



A Guide to the 2022 USA Climbing Lead/Top Rope Youth Series

Key Change from Bouldering Season

Per Addendum A to the Rulebook that was approved on January 27, the Lead/TR Regional Rankings will be based on an athlete's one (1) best result in a Qualification Event (QE), not the sum of their two (2) best QE results, which was the approach used for Bouldering. Other than that, key rules about QEs remain the same, including:

- Athletes seeking Regional Ranking points must have an active [USA Climbing Competitor membership](#) on the day of the event; those with an Introductory membership may register and compete in a QE, but their result will not count towards a Regional Ranking, even if they later upgrade to a Competitor membership.
- Athletes may only compete in QEs that take place in their home Division.
- Athletes may compete in as many QEs as they wish.

Competition Formats

Lead/Top Rope Qualification Events may be organized and run in one of three formats:

- Modified Redpoint
- Onsight/Isolation
- Flash

In the **Modified Redpoint** format, each age/gender category will be assigned a set of three (3) to seven (7) routes to climb, and competitors may only climb the routes assigned to their category. Note: some routes may be assigned to more than one category. Each route will be designated as either a Lead route (to be used only for B, A and Junior categories) or a Top Rope route (can be used for all categories).

On each route, there will be four (4) to ten (10) designated scored holds; all will be visibly marked by tape and a placard (or something similar). For Top Rope routes, there will also be a final handhold marked as TOP; for Lead routes, the TOP protection point (clip) will be marked.

For each attempt, a competitor will receive a score based on the number of the last scored hold they Control or Use prior to falling or having their attempt terminated by the judge (see rule 7.11.2). If they control the TOP hold (for Top Rope routes) or secure the TOP protection point (for Lead routes), their score for that route will be TOP.

A Modified Redpoint session will last a minimum of three hours. Competitors may climb their category's routes in whatever order they wish; however there will be a limit of either two (2) or three (3) attempts per competitor per route (to be determined by the event organizer). The event organizer may also set a time limit of 4, 5 or 6 minutes per attempt. The objective is to provide each climber with the opportunity to make at least two attempts per route during the session. Just as in Bouldering redpoint competitions, competitors are permitted to share and receive "beta" with coaches, spectators, and other competitors before and after their attempts but not while on the wall.

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A competitor's placement at a Modified Redpoint QE will be determined as follows:

- For each route assigned to their age/gender category, they will be ranked against the other competitors in that category based on their best score on that route; competitors who do not attempt a route will receive a score of zero for that route.
- Competitors who achieve the same score on a route (TOP or their highest scored hold number) will be further ranked based on the number of attempts they took to achieve that score, with fewer attempts being better.
- Competitors then receive Ranking Points for each route based on their fractional ranking on that route. For example, a climber who has the best score for their category on a route will receive a Ranking Point of 1. If that climber had tied with one other competitor, they would each receive a Ranking Point of 1.5 ($1 + 2 = 3$, divided by $2 = 1.5$); see the Glossary section of the USA Climbing Rulebook under "Ranking" for more details.
- To determine their ranking for the QE competition, a climber's Ranking Points for each route are multiplied together and that product is compared to the other climbers in their category (a lower product being better). For example, in a Modified Redpoint QE with 3 routes per category:
 - Competitor A earned Ranking Points of 3.5, 6, and 1 for a product of 21
 - Competitor B earned Ranking Points of 2, 3, and 4 for a product of 24
 - Competitor C earned Ranking Points of 1, 1, and 9 for a product of 9
 - Their order of placement would be C in 1st, A in 2nd and B in 3rd
- Note: this approach of multiplying fractional route rankings to determine placement is *similar* to how Regional, Divisional and National championship events are conducted

In the **Onsight/Isolation** format, competitors must check into Isolation at a prescribed time for their category, warm up in the Isolation area (only USAC-certified coaches are permitted into Isolation), and then come out one-at-a-time in a randomly set order to climb the routes assigned to their category, having not previously seen the routes. They get only one attempt per route, with a five- or six-minute time limit per route. Lead/Top Rope QEs that are run in Onsight/Isolation format will have either two (2) or three (3) routes per category, with competitors getting a 5- or 6-minute rest period between each route. Competitors may not receive any "beta" prior to or during their attempts.

In Onsight/Isolation format, the scored holds are not visibly marked on the wall (except for the TOP hold in Top Rope or TOP protection point in Lead). Instead, the judge on the route has a "topo" map that indicates the scoring value of each hold on the route. At the conclusion of the competitor's attempt, the judge shows them the topo and indicates their score for the route.

Category rankings for the Onsight/Isolation format are determined by 1) assigning Ranking Points to each competitor for each route based on their fractional ranking on that route, 2) calculating a geometric mean for each competitor (product of the two or three Ranking Points, then a square or cube root of that product), and 3) ranking the competitors based on their geometric mean values, with lower numbers being better. (see Rule 7.12.2 for details)

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The **Flash** format is very similar to Onsight/Isolation in that there are either two or three routes per category, with competitors getting just one attempt on each route, a 5- or 6-minute time limit per attempt, and climbing them in a randomly assigned order. However, in Flash format, all competitors are provided access to pre-recorded videos of the routes being fore-run by members of the routesetting team. In addition, they may watch other competitors climb the route prior to their own attempt and may exchange beta before and after their attempt. And the scoring and ranking process is exactly the same as Onsight/Isolation.

Regional Rankings

A competitor's Regional Ranking will be based on the number of Ranking Points earned at their one best QE result using the table below. A few things to note:

- Tied competitors will be awarded the average of the Points allocated for the tied rank positions. For example, if two competitors tie for 6th place in a category, they receive the average of the Ranking Points for 6th and 7th place; $(47+43)/2 = 45$
- Competitors who are Introductory members at the time of the QE do not earn Ranking Points, but they still factor in the Rank placements. In other words, if an Introductory Member finishes 3rd at a QE, the 65 points associated with a 3rd place Rank are not allocated to the next highest Competitor member at the comp. They just receive 55 Ranking Points for their 4th place finish.

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

USA Climbing will publish and periodically update the tentative Youth Qualification Lead/Top Rope Regional Rankings throughout the QE season on usaclimbing.org.

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Regional Championships

There are two key components related to competing at the Youth Lead/Top Rope Regional Championships: 1) becoming eligible and 2) registering for the event.

Eