failure to comply with this rule may result in competitor and/or coach disqualification from the competition, disciplinary action including revocation of membership for individuals involved, and/or the loss of USA Climbing Sanctioning for the event.
- 3.13.3 At all levels of competitions, a Routesetter:
- a) must have an active USA Climbing Routesetter Membership; and
  - b) must not discuss any aspect of the routes/boulders or the routesetting process with coaches, competitors, or others, so as not to provide an advantage to a competitor or create an objective appearance of impropriety; and
  - c) may discuss details of the routes/boulders and the routesetting process only with members of the routesetting team, judges, and members of the event organizing team; and
  - d) must not compete in the competitions for which they are working as a Routesetter.
- 3.13.4 A Coach working as:
- a) a Chief Routesetter for a competition shall not engage in any coaching activities during the routesetting period for that competition or during the competition itself; or
  - b) a Routesetter for a National Competition or a Youth Divisional Championship competition, shall not engage in any coaching activities during the routesetting period for that competition or during the competition itself; or
  - c) a Routesetter for a Youth Regional or Collegiate Divisional Championship competition, shall not be allowed to enter the competition’s Isolation Zone, regardless of Certified Coach status.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the routesetting period is the period from the initiation of the routesetting process for a competition, including any wall preparation (e.g., “stripping”) period, to the start of the competition.
- 3.13.5 A person working as a forerunner for a competition shall be considered a Routesetter for the competition and is subject to Rules 3.13.3 and 3.13.4.
- 3.13.6 At National Competitions, the use of red tape to demarcate an out of bounds area shall not be allowed.

### 3.14 Conduct

- 3.14.1 All individuals at a USA Climbing competition shall exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to other individuals and shall not engage in harassment or discrimination towards other individuals, where such individuals include without limitation competitors, coaches, event officials, volunteers, staff, host facility personnel, and spectators.

Such respectful and appropriate behavior shall be exhibited in all public settings, including but not limited to at the host facility and on social media, whether before, during, or after the competition.

A violation may result in a Red Card, including Disqualification, removal from the host facility, and/or revocation of an individual's USA Climbing Membership.

- 3.14.2 It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to become fully informed with respect to all instructions regarding the route/boulder.
- 3.14.3 The refusal by a competitor to obey the instruction of a Judge to terminate their attempt on a route/boulder should result in the disqualification of the competitor.
- 3.14.4 In the interest of fairness and good sportsmanship, any competitor who knowingly receives a higher score than they are entitled to must immediately notify USA Climbing officials of the scoring discrepancy.
- 3.14.5 Competitors may not receive coaching or "beta" (advice) from any individual while attempting a route/boulder. Encouragement and cheering are acceptable but coaching is not. At Modified Redpoint or Flash Format competitions, a competitor may not receive beta during an attempt on a route/boulder. At Isolation (aka Onsight) Format competitions, a competitor may not receive beta prior to or during an attempt on a route/boulder. Receipt of beta by a competitor may result in disqualification of that attempt or disqualification of the competitor from the competition, among other possible discipline to the competitor and/or the person giving the beta, at the discretion of the Jury President.
- 3.14.6 Coaches, spectators, and parents are prohibited from having a discussion or contact with a Climbing Judge. Any such action may be grounds for disqualification of the competitor and/or coach.
- 3.14.7 Laser pointers are prohibited from use at all times in the competition field of play but may be used in the Isolation/Warm-Up Zones.
- 3.14.8 Unless authorized by the Jury President (e.g., in the case of a Visually Impaired competitor in a Paraclimbing Competition), competitors may not use earphones, headsets or similar devices while climbing.
- 3.14.9 After having received an official instruction to leave the Isolation Zone and proceed to the Call Zone, competitors shall not be accompanied by any person other than authorized officials, subject to pre-approved accommodations provided for elsewhere in this Rulebook.
- 3.14.10 On arrival in the Call Zone, each competitor shall make all final preparations for their attempt, such as putting on their climbing shoes, tying in to the rope, etc., as relevant to the type of competition.
- 3.14.11 Each competitor shall be ready to leave the Call Zone and enter the Competition Zone when instructed to do so. Any undue delay in this regard may result in the issuing of a Yellow Card. Any further delay shall result in disqualification in accordance with Section 4.
- 3.14.12 Coaches shall immediately report any Isolation violation of any kind, including but not limited to cheating, inappropriate language, or roughhousing, to an Isolation monitor.
- 3.14.13 A coach shall refrain from directly addressing a competitor not on their team with respect to any violations they witness except in the case of serious safety hazards.
- 3.14.14 Coaches should only oversee the coaching of their own athletes unless requested otherwise by a particular competitor.

### 3.15 Technical Meeting

- 3.15.1 A technical meeting shall be held prior to the start of the competition, and is open to all registered competitors and USA Climbing Certified Coaches, to the extent possible based on the host facility accommodations. The purpose of the technical meeting is to:
- a) confirm the competition schedule and any changes from the information posted at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org); and
  - b) identify any specific information related to the application of these Rules in the competition; and
  - c) communicate any logistics information not available from [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 3.15.2 In the event the technical meeting space cannot accommodate all coaches and athletes, the Jury President may:
- a) limit the technical meeting to include only Certified Coaches, but must otherwise present any information from the technical meeting they deem to be significant to all registered competitors, in a clear and timely manner, prior to the start of the competition; or
  - b) conduct the technical meeting online via a virtual “town hall” type meeting that is to be recorded and published on a relevant page on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website within two (2) hours immediately afterwards.

### 3.16 Isolation

- 3.16.1 Access to the Isolation Zone is limited to:
- a) USA Climbing officials and specifically authorized volunteers; and
  - b) Event Organizer officials; and
  - c) competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition; and
  - d) USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coaches (The Jury President may, at their discretion, limit the number of team coaches for each team allowed to enter isolation); and
  - e) other persons specifically authorized by the Jury President. Such persons shall, throughout their stay in the Isolation Zone, be escorted and supervised by an approved official to oversee the maintenance of security of the Isolation Zone and prevent any undue distraction of, or interference with, any competitor.
- 3.16.2 Competitors eligible to compete in an Onsite or Isolation Format round of a competition must report to the Isolation Zone by the time stated on the Official Starting List for that round. Competitors who have not reported to the Isolation Zone or who are not present in the Isolation Zone at such time will not be eligible to start the round, though in exceptional circumstances the required report time may be delayed at the discretion of the Jury President after consultation with any individual with Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2).
- 3.16.3 Competitors, coaches, and other individuals permitted to enter the Isolation Zone shall remain under isolation conditions throughout their stay in the Competition Area, including the Call Zones and Competition Zones, and are not allowed to communicate with persons outside the Competition Area, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Jury President. Failure to observe this Rule by any competitor shall result in the disqualification of the competitor.
- 3.16.4 Competitors and coaches may not re-enter the Isolation Zone once they have left it, except when:
- a) with the authorization of the Jury President, they have been escorted out of and back into the Isolation Zone by an official escort who will oversee that no communication occurs with individuals outside of the Isolation Zone; or
  - b) in the case of coaches re-entering the Isolation Zone, the Jury President deems the routes/boulders have been sufficiently altered, via routesetting not viewable by the coaches, that any knowledge of the previous routes/boulders would provide no reasonable advantage to a competitor.
- 3.16.5 Coaches in isolation and while in attendance at the event are subject to the same rules and

regulations as competitors.

- 3.16.6 Electronic Communication Equipment (see Glossary) is not allowed in the Isolation Zone.
- 3.16.7 An official clock shall be displayed at the isolation check-in area.
- 3.16.8 At a single round Championship event, a [per-Category](#) “rolling isolation” may be utilized. At multiple round Championship Isolation (aka Onsite) events, a [per-Category](#) rolling isolation may only be utilized for the Qualification Round. With a [per-Category](#) rolling isolation, each Category is assigned an “isolation check-in time.” Competitors may report into isolation prior to their Category’s assigned check-in time, but no later than their Category’s assigned closing time. Competitors may not enter the competition venue prior to checking-in to isolation.
- 3.16.9 Animals shall not be allowed in the Isolation Zone. The Jury President may authorize exceptions from this rule.

### 3.17 Starting Lists

- 3.17.1 For the Qualification Round, the starting lists shall be published no later than sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the Qualification Round.
- 3.17.2 For each subsequent round, the starting lists should be published when the official final results of the prior round have been published, and shall be published no later than sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the respective round of competition.
- 3.17.3 Starting lists should be published:
  - a) for National Competitions and Championship competitions, on the USA Climbing website; and
  - b) for all other competitions, either:
    - i) on the USA Climbing website; or
    - ii) on an event website, where a link to the event website is on the USA Climbing website.
- 3.17.4 Starting lists shall be posted on the official competition notice board at the host facility.
- 3.17.5 If a competitor does not start a competition round due to failing to report to the Isolation Zone by the published closing time or to the Call Zone when called and is disqualified as set forth in Rule 3.16.2, the competitor will be marked on the Official Starting List for the relevant competition round as “DNS”.

### 3.18 Results

- 3.18.1 All Official Results shall be prepared in a format as stipulated by USA Climbing and published on the official competition notice board at the host facility.
- 3.18.2 For each Category at a competition:
  - a) for each round:
    - i) Provisional Results should be displayed during the course of each round; and
    - ii) Official Results approved in writing by the USAC Judge will be published as soon as possible following completion of the round; and
  - b) following the completion of all rounds of the relevant competition, a General Result will be published showing the final ranking and results within each round for all competitors, signed by the USAC Judge and the Jury President.

### 3.19 Super-Final Rounds

- 3.19.1 A Super-Final Round shall only be used for competitions that explicitly allow the use of a Super-Final Round in the relevant Section of Part 3 - Event Rules.
- 3.19.2 Where a competition's Event Rules require a Super-Final Round among a selected set of competitors, the Super-Final Round shall be organized as follows:
- a) The Final Round Format and Procedures shall be used.
  - b) The starting order between such competitors shall be their relative starting order from the Final Round.
  - c) If the discipline is Bouldering, there shall be between one (1) and four (4) boulders, inclusive, in the Super-Final Round, at the discretion of the Jury President in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and Event Organizer.
  - d) If the discipline is Lead/Top Rope, there shall be one (1) route in the Super-Final Round.
  - e) The Jury President and the Chief Routesetter shall determine (and route set as appropriate) the Super-Final Round route/boulder(s).
  - f) The result of the Super-Final Round shall be used to order such competitors in the General Ranking.
- 3.19.3 Where a competition's Event Rules require a Super-Final Round among more than one set of tied competitors, each set of tied competitors will have an independent Super-Final Round. For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, if the Event Rules require a Super-Final for a two-way tie for first (1<sup>st</sup>) and a two-way tie for third (3<sup>rd</sup>), there will be two independent Super-Final Rounds, one for each tie.

### 3.20 Climbing Judges

- 3.20.1 The Jury President, prior to the start of a round of competition, may instruct the Climbing Judge to provide rules and instructions regarding a route/boulder to all competitors, prior to their first attempt, on that particular route/boulder.
- 3.20.2 Once a competitor has been given any final instructions by the Climbing Judge and has acknowledged their readiness to start, no further instructions or information may be given to the competitor, except a competitor:
- a) may request and receive clarification from the Climbing Judge concerning usability of a hold or Climbing Surface; and
  - b) may request and receive information concerning how the Climbing Judge scored the competitor on a prior attempt; and
  - c) should be informed by the Climbing Judge of which rule resulted in the Climbing Judge terminating the competitor's attempt.
- 3.20.3 Each attempt of a route/boulder shall be noted on the competitor's scorecard.
- 3.20.4 A competitor shall not be judged solely by their parent, sibling, significant other, or spouse. If a parent, sibling, significant other, or spouse is judging a route that their child, sibling, significant other, or spouse is climbing, another judge must also observe the attempt and sign off on the scorecard.

### 3.21 All-Around and Boulder+Lead Combined Ranking

- 3.21.1 Where an All-Around Combined Ranking uses the competition's General Ranking from the Bouldering, Lead/Top Rope, and Speed Disciplines, or a Boulder+Lead Combined Ranking uses the competition's General Ranking from the Bouldering and Lead/Top Rope Disciplines:
- a) only competitors that are in the General Rankings in all relevant Disciplines are eligible to be ranked in the combined ranking; and
  - b) for each of the relevant Disciplines, each eligible competitor from (a) shall be awarded Discipline ranking values equal to their Fractional ranking among only eligible competitors in the Discipline; and

- c) each eligible competitor shall be awarded a combined ranking value equal to the result of multiplying the Discipline ranking values for the relevant Disciplines; and
- d) each eligible competitor shall be ranked by combined ranking value, ordered lowest combined ranking value first, where for any competitors with an equal combined ranking value:
  - i) the competitor with a better head-to-head performance shall be ranked higher (better), e.g., if competitor A is ranked ahead of competitor B in two of three Disciplines, competitor A will be ranked better; and
  - ii) should the test in (i) not result in a unique ranking for the competitors, the ranking will first be determined by the best ranking in any Discipline, and the number of Disciplines with that ranking, then the second (2nd) best ranking in any Discipline, and the number of Disciplines with that ranking, and so on.

For the avoidance of doubt, all competitors in a Discipline's competition are in the General Ranking for that Discipline's competition, unless their result is marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

## 4 Disciplinary Procedures

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Disciplinary procedures, including but not limited to those involving possible disqualification, are subject to and shall be in accordance with USA Climbing's SafeSport Policies and shall be subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws.
- 4.1.2 The Jury President has the overall authority over all activities and decisions affecting competition activities within the Competition Area.
- 4.1.3 Both the Jury President and the USAC Judge shall be authorized to take the following actions in respect of infringements of these rules and with regard to matters of discipline by a person at a competition, including but not limited to USA Climbing Members registered for a competition:
  - a) an informal, verbal warning; and
  - b) an official warning accompanied by the issuing of a Yellow Card.
- 4.1.4 The Jury President shall be authorized to take the following actions in respect of infringements of these rules and with regard to matters of discipline by a person at a competition, including but not limited to USA Climbing Members registered for a competition:
  - a) disqualification accompanied by the issuing of a Red Card; and
  - b) dismissal from the host facility.
- 4.1.5 At the earliest convenient time after issuing a Yellow or Red Card, the Jury President shall:
  - a) provide to the person(s) concerned a witnessed verbal statement with:
    - i) a description and circumstances of the offense; and
    - ii) notice that the Jury President will inform USA Climbing of the Yellow or Red Card; and
  - b) submit to USA Climbing a written statement together with a report of the offense against the rules, any evidence, and any recommendations regarding consideration of additional sanction.
- 4.1.6 Spectators (including parents and other family) and coaches shall be held to the same Yellow/Red Card standard as competitors for any infringement as determined by the Jury President.
- 4.1.7 The Chief Executive Officer and/or the Board of Directors of USA Climbing will review all Red Card and Yellow Card violations, where such review may, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws, result in sanctions that include without limitation the revocation of the relevant individuals' memberships in USA Climbing for however long as deemed appropriate. In this instance, no membership or entry fee refunds are given.

### 4.2 Codes of Conduct

- 4.2.1 All USA Climbing Members are subject to discipline for violations of the Code of Ethics (Section 18.1 of the Bylaws) or infractions relative to one of the relevant Codes of Conduct, including but not limited to:
  - a) the Athletes Code of Conduct, for Athlete Members; and
  - b) the Coaches Code of Conduct, for Coach Members; and
  - c) the Routesetters Code of Conduct, for Routesetting Members; and
  - d) the Judges Code of Conduct, for Judge Members.
- 4.2.2 A USA Climbing Member violating the Code of Ethics (Section 18.1 of the Bylaws) or any of the rules agreed to in their relevant Code(s) of Conduct, where such a violation occurs outside of a competition but in connection with activities related to USA Climbing (e.g., practice, team building, recruiting, competition planning), is subject to discipline by USA Climbing, and may be subject to being disqualified from participating in one or more upcoming competitions and/or face revocation of their membership in USA Climbing, among other possible discipline, as appropriate, all subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws.

### 4.3 Procedures for Review of Field of Play Infringements

- 4.3.1 Any and all suspected competition-related infringements must first be reported to the Jury President or USAC Judge. Only the Jury President may approach a competitor under disqualification proceedings.
- 4.3.2 Upon receiving a report of an infringement, either in writing or by verbal testimony, a Jury President or USAC Judge must investigate the situation to determine the nature of the infringement, including whether the infringement was: intentional, accidental, put anyone in danger, blatantly violated any rules, gave the competitor a distinct advantage, etc.
- 4.3.3 The investigation process may include, but is not limited to, interviewing Judges, belayers, Isolation monitors, spectators, other competitors, etc.
- 4.3.4 If at any time during this process it is necessary to interview competitors, every effort should be made for the interview to take place after said competitor is done competing.
- 4.3.5 All such proceedings should be kept confidential to the extent possible.
- 4.3.6 Any time a person under the age of eighteen (18) is interviewed, an adult representative for that minor must be present at all times. The adult representative is chosen by the minor and can include adults such as a coach, parent, friend, or sibling. Regional Coordinators, if present at the event, may, at the discretion of the Jury President or USAC Judge, be included in any discussions and deliberations regarding any disqualification.
- 4.3.7 If the infringement is found to be unsubstantiated, the Jury President will reject the complaint with no consequences to the accused competitor.

### 4.4 Yellow Card Warnings

- 4.4.1 A Yellow Card warning may be issued for any of the following infringements of the rules:
  - a) infringements committed in the Competition Area by any person:
    - i) unsporting behavior of a relatively minor nature; or
    - ii) use of obscene or abusive language or behavior of a relatively mild nature; or
  - b) regarding instructions from any USA Climbing Official appointed to the competition, including but not limited to:
    - i) undue delay in returning to the Isolation Zone/Warm-up Area following the instruction of the USAC Judge or the Jury President; or
    - ii) undue delay in leaving the Call Zone and entering the Competition Zone when instructed to do so; or
    - iii) failure to start in accordance with the USAC Judge's instruction; or
  - c) regarding equipment and clothing:
    - i) non-compliance with the rules and regulations governing equipment and clothing; or
    - ii) non-compliance with the requirement to wear the bib provided by the Event Organizer; or
  - d) regarding safety:
    - i) non-compliance with safety rules or safety instructions given by the Jury President.

## 4.5 Disqualification (DSQ)

- 4.5.1 The Jury President is authorized to Disqualify any person at a competition. A Disqualification shall be accompanied by the issuing of a Red Card.
- 4.5.2 At the discretion of the Jury President subject to Rule 4.3, any of the following infringements of the rules may result in immediate Disqualification of the person from the relevant Sanctioned Event and shall otherwise result in the person being issued a Yellow Card warning:
- a) using any knot other than those allowed in this Rulebook;
  - b) untying from the rope while climbing;
  - c) distracting or interfering with any official while they are carrying out their duties;
  - d) receiving beta by a competitor, though receipt of beta by a competitor during an attempt at a Redpoint competition may instead result in a score of zero (0) for that route/boulder;
  - e) smoking or using other tobacco products, by minors, in the Isolation Zone, Competition Area, or spectator area;
  - f) using alcohol by an underaged person or using prohibited drugs, at any point, during the event, including but not limited to, registration, check-in and any hotel stay specifically for the event;
  - g) using abusive, insulting or violent words or behavior, harassment, or discrimination towards anyone in the Competition Area or the Isolation/Transit Zones while under the regulations governing the Competition Area and Isolation/Transit Zones;
  - h) unsporting behavior, abusive, insulting or violent words or behavior, harassment, or discrimination to the Event Organizer or their officials or coaches or other competitors or members of the public;
  - i) viewing of a competitor's scorecard without the express consent of that competitor by any coach, spectator, or other competitor;
  - j) violating applicable codes, rules or policies, including without limitation USA Climbing's Bylaws, Rules or Policies, or the applicable rules or policies of the USOPC, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the IFSC, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), or the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA);
  - k) in an Isolation/Onsight competition round, using Electronic Communication Equipment in Isolation, the Competition Area, or Transit Zones;
  - l) failing to report properly equipped at the start of a route;
  - m) entering the host facility or Competition Area contrary to the relevant rule(s);
  - n) in respect of any round conducted under Isolation Conditions:
    - i) entering, leaving, or re-entering the Isolation Zone contrary to Rule 3.16;
    - ii) observing the routes from outside the permitted observation zone;
    - iii) failing to return to the Isolation Zone after the route observation period has ended.
- 4.5.3 Any of the following infringements of the rules shall result in immediate Disqualification of the person from the relevant Sanctioned Event:
- a) cheating in any form, including without limitation falsifying a scorecard;
  - b) being issued two (2) or more Yellow Cards at the event;
  - c) knowingly falsely accusing a competitor of an infringement;
  - d) approaching a competitor and accusing them of an infringement, unless so authorized in this Section 4;
  - e) committing an infraction as set out in Rule 4.5.2 that caused or could have caused harm to any competitor, spectator, official, host facility staff, etc.;
  - f) gathering information about the routes/boulders other than as considered by the definition of Isolation Conditions (when such conditions are in force);

- g) gathering and communicating information about the routes/boulders to other competitors other than as considered by the definition of Isolation Conditions (when such conditions are in force;
- h) using non-approved equipment;
- i) in respect of any round conducted under Isolation Conditions, gathering or providing information other than as contemplated by the definition of Isolation Conditions, including but not limited to:
  - i) from any person outside the Competition Area;
  - ii) from any person who has already attempted a relevant route/boulder.

For the avoidance of doubt, in competition rounds where Isolation Conditions do not apply, competitors may receive information from persons prior to their attempts.

## **4.6 Disqualification for Behavior (DQB)**

- 4.6.1 The Jury President is authorized to Disqualify for Behavior any competitor or any coach at a competition. Any Disqualification for Behavior will be accompanied by the issuing of a Red Card and referral to USA Climbing; and will have effect for all competitions at the relevant Sanctioned Event.
- 4.6.2 Any of the following matters will result in immediate Disqualification for Behavior:
  - a) not complying with the instructions of the judges, Event Organizer or USA Climbing officials when in the Competition Area;
  - b) distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for or is attempting a route;
  - c) refusing to conform with the advertising regulations governing clothing and equipment;
  - d) being issued two (2) Yellow Cards in one Sanctioned Event.

## **4.7 Consequences of Disciplinary Actions**

- 4.7.1 A competitor who is either Disqualified or Disqualified for Behavior in respect of any competition will be unranked in all competitions forming part of the relevant Sanctioned Event.
- 4.7.2 In the event that a coach or someone affiliated with a Climbing Team is found to have committed a Disqualifying infringement:
  - a) the Jury President has the discretion to disqualify their entire team; and
  - b) the coach's USA Climbing Coach Certification, if any, may be revoked, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws.
- 4.7.3 In the event that a USA Climbing member is Disqualified, their USA Climbing membership may be revoked, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws.

## **4.8 Other persons**

- 4.8.1 The Jury President is authorized to demand the immediate dismissal from the Competition Area of any person in contravention of the rules and, if necessary, suspend any competition activities until compliance with this demand has been achieved.

## 5 Anti-Doping

### 5.1 Anti-Doping Compliance

- 5.1.1 USA Climbing supports the IOC Medical Commission and IFSC regulations regarding drug use and testing. It shall be the responsibility of each USA Climbing member to comply with the rules and regulations of USA Climbing and the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), and to avoid acting in any manner that brings disrepute upon USA Climbing or upon the sport of climbing. As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and as a member National Federation of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), USA Climbing is obligated to adhere to the anti-doping rules of the USOPC and IFSC, as well as those of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In addition, USOPC Bylaw Chapter XXIII, Section 2(G) provides that, as a condition of membership in the USOPC, each National Governing body shall comply with the procedures pertaining to drug testing and adjudication of related doping offenses of the independent anti-doping organization designated by the USOPC to conduct drug testing. The USOPC has designated the United States Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") as that organization. The current anti-doping rules of the IFSC, USOPC, and USADA are available at the offices of USA Climbing or online at the following websites, respectively:
- a) International Federation of Sport Climbing: [www.ifsc-climbing.org](http://www.ifsc-climbing.org), and
  - b) United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee: [www.usoc.org](http://www.usoc.org), and
  - c) United States Anti-Doping Agency: [www.usantidoping.org](http://www.usantidoping.org).
- 5.1.2 As a condition of membership in USA Climbing, it is the responsibility of each athlete member of USA Climbing to comply with the anti-doping rules of the IFSC, USOPC, WADA, and USADA, including the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing, the USOPC National Anti-Doping Policy, and all other policies and rules adopted by the IFSC, the USOPC, and USADA. Each member shall submit, without reservation or condition, to in-competition and out-of-competition doping controls conducted by either the IFSC or USADA. (Out-of-competition doping controls by USADA may take place at USA Climbing elite-level camps, training sessions, or with no advance notice any time for athletes designated by USA Climbing and USADA for inclusion in USA Climbing's no advance notice testing pool.) An athlete shall cease to be eligible to compete in events conducted by USA Climbing or by any IFSC Federation, while under suspension or if expelled by USA Climbing for violations of the anti-doping rules. If it is determined that a member may have committed a doping violation, the member agrees to submit to the results management authority and processes of USADA, including arbitration under the USADA Protocol, or to the results management authority of the IFSC and/or USA Climbing, if applicable or referred by USADA.

## 6 Appeals

### 6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The procedures for appeals shall be subject to Rule 1.10 and shall be subject to USA Climbing SafeSport policies, USA Climbing Bylaws, Judicial Committee protocol, and Field of Play rules.
- 6.1.2 The Jury President shall appoint an Appeals Jury for each Sanctioned Event, which should be comprised of the Jury President and [a](#) USAC Judge at the event.
- 6.1.3 All Appeals, and all responses to Appeals, must be made in English.
- 6.1.4 All Appeals must be presented to either:
  - a) the Jury President; or
  - b) the USAC Judge, who shall refer the matter to the Jury President.
- 6.1.5 The Jury President shall be made available at the climbing venue for at least the amount of time allowed to file an appeal after Official Results have been posted.
- 6.1.6 Official appeals shall be differentiated from a regular course discussion that might take place between a competitor and a Climbing Judge immediately after an attempt. No written appeal would be required where a question is raised to the Climbing Judge and is discussed at that time.
- 6.1.7 [For an appeal to be considered made by a deadline, the](#) appeal must be initiated by the relevant deadline by notification of the Jury President or USAC Judge, and the appeal must [also](#) be submitted in a timely manner thereafter (typically within five (5) minutes or as determined by the Jury President).
- 6.1.8 The Appeal Fee for National and Championship competitions is one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for all other competitions.
- 6.1.9 A USA Climbing Certified Coach is eligible to file or assist in filing an appeal.
- 6.1.10 All appeals must be made by a competitor's USA Climbing Certified Coach or by the competitor.
  - a) Appeals may not be made by the competitor's parent/guardian, unless the competitor is developmentally disabled, or is hearing or speech impaired.
  - b) In the event a minor competitor (under the age of eighteen (18) years old) is making an appeal without their coach, an adult representative for that minor must be present at all times. The adult representative should be a USA Climbing Certified Coach, if possible. In the event the adult representative is not a USA Climbing Certified Coach (e.g., a parent/guardian), that representative's involvement is limited to assisting the minor competitor with the written appeal.
- 6.1.11 In the event updated results are reposted (e.g., following a change as a result of an appeal), any new official appeal must be made:
  - a) if the appeal deadline for the original results was immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result, immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's updated Provisional Result; or
  - b) otherwise, within five (5) minutes of the posting of the updated results, or within five (5) minutes of the appeal deadline for the most recent prior posting of results, whichever is later.
- 6.1.12 Appeals made outside the appeals process shall not be accepted.

### 6.2 Safety Appeals

- 6.2.1 Regardless of any other provision in these Rules, an appeal may be submitted by a competitor or Certified Coach to the Jury President or USAC Judge where a serious safety issue exists (a "Safety Appeal").  
No Appeal Fee will be required and the Appeals Jury must without delay determine and implement a course of action to remedy the identified issue.

## 6.3 Management of Appeals

- 6.3.1 On receipt of an Appeal, the Appeals Jury shall assess whether the relevant Appeal is:
- a) **“Invalid”**, in which case any Appeal Form will be returned and no Appeal Fee invoiced, with the Appeal Form marked as such; or
  - b) **“Valid”**, in which case the Appeal Jury shall proceed to determine the Appeal.
- 6.3.2 To be considered Valid, an Appeal must, unless specifically stated to the contrary in these Rules:
- a) be made in writing using the form available on the USA Climbing website (or on a sheet comprising the same information), signed by either:
    - i) the relevant USA Climbing Certified Coach, or
    - ii) the relevant competitor; and
  - b) be accompanied by the relevant Appeal Fee, either:
    - i) by making the payment within the competitor or coach’s USA Climbing’s membership account; or
    - ii) by paying cash to the Jury President; and
  - c) state:
    - i) the specific Rule on which the Appeal is based; and
    - ii) the competitor or class of competitors affected by the Appeal.
- 6.3.3 Notwithstanding Rule 6.3.2, the Appeals Jury may rule as Invalid any Appeal that:
- a) is made outside any relevant time limit specified in these Rules; or
  - b) proposes a matter not relevant to any Rule; or
  - c) the Appeals Jury agrees is otherwise invalid.
- 6.3.4 In respect of any Valid Appeal concerning some non-compliance with these rules, or some decision in relation to a competition (the **“Original Decision”**):
- a) if the Appeal concerns the Official Results, the Jury President shall:
    - i) mark the published results as ‘Protested’ or ‘Under Appeal’, noting which results are the subject of the Appeal; and
    - ii) have the Event Organizer broadcast an announcement to the public that the results are ‘Protested’ or ‘Under Appeal’.
  - b) The Appeals Jury shall determine the Appeal:
    - i) as soon as is practical with regard to the timetable of the competition; and
    - ii) using personnel as appropriate, such as the relevant Climbing Judge, the Chief Routesetter, or the relevant Belay; and
    - iii) using facilities as appropriate,provided that, in using video evidence to determine the Appeal, the Appeals Jury shall consider only:
    - A) the Official Video Recordings; and
    - B) any official broadcast video recording, and
    - C) where no Official Video Recording exists, unofficial video solicited or used at the sole discretion of the Jury President in such a way as to not risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors. For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, it is possible that a ruling on appeal based on an incomplete video that does not show every competitor in the relevant session on the route or boulder subject to the appeal may unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors.
  - c) If the available evidence:

- i) is inconclusive, or if the Appeals Jury is unable to reach a unanimous verdict, then the Appeal shall be “**Undetermined**”, the Original Decision shall stand, and no Appeal Fee will be invoiced.
- ii) is conclusive and the Appeals Jury reaches a unanimous verdict, then the Appeal will be determined as either:
  - A) “**Successful**”, in which case no Appeal Fee will be invoiced and the Original Decision changed; or
  - B) “**Unsuccessful**”, in which case an Appeal Fee will be invoiced to the relevant competitor and the Original Decision will stand.
- d) The determination of the Appeal shall be made in writing and handed by a member of the Appeals Jury to the person who officially lodged the Appeal.

## 6.4 **Consequences of Appeals**

- 6.4.1 Any formal determination of the Appeals Jury shall be final and not subject to further Appeal.

## Part 2 - Discipline Rules

## 7 Lead/Top Rope

Part 3 - Event Rules may define alterations to general discipline rules for a particular competition. See the Order of Rule Precedence section at the beginning of this Rulebook.

### 7.1 Lead/Top Rope Competition Types

7.1.1 The following table sets forth some of the specific aspects of USA Climbing Lead/Top Rope competitions, including for each Round (\*indicates an optional Round).

- The Lead/Top Rope competition Formats permitted: Onsight (Isolation), Flash, or Modified Redpoint.
- The number of Routes permitted for each Category.
- The Time Format: Rotation Period Format (Rotation) or Climb Time Format (Climb), as well as the Rotation Period or Climb Time, in minutes. *Where the time could be five (5) or six (6) minutes, the choice is at the discretion of the Jury President, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter.*
- The Quota of competitors to advance into that round. (+) see Rules 19.4.1(c) and 20.4.1(c).
- The maximum number of non-U.S. Citizens who can advance into that round from a previous round.

Lead/Top Rope Competition Types & Categories	Round	Format	Route(s)	Climb Time / Rotation Period (mins)	Adv Quota	Non-US Adv
National Championships ("Elite" Series)	Qual	Flash	2	Climb 6	-	-
	Semis	Onsight	1	Climb 6	26	2
	Finals	Onsight	1	Climb 6	8	1
Youth National Championships B/A/Jr	Qual	Flash	1 or 2	Climb 6	-	-
	Semis	Onsight	1	Climb 6	20(+)	-
	Finals	Onsight	1	Climb 6	10(+)	-
Youth National Championships C	Qual	Flash	1 or 2	Climb 6	-	-
	Semis	Onsight	1	Climb 6	20(+)	-
	Finals	Onsight	1	Climb 6	10(+)	-
Youth Divisional Championships	Qual	Onsight or Flash	2	Rotation 5 or Climb 6	-	-
	Finals	Onsight	1	Climb 6	12(+)	-
Youth Regional Championships	-	Onsight	3	Rotation 5 or 6	-	-
Youth Qualification Series	-	Modified Redpoint, Onsight, or Flash	MR: 3 to 8 O: 2 or 3 F: 2 or 3	MR: n/a O: Rotation 5 or 6 F: Climb 5 or 6	-	-
Recreational Series	-	(any)	(any)	(any)	-	-
Collegiate National Championships	Qual	Modified Redpoint	MR: 3 to 8	-	-	-
	Semis	Onsight	1	Climb 6	20	-
	Finals	Onsight	1	Climb 6	10	-

Collegiate Divisional Championships	Qual	Modified Redpoint	MR: 3 to 8	-	-	-
	Finals	Onsight	1	Climb 6	20	-
Collegiate Qualification Series	-	Modified Redpoint, Onsight, or Flash	MR: 3 to 8 O: 2 or 3 F: 2 or 3	MR: n/a O: Rotation 5 or 6 F: Climb 5 or 6	-	-

## 7.2 General

- 7.2.1 Lead/Top Rope competitions shall take place on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls.
- 7.2.2 Subject to host facility walls and Event Organizer discretion, in consultation with the Jury President and Chief Routesetter, Lead/Top Rope competitions should take place on walls having a minimum height of twelve (12) meters (approx. forty (40) feet), with routes having a minimum length of fifteen (15) meters (approx. fifty (50) feet) and a minimum width of three (3) meters (approx. ten (10) feet).
- For the avoidance of doubt, the above sizes are recommendations (using the term “should”) and not requirements for USA Climbing Lead/Top Rope competitions.
- 7.2.3 Lead routes shall be climbed with the competitor belayed from below using a Single Rope and secured by clipping the rope to a series of Protection Points.
- 7.2.4 Top Rope routes shall be climbed with the competitor either:
- belayed from below using a Single Rope; or
  - exclusively for non-Championship competitions**, at the discretion of the Event Organizer, in consultation with the Jury President and Chief Routesetter, secured from above using a belay system and belay devices determined by the host facility to be designed or suitable for such Top Rope climbing, used in a manner approved by the manufacturer, with all belay devices in good working order to the best knowledge of the host facility after reasonable diligence and regularly scheduled maintenance, as applicable, and subject to the limitations and notifications in the Host Agreement.
- 7.2.5 Lead climbing is only permitted for competitors in the Elite, Collegiate, Youth Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Categories. For Youth C and Youth D competitors, the routes shall be climbed on Top Rope.
- 7.2.6 The following Lead/Top Rope competition rounds shall have only Lead routes:
- All Elite series competition rounds; and
  - All Youth series Championship competition rounds in the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B categories; and
  - The Collegiate National Championships Semi-Final and Final Rounds.
- 7.2.7 In a Classic Redpoint Format competition, a route may be offered as both Lead and Top Rope, in which case:
- the competitor must declare which way they are going to attempt the route prior to the attempt; and
  - once a competitor has made a Top Rope attempt, whether successful or not, the competitor may not attempt the route on Lead; and
  - the competitor may first attempt the route on Lead, and if unsuccessful, may then attempt the route on Top Rope, in which case all the attempts on Lead are added to the attempts on Top Rope; and
  - the route should be given two distinct route numbers, with a higher score given to Lead climbing the route.
- 7.2.8 In the instance of two Lead routes being close enough in proximity that a competitor mistakenly clips a quickdraw on the wrong route, the Climbing Judge shall immediately instruct the competitor to correct the clip. Once the incorrect clip is un-clipped, the competitor may continue their attempt on their route. Clipping a quickdraw that is not part of the competitor's route shall have no effect on their score.
- 7.2.9 Competitors in Lead/Top Rope competition rounds shall be permitted:
- in Onsite (Isolation) and Flash Format rounds, one (1) single attempt; or
  - in Redpoint Format rounds, multiple attempts, where the number of attempts may be limited at the discretion of the Event Organizer.
- 7.2.10 Onsite (Isolation) Format rounds are conducted under Isolation conditions.
- 7.2.11 Flash Format rounds are those conducted without Isolation conditions; and the routes are attempted after each route is demonstrated as set forth in Rule 7.6.1.

- 7.2.12 Classic Redpoint and Modified Redpoint Lead/Top Rope competitions shall be organized as outlined in Rules 7.8, 7.9, and 7.10.
- 7.2.13 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), Lead/Top Rope competitions shall be organized with:
- a) a Qualification Round consisting of two (2) non-identical routes (“A” and “B”) for each Starting Group; and
  - b) Semi-Final and Final Rounds, each consisting of a single route for each Category, attempted without demonstration.
- 7.2.14 Design of routes:
- a) Each route shall be designed:
    - i) to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor; and
    - ii) without any downward jumps.
  - b) The markings used on each route shall indicate:
    - i) for Lead routes, the final Protection Point in a color; and
    - ii) for Top Rope routes, the highest scored hold in a color; and
    - iii) when a route's holds need to be demarcated by tape in order to sufficiently differentiate the route from other nearby routes, a base layer of tape, using a different color from the final Protection Point or highest scored hold, shall be used on each of the route's holds, where the markings of Rules 7.2.14(b)(i) and (ii) shall be on top of the base layer of tape, such that the base layer remains evident,
 

in each case using a color different from all other demarcations on the Climbing Surface. An example of these markings shall be installed within the Isolation Zone, which should be the same for the entire duration of a competition round for a given category.
  - c) The Jury President may authorize the climbing rope to be pre-fixed to one or more Protection Points; but, wherever possible, the design of the route should make such a precaution unnecessary.

### 7.3 Safety

- 7.3.1 The Jury President, together with the USAC Judge and the Chief Routesetter and the Chief Belayer, shall inspect each route prior to the start of each round.
- a) On a Lead route, the Chief Routesetter may rule that a Protection Point must, for reasons of safety, be clipped from a particular hold (a “**Safety Hold**”) or earlier, in which case such hold(s) and the relevant Protection Point(s) shall be clearly marked with a blue cross and pointed out during the route observation.
  - b) On a Top Rope route, the Chief Routesetter may employ an Open Hook to hold the rope close to the wall and minimize swing during a fall until the climber reaches such hook, which shall be unhooked from a particular hold (a “**Safety Hold**”) or earlier, in which case such hold(s) and the relevant Open Hook(s) shall be clearly marked with a blue cross and pointed out during the route observation.
  - c) The Jury President shall notify competitors in the relevant categories of any “Safety Holds” during the Technical Meeting. If the round does not start with an observation period, the Climbing Judge shall point out the “Safety Hold” to each competitor prior to their attempt on the route.
  - d) If a route is to be offered as both Lead and Top Rope, the Chief Routesetter shall confirm in advance that the route is safe to climb both ways, for example, by checking that there are no unsafe swings on an overhanging route or unsafe clips when the route is to be led.
- 7.3.2 The Jury President or Chief Belayer shall decide whether the climbing rope should be replaced at any time during a competition.

- 7.3.3 Each competitor shall wear a harness. Any Competition Official who believes that a competitor's harness is unsafe shall summon the Jury President, and the Jury President shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor's harness is unsafe.
- 7.3.4 Where the climber is belayed by a belayer, the climbing rope shall be controlled from the ground by one (1) belayer, preferably monitored by a person designated to observe for safety issues. Each belayer:
- a) shall use a Belay Device as set forth in Rules 3.1 and 3.2; and
  - b) prior to any attempt on a route, and preferably in the Call Zone, shall check that:
    - i) the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and
    - ii) the climbing rope is connected to the competitor's harness using a "Figure 8" knot plus a "safety knot"; and
    - iii) the climbing rope is coiled or arranged in a manner ready for immediate and proper use; and
  - c) during any attempt on a route, shall pay attention to the competitor to check that there is an appropriate amount of slack in the climbing rope at all times, such that:
    - i) the competitor is not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose; and
    - ii) any fall is stopped in a dynamic and safe manner; and
    - iii) care is taken to avoid injury of a competitor falling near an overlapping section or another feature of the climbing wall; and
    - iv) the competitor is safely lowered to the ground, taking care to avoid the competitor coming into contact with other persons or objects.

For the avoidance of doubt, the belayer should manage the rope so as to not hinder the competitor from connecting the rope to a Protection Point, and so as to take in excess slack if the competitor's effort to clip the rope to the Protection Point is unsuccessful.

- 7.3.5 Where the competitor is secured using a belay system as set out in Rule 7.2.4(b), an official, prior to any attempt on a route, shall check that:
- a) the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and
  - b) the climbing system is properly connected to the competitor's harness; and
  - c) the climbing rope or tether is arranged in a manner ready for immediate and proper use.
- 7.3.6 If it is apparent to the Climbing Judge or Belayer that the competitor is about to skip, or has skipped, a Protection Point (clip) and the safety of a competitor is compromised, the Climbing Judge or Belayer should notify the competitor to clip the rope to the Protection Point by saying "(competitor's name), make your clip," in a loud, clear voice. If one competitor is so notified, then all competitors in a similar situation must be notified.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a notified competitor may be subject to their attempt being terminated. See Rule 7.7.4(a)(i).
- 7.3.7 After a competitor's attempt has terminated, including without limitation due to the competitor no longer being in a Legitimate Position, the competitor may connect (clip) their rope to additional Protection Points as warranted for safety purposes.
- 7.3.8 While USA Climbing encourages all competitors to practice safe Lead climbing techniques, "back-clipping" is not a violation of USA Climbing (or IFSC) rules and will not be grounds for termination of an attempt on a route, nor will a competitor be warned, during a competition, to correct a back-clipped Protection Point.
- 7.3.9 Competitors are not allowed to continue climbing if they have made a Z-Clip. (See Glossary and Rule 7.7.3(a)(ii)(B))
- a) If the Climbing Judge or Belayer notices that a competitor is about to Z-Clip, they should say in a loud, clear voice, "(competitor's name), you are Z-Clipping."

- b) If the competitor Z-Clips, the Judge or Belayer shall notify the competitor as soon as the Z-Clip is observed.
- c) A competitor in a Legitimate Position shall be allowed to correct the Z-Clip and continue climbing. They are permitted to un-clip and re-clip, if necessary, by down-climbing to any of the carabiners involved. After correction, all the Protection Points shall be clipped in.

See Rule 7.11.2 for the rule about scoring when there is a Z-Clip.

## 7.4 Onsight and Flash Format Starting Orders and Quotas

7.4.1 The Qualification Round may be organized with one (1) or two (2) Starting Groups for each Category.

- a) The number of Starting Groups shall be determined as follows:

Registered competitors	Number of Starting Groups
< 80	1
> 79	1 or 2 (*)

(\*) at the discretion of the Event Organizer following consultation with the Jury President.

- b) Where two (2) Starting Groups are used:
  - i) the routes for each group should have similar overall difficulty and similar character (profile and style); and
  - ii) competitors shall be allocated to the groups as follows:
    - A) any competitors having a Seeding for the competition shall be assigned to a Starting Group in the manner and order shown in the following example, where the order for competitors with equal seeding shall be at random:

Starting Group A	Starting Group B
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>

- B) unseeded competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups at random, such that an equal or near equal number of competitors are allocated to each Starting Group.

7.4.2 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall be twenty-six (26) and eight (8), respectively.

7.4.3 The quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall each be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the immediately prior completed round.

- a) If there are two Starting Groups in any Category, the quota for the following round shall be equally divided and applied to both groups.
- b) If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors will qualify for the next round.

7.4.4 The starting order within each Starting Group in the Qualification Round shall be determined as follows:

- a) for route A, by random selection; and
- b) for route B, in the same order as route A:
  - i) if there are two routes, with a stagger of 50%. For example, where the Starting List includes twenty (20) or twenty-one (21) competitors, the competitor starting 11th on route A will start 1st on route B; and
  - ii) if there are three routes, with a stagger of 33%; and
- c) for any route C, in the same order as route A with a stagger of 66%.

- d) Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), Youth National Championship competitors may be allocated to similarly-sized, non-overlapping Starting Waves, where the competitors in each Starting Wave shall have a starting order as set forth in Rules 7.4.4(a) to (c).

7.4.5 The starting order for each round after the Qualification Round shall be the reverse of the ranking from the relevant preceding round, i.e., the best ranked starts last. Where competitors are tied, their starting order shall be:

- a) where the tied competitors each have a Seeding, in descending order of their Seeding, i.e., best ranked starts last; and
- b) where the tied competitors are each unranked or have the same Seeding, randomized; and
- c) where competitor(s) having a Seeding and unranked competitor(s) are tied, the unranked competitor(s) shall start first,

and in each case will be published in an Official Starting List.

## 7.5 Onsight and Flash Format Competition Procedure

7.5.1 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the Semi-Final and Final Rounds of Lead/Top Rope competitions shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions, subject to the Isolation rules in Rule 3.16.

7.5.2 There shall be a minimum time gap:

- a) for Climb Time Format rounds with more than one route, of not less than fifty (50) minutes for Championship or National events and not less than twenty (20) minutes for other events, between the completion of a competitor's attempt on one route and commencing their next route; and
- b) where consecutive rounds of the competition take place on the same day, of not less than two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round, except for a Super-Final Round.

7.5.3 Each competitor shall start their attempt on a route in the order set out on the relevant Official Starting List. If a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time, no rescheduling shall be permitted without the authorization of the Jury President.

7.5.4 In any round of a National Competition where the number of competitors is greater than twenty-five (25):

- a) the holds on each route shall be cleaned at intervals evenly distributed during the round; and
- b) the cleaning interval should not exceed twenty-five (25) competitors and shall not exceed twenty-eight (28) competitors; and
- c) the cleaning schedule shall be marked on the Starting List.

7.5.5 The Final Round:

- a) of a National Competition, may be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round; and
- b) should have a duration not exceeding ninety (90) minutes for any one Category.

## 7.6 Onsight and Flash Format Observation Procedure

7.6.1 In a Flash Format round, each route shall be demonstrated by a forerunner:

- a) on a video recording continuously played in the Warm-Up Area, starting not later than sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start of the round; or
- b) where video recordings are not possible, during a live demonstration not fewer than thirty (30) minutes before the attempt of the first competitor.

7.6.2 An Onsight (Isolation) Format round shall be preceded by a collective observation period for competitors.

- a) The collective observation period shall be four (4) to six (6) minutes, inclusive, subject to the discretion of the Jury President.
- b) During this period, competitors may:

- i) touch only the first holds on the route, without leaving the ground; and
  - ii) use binoculars to observe the route; and
  - iii) make hand-drawn sketches and notes,
- but shall not use any recording or laser pointing equipment.
- c) At the end of this period, competitors shall return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by a USA Climbing Official.

## 7.7 Onsight and Flash Format Climbing Procedure

7.7.1 For Climb Time Format competition rounds, the following rules shall be in force:

- a) Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the fixed climbing period (Climb Period) for each route shall be six (6) minutes. Each competitor may make one (1) attempt on any route, other than where supplementary attempts are permitted following an Appeal or Technical Incident.
- b) Unless instructed otherwise, competitors shall make all final preparations for their attempt in the Call Zone. Each competitor shall be allowed a final observation period of forty (40) seconds from the time at which the competitor leaves the Call Zone, following which they must start their attempt. If a competitor has not so started within forty (40) seconds, the competitor should be instructed by the Climbing Judge to begin climbing; if the Jury President or USAC Judge concludes that the competitor has not begun their attempt in a timely manner after this instruction, it shall be considered a failure to follow the Official's instruction and may result in the issuance of a Yellow Card as set out in Rule 4.4.

7.7.2 For Rotation Period Format competition rounds, each competitor participating in the round:

- a) will start their attempt on each route in the order set out on the Official Starting List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the designated time; and
- b) will attempt each route of the round in the prescribed order; and
- c) will have a resting period equal to the Rotation Period between their attempt on each successive route.
- d) At the end of each Rotation Period, the competitors:
  - i) who were climbing shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any route not yet attempted; and
  - ii) that were resting shall commence their attempt on the next route in succession, though in the case of a Transition Period, shall commence at the end of the Transition Period,

and the Jury President should oversee that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the Rotation Period.

7.7.3 A competitor's attempt shall be deemed to have:

- a) started, and, in Climb Time Format competition rounds, measurement of the climbing time shall start, when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground. For the avoidance of doubt, the Climbing Judge has discretion to determine whether a competitor is starting or adjusting their position prior to starting. During their attempt, competitors:
  - i) are not permitted to clean holds; and
  - ii) must clip the Protection Points in sequence, provided that:
    - A) the competitor may un-clip and re-clip the last clipped Protection Point at any time; and
    - B) the competitor must correct any Z-Clip and to do so may un-clip and re-clip any of the Protection Points involved, provided that after correction all Protection Points must be clipped; and
- b) finished when:

- i) **for Lead**, they have clipped the final Protection Point on the route; **or for Top Rope**, they have **Controlled the highest scored hold**; or
- ii) they have fallen; or
- iii) the attempt has been terminated by the Climbing Judge.

#### 7.7.4 The Climbing Judge:

- a) shall order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if:
  - i) they reasonably believe that further progress on the route would be dangerous; or
  - ii) the competitor has:
    - A) exceeded the fixed climbing period for the route; or
    - B) returned to the ground after starting the route; or
- b) may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if:
  - i) the competitor is no longer in a Legitimate Position; or
  - ii) a Technical Incident has occurred.

## 7.8 Redpoint Formats

7.8.1 Redpoint Format Lead/Top Rope competitions may be either Classic Redpoint Format competitions or Modified Redpoint Format competitions.

7.8.2 Classic Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:

- a) The Event Organizer shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare a set of routes wherein every competitor may be scored for any route in the competition. A minimum of twenty (20) routes in total should be set, though this minimum may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) based on a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) In the Classic Redpoint Format, competitors have the goal of completing the highest value routes, where each route has a unique value.
- c) A competitor's final score shall be the cumulative value of their top three (3) completed routes, and competitors shall be ranked in descending order of such cumulative value, where two competitors with the same cumulative value shall be ranked by:
  - i) ascending order of total number of attempts on such top three (3) completed routes; then
  - ii) descending order of the value of the competitors' fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) highest completed route; then
  - iii) ascending order of number of attempts on such fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) highest completed route; and so on.
- d) Each route will be worth a specific number of points based on that route's anticipated rating/difficulty. The following chart lists the point values that must be awarded to a competitor upon successful completion of the route. Note: If the competition has more than forty (40) routes, then the point values shall remain consistent with the chart below, extrapolating from the 100-point increments outlined.

For example, if there are a total of fifty (50) routes, route #1 shall be worth 100 points, route #40 shall be worth 4000 points, as outlined below, and route #41 shall be worth 4100 points, route #42 worth 4200 points, and so on, with route #50 worth the maximum of 5000 points.

REDPOINT SCORING CHART							
route / problem #	Points	route / problem #	Points	route / problem #	Points	route / problem #	Points
1	100	11	1100	21	2100	31	3100
2	200	12	1200	22	2200	32	3200
3	300	13	1300	23	2300	33	3300
4	400	14	1400	24	2400	34	3400
5	500	15	1500	25	2500	35	3500
6	600	16	1600	26	2600	36	3600
7	700	17	1700	27	2700	37	3700
8	800	18	1800	28	2800	38	3800
9	900	19	1900	29	2900	39	3900
10	1000	20	2000	30	3000	40	4000

- e) There should be no limit on the number of attempts a competitor may make on any given route. Each attempt, however, shall be recorded.

**7.8.3 Modified Redpoint Lead/Top Rope Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:**

- a) The Event Organizer shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare three (3) to eight (8) routes to be assigned to each category, and each route must be offered as only Lead or only Top Rope.
- b) In the Modified Redpoint Format, competitors have the goal of completing the highest quantity of routes, where each route has the same value and scores on all routes are counted.
- c) Each route for a competition round shall have the same number of scored holds, and the top (highest) hold on a route shall be one of the scored holds. (i.e., if one route has six (6) scored holds, all routes for that competition round shall have six (6) scored holds.)
- d) The number of scored holds per route shall be at least four (4) scored holds, and no more than ten (10) scored holds.
- e) The first scored hold on a route is worth ten (10) points and each scored hold further in the progression of the route is worth an additional ten (10) points. (e.g., a competitor Controlling or Using the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) scored hold on a route would be awarded fifty (50) points for the route on that attempt.)
- f) The scored holds on a route shall be marked with placards, or similar, that indicate the hold's scoring value.
- g) A competitor's final score shall be the cumulative value of all their routes, and competitors shall be ranked in descending order of such cumulative value, where two competitors with the same cumulative value shall be ranked by ascending order of total number of attempts to the high point on those routes.
- h) There shall be a limit of five (5) attempts a competitor may make on any given route. The Event Organizer may apply a lower limit on the total number of attempts, but the limit shall be no less than three (3) attempts.
- i) Each attempt shall be recorded.

**7.8.4 At Redpoint Format competitions, a judge (or team of judges) shall be assigned by the Jury President to perform as judge for a "lane" (a set of spatially adjacent routes on the climbing wall surface) for the session. Where necessary, replacement judges or rotating judges shall be allowed, provided that a considerable effort is made to maintain judging consistency in each lane during the session.**

Any such assigned, replacement, or rotating judge shall not include anyone competing in that session, though USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) to waive this restriction for Collegiate or Paraclimbing competitions, at the request of the Event Organizer.

## 7.9 Redpoint Formats Competition Procedures

- 7.9.1 At Redpoint Format competitions, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb, subject to the following:
- a) This minimum time requirement may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) in response to a timely request of the Event Organizer.
  - b) At the discretion of the Jury President, the minimum time may be extended, but not shortened.
  - c) Competitors should be given a “five-minute warning” near the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes every competitor still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their scorecards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, competitors must turn in their scorecard. The Jury President, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.
- 7.9.2 Redpoint Format competitors are allowed to watch other competitors climb on a route prior to their own attempt.
- 7.9.3 At Redpoint Format competitions, “beta” (coaching, advice) may not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the route (including without limitation “running beta”); however, beta may be given to a competitor before or between attempts of a route.

## 7.10 Redpoint Formats Climbing Procedures

- 7.10.1 All Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following:
- a) Competitors choose which routes to attempt and may attempt as many different routes as they wish, within the rules of the specific Redpoint Format, as time allows.
  - b) Competitors declare their intention to attempt a route by either:
    - i) handing their scorecard to the Climbing Judge who will call competitors in order of the scorecards received; or
    - ii) registering their next desired route in an online system, if such a system is used at the competition.
  - c) After each failed attempt, the Climbing Judge shall record the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate, and the competitor may return to the back of the queue or elect to attempt another route.
  - d) Upon successful completion of a route, the Climbing Judge shall record such success and the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate.
  - e) If the competitor flashes the route the scorecard shall be marked as the competitor having made one (1) attempt.

## 7.11 Judging and Scoring

- 7.11.1 A Topo shall be prepared by the Chief Routesetter in consultation with the USAC Judge before the start of each round of a non-Redpoint competition; and in respect of Onsite (Isolation) Format Round routes at National Competitions only, should be made available to relevant Certified Coaches as soon as practical, but not prior to the observation period for the relevant route and only once the Certified Coaches have left the Isolation Zone.
- For the avoidance of doubt, it may not be practical to make the Topos available if any routes will be sufficiently re-used.
- 7.11.2 Each route shall be judged by at least one (1) Climbing Judge, who shall record for each competitor:
- a) for Climb Time Format competition rounds, assisted by a Time-Keeper, the competitor’s climbing time to the nearest (lower) second; and
  - b) their achieved score, which shall be either:
    - i) where the competitor has remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt:

- A) “TOP”, where the competitor has clipped the final Protection Point on the route when climbing on Lead, or Controlled the highest scored hold when climbing on Top Rope, in both instances within the Climb Period or Rotation Period as appropriate; or
  - B) the scoring value on the Topo for the last hold Controlled or Used by the competitor prior to their:
    - 1 falling; or
    - 2 attempt being terminated; or
  - ii) where the competitor has not remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt, the scoring value on the Topo for the last hold Controlled by the competitor while in a Legitimate Position,
- and in each case:
- iii) only holds used by either hand will be considered for scoring purposes, where the scoring value for Using a hold (designated by the postfix “+”) will be better than that for Controlling the same hold; and
  - iv) scoring of a competitor's attempt will be paused at the last hold marked on the Topo from which the Chief Routesetter has deemed it possible to clip any unclipped Protection Point when the competitor Controls (or passes) this hold, unless or until the relevant Protection Point has been clipped (where such determination, if not so marked on the Topo, is to be made by the Climbing Judge, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter if possible); and
  - v) scoring of a competitor's attempt will be paused when the competitor makes a Z-Clip, until the Z-Clip has been corrected.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- a competitor climbing on Top Rope is not required to “match hands” on the highest scored hold in order to receive the score of “TOP”;
- a competitor climbing on Lead must clip the final Protection Point, but is not required to Control the highest scored hold, in order to receive the score of “TOP”;
- a climber will receive no scoring for moves made during the period that scoring of their attempt is paused; and
- a Climbing Judge's consultation with the Chief Routesetter about a competitor's ability to touch a Protection Point may occur after the attempt.

- 7.11.3 Where a competitor Controls/Uses a hold not marked on the Topo, the USAC Judge and Chief Routesetter may determine a scoring value to be assigned to this new hold. For the avoidance of doubt, this value may be the same as an existing hold or some new value.

## 7.12 Ranking

- 7.12.1 For Onsight, Flash, and Modified Redpoint Format competition rounds, each competitor attempting a route will be ranked on that route in the following order:
  - a) all competitors scored as TOP; then
  - b) all other competitors in descending order of the score awarded to that competitor.
- 7.12.2 For Onsight and Flash Format competition rounds with more than one (1) route, the Ranking will be determined as follows:
  - a) Any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start every route in their Starting Group will be unranked in the round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

- b) Each competitor starting at least one route in the round shall be awarded Ranking Points for each route equal to their *fractional ranking* on the relevant route. For the avoidance of doubt, if a competitor starting at least one route does not start another route (other routes), the competitor shall be ranked last on that route (those routes) they did not start, and awarded the appropriate Ranking Points.
- c) The ranking of competitors within their Starting Group will be calculated in ascending order of the Geometric Points awarded to each competitor (i.e., lower Geometric Points is better), where the Geometric Points awarded are determined by calculating the geometric mean of the Ranking points for each route, as shown in the following formulas:

$GP = \sqrt{P1 * P2}$  if there are two (2) routes.

(square root of the product of Ranking points.)

$GP = \sqrt[3]{P1 * P2 * P3}$  if there are three (3) routes.

(cube root of the product of the Ranking points.)

Where:

GP = Geometric Points, rounded to three (3) decimal places.

P1 = Ranking Points on first (1<sup>st</sup>) route.

P2 = Ranking Points on second (2<sup>nd</sup>) route.

P3 = Ranking Points on third (3<sup>rd</sup>) route (if applicable).

For the avoidance of doubt, the Ranking in round with more than three (3) routes must be calculated using the geometric mean, consistent with the preceding formulas.

- d) Geometric Points data presented on the Official Results shall be presented rounded to two (2) decimal places.

#### 7.12.3 Semi-Final & Final rankings.

- a) Any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the route will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM
- b) In relation to the Semi-Final Round, if any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Rule 7.12.1, their relative ranking shall be determined by count-back to their Qualification Ranking (unless the Qualification Round was held with two Starting Groups).
- c) In relation to the Final Round, if any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Rule 7.12.1, their relative ranking shall be determined:
  - i) by count-back to their rankings from the preceding round; and
  - ii) if following count-back, any competitors are tied [in a Championship or National competition Final round with a single route](#), these places shall be determined by the climbing time for each competitor (lower times are better).

#### 7.12.4 General Ranking

The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

- a) competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; then
- b) where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking, in that order; then
- c) competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order, provided that where the Qualification Round takes place with two Starting Groups, their General Ranking shall be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied.

### 7.13 Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 7.13.1 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official USA Climbing broadcast video recordings, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must at a minimum record:

- a) all holds marked on the Topo; and
- b) all Protection Points on the route (including the Top); and

- c) any demarcations marked on the Climbing Surface; and
  - d) where relevant, the timer display showing the time remaining within the Rotation Period.
- 7.13.2 Notwithstanding Rule 7.13.1, where no Official Video Recordings exist, the Jury President has the discretion to solicit or consider other video recordings in such a way as to not materially risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors. (See, e.g., Rule 7.13.6 regarding consistency in scoring across competitors for a particular hold.)
- 7.13.3 If a competitor, Certified Coach, belayer, or Climbing Judge considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the USAC Judge immediately. The USAC Judge, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, if necessary, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. If the USAC Judge determines that a Technical Incident has occurred:
- a) which afforded the competitor an unfair advantage, the USAC Judge may either:
    - i) terminate the attempt; or
    - ii) allow the competitor to continue climbing with the result subject to review (in this case no further attempt shall be permitted if the Technical Incident is subsequently confirmed); or
  - b) which afforded the competitor a disadvantage, and the competitor:
    - i) is not in a Legitimate Position, the USAC Judge shall terminate the attempt; or
    - ii) is in a Legitimate Position, the USAC Judge shall offer the competitor the opportunity to continue with their attempt or to have the attempt terminated. If the competitor elects to continue their attempt, the Technical Incident shall be deemed remedied and no subsequent claim may be made for a Technical Incident.
- 7.13.4 Where a competitor has fallen or an attempt has been terminated as the direct result of an agreed Technical Incident,
- a) they shall be escorted to a separate Transit Zone with access to warm-up facilities to await the determination of the Technical Incident and for the duration of any subsequent recuperation period. The competitor shall not be permitted to communicate with any person other than USA Climbing Officials and the Event Organizer's staff during this period; and
  - b) the Jury President should:
    - i) agree on a recuperation period with the competitor, nominally calculated as one (1) minute for each handhold used prior to the Technical Incident, with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes; and
    - ii) schedule the repeat attempt following the agreed recuperation period. All competitors yet to climb shall be informed about this decision,

provided that, if the affected competitor is ranked first at the end of the round, they shall not be allowed a new attempt on the route.
- 7.13.5 Where, following the occurrence of a Technical Incident, the relevant competitor:
- a) chooses to continue their attempt in the circumstances described in Rule 7.13.3(b)(ii), the result of this attempt shall stand; or
  - b) is afforded a further attempt on the route pursuant to Rule 7.13.4(b), the competitor's result shall be the best result from their attempts on the route.
- 7.13.6 An Appeal:
- a) relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt:
    - i) if made by the relevant competitor, may be initiated verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable; or
    - ii) if made by a Certified Coach, must be made in writing,

and must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt. The affected competitor shall be treated as though the subject of a Technical Incident until the Appeal is determined.
  - b) relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor, must be made in writing and:

- i) in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final Rounds, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
- ii) in respect of the Final Round, immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result (or where no Provisional Result is displayed, the Official Result),

and where an Appeal is made concerning the scoring of any competitor in relation to a particular hold, the Appeals Jury should review the results of all competitors who have been scored as Controlling or Using that same hold.

Note: the rules in Part 3 - Event Rules may specify modifications to these Technical Incidents and Appeals rules.

- 7.13.7 In a Redpoint format round, notwithstanding Rule 7.13.6, an appeal must be made within ten (10) minutes of the publication of the Official Results.

## 8 Bouldering

Part 3 - Event Rules may define alterations to general discipline rules for a particular competition. See the Order of Rule Precedence section at the beginning of this Rulebook.

### 8.1 Bouldering Competition Types

8.1.1 The following table sets forth some of the specific aspects of USA Climbing Bouldering competitions, including for each Round (\*indicates an optional Round).

- The Bouldering competition Format(s) permitted: Isolation or Modified Redpoint
- The number of Boulders permitted for each Category.
- The number of Zones permitted for each Boulder.
- The Rotation Period, in minutes.
- The Quota of competitors to advance into that round. (+) see Rules 19.4.1(c) and 20.4.1(c).
- The maximum number of non-U.S. Citizens who can advance into that round from a previous round.

Bouldering Competition Types & Categories	Round	Format	Boulders	Zones	Rotation Period (mins)	Adv Quota	Non-US Adv
National Championships ("Elite" Series)	Qual	Isolation	5	1	5	-	-
	Semis	Isolation	4	1	5	20	2
	Finals	Isolation	4	1	4	6	1
Youth National Championships B/A/Jr	Qual	Isolation	4 or 5	1	4	-	-
	Semis	Isolation	4	1	4	20(+)	-
	Finals	Isolation	4	1	4	10(+)	-
Youth National Championships C	Qual	Isolation	4 or 5	1 or 2	4	-	-
	Semis	Isolation	4	1	4	20(+)	-
	Finals	Isolation	4	1	4	10(+)	-
Youth Divisional Championships	Qual	Isolation	4	1 or 2	4	-	-
	Finals	Isolation	4	1	4	12(+)	-
Youth Regional Championships	-	Isolation	4	1 or 2	4	-	-
Youth Qualification Series	-	Modified Redpoint or Isolation	MR: 6 to 10 I: 4	1 or 2	-	-	-
Recreational Series	-	(any)	(any)	(any)	(any)	-	-
Collegiate National Championships	Qual	Modified Redpoint	6 to 10	1 or 2	-	-	-
	Semis	Isolation	4	1	4	20	-
	Finals	Isolation	4	1	4	10	-
Collegiate Divisional Championships	Qual	Modified Redpoint	6 to 10	1 or 2	4	-	-
	Finals	Isolation	4	1	4	20	-

Collegiate Qualification Series	-	Modified Redpoint, or Isolation	MR: 6 to 10 I: 4	1 or 2	-	-	-
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8.1.2 The following competition format decisions shall be the discretion of the Event Organizer after consultation with the Jury President and the Chief Routesetter:

- a) The presence or absence of a Semi-Final Round at Collegiate National Championship competitions; and
- b) The selection of Modified Redpoint or Isolation Format for Youth and Collegiate Qualification Series competitions; and
- c) The number of boulders at a competition where such discretion is provided in the above table.

8.1.3 The following competition decisions are at the discretion of the Chief Routesetter in consultation with the Jury President:

- a) The number of zones on a boulder where such discretion is provided in the above table.

## 8.2 Field of Play

8.2.1 Boulder competitions shall take place on short routes (“boulders”) constructed on purpose-designed artificial climbing walls, and climbed without ropes.

8.2.2 Design of boulders:

- a) Each boulder shall be designed:
  - i) to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor; and
  - ii) without any downward jumps; and
  - iii) for Youth C and Youth D categories, so that the lowest part of the body shall never be higher than two-and-a-half (2.5) meters (approx. eight (8) feet) above the safety matting. This height limitation shall not apply to Classic Redpoint Format competitions, though the height limitation should be considered for boulders that a Youth C or Youth D Category competitor may attempt at a Classic Redpoint Format competition.
- b) The maximum number of handholds on one boulder:
  - i) Where a round is limited to only one (1) zone hold per boulder, the maximum number of handholds on any single boulder should be twelve (12) and the average number of handholds per boulder in the round should be between four (4) and eight (8), inclusive; or
  - ii) Where a round permits either one (1) or two (2) zone holds per boulder, the maximum number of handholds on any single boulder should be sixteen (16) and the average number of handholds per boulder in any round should be between four (4) and ten (10), inclusive.
- c) Each boulder shall be clearly marked to identify:
  - i) **“Starting Holds”** for both hands and both feet which shall not include blank or unbounded parts of the Climbing Surface. The Starting Holds should not be marked with specific positions for the hands. For the avoidance of doubt, marking the “Starting Holds” involves four (4) markings; and
  - ii) where a round is limited to only one (1) zone hold per boulder, a **“Zone Hold”**, which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance; and

- iii) where a round permits either one (1) or two (2) zone holds per boulder, a “**Zone Hold**”, which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance and at the discretion of the Chief Routesetter, a “**LowZone Hold**”, which shall be positioned between the “**Starting Holds**” and the “Zone Hold” to further aid in the separation of competitors where perceived necessary; and
      - iv) a “**Top**”, which shall be either:
        - A) a marked finishing hold (the “Top Hold”); or
        - B) a standing position on top of the boulder.
    - d) The markings used on each boulder shall indicate:
      - i) the Starting Holds and Top in the same color; and
      - ii) the Zone Holds and LowZone Holds (where present on the boulder) in the same color, using a color different from the Starting Holds and Top; and
      - iii) when a boulder's holds need to be demarcated by tape in order to sufficiently differentiate the boulder from other nearby boulders, a base layer of tape, using a different color from the Starting Holds, Top, and Zone(s), shall be used on each of the boulder's holds, where the markings of Rules 8.2.2(d)(i) and (ii) shall be on top of the base layer of tape, such that the base layer remains evident,
- in each case using a color different from all other demarcations on the Climbing Surface. An example of these markings shall be installed within the Isolation Zone, which should be the same for the entire duration of a competition round for a given category.

8.2.3 Multiple Categories may compete on some of the same boulders. For example, Youth D's and Youth C's may compete on the same boulders.

8.2.4 For Isolation Format Boulder competitions, a timing system shall be used in each round to display the time remaining within each Rotation Period. The timing system shall:

- a) be visible to all competitors on the Field of Play and in each Transit Zone; and
- b) show the time remaining within the Rotation Period, rounded up to whole seconds; and
- c) provide audio signals to announce:
  - i) when one (1) minute remains within each Rotation Period; and
  - ii) when five (5) seconds remains within each Rotation Period; and
  - iii) the beginning and the end of each Rotation Period; and
  - iv) the beginning of the Transition Period, as applicable.

### 8.3 Format

8.3.1 Isolation Format Boulder competitions shall be organized with:

- a) for some competitions, a Qualification Round consisting of a set of four (4) to five (5) boulders for each Starting Group; and
- b) a Final and/or Semi-Final Round each consisting of four (4) boulders for each Category.

8.3.2 Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), up to one (1) boulder in any Isolation Format round may be cancelled in exceptional circumstances, including without limitation cases where the fairness of the round is significantly compromised and cannot be rectified through video review or other means such as a boulder substantially damaged or changed in the middle of a round or a substantial judging inconsistency.

8.3.3 In Isolation Format Boulder competitions:

- a) competitors attempt each boulder without having watched any other competitor attempt the boulder; and
- b) competitors enter the Isolation Zone prior to the competition and are brought out of the Isolation Zone one-at-a-time to climb; and

- c) receipt of any information concerning a boulder prior to or during the attempt on the boulder is grounds for disqualification, though competitors who have not yet climbed/attempted a boulder are free to discuss a boulder with other competitors in isolation who have not previously climbed/attempted that boulder.

8.3.4 Classic Redpoint and Modified Redpoint Boulder competitions shall be organized as outlined in Rules 8.9, 8.9.4, and 8.10.3.

## 8.4 Safety

See Section 3 for safety rules.

8.4.1 Safety matting shall be used to protect the competitors attempting each boulder:

- a) The Chief Routesetter shall adjust the number and character of the boulders to the safety matting available. If mats are joined, gaps shall be covered to avoid competitors falling or stepping between them.
- b) The Jury President, the USAC Judge and the Chief Routesetter shall inspect each boulder and the safety matting prior to the start of each round to identify and address any safety risks.

## 8.5 Isolation Format Starting Order and Quotas

8.5.1 The Qualification Round may be organized with one (1) or two (2) Starting Groups for each Category:

- a) The number of Starting Groups in each Category shall be determined as follows:

Registered competitors	Number of Starting Groups
≤ 40	1
> 40	1 or 2 (*)

(\*) at the discretion of the Event Organizer following consultation with the Jury President.

- b) Where two (2) Starting Groups are used:

- i) each set of boulders should be designed to have similar overall difficulty, and the boulders in each set should be constructed with similar characteristics (e.g., profile and style); and

- ii) competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups as follows:

- A) any competitors having a Seeding for the competition shall be assigned to a Starting Group in the manner and order shown in the following example, where the order for competitors with equal seeding shall be at random:

Starting Group A	Starting Group B
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>

- B) unranked competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups at random,

such that a near equal number of competitors are allocated to each Starting Group.

8.5.2 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 8.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Round shall be twenty (20) and six (6).

8.5.3 The quota for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall each be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the immediately previous completed round.

- a) If there are two Starting Groups in any Category, the quota for the following round shall be divided equally and applied to both groups.
- b) If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall qualify.

8.5.4 The starting order:

- a) within each Starting Group in Qualification, shall be determined as follows:
  - i) first, any competitor having a Seeding for the competition, in ascending order of this seeding (i.e., the highest seeded competitor starts first), competitors having equal Seeding in random order; and
  - ii) second, all unseeded competitors in random order;
- b) for each subsequent round, will be the reverse of the ranking from the preceding round (i.e., the highest ranked starts last). Where competitors are tied, their starting order will be:
  - i) where all of the tied competitors have a National Ranking in Bouldering, in descending order of their National Ranking (i.e., higher ranked starts later); or
  - ii) where all of the tied competitors are unranked or have the same National Ranking in Bouldering, in random order; or
  - iii) where one or more competitors having a National Ranking in Bouldering are tied with one or more unranked competitors, the unranked competitors shall start first in random order, followed by the ranked competitors in random order,

and in each case will be published in an Official Starting List.

## 8.6 Isolation Format Competition Procedure

- 8.6.1 All rounds of Isolation Format Boulder competitions shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions, subject to the Isolation rules in Rule 3.16.
- 8.6.2 Where consecutive rounds of a competition take place on the same day, there must be a minimum duration of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round.
- 8.6.3 The Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds shall be conducted in Continuous Rotation Format, which shall include a defined Rotation Period and may include a defined Transition Period.
- 8.6.4 In Continuous Rotation Format, each competitor participating in the round:
  - a) will start their attempts on each boulder in the order set out on the Official Starting List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the designated time; and
  - b) will attempt each boulder of the round in the prescribed order; and
  - c) will have a resting period equal to the Rotation Period between their attempts on each successive boulder.
  - d) At the end of each Rotation Period, the competitors:
    - i) that were climbing, shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any boulder not yet attempted; and
    - ii) that were resting, shall commence their attempts on the next boulder in succession, though in the case of a Transition Period, shall commence at the end of the Transition Period, or having finished the course, leave the Competition Area,

and the Jury President should oversee that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the Rotation Period.
- 8.6.5 The Final Round for non-Elite series competitions shall be conducted in Continuous Rotation Format.
- 8.6.6 The Final Round for Elite series competitions may be conducted in either Continuous Rotation Format or Single Rotation Format.
- 8.6.7 A Final Round using Single Rotation Format:

- a) may be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round; and
- b) for each Category:
  - i) each boulder will be attempted by all competitors in the order set out on the Official Starting List; and
  - ii) once a competitor has finished their attempts, they will return to a separate Transit Zone and the next competitor will start; and
  - iii) once all competitors have completed their attempts on a boulder, the competitors will move on to the next boulder as a group.

## 8.7 Isolation Format Observation Procedure

- 8.7.1 There will be no separate observation period for the Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds.
- 8.7.2 At the discretion of the Event Organizer for National Competitions only, the Final Round may be preceded by a collective observation for a period of two (2) minutes per boulder.
  - a) During this period, competitors may:
    - i) touch (only) the marked Starting Holds; and
    - ii) ask question of USA Climbing Officials.
  - b) During this period, competitors must not:
    - i) use or carry any recording equipment; or
    - ii) leave the designated observation area; or
    - iii) climb on the climbing wall; or
    - iv) communicate in any way with any person other than USA Climbing Officials or other competitors in their category that are part of the same collective observation.
  - c) At the end of this period, competitors will return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by USA Climbing Officials.

## 8.8 Isolation Format Climbing Procedure

- 8.8.1 The Rotation Period for:
  - a) the Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds shall be four (4) or five (5) minutes, depending on the Event Rules; and
  - b) the Final Round shall be four (4) minutes,
 and each competitor may make unlimited attempts on any boulder within the Rotation Period.
- 8.8.2 At the discretion of the Event Organizer, there may be a Transition Period of up to one (1) minute between Rotation Periods.
- 8.8.3 If the Event Organizer has arranged for one or more persons to brush each boulder, each boulder should be cleaned before each competitor begins their first attempt and competitors may at any time request that any part of the boulder be cleaned.
- 8.8.4 Competitors may at any time clean any part of the boulder that they can reach without making use of any hold.
- 8.8.5 If the Event Organizer has provided brushes for boulder cleaning as listed in the Host Agreement, only those brushes provided may be used to clean the boulder.
  - a) At National Competitions, competitors using their own brushes shall be charged with one attempt each time they use their own brush.
  - b) At non-National Competitions, competitors using their own brushes shall be told each time to not use their own brush, but will not be charged with an attempt.
 If such brushes are not provided by the Event Organizer, competitors may clean the boulder with their own brushes.
- 8.8.6 A competitor's attempt will be deemed to have:

- a) started when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground; and
- b) finished when:
  - i) Successful (Rule 8.12.2); or
  - ii) they have fallen or touched the ground after starting; or
  - iii) the attempt has been terminated by the Climbing Judge or a USA Climbing Official as:
    - A) Unsuccessful (Rule 8.12.2); or
    - B) if a Technical Incident has occurred.

For the avoidance of doubt, an attempt will be recorded when the competitor's body has left the ground in an effort to begin the boulder; a repositioning step/hop will not result in an attempt being recorded.

## 8.9 Redpoint Formats

8.9.1 Redpoint Format Boulder competitions may be either Classic Redpoint Format competitions or Modified Redpoint Format competitions.

8.9.2 Classic Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:

- a) The Event Organizer shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare a set of boulders wherein every competitor may be scored for any boulder in the competition. A minimum of forty (40) boulders in total should be set, though this minimum may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) based on a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) In the Classic Redpoint Format, competitors have the goal of completing the highest value boulders, where each boulder has a unique value.
- c) A competitor's final score shall be the cumulative value of their top five (5) completed boulders, and competitors shall be ranked in descending order of such cumulative value, where two competitors with the same cumulative value shall be ranked by:
  - i) ascending order of total number of attempts on such top five (5) completed boulders; then
  - ii) descending order of the value of the competitors' sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) highest completed boulder; then
  - iii) ascending order of number of attempts on such sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) highest completed boulder; and so on.
- d) Each boulder will be worth a specific number of points based on that boulder's anticipated rating/difficulty. The following chart lists the point values that must be awarded to a competitor upon successful completion of the boulder. Note: If the competition has more than forty (40) boulders, then the point values shall remain consistent with the chart below, extrapolating from the 100-point increments outlined.

For example, if there are a total of fifty (50) boulders, boulder #1 shall be worth 100 points, boulder #40 shall be worth 4000 points, as outlined below, and boulder #41 shall be worth 4100 points, boulder #42 worth 4200 points, and so on, with boulder #50 worth the maximum of 5000 points.

REDPOINT SCORING CHART							
route / problem #	Points	route / problem #	Points	route / problem #	Points	route / problem #	Points
1	100	11	1100	21	2100	31	3100
2	200	12	1200	22	2200	32	3200
3	300	13	1300	23	2300	33	3300
4	400	14	1400	24	2400	34	3400
5	500	15	1500	25	2500	35	3500
6	600	16	1600	26	2600	36	3600
7	700	17	1700	27	2700	37	3700
8	800	18	1800	28	2800	38	3800
9	900	19	1900	29	2900	39	3900
10	1000	20	2000	30	3000	40	4000

- e) There should be no limit on the number of attempts a competitor may make on any given boulder. Each attempt, however, shall be recorded.

8.9.3 Modified Redpoint Bouldering Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:

- The Event Organizer shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare six (6) to ten (10) boulders, inclusive, to be assigned to each category.
- In the Modified Format, competitors have the goal of completing the highest quantity of boulders, where each boulder has the same value and scores on all boulders are counted.
- A competitor shall be scored as for an Isolation Boulder competition.
- The Event Organizer may apply a limit on the total number of attempts a competitor may make on any given boulder. Each attempt shall be recorded.

8.9.4 At Redpoint Format competitions, a judge (or team of judges) shall be assigned by the Jury President to perform as judge for a "lane" (a set of spatially adjacent boulders on the climbing wall surface) for the session. Where necessary, replacement judges or rotating judges shall be allowed, provided that a considerable effort is made to maintain judging consistency in each lane during the session.

Any such assigned, replacement, or rotating judge shall not include anyone competing in that session, though USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) to waive this restriction for Collegiate or Paraclimbing competitions, at the request of the Event Organizer.

## 8.10 Redpoint Formats Competition Procedures

8.10.1 At Redpoint Format competitions, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb, subject to the following:

- This minimum time requirement may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) in response to a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- At the discretion of the Jury President, the minimum time may be extended, but not shortened.
- Competitors should be given a "five-minute warning" near the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes every competitor still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their scorecards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, competitors must turn in their scorecard. The Jury President, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.

8.10.2 Redpoint Format competitors are allowed to watch other competitors climb on a boulder prior to their own attempt.

8.10.3 At Redpoint Format competitions, "beta" (coaching, advice) may not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the boulder (including without limitation "running beta"); however, beta may be given to a competitor before or between attempts of a boulder.

## 8.11 Redpoint Formats Climbing Procedures

8.11.1 All Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following:

- a) Competitors choose which boulders to attempt and may attempt as many different boulders as they wish, within the rules of the specific Redpoint Format, as time allows.
- b) Competitors declare their intention to attempt a boulder by either:
  - i) handing their scorecard to the Climbing Judge who will call competitors in order of the scorecards received; or
  - ii) registering their next desired boulder in an online system, if such a system is used at the competition.
- c) After each failed attempt, the Climbing Judge shall record the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate and the competitor may return to the back of the queue or elect to attempt another boulder.
- d) Upon successful completion of a boulder, the Climbing Judge shall record such success and the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate.
- e) If the competitor flashes the boulder the scorecard shall be marked as having one (1) attempt.

## 8.12 Judging and Scoring

8.12.1 Each boulder shall be judged by at least one (1) Judge who shall record:

- a) the number of attempts made by each competitor. An attempt will be counted each time the competitor:
  - i) makes either a Correct or Incorrect start (Rule 8.12.3); or
  - ii) prior to starting, touches or makes use of any Artificial Hold or Structure/Volume other than:
    - A) the Starting Holds, or
    - B) any Artificial Hold or Structure/Volume which is fixed or positioned so as to modify the usable part(s) of any Starting Hold (a "Start-Blocker Hold"); or
  - iii) adds any "Tick Marks",and in response to violations of Rules 8.12.1(a)(ii) or 8.12.1(a)(iii), a disciplinary sanction may also be applied (e.g., a verbal warning may be given on the first violation, and a Yellow Card on subsequent violations); and
- b) on which attempt the competitor Controls or Uses each of the Zone or LowZone, when present; and
- c) on which attempt the competitor Successfully completes the boulder.

Tick Marks added by a competitor must be removed immediately.

8.12.2 A competitor's attempt will be:

- a) judged "**Unsuccessful**" where:
  - i) the competitor has made an Incorrect start; or
  - ii) the competitor has touched the safety matting after leaving the ground; or
  - iii) in Isolation Format, the Rotation Period has expired; or
  - iv) the competitor has made use of any Artificial Aid,and, where a competitor makes an Unsuccessful attempt, the boulder judge shall order the relevant attempt terminated, and
- b) otherwise judged "**Successful**" where the competitor is in a Controlled position:
  - i) with both hands matched on the Top Hold; or
  - ii) standing on top of the boulder,

and in each case, the Climbing Judge may raise a hand and/or announce “OK”.

8.12.3 A competitor's start will be judged:

- a) **“Correct”** where the competitor achieves a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds without Controlling or Using any other Artificial Holds or Structures. For the avoidance of doubt, when starting a boulder:
  - i) a competitor must simultaneously contact each of the four (4) marked Starting Holds with a hand or foot, in a stable Controlled position; and
  - ii) a competitor may touch, Control or Use any part of the Climbing Surface in order to attain the Starting Holds; and
  - iii) a competitor may touch any Start-Blocker Holds, which are defined in Rule 8.12.1(a)(ii).
- b) **“Incorrect”** where the competitor
  - i) fails to achieve a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds; or
  - ii) Controls or Uses any Artificial Holds or other Structures not marked as Starting Holds before achieving a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds.

## 8.13 Ranking

8.13.1 For Isolation Format and Modified Redpoint Format, in each Round:

- a) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the round will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked with the appropriate IRM; and
- b) each competitor starting the round shall be ranked using the following criteria:
  - i) in descending order, the number of Successfully completed boulders (“Tops”); then
  - ii) in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:
    - A) Controlled or Used (in either case, with one or other hand) the Zone Hold; or
    - B) successfully completed the boulder without having Controlled or Used the Zone Hold,and this number being the “Zone Points” awarded; then
  - iii) in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:
    - A) Controlled or Used (in either case, with one or other hand) the LowZone Hold; or
    - B) successfully Controlled or Used the Zone Hold without having Controlled or Used the LowZone Hold; or
    - C) successfully completed the boulder without having Controlled or Used the LowZone Hold,and this number being the “LowZone Points” awarded; then
  - iv) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Tops; then
  - v) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Zone Points; then
  - vi) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these LowZone Points.

8.13.2 For Classic Redpoint Format, in each Round:

- a) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the round will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked with the appropriate IRM; and
- b) each competitor starting the round shall be ranked in descending order by the final score outlined in Rule 8.9.2.

8.13.3 Ties in Semi-Final & Final rankings:

- a) If any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Rule 8.13.1, their relative rankings shall be determined:
    - i) by count-back to their rankings from the previous round (unless the previous round was held with two Starting Groups); then
    - ii) if, in respect of the Final Round in a Championship or National competition (or where the Final Round was cancelled, the Semi-Final Round), any competitors are tied following a count-back, the relative rankings of these competitors will be determined by comparing the best results for each such competitor:
      - A) starting with the number of Tops attained on the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, then the number of Tops attained on the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt, and so on; then
      - B) where the comparison in (A) cannot break a tie, by comparing the number of Zones attained on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) attempt, then the number of Zones attained on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) attempt, and so on; then
      - C) Where the comparisons in (A) and (B) cannot break a tie, by comparing the number of LowZones attained on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) attempt, then the number of LowZones attained on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) attempt, and so on,
- and where competitors remain tied following (A), (B) and (C), the results of such competitors shall be considered equal.

#### 8.13.4 General Ranking:

- a) The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:
  - i) competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; then
  - ii) where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking but not a Final ranking, in that order; then
  - iii) competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order, provided that where the Qualification Round takes place with two Starting Groups, their General Ranking shall be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied.

### 8.14 Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 8.14.1 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official USA Climbing broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:
  - a) the Starting Holds for each boulder; and
  - b) the Zone and LowZone Hold(s), as applicable, for each boulder; and
  - c) the Top for each boulder; and
  - d) any demarcations marked on the Climbing Surface; and
  - e) where relevant, the timer display showing the time remaining within the Rotation Period.
- 8.14.2 Notwithstanding Rule 8.14.1, where no Official Video Recordings exist, the Jury President has the discretion to solicit or consider other video recordings in such a way as to not materially risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors.
- 8.14.3 If a competitor, Certified Coach, or Climbing Judge believes that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the USAC Judge prior to commencing any further attempts. No Technical Incident shall be considered where notification is made following the start of the next rotation period.
- 8.14.4 The USAC Judge, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, if necessary, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. For the avoidance of doubt, the interruption of a competitor's attempts to stop bleeding shall not be considered as a Technical Incident.
- 8.14.5 An Appeal which, if upheld:
  - a) would entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s):

- i) if made by the relevant competitor, may be initiated verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable; however
  - ii) if made by a Certified Coach, must be made in writing,
- and in each case must be made:
- A) in respect of the Qualification or Semi-Final Rounds, [or Final Rounds using Continuous Rotation Format](#), before the finish of the next rotation period; or
  - B) in respect of the Final Round [using Single Rotation Format](#), prior to the next competitor starting their attempts; or
- b) would not entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s), must be made in writing and:
- i) in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final Rounds, [or Final Rounds using Continuous Rotation Format](#), within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
  - ii) in respect of the Final Round [using Single Rotation Format](#), upon the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result (or where no Provisional Result is displayed, the Official Result).

**8.14.6** Where a confirmed Technical Incident or an Appeal covered by Rule 8.14.5(a):

- a) can be resolved/determined prior to the commencement of the next rotation period, the competitor shall be offered the opportunity to continue their attempts, in which case:
  - i) if the competitor chooses to continue, the incident will be considered concluded; and
  - ii) if the competitor chooses not to continue, the competitor shall resume their attempts at a time determined by the Jury President, having due regard to:
    - A) any recuperation period appropriate for the affected competitor; and
    - B) minimizing the impact on other competitors; and
    - C) the overall competition schedule.
- b) cannot be resolved/determined prior to the commencement of the next rotation period:
  - i) in the case of a Technical Incident only, the round shall be suspended for the affected competitor and for all competitors on preceding boulders until the matter is resolved/determined; and
  - ii) the affected competitors shall resume their attempts as directed by the Jury President once the matter is resolved/determined,

and in each case, the affected competitors will act as directed by the Jury President. For the avoidance of doubt, any competitor who leaves the Competition Area prior to the matter being resolved/determined will not be permitted to resume their attempts.

**8.14.7** When a competitor who has suffered a Technical Incident or who has been the subject of an Appeal resumes climbing:

- a) they shall be allowed the time remaining when the relevant incident occurred, with a minimum of two (2) minutes; and
- b) their next attempt:
  - i) in the case of a Technical Incident, shall be deemed a continuation of the prior attempt; and
  - ii) in the case of a determined Appeal, may be deemed as either:
    - A) a continuation of the prior attempt; or
    - B) as a new attempt,

in each case as the circumstances dictate.

- 8.14.8 In a Redpoint format round, notwithstanding Rules 8.14.5, 8.14.6, and 8.14.7, an appeal must be made within ten (10) minutes of the publication of the Official Results.

## 9 Speed

Part 3 - Event Rules may define alterations to general discipline rules for a particular competition. See the Order of Rule Precedence section at the beginning of this Rulebook.

### 9.1 Speed Competition Types

9.1.1 The following table sets forth some of the specific aspects of USA Climbing Speed competition types, including:

- a) The Field-of-Play Rules: Standard or Alternative.
- b) The Format Rules: Standard or Alternative.
- c) The Rounds: Qualification only; Qualification and Final; or Qualification, Semi-Final, and Final.
- d) The Starting Order Rules: Standard or Alternative.
- e) The Final Round Maximum Quota: eight (8) or sixteen (16).
- f) The Final Round Format: Knockout or non-Knockout

Speed Competition Type	Field-of-Play	Format	Rounds	Starting Order	Final Round Max Quota	Final Round Format
Elite series competitions	Standard	Standard	Qualification & Final	Standard	16	Knockout
Youth B, A, Jr National Championships	Standard	Standard	Qualification, Semi-Final, & Final	Standard	8	Knockout
Youth C National Championships	Alternative	Standard	Qualification, Semi-Final, & Final	Standard	8	Non-Knockout
Youth B, A, Jr Qualification Speed Trials	Standard	Standard	Qualification (may include Finals)	Standard	8	Knockout
Youth C Qualification Speed Trials	Alternative	Standard	Qualification (may include Finals)	Standard	8	non-Knockout
Collegiate National Championships	Standard	Standard	Qualification & Final	Standard	8	Knockout
<b>Collegiate Qualification Speed Trials</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Qualification (may include Finals)</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Knockout</b>
Recreational competitions	Standard or Alternative	Standard or Alternative	Qualification (may include Finals)	Standard or Alternative	8	Knockout or non-Knockout

9.1.2 Where the table permits more than one option for a competition type, the choice is at the discretion of the Event Organizer in consultation with the Jury President.

### 9.2 Field-of-Play

9.2.1 Standard Speed Field-of-Play competitions shall take place:

- a) on artificial structures that meet the Certification Standards outlined in Rule 9.4; and

- b) using an automatic timing system that meets the Certification Standards outlined in Rule 9.4; and
- c) with the competitor secured from above using a belay system and belay devices determined by the host facility to be designed or suitable for speed climbing, used in a manner approved by the manufacturer, with all belay devices in good working order to the best knowledge of the host facility after reasonable diligence and regularly scheduled maintenance, as applicable, and subject to the limitations and notifications in the Host Agreement and the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document outlined in Rule 9.4.

9.2.2 Alternative Speed Field-of-Play competitions shall take place:

- a) on two (2) parallel routes, of identical length, of the same profile, design, and difficulty, where the routes shall be newly set, and no competitor shall be allowed to practice on them outside of an official Practice Period preceding the Qualification Round; and
- b) using either an automatic timing system that meets the Certification Standards outlined in Rule 9.4 or using stopwatches approved by the Jury President along with a taped finish box above the final hold of each route ; and
- c) with the competitor secured from above using a belay system as outlined in Rule 9.2.1.

9.2.3 The Alternative Speed Field-of-Play routes for Speed competitions for Youth C Category shall not include the Standard Field-of-Play route unaltered, but may include Standard Field-of-Play route general layout and holds (handholds and footholds), provided that the Alternative Speed Field-of-Play route shall be set with:

- a) starting handholds that are lower than the Standard Field-of-Play starting handhold positions; and
- b) additional holds so as to be appropriate for the sizes of competitors in the Youth C Category; and
- c) Standard Field-of-Play handholds altered as outlined in Rule 9.2.4.

9.2.4 The following Standard Field-of-Play route handholds must be either removed or rotated at least 90 degrees from the standard angle in order to be used as an Alternative Speed Field-of-Play route for Speed competitions for Youth C categories:

- a) The two first (starting) handholds (panel dx2); and
- b) At least one (1) of handholds four (4) through seven (7) (panels dx3,dx4); and
- c) At least one (1) of handholds eight (8) through twelve (12) (panels dx5,dx6); and
- d) On a 15m speed wall, at least one (1) of handholds thirteen (13) and higher (panels dx7,dx8,dx9).

See the certification standards in Rule 9.4.2 for the Standard Field-of-Play route handhold and panel arrangements.

9.2.5 Each route should be cleaned following the completion of the Practice Period (if any), and following the completion of the Qualification Round and Semi-Final Round (if any).

### 9.3 Format

9.3.1 Standard Speed Format two (2) round competitions shall be organized with:

- a) a Qualification Round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and
- b) where the number of competitors recording a valid qualifying time (a Valid Time in the Qualification Round; see Rules 9.16 and 9.12.3) is four (4) or more, a Final Round.

9.3.2 Standard Speed Format three (3) round competitions shall be organized with:

- a) a Qualification Round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and
- b) where the number of competitors recording a valid qualifying time (a Valid Time in the immediately preceding round (see Rules 9.16 and 9.12.3) is twenty (20) or more, a Semi-Final Round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and

- c) where the number of competitors recording a valid qualifying time (a Valid Time in the immediately preceding round (see Rules 9.16 and 9.12.3) is four (4) or more, a Final Round.

9.3.3 The Standard Speed Format Final Round shall consist of:

- a) where the Final Round uses the Standard Speed Field-of-Play rules (Rule 9.2.1), between two (2) and four (4) elimination stages in a Knockout Format Final Round as outlined in Rule 9.10.1; and
- b) where the Final Round uses Alternative Speed Field-of-Play rules (Rule 9.2.2), a single stage in a non-Knockout Format Final Round, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs as outlined in Rule 9.10.2.

9.3.4 Standard Speed Format competitions may have a Practice Period preceding the Qualification Round. Where a Practice Period is organized, the time and arrangements for this Practice Period shall be announced at the Technical Meeting.

9.3.5 Alternative Speed Format competitions shall be organized with a single round, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs. The single round shall use Qualification Round rules. At the discretion of the Event Organizer or the Jury President, in the event that the host facility does not have available two lanes meeting the Speed Field-of-Play rules, the Alternative Speed Format competition may be organized with a single lane "A" and each competitor shall have two attempts on that lane.

## 9.4 Certifications

9.4.1 USA Climbing requires certification standards to be met for the field of play for Standard Speed Field-of-Play competitions, as well as for the USAC Speed Judge for such competitions. The three (3) certification levels are:

- a) National: required for all USA Climbing National Speed Competitions and for National records at a Speed Competition.
- b) Qualifying: required for times at a USA Climbing Standard Speed Competition to be recognized for Youth or Collegiate Speed Trials competitions.
- c) Event: required for any USA Climbing Speed Competition.

9.4.2 The certification standards are outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document available on the USA Climbing website [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).

## 9.5 Records

9.5.1 USA Climbing recognizes National Records for a 15m wall (and, historically, for a 10m wall) for U.S. Citizens in each of the following:

- a) [USA Climbing](#), for each of Female and Male.
- b) Youth Junior Category, for each of Female and Male.
- c) Youth A Category, for each of Female and Male.
- d) Youth B Category, for each of Female and Male.
- e) [Collegiate Series](#), for each of Female and Male.

[A Series record is recognized only at a competition of that Series, and a Youth Category Record is recognized only at a Youth competition.](#)

9.5.2 A National Record may be set only during scoring races. (i.e., not during any Practice Period or any race which is abandoned or cancelled.)

9.5.3 A National Record may only be set at:

- a) an IFSC Speed Competition meeting the certification requirements for a World Record; or
- b) a USA Climbing hosted or sanctioned Speed Competition where:
  - i) the climbing surface, holds, and timing system all meet the National Certification standard outlined in Rule 9.4; and
  - ii) the competition uses the Standard Speed Field-of-Play, Format, and Starting Order rules; and

- iii) the competition is included in the official USA Climbing or IFSC calendar of events; and
- iv) a Chief Speed Judge has been appointed by USA Climbing or the IFSC.

## 9.6 Safety

- 9.6.1 Each competitor shall wear a harness. The USAC Speed Judge shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor's harness is unsafe. Competitors may wear elbow and/or knee pads to reduce the risk of blood injury.

## 9.7 Advancement between Rounds (Quotas)

- 9.7.1 For competitions with a Semi-Final Round, the quota for the Semi-Final Round shall be twenty (20).
- 9.7.2 For competitions with a Final Round Maximum Quota of sixteen (16), the quota for the Final Round shall be determined as follows:

Competitors with a Valid Qualifying Time	Final Round Quota
4-7	4
8-15	8
> 15	16

- 9.7.3 For competitions with a Final Round Maximum Quota of eight (8), the quota for the Final Round shall be determined as follows:

Competitors with a Valid Qualifying Time	Final Round Quota
4-7	4
> 7	8

- 9.7.4 For all Speed Competitions not listed in Rule 9.7.2 or Rule 9.7.3, including without limitation Speed Local Competitions, the quota for the Final Round may be determined using either Rule 9.7.2 or Rule 9.7.3.

## 9.8 Starting Order – Qualification Round

- 9.8.1 Standard Speed Starting Order competitions shall use the “Staggered” order for the Qualification Round Starting Orders. The “Staggered” order shall be determined as follows:
- a) for Lane A, by random selection; and
  - b) for Lane B, in the same order as Lane A with a stagger of 50%, e.g., where the Starting List includes twenty (20) or twenty-one (21) competitors, the competitor starting 11th on Lane A will start 1st on Lane B.
- 9.8.2 Alternative Speed Starting Order competitions shall be organized without starting orders, where competitors present themselves at the speed wall during the designated time, published on the official competition schedule or announced during the Technical Meeting. Competitors shall then be allowed to have up to one (1) race on each route (A and B), racing against a competitor or a “rabbit”, except in the case where the competition has only one single lane (A), in which case the competitor is allowed up to two (2) races on that route.

## 9.9 Starting Orders – Semi-Final Round

- 9.9.1 The Semi-Final Round starting order is as follows:
- a) the round Qualifiers (competitors advancing to the Semi-Final Round) are paired and ordered according to their rank from the immediately preceding round; and

- b) if two or more competitors are tied following the immediately preceding round, their starting order in the Final Round shall be determined by random selection; and
- c) if there is an odd number of competitors, the last competitor in the starting order shall be paired with a “rabbit”, a climber not competing in that category and not competing in any race later that day; and
- d) the lowest ranked competitors are ordered first and the highest ranked are ordered last; and
- e) every competitor in the round has their first race; then, after all competitors have had their first race, each eligible competitor has their second race; and
- f) the pairings of competitors remain the same for their first and second races; and
- g) the higher ranked competitor of the pair is assigned to Lane A in the first race, and Lane B in the second race.

For example, and for the avoidance of doubt, a Semi-Final Round that includes a quota of **twenty (20)** competitors advancing from the Qualification Round would have races as follows:

Race	Lane A	Lane B	Race	Lane A	Lane B
1	Qualifier #19	Qualifier #20	11	Qualifier #20	Qualifier #19
2	Qualifier #17	Qualifier #18	12	Qualifier #18	Qualifier #17
3	Qualifier #15	Qualifier #16	13	Qualifier #16	Qualifier #15
4	Qualifier #13	Qualifier #14	14	Qualifier #14	Qualifier #13
5	Qualifier #11	Qualifier #12	15	Qualifier #12	Qualifier #11
6	Qualifier #9	Qualifier #10	16	Qualifier #10	Qualifier #9
7	Qualifier #7	Qualifier #8	17	Qualifier #8	Qualifier #7
8	Qualifier #5	Qualifier #6	18	Qualifier #6	Qualifier #5
9	Qualifier #3	Qualifier #4	19	Qualifier #4	Qualifier #3
10	Qualifier #1	Qualifier #2	20	Qualifier #2	Qualifier #1

## 9.10 Starting Orders – Final Round

- 9.10.1 Speed Competitions with multiple rounds, where the Final Round uses a Knockout Format Final Round as required by Rule 9.3.3(a), shall use, for each stage of the Final Round, the starting orders as set out below, which also sets out the lane allocation for each race. If two or more competitors are tied following the immediately preceding round, their starting order in the first stage of the Final Round shall be determined by random selection.

## 16 starters

### 1/8 stage

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #16

2	A	Qualifier #8
	B	Qualifier #9

3	A	Qualifier #4
	B	Qualifier #13

4	A	Qualifier #5
	B	Qualifier #12

5	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #15

6	A	Qualifier #7
	B	Qualifier #10

7	A	Qualifier #3
	B	Qualifier #14

8	A	Qualifier #6
	B	Qualifier #11

### 1/4 stage

9	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Winner Race 2

10	A	Winner Race 3
	B	Winner Race 4

11	A	Winner Race 5
	B	Winner Race 6

12	A	Winner Race 7
	B	Winner Race 8

### 1/2 stage

13	A	Winner Race 9
	B	Winner Race 10

14	A	Winner Race 11
	B	Winner Race 12

### Final stage

15	A	Loser Race 13
	B	Loser Race 14

16	A	Winner Race 13
	B	Winner Race 14

## 8 starters

### 1/4 stage

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #8

2	A	Qualifier #4
	B	Qualifier #5

3	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #7

4	A	Qualifier #3
	B	Qualifier #6

### 1/2 stage

5	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Winner Race 2

6	A	Winner Race 3
	B	Winner Race 4

### Final stage

7	A	Loser Race 5
	B	Loser Race 6

8	A	Winner Race 5
	B	Winner Race 6

## 4 starters

1/2 stage		Final stage			
1	A	Qualifier #1	3	A	Loser Race 1
	B	Qualifier #4		B	Loser Race 2
2	A	Qualifier #2	4	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Qualifier #3		B	Winner Race 2

- 9.10.2 Speed Competitions with multiple rounds where the Final Round uses a non-Knockout Format Final Round as required by Rule 9.3.3(b), shall use a Final Round where the starting order is as set out in Rule 9.9, but using the immediately preceding round rank for ordering the competitors who advanced to the Final Round.

## 9.11 Competition Procedure – Practice Period

- 9.11.1 Where a Practice Period is held, competitors should be entitled to one practice attempt or run on each route/lane. Competitors will not be stopped in the event of a False Start.
- 9.11.2 The Practice Period should include a demonstration of the false start signal and of the timing equipment.
- 9.11.3 The Practice Period should take the form of a pre-run of the Qualification Round, each competitor eligible to participate in the Qualification Round making their attempts in the starting order published for the Qualification Round. The USAC Speed Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer may vary the timing and format of any Practice Period to reflect circumstances specific to a competition.

## 9.12 Competition Procedure: Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds

- 9.12.1 Each competitor may make one attempt on each lane, except:
- where a re-run is required following a False Start or a Technical Incident, in which case an additional attempt shall be permitted; or
  - where they fail to report to the Call Zone when called, in which case the relevant race shall proceed without them; or
  - where the competition has only a single lane, in which the competitor's second (2<sup>nd</sup>) attempt on that lane shall be considered the competitor's attempt on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) lane.
- 9.12.2 Each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the USAC Speed Judge until they have completed their attempts on both lanes.
- 9.12.3 A competitor making a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) in their first scheduled race will not be eligible to start their second scheduled race. However, such a competitor, only in a round that contributes to Time Rank (as set forth in Rule 9.20.7), will be allowed to start their second race for Time Rank consideration only, and any such second race for said competitor shall not contribute to the competitor's rank in the round. In all cases where a False Start occurs, the competitor who has not made the False Start may re-run without a partner, this re-run taking place before the next scheduled race.

## 9.13 Competition Procedure: Final Round

- 9.13.1 In any race in a Knockout Format Final Round, the winner shall be:
- where both competitors record a valid time, the competitor who records the lowest valid time; or
  - where one competitor is determined to have made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5), the other competitor; or

- c) where both competitors record the same time or neither competitor records a valid time (other than where a False Start has occurred):
  - i) the result of a re-run race between the same competitors; or
  - ii) if both competitors remain tied after the re-run race, the competitor with the better ranking from the immediately preceding round; or
- d) where any competitor fails to report to the Call Zone when called, the other competitor.

9.13.2 A Speed Competition Knockout Final Round shall take place as a series of stages each consisting of a number of "elimination" races, with only the winner of a race in any stage proceeding to the next stage. The number of stages and races in each stage will be determined by the quota for the Final Round.

- a) Before the first race of the ½ stage (the penultimate stage of the Knockout Format Final Round) a presentation of all ½ stage competitors may be made.
- b) The losers of the ½ stage races shall compete for 3rd and 4th place in a "Small Final".
- c) The winners of the ½ stage races shall compete for 1st and 2nd place in a "Big Final", which will follow the completion of the Small Final (or where multiple Categories are competing in parallel, may be following the completion of all Small Final races). If a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) occurs in any Big Final, the winning competitor may elect to race alone for the purpose of setting a National record.
- d) Each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the USAC Speed Judge until eliminated.

9.13.3 A Final Round that does not use the Knockout Format shall use a Competition Procedure as follows:

- a) Each competitor may make one attempt on each lane, as outlined in Rules 9.12.1 and 9.12.2.
- b) A competitor making a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) in any race of the Final Round shall be eliminated from the Final Round (and shall lose any valid Final Round time previously recorded in the round). The other competitor in that race may re-run without a partner, this re-run taking place before the next scheduled race.

## 9.14 Climbing Procedure

9.14.1 All races shall be started with a clearly audible signal initiated by an assigned Starter. The Starter shall select a position where they are not visible to the competitors in their starting positions. The source of the starting signal should be positioned as near as possible to equidistant from all competitors.

9.14.2 Each race shall use a common starting protocol.

- a) On being called to the start of a route, each competitor:
  - i) should, within 10 seconds of being called, position the starting pad as appropriate for their preferred starting position. During this period competitors may touch only the first holds on the route without leaving the ground; then
  - ii) will present themselves to the Starter, who shall confirm that
    - A) the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and
    - B) the competitor's harness is safely connected to the automatic belay system or top-rope, then
  - iii) will take up an assembly position as designated by the Starter, not more than two (2) meters in front of and facing away from the wall.
- b) At the command 'At (On) your marks', from either the Starter or the timing system initiated by the Starter, each competitor will, without delay, take a position with both hands and one foot on their preferred starting holds, and one foot on the starting pad.

- c) Once all competitors are motionless in their starting positions, the Starter shall either announce 'Ready' and, following this, initiate the timing system, or as appropriate, initiate the timing system to announce 'Ready.'
- d) If for any reason following the command 'At (On) your marks' but prior to the 'Ready' command:
  - i) the Starter is not satisfied that the race can proceed; or
  - ii) a competitor raises a hand to indicate that they are not ready to start,
 then the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position.
- e) If a competitor fails to comply with (a) or (b), or by any action disturbs other competitors, the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position. The USAC Speed Judge may issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

9.14.3 If an automatic timing system is not being used, the Starter shall, after announcing 'Ready' followed by a short pause (less than two (2) seconds), call "Go."

9.14.4 All verbal instructions shall be given in a loud and clearly audible voice.

## 9.15 False Starts

- 9.15.1 Where in any race using an automatic timing system, following the Starter declaring 'Ready!':
- a) one competitor has a Reaction Time less than 0.100s, that competitor shall be recorded as having made a False Start; or
  - b) both competitors have a Reaction Time less than 0.100s:
    - i) the competitor with the lowest (fastest) reaction time shall be recorded as having made a False Start; and
    - ii) if both competitors have the same Reaction Time, the relevant race shall be re-run and no False Start shall be recorded.
- 9.15.2 Where, in any race not using an automatic timing system, following the Starter declaring 'Ready!', a competitor's foot leaves the ground or hand leaves the starting hold, or, any upward movement is made, prior to the Judge's instruction to start ("Go" or audible signal), then:
- a) the competitor shall be called for a False Start; and
  - b) the Judge shall declare 'False Start' and instruct both competitors to 'Stop'.
- 9.15.3 In addition to any recall signal made by the timing system following a False Start, the Starter shall also declare 'Stop!' as soon as possible.
- 9.15.4 No Appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time recorded by an automatic timing system approved by USA Climbing.
- 9.15.5 In each Round not using an automatic timing system, a competitor's first (1<sup>st</sup>) False Start in that round is a Probationary False Start; any other False Start is not a Probationary False Start. For the avoidance of doubt, in any round using an automatic timing system there shall be no Probationary False Starts. For the further avoidance of doubt, the Final Round is considered a single round, though it may consist of multiple stages of races.
- 9.15.6 In the event of a Probationary False Start, the effected race shall be re-run immediately following that False Start.

## 9.16 Valid Time

- 9.16.1 A result shall be recorded as:
- a) a "Valid Time" where the relevant competitor:
    - i) where an automatic timing system is being used, has struck the top timing pad/switch and stopped the timer; or
    - ii) where an automatic timing system is not being used, has struck inside the finish box, except where a False Start has been made by either competitor in the relevant race; or

- b) a “Fall” where the relevant competitor, in the course of an attempt:
  - i) where an automatic timing system is being used, fails to stop the timer; or
  - ii) where an automatic timing system is not being used, fails to strike inside the finish box; or
  - iii) arrests any fall/slip other than using the highest hold Controlled/Used prior to the fall/slip; or
  - iv) uses the side edge or the top edge of the wall for climbing; or
  - v) touches the ground with any part of the body after having started; or
  - vi) makes use of an area, hold, or feature demarcated as out of bounds; or
  - vii) fails to start the relevant race; or
  - viii) uses any artificial aid.

## 9.17 Resting Time

- 9.17.1 Other than following a False Start, every competitor shall be afforded a minimum resting time of five (5) minutes between attempts on the route(s).

## 9.18 Judging and Scoring

- 9.18.1 The climbing time for each competitor shall be defined as the period between the Starting Signal and the completion of the competitor’s attempt.
- 9.18.2 Where an automatic timing system is being used, the timing system shall:
  - a) record and display the climbing time for each competitor separately; and
  - b) be capable of measuring times to an accuracy of at least 1/100s; and
  - c) if capable of measuring times to an accuracy of at least 1/1000s:
    - i) times shall be recorded to the nearest 1/1000s for the purpose of ranking; and
    - ii) times may be displayed rounded down to the nearest 1/100s.
- 9.18.3 Where an automatic timing system is not being used, the timing system shall consist of two or three timing assistants per route, each operating a stopwatch, where the time recorded is the average of the stopwatches, after first eliminating obvious timing errors.
- 9.18.4 A valid time shall be recorded where the competitor has completed an attempt in accordance with these rules. A competitor shall be allowed to view their recorded time(s).

## 9.19 Qualification and Semi-Final Ranking

- 9.19.1 A competitor who fails to or is ineligible to start both their scheduled races in the round will be unranked in the round and their result marked as Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.
- 9.19.2 Each competitor who has made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) on either their first or second scheduled race will be ranked equal last in the round.
- 9.19.3 Subject to Rules 9.19.1 and 9.19.2, each competitor who has otherwise failed to record a Valid Time in one or both scheduled races will be ranked equal, ahead of any competitors who have made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5).
- 9.19.4 Subject to Rules 9.19.1 through 9.19.3, each competitor who has recorded a Valid Time in at least one of their scheduled races will be ranked in ascending order of their best (or only) Valid Time, measured to 1/1000s. Where any two competitors have the same best (or only) Valid Time, their relative ranking will be determined as follows:
  - a) where both competitors have a second Valid Time, by comparison of these times; and
  - b) where only one athlete has a second Valid Time, they will be ranked ahead of the competitor with no second Valid Time; and

- c) where neither competitor has a second Valid Time, the two competitors will be ranked equal.
- 9.19.5 If, following the ranking procedures in Rules 9.19.1 through 9.19.4, and for a Semi-Final Round, competitors still tied shall be ranked by their rank in the prior Qualification Round.
- 9.19.6 If, following the ranking procedures in Rules 9.19.1 through 9.19.5, the quota for the Final Round is exceeded as a result of ties, the tied competitors shall re-run on Lane A until all relevant ties are broken. The times recorded in these attempts shall be used only to determine which competitors qualify for the Final Round and for no other purpose.

## 9.20 Final and General Ranking

- 9.20.1 Any competitor who fails to or is ineligible to start their first scheduled race will be unranked in the round and their result marked as Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.
- 9.20.2 Competitors in a Final Round using the Knockout Format shall be ranked in the Final Round based on their finish in the last stage in which they competed and within each stage in the following order:
  - a) first, the race winner(s) in that stage, ranked relative to each other in order of their ranking from the immediately preceding round; and
  - b) second, the race loser(s) in that stage, ranked relative to each other in order of their times in that stage (competitors having a valid time being ranked ahead of competitors without), and using the times from successively preceding stages and/or the Qualification Round if necessary to break continuing ties.
- 9.20.3 Competitors in a Final Round not using the Knockout Format shall be ranked in the Final Round in the following order using their Final Round run time(s):
  - a) first, all competitors having at least one valid time:
    - i) in reverse order of their lowest (fastest) time; and
    - ii) where two or more competitors have the same lowest time, in reverse order of their second time (competitors having a valid second time being ranked ahead of those having no second time); and
  - b) second, all competitors having no valid time, including without limitation competitors having two falls and competitors with False Starts.
- 9.20.4 Where in a Final Round not using the Knockout Format two or more competitors have an equivalent result in the Final Round as per Rule 9.20.3, the rank within each such set of competitors shall be:
  - a) where the competitors have a unique rank in the immediately preceding round, by such rank; or
  - b) where the competitors have the same rank in the immediately preceding round, their rank shall be determined as follows:
    - i) if there are two such competitors, by a Super-Final race between said competitors, using the rules of a Knockout Finals stage race (Rule 9.13.1), where such a race shall be re-run until a unique rank is established; or
    - ii) if there are more than two such competitors, by a new Super-Final set of races among said competitors, using the rules of the Qualification Round. In the event there remain competitors without a unique rank, such competitors shall have their rank determined by reapplication of Rule 9.20.4(b) as necessary.
- 9.20.5 The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:
  - a) first, competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and
  - b) second, competitors not having a Final ranking, in order of their ranking in the immediately preceding round; and
  - c) third, if there are three rounds, competitors not having a Semi-Final ranking, in order of their ranking in the Qualification Round.

- 9.20.6 Where any stage in the Final Round is cancelled, the competition will be considered concluded and the General ranking for the competition will be the General ranking after the last completed stage, the race winners in the last completed stage being ranked relative to each other based on their respective times (using times from successively preceding stages and/or the Qualification Round if necessary to break continuing ties).
- 9.20.7 For purposes other than Final and General Ranking, a "Time Rank" shall be calculated such that the competitors in a category are ranked by their fastest valid time during any [Final Round or any round immediately prior to the Final Round](#) in the competition, including any time that was valid before a False Start. Such "Time Rank" may be used for purposes including without limitation National Records, invitations to subsequent competitions, and Team Selection. [For the avoidance of doubt, if a Speed competition has a Semi Final Round, the races in the Qualification Round shall not be considered for Time Rank purposes.](#)

## 9.21 Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 9.21.1 In the event there is Official Video Recording, only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President in consultation with the USAC Speed Judge any official USA Climbing broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:
- a) the starting position for both lanes; and
  - b) the top timing pad/switch for both lanes; and
  - c) the attempt of each pair of competitors in each race.
- 9.21.2 If a competitor or Certified Coach believes that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the USAC Speed Judge before the start of the next race.
- 9.21.3 A claim for a Technical Incident in relation to the performance of the timing system may be made only in relation to some evident or systematic error.
- 9.21.4 The USAC Speed Judge shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred.
- a) In order to make this determination, the USAC Speed Judge shall as necessary:
    - i) review the official video recordings; and/or
    - ii) require the system to be tested; and/or
    - iii) require a Routesetter to climb the relevant route and strike the top timing pad/switch.
  - b) Where the Technical Incident:
    - i) can be remedied and is considered to have affected a single race, the competitors directly affected by the failure shall re-run their attempts; or
    - ii) cannot be remedied or is considered to have affected all competitors in the relevant stage, the USAC Speed Judge in consultation with the Jury President shall either:
      - A) cancel the affected and all subsequent stages; or
      - B) abandon and restart the stage; or
      - C) abandon and restart the stage using Alternative Speed Field-of-Play rules (Rule 9.2.2) for the timing system.
- 9.21.5 An Appeal concerning the judgment of:
- a) a competitor's attempt in any race; or
  - b) the result of any race in the Final Round,
- must be made prior to the start of the next race. The next race shall not commence until the Appeal has been decided. Such appeals may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable.
- 9.21.6 An Appeal concerning the published result or ranking of a competitor, must be made in writing and:

- a) in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final Round, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
- b) in respect of the Final Round, upon publication of the relevant result/ranking.

## **9.22 Presentation of Results**

- 9.22.1 Information on the preliminary ranking place and climbing times of each competitor in each round of the competition shall be provided to spectators and coaches directly after determining results:
  - a) on electronic display (board or screen), or
  - b) on the official competition notice board if (a), above, is not possible.
- 9.22.2 The overall result lists shall show the competitors' achieved climbing times on all routes and in all rounds.

## 10 Team Speed

The USA Climbing Rulebook does not currently define Team Speed competitions.

## 11 Combined

### 11.1 General

- 11.1.1 This Rule shall be read in conjunction with Rules 3 (*General Rules*), 7 (*Lead*), 8 (*Boulder*) and 9 (*Speed*) of these Rules
- 11.1.2 Combined competitions should include:
- a) a Qualification Round with a fixed quota of 20 competitors in each Category; and
  - b) a Final Round with a fixed quota of eight (8) competitors in each Category,
- where each of the Qualification and Final Rounds will include Speed, Boulder and Lead stages in that order, with each stage conforming to the relevant provisions of Rules 7 (*Lead*), 8 (*Boulder*) and 9 (*Speed*) of these rules, with the amendments and additions noted in this Rule 11 (*Combined*).
- 11.1.3 The Qualification and Final Rounds should be held on separate days.
- 11.1.4 The Qualification Round will be organized such that:
- a) the period between the scheduled end of the Speed stage and the commencement of the stage following shall not be less than 30 minutes; and
  - b) the period between the scheduled end of the Boulder stage and the commencement of the stage following shall not be less than 120 minutes.
- 11.1.5 The Final Round will be organized such that:
- a) the period between the scheduled end of the Speed stage and the commencement of the stage following shall not be less than 15 minutes; and
  - b) the period between the scheduled end of the Boulder stage and the commencement of the stage following shall not be less than 15 minutes.

### 11.2 Competition Procedure (excluding starting order and rankings)

- 11.2.1 With the exception of procedures relating to the starting order and ranking of competitors, the procedures for the organization and conduct of the Qualification Round shall:
- a) in respect of the Speed stage, conform to the provisions of Rule 9 (*Speed*) of these rules, as these relate to the organization and conduct of the Qualification Round for Speed competitions.
  - b) in respect of the Boulder stage, conform to the provisions of Rule 8 (*Boulder*) of these rules, as these relate to the organization and conduct of the Semi-Final Round for Boulder competitions.
  - c) in respect of the Lead stage, conform to the provisions of Rule 7 (*Lead*) of these rules, as these relate to the organization and conduct of the Semi-Final Round for Lead competitions, in each case interpreting references to “round” within such rules as meaning “stage” for the purposes of this Rule 11.2.1.
- 11.2.2 With the exception of procedures relating to the starting order and ranking of competitors, the procedures for the organization and conduct of the Final Round shall:
- a) in respect of the Speed stage, conform to the provisions of Rule 9 (*Speed*) of these rules, as these relate to the Final Round for Speed competitions with the following amendments:
    - i) Rule 9.13.2 is replaced by the following: “shall take place using the race pairings set out in Annex 3 with race winners and losers progressing through ¼ final, ½ final and final races as indicated in that annex”; and
    - ii) Rule 9.13.1(c) is replaced by the following: “where in any race both competitors either record the same Valid Time or no Valid Time (excluding where both competitors fail to start), the relevant race will be re-run. If following this the competitors remain tied, the tie will be broken by comparing the competitors’ Combined Ranking following the Qualification round. For the avoidance of doubt, no re-run will take place where both competitors fail to start.”; and

- b) in respect of the Boulder stage, conform to the provisions of Rule 8 (*Boulder*) of these rules, as these relate to the Final Round for Boulder competitions, with the following amendments:
  - i) Rule 8.3.1 is replaced by the following: “Isolation Format Boulder competitions shall be organized with a single course of three (3) boulders”; and
  - ii) the Jury President will not be entitled to cancel any boulder in the stage; and
  - iii) Rule 8.6.7(a) is inapplicable.
- c) In respect of the Lead stage, conform to the provisions of Rule 7 (*Lead*) of these rules, as these relate to the Final Round for Lead competition with the following amendments:
  - i) Rule 7.5.5(a) is inapplicable,

in each case interpreting references to “round” within such articles as meaning “stage” for the purposes of this Rule 11.2.2.

### 11.3 Starting Order and Starting Lists

- 11.3.1 The starting order for the Boulder and Lead stages in the Qualification Round and for Lane A of the Speed stage in the Qualification Round will be the reverse of the Seeding List for the relevant competition, i.e., the highest (best) Seeded competitor will start last, the Seeding being:
  - a) where competitors have qualified for the relevant competition through a single Sanctioned Event in which all qualifying competitors have participated, in ascending order of the Combined Rankings calculated for the relevant competitors; and
  - b) where competitors have qualified for the relevant competition through a qualification system comprising multiple Sanctioned Events, as published by USA Climbing for the relevant competition.
- 11.3.2 The starting order for Lane B will be the same order as Lane A with a stagger of 50%. e.g., where the Starting List includes 20 or 21 competitors, the competitor starting 11th on Lane A will start 1st on Lane B.
- 11.3.3 The starting order for each stage of the Final Round shall be determined as follows:
  - a) in respect of the Speed stage, in the order set out at Annex 3. e.g., Race 1 shall be between the competitors ranked 1st and 8th within the Speed stage of the Qualification Round.
  - b) in respect of the Boulder stage, the starting order shall be the reverse of the ranking order from the equivalent stage of the Qualification Round, i.e., the highest (best) ranked competitor from that stage will start last.
  - c) in respect of the Lead stage, the starting order shall be the reverse of the ranking from the equivalent stage of the Qualification Round, i.e., the highest (best) ranked competitor from that stage will start last.

### 11.4 Stage Ranking

- 11.4.1 The ranking within each stage shall be calculated as follows:
  - a) in respect of each Speed stage, according to the provisions of Rule 9 (*Speed*) of these rules with the following amendments and additions in respect of the Final Round:
    - i) the race pairing set out in Annex 3 will be used;
    - ii) where, in any race both competitors either record the same Valid Time or No Result, the relevant race shall be re-run. If following this re-run the competitors remain tied, this tie will be broken by comparing the competitors’ Combined Ranking following the Qualification Round;
    - iii) each competitor starting the round shall be ranked using the following criteria:
      - A) the results of races 1 – 4;
      - B) the results of races 5 – 8;
      - C) the results of races 9 – 12,

in each case ranking a race win ahead of a race loss ahead of any IRM;

iv) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start:

- A) any race in the stage, they will not be eligible to start any subsequent races; and/or
- B) the stage, they will be will be unranked in the stage and their result marked with the appropriate IRM,

for the purposes of this Rule 11.4.1(a), references to 'qualification ranking' within Rule 9 (*Speed*) shall be taken to refer to the ranking following the Speed stage of the Qualification Round.

- b) in respect of each Boulder stage, according to the provisions of Rule 8 (*Boulder*) of these rules with the following amendments and additions:
  - i) Rule 8.13.1 is disapplied and in the event that two or more competitors are tied, the relative ranking of the tied competitors will be determined:
    - A) by comparing the best results for each such competitor, starting with the number of Tops attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Tops attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on;
    - B) where the comparison in (a) cannot break any tie, by comparing the number of Zones attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Zones attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on; and
    - C) in respect of the Final Round only, where following (a) and (b) any competitors remain tied, their relative ranking will be determined by comparison of their ranking within the Boulder stage of the Qualification Round.
  - ii) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the course will be unranked in the relevant stage and their result marked with the appropriate IRM.
- c) in respect of each Lead stage, according to the provisions of Rule 7 (*Lead*) of these rules with the following amendments and additions:
  - i) in the event that any two or more competitors are tied on height, the relative ranking of the tied competitors shall be determined by comparing their climbing times to the nearest second (lower time is better);
  - ii) in respect of the Final Round, where following (1) any competitors remain tied, their relative ranking shall be determined by comparison of their ranking within the Lead stage of the Qualification Round; and
  - iii) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the stage will be unranked in the stage and their result marked with the appropriate IRM.

## 11.5 Combined Ranking

11.5.1 Subject to Rule 11.5.3, a Combined Ranking will be calculated following the conclusion of each round for those competitors having started in all three stages of the round. The Combined Ranking will be determined on the following basis:

- a) each competitor will be awarded "Ranking Points" for each stage equal to their fractional ranking for that stage. Ranking Points will be:
  - i) calculated rounded to 3 decimal places;
  - ii) displayed to 2 decimal places, and

for the avoidance of doubt, Ranking Points calculated for any stage will not be recalculated where any competitor is awarded an IRM following completion of the relevant stage.
- b) a Ranking Point Total will be calculated for each relevant competitor by multiplying together the Ranking Points awarded.

- c) each relevant competitor will be ranked in ascending order of the Ranking Point Total (i.e., lower values are better), provided that where any competitors have the same Ranking Point Total, the relative ranking of the tied competitors shall be determined for any round:
  - i) by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors within the round; and
  - ii) where following (1) any competitors remain tied, by comparing:
    - A) where applicable, the Combined Ranking following the Qualification Round; and/or
    - B) if necessary, the Seeding of the relevant competitors.

11.5.2 An interim ranking may be calculated in each round:

- a) during or following the Speed stage; and/or
  - b) during or following the Speed and Boulder stages,
- in which cases only the results of these stages will be used for the Combined Ranking calculation.

11.5.3 Where any competitor

- a) fails to start the Speed stage of any round of the competition in accordance with the relevant provisions of Rule 9 (*Speed*), the relevant competitor will be marked as DNS and unranked in that round; or
- b) is Disqualified or Disqualified for Behavior during or following any round of the competition, then the relevant competitor will be unranked in all rounds and the ranking (but not any Ranking Points calculation) for all other competitors adjusted accordingly.

## 11.6 General Ranking

11.6.1 The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

- a) competitors having a Combined Ranking from the Final Round, in that order; and
- b) competitors having only a Combined Ranking from the Qualification Round, in that order.

## Part 3 - Event Rules

## 12 **Unused (was National Cup Series)**

## 13 National Championships

### 13.1 General Provisions

- 13.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the National Championship (formerly known as the “Open National Championship”) for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines.
- 13.1.2 USA Climbing shall determine not less than 30 days in advance of the first day of each National Championship competition the [Required Rank in the Discipline's National Championship Eligibility Ranking necessary to be eligible for each Discipline of the event.](#)
  - a) The [Required Rank](#) for a Discipline shall be the same for Male and Female.
  - b) The [Required Rank](#) shall be set to [ensure](#) that the [scheduled](#) maximum time in isolation shall be no more than eight (8) hours.
- 13.1.3 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each National Championship competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - b) the eligibility requirements; and
  - c) the registration procedure and deadlines, including the [Required Rank for each Discipline](#); and
  - d) the preliminary schedule.

### 13.2 Eligibility

- 13.2.1 [The eligibility requirements for the \(Elite\) National Championship shall be set forth in the Team Selection Procedures document, including modified age requirements for younger climbers.](#)

### 13.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 13.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a National Championship competition, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership.
- 13.3.2 National Championship competitions shall have [Extended and Late Registration periods](#).

### 13.4 Competition Procedure

- 13.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
  - a) In the event that a Category includes one or more non-U.S. Citizens, the Quota advancing to subsequent rounds shall remain unchanged, and advancement between rounds shall be subject to the following limitations:
    - i) A maximum of [two \(2\)](#) non-U.S. Citizen competitors can be eligible to advance to the Semi-Final Round; and
    - ii) A maximum of one (1) non-U.S. Citizen competitor can be eligible to advance to the Final Round.

For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, if four (4) non-U.S. Citizens rank in the range of advancement to Semi-Finals, the two (2) lowest ranked of those non-U.S. Citizens shall not advance to Semi-Finals and the next two (2) highest ranked U.S. Citizens shall advance instead.

  - b) In the Lead or Bouldering Discipline, after [ranking](#) Rule 7.12.3 or 8.13.3, respectively, has been applied, if any top six (6) ranked competitors remain tied in the Final Round ranking, such tied competitors shall compete in a Super-Final Round as set out in Rule 3.19. For the avoidance of doubt, a Super-Final Round may include a non-U.S. Citizen competitor.

- 13.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### **13.5 Starting Lists**

- 13.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 13.5.2 [The seeding order for the \(Elite\) National Championship shall be set forth in the Team Selection Procedures document.](#)
- 13.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

### **13.6 Results and Rankings**

- 13.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

### **13.7 Medals and Ceremonies**

- 13.7.1 At the conclusion of each National Championship competition:
  - a) medal ceremonies shall be held for each relevant Category for the relevant Discipline; and
  - b) Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked First (1<sup>st</sup>), Second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Third (3<sup>rd</sup>). For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 14 National Team Trials

### 14.1 General Provisions

- 14.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the National Team Trials competitions for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines.
- 14.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each National Team Trials competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - b) the eligibility requirements; and
  - c) the registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - d) the preliminary schedule.

### 14.2 Eligibility

- 14.2.1 Only U.S. Citizens are eligible to compete in National Team Trials competitions.
- 14.2.2 [The eligibility requirements for the National Team Trials shall be set forth in the Team Selection Procedures document, including modified age requirements for younger climbers.](#)

### 14.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 14.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a National Team Trials competition, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership.
- 14.3.2 National Team Trials competitions shall [have Extended and Late Registration periods.](#)

### 14.4 Competition Procedure

- 14.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
  - a) The Lead and Bouldering competitions shall be either two (2) or three (3) rounds.
- 14.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### 14.5 Starting Lists

- 14.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 14.5.2 [The seeing order for the National Team Trials shall be set forth in the Team Selection Procedures document.](#)
- 14.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

### 14.6 Results and Rankings

- 14.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

### 14.7 Medals and Ceremonies

- 14.7.1 At the conclusion of each National Team Trials competition:
  - a) medal ceremonies shall be held for each relevant Category for the relevant Discipline; and
  - b) Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked First (1<sup>st</sup>), Second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Third (3<sup>rd</sup>). For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.



## 15 **Unused (was National Combined Invitationals)**

## 16 Qualification Speed Trials

### 16.1 General Provisions

- 16.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth [and Collegiate](#) Qualification Speed Trial competitions in the Speed Discipline.
- a) [Youth Qualification Speed Trial competitions shall include:](#)
- i) the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, and Youth C Age Categories; or
  - ii) the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Age Categories; or
  - iii) the Youth C Age Categories.
- 16.1.2 Each Youth Region shall arrange for at least one (1) Youth Qualification Speed Trial competition for the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Age Categories, and
- a) should attempt to arrange for at least two (2) such competitions; and
  - b) should attempt to arrange for at least one (1) such competition to include the Youth C Age Categories; [and](#)
- [each Collegiate Division shall arrange for at least one \(1\) Collegiate Qualification Speed Trial competition and should arrange for at least 2 such competitions.](#)
- 16.1.3 USA Climbing shall organize and execute Youth Qualification Speed Trial competitions for the Youth C Age Categories at the time and location of the Lead/Top Rope Youth Divisional Championships.
- 16.1.4 Prior to the Qualification Speed Trial season, USA Climbing shall establish Qualification Speed Benchmark times for 15-meter walls and a separate time for 10-meter walls for each of the [Collegiate](#), Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Categories, and such Benchmark times shall be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) webpage.
- Note: subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), USA Climbing may increase, but not decrease, any Qualification Speed Benchmark time up until thirty (30) days prior to the [relevant](#) Speed National Championships, where such an increase (relaxed benchmark time) shall be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) webpage.

### 16.2 Eligibility

- 16.2.1 All Youth Series athletes (Rule 1.3) meet eligibility requirements of the Qualification Speed Trial competitions.

### 16.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule [2.6](#) (see [Rule 2.6.7](#) for rules specific to Youth and Collegiate Qualification competitions), subject to the following:

- 16.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Qualification Speed Trial competition, an athlete must have either:
- a) an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership; or
  - b) [for a Collegiate Qualification Speed Trial, an active USA Climbing Collegiate Membership; or](#)
  - c) an active USA Climbing Introductory Membership.
- Only athletes with an active Competitor Membership at the time of the competition are eligible to receive a [Youth Series](#) qualification time. [Athletes with an active Collegiate Membership or Collegiate Introductory Membership are eligible to receive a Collegiate Series qualification time.](#)
- 16.3.2 Athletes are eligible to register for:
- a) A Qualification Speed Trial competition in any Youth Region [or Collegiate Division](#); and
  - b) any number of Qualification Speed Trial competitions.

## 16.4 Competition Procedure

- 16.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
- a) In the event a competitor makes a False start in the Qualification Round:
    - i) Any previous valid time for the competitor is not invalidated; and
    - ii) The competitor shall not re-run in the race where their False Start occurred; and
    - iii) The competitor shall be allowed to run in subsequent races.
  - b) While USA Climbing recommends that the competition include a Final Round, at the discretion of the Event Organizer, the competition may not include a Final Round.
- 16.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

## 16.5 Starting Lists

- 16.5.1 As applicable, Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 16.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.
- 16.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## 16.6 Event Results and Rankings

- 16.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.
- 16.6.2 A Youth C competitor with at least one (1) valid time shall be awarded Speed Youth National Championship eligibility. For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor must finish the speed route in adherence of the rules in order to have a valid time.
- 16.6.3 A [Collegiate](#), Junior, Youth A, or Youth B competitor with at least one time that meets or is faster than their Category's Qualification Speed Benchmark time for the Speed wall height at that Qualification Speed Trial shall be awarded Speed National Championship eligibility [for the relevant Competition Series, Collegiate and/or Youth](#).
- Note: in the event of a change to the Benchmark time, the relevant Speed National Championship eligibility status for each competitor shall be updated based on the updated Benchmark time.
- 16.6.4 The Qualification Speed Trial results and Speed National Championship eligibility lists shall be posted on the USA Climbing website at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 16.6.5 USA Climbing shall maintain, for the [Collegiate](#), Youth B, Youth A, and Junior Age Categories, a National Ranking of the times achieved either in a Youth Qualification Speed Trial Big Final or Small Final.

## 17 Youth Qualification Series

### 17.1 General Provisions

- 17.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth Qualification Series competitions in each of the Lead and Bouldering Disciplines where each such competition shall:
  - a) include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, Youth C, and Youth D Age Categories.
- 17.1.2 Each Youth Region should arrange for at least four (4) such competitions in each Discipline.
- 17.1.3 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each Youth Qualification Series competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - b) the eligibility requirements; and
  - c) the registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - d) the preliminary schedule.

### 17.2 Eligibility

- 17.2.1 All athletes meet the eligibility requirements of the Youth Qualification Series competitions.

### 17.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6 ([see Rule 2.6.7 for rules specific to Youth and Collegiate Qualification competitions](#)), subject to the following:

- 17.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Youth Qualification Series event, an athlete must have either:
  - a) an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership; or
  - b) an active USA Climbing Introductory Membership.

Note: only athletes with an active Competitor Membership at the time of the competition are eligible to accrue Youth Qualification Ranking Points, as outlined in the Results and Rankings section below.
- 17.3.2 Competitors shall register for Youth Qualification Series competitions only in their Membership Youth Division.
- 17.3.3 Competitors may register for more than one (1) Youth Qualification Series competition in a discipline.

### 17.4 Competition Procedure

- 17.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
  - a) A Bouldering competition shall be either a single round Isolation Format or a Modified Redpoint Format.
  - b) A Lead/Top Rope competition shall be either a single round Isolation (Onsight) Format, Flash Format, or a Modified Redpoint Format.
- 17.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### 17.5 Starting Lists

- 17.5.1 As applicable, Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 17.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.
- 17.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## 17.6 Event Results and Rankings

17.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

17.6.2 The rules regarding making an appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor (Rules 7.13.6(b) and 8.14.5(b)) shall be modified so that the deadline for making the appeal shall be ten (10) minutes after the publication of the Official Results.

## 17.7 Qualification Series Rankings

17.7.1 At the conclusion of each competition within a Youth Qualification Series, the competitors who have an active Competitor membership at the time of the competition and rank in the top-40 among all competitors in a Category, shall be awarded Ranking Points as set out in the table below for the purpose of calculating Youth Qualification Series Rankings in the Discipline. Tied competitors will be awarded the average of the points allocated for the tied rank positions.

Youth Qualification Series Ranking Points							
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	100	11	31	21	10	31	0.95
2	80	12	28	22	9	32	0.90
3	65	13	26	23	8	33	0.85
4	55	14	24	24	7	34	0.80
5	51	15	22	25	6	35	0.75
6	47	16	20	26	5	36	0.70
7	43	17	18	27	4	37	0.65
8	40	18	16	28	3	38	0.60
9	37	19	14	29	2	39	0.55
10	34	20	12	30	1	40	0.50

For the avoidance of doubt, ranking Points may be awarded to non-U.S. Citizen competitors and competitors ranked outside of the top forty (40) are not awarded Ranking Points.

For the avoidance of doubt, competitors are ranked against other competitors with Competitor or Introductory Memberships, as shown by the following examples:

In the case of a competitor with a Competitor membership ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, one with an Introductory membership ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, and one with a Competitor membership ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>, the competitor ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is awarded 100 points and the one ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> is awarded 65 points.

In the case of a 2-way tie for 1st rank between a competitor with a Competitor membership and one with an Introductory membership, the one with the Competitor membership tied for 1<sup>st</sup> is awarded 90  $((100+80)/2)$  points.

17.7.2 USA Climbing shall maintain, updated following each relevant competition, a Youth Qualification Series Ranking for each Youth Region for each Category for the Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Disciplines, where:

- rankings include results from only Youth Qualification Series competitions in the same Discipline, [in the same Membership Youth Division](#), and in the current season; and
- each Ranking shall be in descending order of the total number of Ranking Points accumulated, where:
  - the maximum number of Youth Qualification Series competition results contributing to the total number of Ranking Points in that Discipline shall be two (2); and
  - competitors with an equal total number of Ranking Points are assigned the same rank.

## 18 Youth Regional Championships

### 18.1 General Provisions

- 18.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth Regional Championships for each Youth Region for each of the Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Disciplines where each such competition shall:
- a) include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, Youth C, and Youth D Age Categories.
- 18.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each Youth Regional Championship competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
- a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - b) the eligibility requirements; and
  - c) the registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - d) the preliminary schedule.

### 18.2 Eligibility

- 18.2.1 An athlete shall be pre-qualified (i.e., have a bye) for a Discipline's Youth Regional Championships competition if the athlete:
- a) is pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth Divisional Championship; or
  - b) was ranked in the top three (3) in the National Rankings in the Discipline in the Youth or Elite Series in any category at the end of the prior season; or
  - c) represented the U.S. at the most recent Youth World Championships in the Discipline; or
  - d) is a resident of the state of Alaska or Hawaii.
- 18.2.2 To be eligible for a Discipline's Youth Regional Championship, an athlete must:
- a) be pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth Regional Championships competition; or
  - b) be a U.S. Citizen ranked in the top [twenty-six \(26\)](#) in the Youth Qualification Rankings in their Category in the Discipline for their Membership Youth Region among only U.S. Citizens not pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth Regional Championships; or
  - c) be ranked in the top [twenty-six \(26\)](#) in the Youth Qualification Rankings in their Category in the Discipline for their Membership Youth Region; or
  - d) be extra-qualified as set forth in 18.2.3.

For the avoidance of doubt, a non-U.S. Citizen ranked in the top [twenty-six \(26\)](#) in the Youth Qualification Rankings shall be eligible for the Youth Regional Championships.

Examples:

[If all the athletes in the top twenty-eight \(28\) are U.S. Citizens except for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> ranked and none in the top twenty-eight \(28\) is pre-qualified for Regionals, then the top twenty-six \(26\) \(including the non-U.S. Citizen at 12<sup>th</sup>\) and the 28<sup>th</sup> ranked \(a U.S. Citizen\) will all be eligible. The 27<sup>th</sup> ranked \(a non-U.S. Citizen\) will not be eligible.](#)

[If all the athletes in the top twenty-seven \(27\) are U.S. Citizens and the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank is pre-qualified for Regionals \(e.g., National Champion\), then the top twenty-seven \(27\) athletes are all eligible, as the pre-qualified athlete at 2<sup>nd</sup> is eligible under Rule 18.2.2\(a\) and the other twenty-six \(26\) are all eligible under Rule 18.2.2\(b\) .](#)

- 18.2.3 [If an athlete's Membership Youth Region change during the season meets the requirement of Rule 2.7.3\(a\), and the athlete:](#)
- a) has provisionally available Qualification Series competition results from their previous Youth Region, as set forth in Rule 2.7.3; and
  - b) does not meet the Youth Regional Championships eligibility requirements as set forth in Rules 18.2.2 (a), (b), or (c) in their current Membership Youth Region; and

- c) has provisional ranking points, calculated using the best two (2) results of their provisionally available Qualification Series competition results from their previous Youth Region and the Qualification Series competition results from their current Region, that are greater than or equal to the twenty-fifth (25<sup>th</sup>) ranked competitor in the current Region's Youth Qualification Rankings,

then the athlete shall be extra-qualified for the Youth Regional Championships in the Discipline.

### 18.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 18.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Youth Regional Championships event, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership, and the Membership Region must match the Region of the Youth Regional Championships.
- 18.3.2 Youth Regional Championships competitions shall have [an Extended Registration period and shall not have a Late Registration period](#).

### 18.4 Competition Procedure

- 18.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
  - a) The competitions shall consist of a single round, using the Qualification Round Format under Isolation conditions.
  - b) For the Lead/Top Rope Discipline, the use of climbing time as set out in Rule 7.12.3(c)(ii) shall not be used to break ties. For the avoidance of doubt, the Final Round ranking of competitors with equal Geometric Points (Rule 7.12.2) shall not use the competitors' climbing time and such competitors shall remain tied.
- 18.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### 18.5 Starting Lists

- 18.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 18.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.
- 18.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

### 18.6 Results and Rankings

- 18.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.
- 18.6.2 The rules regarding making an appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor (Rules 7.13.6(b) and 8.14.5(b)) shall be modified so that the deadline for making the appeal shall be ten (10) minutes after the publication of the Official Results.
- 18.6.3 To be awarded Youth Divisional Championships registration eligibility in the discipline, a competitor must:
  - a) be a U.S. Citizen ranked in the top [thirteen \(13\)](#) in the Youth Regional Championships in the Discipline among only U.S. Citizens not pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline; or
  - b) be ranked in the top [thirteen \(13\)](#) in the Youth Regional Championships in the Discipline.For the avoidance of doubt, a non-U.S. Citizen ranked in the top [thirteen \(13\)](#) shall be awarded such eligibility for the Youth Divisional Championships.

### 18.7 Medals and Ceremonies

- 18.7.1 At the conclusion of each Youth Regional Championship competition:
  - a) medal ceremonies will be held for each relevant Category for the relevant Discipline; and

- b) Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked First (1<sup>st</sup>), Second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Third (3<sup>rd</sup>). For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 19 Youth Divisional Championships

### 19.1 General Provisions

- 19.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth Divisional Championships for each Youth Division for each of the Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering Disciplines where each such competition shall:
  - a) include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, and Youth C Age Categories.
- 19.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each Youth Divisional Championships competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - b) the eligibility requirements; and
  - c) the registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - d) the preliminary schedule.

### 19.2 Eligibility

- 19.2.1 An athlete shall be pre-qualified for a Discipline's Youth Divisional Championships competition if the athlete:
  - a) [is pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championship; or](#)
  - b) is a resident of the state of Hawaii.
- 19.2.2 To be eligible for the Discipline's Youth Divisional Championships registration, an athlete must:
  - a) be pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth Divisional Championships competition; or
  - b) have been awarded Youth Divisional Championships registration eligibility in the Discipline based on Youth Regional Championships performance, as outlined in Rule 18.6.

### 19.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 19.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Youth Divisional Championships event, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership.
- 19.3.2 The Youth Divisional Championships competition shall have [an Extended Registration period and shall not have a Late Registration period.](#)

### 19.4 Competition Procedure

- 19.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
  - a) The competitions shall be two rounds.
  - b) Both rounds should be conducted under Isolation Conditions (Onsight), but may use Flash Format instead.
  - c) [In the event that a Category includes non-U.S. Citizens, a competitor is eligible to advance to the next round if they are a US citizen ranked within the advancement Quota among only US citizen competitors, or a non-US citizen ranked within the advancement Quota among all competitors.](#)  
[For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, the top-12 US citizens ranked among only US citizens in the Qualification Round, along with any non-US citizens ranked in the top-12 among all competitors in the Qualification Round, will advance to the Final Round.](#)
- 19.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### 19.5 Starting Lists

- 19.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.

- 19.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.
- 19.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## **19.6 Results and Rankings**

- 19.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.
- 19.6.2 The rules regarding making an appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor (Rules 7.13.6(b) and 8.14.5(b)) shall be modified so that the deadline for making the appeal shall be:
  - a) in the Qualification Round, twenty (20) minutes after the publication of the Official Results; and
  - b) in the Final Round, ten (10) minutes after the publication of the Official Results.
- 19.6.3 To be awarded Youth National Championships registration eligibility in the Discipline, a competitor must:
  - a) be a U.S. Citizen ranked in the top six (6) in the Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline among only U.S. Citizens not pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships in the Discipline; or
  - b) be ranked in the top six (6) in the Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline.

For the avoidance of doubt, a non-U.S. Citizen ranked in the top six (6) shall be awarded such eligibility for the Youth National Championships.

## **19.7 Medals and Ceremonies**

- 19.7.1 At the conclusion of each Youth Divisional Championship competition:
  - a) medal ceremonies will be held for each relevant Category for the relevant Discipline; and
  - b) Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and third (3<sup>rd</sup>). For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 20 Youth National Championships

### 20.1 General Provisions

- 20.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth National Championships for each of the Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines where each such competition shall:
- a) include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, and Youth C Age Categories.
- 20.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each Youth National Championships competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
- a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - b) the eligibility requirements; and
  - c) the registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - d) the preliminary schedule.

### 20.2 Eligibility

- 20.2.1 An athlete shall be pre-qualified for a Discipline's Youth National Championships competition if the athlete:
- a) is a member of the U.S. Olympic Team, or was a member of the U.S. Olympic Team at any time in the twelve (12) months prior to the competition; or
  - b) is a current World Champion, Pan American Champion, or National Champion in the Discipline (or the All-Around "Combined") in the Youth or Elite Series; or
  - c) for the 2021-2022 season, is the current National Champion in the All-Around Combined, determined by calculating an All-Around Combined Ranking as set forth in Rule 3.21 using the General Results among only US citizens who competed in all of the Boulder, Lead, and Speed Disciplines at the 2021 Youth National Championships.
- 20.2.2 To be eligible for the Youth National Championships registration in the Lead/Top Rope or Bouldering Discipline, an athlete must:
- a) be pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships competition; or
  - b) have been awarded Youth National Championships first registration eligibility based on Youth Divisional Championships performance, as outlined in Rule 19.6.
- 20.2.3 To be eligible for the Youth National Championships registration in the Speed Discipline, an athlete must:
- a) be pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships competition; or
  - b) have been awarded Youth National Championships registration eligibility based on Youth Qualification Speed Trials performance, as outlined in Rule 16.6.

### 20.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 20.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Youth National Championships event, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership.
- 20.3.2 The Youth National Championships competition shall have [Extended and Late Registration periods](#).

### 20.4 Competition Procedure

- 20.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
- a) The competitions shall be at least two rounds.
  - b) All semi-final and Final Rounds in the Lead/Top Rope Discipline, and all rounds in the Bouldering Discipline, shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions.

- c) In the event that a Category includes one or more non-U.S. Citizens, a competitor is eligible to advance to the next round if they are a US citizen ranked within the advancement Quota among only US citizen competitors, or a non-US citizen ranked within the advancement Quota among all competitors.

For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, the top-20 US citizens ranked among only US citizens in the Qualification Round, along with any non-US citizens ranked in the top-20 among all competitors in the Qualification Round, will advance to the Semi-Final Round. Advancement to the Final Round is analogous, but using top-10 in each case.

- d) In Speed, notwithstanding (c), only US Citizens are eligible to advance to a Knockout Final round.
- e) In the Speed Discipline for a Youth C Category a competitor who makes a False Start in a race in a Round shall:
  - i) be ineligible to re-run in that race (the other competitor in that race shall be eligible to re-run the race); and
  - ii) if the False Start is made in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) race, be eligible to run in their second (2<sup>nd</sup>) race in the Round and to keep any Valid Time attained in that second (2<sup>nd</sup>) race; and
  - iii) if the False Start is made in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) race, keep any Valid Time in their first (1<sup>st</sup>) race in the Round; and
  - iv) if the competitor finishes the round with a Valid Time (i.e., in the race where they did not make a False Start), be ranked in the round based on that Valid Time.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Youth Nationals Youth C Category Speed Discipline competitor who makes a False Start in a race in a round forfeits their eligibility to run in that race only, and a Valid Time in their other race in that round may afford them eligibility to advance to the next round.

- f) In the Lead/Top Rope or Bouldering discipline, after **ranking** Rule 7.12.3 or 8.13.3, respectively, has been applied as appropriate, if any top four (4) ranked U.S. Citizen competitor is tied with one or more other competitors in the Final Round ranking, such tied competitors shall compete in a Super-Final Round as set out in Rule 3.19. For the avoidance of doubt, a Super-Final Round may include a non-U.S. Citizen competitor.

20.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

## 20.5 Starting Lists

20.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.

20.5.2 Competitors shall be seeded in the following order:

- a) All of the following competitors shall be awarded the highest Seeding:
  - i) those pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships by way of achievement (e.g., not by way of residence); and
  - ii) those who were ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>) at the Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline.
- b) Next seeded are those competitors **not included in (a)** who were ranked second (2<sup>nd</sup>) or lower at the Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline, with those **ranked second (2<sup>nd</sup>) receiving second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Seeding, those ranked third (3<sup>rd</sup>) receiving third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Seeding, and so on.**

20.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## 20.6 Results and Rankings

20.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

## 20.7 Medals and Ceremonies

20.7.1 At the conclusion of each Youth National Championship competition:

- a) medal ceremonies will be held for each relevant Category for the relevant discipline; and
- b) Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), and third (3<sup>rd</sup>). For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 21 Youth National C/D Festival

21.1.1 The Event Rules for the Youth National C/D Festival will be published on [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).

## 22 Collegiate Qualification Series

### 22.1 General Provisions

- 22.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Collegiate Qualification Series competitions.
- 22.1.2 Each USA Climbing Collegiate Division should arrange a minimum of four (4) Collegiate Qualification Series events, where each such event may include a competition in multiple disciplines.

### 22.2 Eligibility

- 22.2.1 All Collegiate Series athletes (Rule 1.3) meet eligibility requirements of the Collegiate Qualification Series competitions.

### 22.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6 ([see Rule 2.6.7 for rules specific to Youth and Collegiate Qualification competitions](#)), subject to the following:

- 22.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Collegiate Qualification Series event, an athlete must have either:
  - a) An active USA Climbing Collegiate Membership; or
  - b) An active USA Climbing Collegiate Introductory Membership.
- 22.3.2 Competitors may register for Collegiate Qualification Series competitions in any Collegiate Division.

### 22.4 Competition Procedure

- 22.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.
- 22.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### 22.5 Starting Lists

- 22.5.1 As applicable, Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 22.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.
- 22.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

### 22.6 Event Results and Rankings

- 22.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.
- 22.6.2 The rules regarding making an appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor (Rules 7.13.6(b) and 8.14.5(b)) shall be modified so that the deadline for making the appeal shall be ten (10) minutes after the publication of the Official Results.

## 22.7 Qualification Series Rankings

- 22.7.1 At the conclusion of each competition within a Collegiate Qualification Series, the forty (40) highest ranked competitors in a Category shall be awarded Ranking Points as set out in the table below for the purpose of calculating Collegiate Qualification Series Rankings in the Discipline. Tied competitors will be awarded the average of the points allocated for the tied rank positions.

Collegiate Qualification Series Ranking Points							
Rank	Points		Rank	Points		Rank	Points
1	100		11	31		21	10
2	80		12	28		22	9
3	65		13	26		23	8
4	55		14	24		24	7
5	51		15	22		25	6
6	47		16	20		26	5
7	43		17	18		27	4
8	40		18	16		28	3
9	37		19	14		29	2
10	34		20	12		30	1
						31	0.95
						32	0.90
						33	0.85
						34	0.80
						35	0.75
						36	0.70
						37	0.65
						38	0.60
						39	0.55
						40	0.50

For the avoidance of doubt:

ranking Points may be awarded to non-U.S. Citizen competitors; all competitors are ranked, including Collegiate Introductory members; and

competitors ranked outside of the top forty (40) are not awarded Ranking Points; and

[Collegiate Qualification Series Rankings are not used for Collegiate Divisionals eligibility.](#)

- 22.7.2 USA Climbing shall maintain, updated following each relevant competition, a Collegiate Qualification Series Ranking for each Collegiate Division for each Category for the Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines, where:
- rankings include results from only Collegiate Qualification Series competitions in the same Discipline and in the current season; and
  - each Ranking shall be in descending order of the total number of Ranking Points accumulated, where:
    - the maximum number of Collegiate Qualification Series competition results contributing to the total number of Ranking Points in that Discipline shall be two (2); and
    - competitors with an equal total number of Ranking Points are assigned the same rank.

## 23 Collegiate Divisional Championships

### 23.1 General Provisions

- 23.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of a Collegiate Divisional Championship for each Collegiate Division for each of the Lead/[Top Rope](#) and [Bouldering](#) Disciplines.
- 23.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each Collegiate Divisional Championship competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - a) The location and dates for the competition or event;
  - b) The eligibility requirements;
  - c) The registration procedure and deadlines;
  - d) The preliminary schedule.

### 23.2 Eligibility

- 23.2.1 An athlete shall be pre-qualified for a discipline's Collegiate Divisional Championships competition if they:
  - a) Are a member of the U.S. Olympic Team, or were a member of the U.S. Olympic Team at any time in the 12 months prior to the competition; or
  - b) Are current World Champion, Pan American Champion, and/or National Champion(s) in any Discipline (or "Combined") in the Collegiate or Elite Series; or
  - c) Have been ranked in the top three (3) in the National Rankings in any Discipline in the Collegiate or Elite Series at the end of the prior season; or
  - d) Have represented the U.S. in *any* Discipline in climbing competitions at the most recent World University Games.
- 23.2.2 To be eligible for a discipline's Collegiate Divisional Championships, an athlete must:
  - a) be pre-qualified for the discipline's Collegiate Divisional Championships competition; or
  - b) have received any rank in any [Bouldering or Lead/Top Rope](#) Collegiate Qualification Series competition in any Collegiate Division.

For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor who competes in any [Bouldering or Lead/Top Rope](#) Collegiate Qualification Series competition and receives a score, even if the score is zero (0), is ranked in that competition and is therefore eligible for the Collegiate Divisional Championships in [both the Bouldering and Lead/Top Rope](#) Disciplines.
- 23.2.3 It is the responsibility of all competitors to verify their Championship series eligibility by checking the Collegiate Qualification Series official results posted on the USA Climbing webpage. In the event a competitor discovers that they are missing from the official results or that the results are incorrect, they should immediately contact USA Climbing at: [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org). Updates or alterations to Collegiate Qualification Series official results are subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), and shall not result in a lower ranking for any other competitor.

### 23.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 23.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Collegiate Divisional Championship event, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Collegiate Membership.
- 23.3.2 An athlete shall not be permitted to register for a Collegiate Divisional Championship event that does not match their Collegiate Membership Division.
- 23.3.3 Collegiate Divisional Championships competitions shall have [an Extended Registration period and shall not have a Late Registration period](#).

## 23.4 Competition Procedure

- 23.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
- a) Where a discipline's Collegiate Divisional Championship competition Qualification Round uses a Redpoint Format of less than 4.5 hours (270 minutes), that round shall have a minimum of 1.5 hours (90 minutes) for competitors in that round when no other Redpoint Format competition rounds are scheduled for such competitors. Note that this requirement is in addition to the relevant competition minimum duration requirements for Redpoint Formats in "Part 2. Discipline Rules".
- 23.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

## 23.5 Starting Lists

- 23.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 23.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.
- 23.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## 23.6 Results and Rankings

- 23.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.
- 23.6.2 The rules regarding making an appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor (Rules 7.13.6(b) and 8.14.5(b)) shall be modified so that the deadline for making the appeal shall be:
- a) in the Qualification Round, twenty (20) minutes after the publication of the Official Results; and
  - b) in the Final Round, ten (10) minutes after the publication of the Official Results.
- 23.6.3 To be awarded Collegiate National Championships registration eligibility in the discipline, a competitor must be ranked in the top **thirteen (13)** in the Collegiate Divisional Championships in the discipline.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a non-U.S. Citizen ranked in the top **thirteen (13)** shall be eligible for the Collegiate National Championships.

## 23.7 Medals and Ceremonies

- 23.7.1 At the conclusion of each Collegiate Divisional Championship competition:
- a) Medal ceremonies will be held for each relevant Category for the relevant discipline.
  - b) Gold/Silver/Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked 1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>. For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 24 Collegiate National Championships

### 24.1 General Provisions

- 24.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Collegiate National Championship for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed disciplines.
  - a) Include Categories for Male and Female.
- 24.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for each Collegiate National Championship competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - a) The location and dates for the competition or event;
  - b) The eligibility requirements;
  - c) The registration procedure and deadlines;
  - d) The preliminary schedule.

### 24.2 Eligibility

- 24.2.1 An athlete shall be pre-qualified for a discipline's Collegiate National Championships competition if they:
  - a) Are a member of the U.S. Olympic Team, or were a member of the U.S. Olympic Team at any time in the 12 months prior to the competition; or
  - b) Are current World Champion, Pan American Champion, and/or National Champion(s) in the discipline (or "Combined") in the Collegiate or Elite Series; or
  - c) Have competed representing the U.S. in *any* Discipline in climbing competitions at the most recent World University Games.
- 24.2.2 To be eligible for the Collegiate National Championships registration in the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines, an athlete must:
  - a) Be pre-qualified for the Discipline's Collegiate National Championships competition.
  - b) Have been awarded Collegiate National Championships registration eligibility based on Collegiate Divisional Championships performance, as outlined in Rule 18.6.
- 24.2.3 To be eligible for the Collegiate National Championships registration in the Speed Discipline, an athlete must:
  - a) be pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships competition; or
  - b) have been awarded Collegiate National Championships registration eligibility based on Collegiate Qualification Speed Trials performance, as outlined in Rule 16.6.

### 24.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 24.3.1 In order to register for and compete in a Collegiate National Championship event, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Collegiate Membership.
- 24.3.2 The Collegiate National Championships competition shall have Extended and Late Registration periods.

### 24.4 Competition Procedure

- 24.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:

- a) Where a discipline's Collegiate National Championship competition Qualification Round uses a Redpoint Format of less than 4.5 hours (270 minutes), that round shall have a minimum of 1.5 hours (90 minutes) for competitors in that round when no other Redpoint Format competition rounds are scheduled for such competitors. Note that this requirement is in addition to the relevant competition minimum duration requirements for Redpoint Formats in "Part 2. Discipline Rules".
- b) In the Lead or Bouldering discipline, after [ranking](#) Rules 7.12.3 or 8.13.3 have been applied as appropriate, if any top six (6) ranked U.S. Citizen competitor is tied with one or more other competitors in the Final Round ranking, such tied competitors shall compete in a Super-Final Round as set out in Rule 3.19. For the avoidance of doubt, a Super-Final Round may include a non-U.S. Citizen competitor.

24.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

## 24.5 Starting Lists

24.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.

24.5.2 There shall be no seeding of competitors for this competition.

24.5.3 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## 24.6 Results and Rankings

24.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

## 24.7 Medals and Ceremonies

24.7.1 At the conclusion of each Collegiate National Championship competition:

- a) Medal ceremonies will be held for each relevant Category for the relevant discipline.
- b) Gold/Silver/Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked 1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>. For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 25 Paraclimbing National Championships

### 25.1 General Provisions

- 25.1.1 USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Paraclimbing National Championships.
- 25.1.2 USA Climbing shall publish competition information for the Paraclimbing National Championship competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
- The location and dates for the competition or event; and
  - The eligibility requirements; and
  - The registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - The preliminary schedule.
- e) Any competition rules that have been modified via discretion granted in this Rulebook.

### 25.2 Eligibility

- 25.2.1 All athletes must meet the qualifications of at least one classification in the Paraclimbing Classification System in Rule 25.8.1.

### 25.3 Registration

Note: Registration is governed by Rule 2.6, subject to the following:

- 25.3.1 In order to register for and compete in the Paraclimbing National Championship event, an athlete must have an active USA Climbing Paraclimbing Membership.
- 25.3.2 The Paraclimbing National Championship shall have Extended and Late Registration periods.

### 25.4 Competition Procedure

- 25.4.1 The format for each competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:
- The Paraclimbing National Championships shall be either:
    - A single round competition using Redpoint Format; or
    - A two-round competition consisting of a Redpoint Qualification Round and either a Redpoint or Isolation Final Round.
  - In the case of a two-round competition and at the discretion of the Event Organizer (who may consult with the Paraclimbing Committee), the quota for the Final round should be a “floating” quota determined as follows:

Number of Competitors in the Qualification Round	Final Round Quota
1 to 6	4
7 to 15	5
16 or more	6

- Paraclimbing routes shall not be climbed on Lead.
- With regards to rules that reference “hands” (e.g., Control, Use, scoring, starts, finishes, etc.), for competitors without a hand on an upper-limb appendage, any portion of that upper-limb appendage should be treated the same as a “hand” for rules purposes.

- e) All categories of visually impaired (e.g., B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller (subject to the same Isolation Condition requirements as the competitor, as relevant), to have that caller join the competitor for collective observation (e.g., Rule 7.6.2), to possess appropriate communication devices in the Isolation Zone, and to use such communication devices in the Competition Zone. Such communication devices are subject to approval by the Jury President such that their function and use does not introduce any unfair advantage or unfair disadvantage or compromise competition integrity.
- f) The Jury President, after consultation with a person with Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), has the discretion to modify competition rules as warranted by situations that are unique to the Paraclimbing Series Categories, including without limitation: bouldering starting position rules; rules regarding the use of communication equipment affecting Visually Impaired competitors and their callers; the use of elbow and/or knee pads to reduce the risk of blood injury; etc.

25.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

## 25.5 Starting Lists

25.5.1 Starting Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.

25.5.2 The starting order for each competition shall be determined as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook.

## 25.6 Results and Rankings

25.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

## 25.7 Medals and Ceremonies

25.7.1 At the conclusion of each Paraclimbing National Championship competition:

- a) Medal ceremonies will be held for each relevant Category for the relevant discipline.
- b) Gold/Silver/Bronze medals shall be awarded to the competitors respectively ranked 1st, 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup>. For the avoidance of doubt, multiple medals will be awarded where competitors are tied.

## 25.8 Paraclimbing Eligibility and Classifications

25.8.1 All USA Climbing Paraclimbing competitions shall utilize the Classification System rules in this Rulebook.

- a) All Paraclimbing competitors must meet the specification for at least one category in the Paraclimbing Classification System outlined in these rules.
- b) Adult Paraclimbing competitors are at least sixteen (16) years of age or older, by December 31<sup>st</sup>, of the year in which the National Championship is held.
- c) Youth Paraclimbing competitors are not at least sixteen (16) years of age or older, by December 31<sup>st</sup>, of the year in which the National Championship is held.

25.8.2 Each Adult Paraclimbing competitor registering for a competition shall register in an appropriate category as defined in the Paraclimbing Classification System.

25.8.3 Each Youth Paraclimbing competitor registering for a competition shall register in the appropriate age category. Such competitor shall also indicate on their registration their appropriate category as defined in the Paraclimbing Classification System.

25.8.4 Paraclimbing is a new sport and a variety of different impairments can result in reduced power; classification is an attempt to optimize placement of all athletes in order to endeavor to organize so that the competition is between individuals of similar performance capabilities. These categories and standards will be reviewed periodically by the Medical Committee and the Rules Committee, each of which may consult with advisers or other stakeholders such as the Paraclimbing Committee.

- 25.8.5 The Paraclimbing Classification system, including the merging of such categories, is under review and will be published at a later date. Until such time, the Paraclimbing Classification system set forth in the 2020-2021 USA Climbing Rulebook shall be in force.

## 26 Recreational Series

### 26.1 General Provisions

- 26.1.1 USA Climbing shall help arrange for the organization of the Recreational Series competitions in any Disciplines Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed.
- 26.1.2 In the interest of providing opportunities for experimental formats and exploring organizational and rules concepts that USA Climbing may study and assess as the sport of competition climbing evolves, a Recreational Series competition may use may use formats that diverge from those in Part 2 – Discipline Rules, so long as they adhere to the USA Climbing Bylaws and all safety-related rules in this Rulebook.
- For the avoidance of doubt, a Recreational Series competition may diverge from this Rulebook in areas including: general competition procedures (e.g., starting, observation, climbing); judging, scoring; ranking; etc.

### 26.2 Eligibility

- 26.2.1 All Recreational Series athletes (Rule 1.3) meet eligibility requirements of the Recreational Series competitions.

### 26.3 Registration

- 26.3.1 Registration shall be either through USA Climbing governed by Rule 2.6 ([see Rule 2.6.7 for rules specific to Recreational Series competitions](#)) or through a 3<sup>rd</sup> party registration system, subject to the following.
- 26.3.2 In order to register for and compete in a Recreational Series event, an athlete must have either:
- An active USA Climbing Recreation Membership; or
  - An active USA Climbing Introductory Membership.

### 26.4 Competition Procedure

- 26.4.1 The format for each competition may be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, or it may diverge from this Rulebook as set out in 26.1.2.
- 26.4.2 A Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) should be held prior to commencement of each competition.

### 26.5 Starting Lists

- 26.5.1 Starting Lists, as applicable, should be published as set out in Rule 3.17.

### 26.6 Results and Rankings

- 26.6.1 Competition Results shall be published as set out in Rule 3.18.

### 26.7 Medals and Ceremonies

- 26.7.1 At the conclusion of each Recreational Series competition:
- Award ceremonies will be held.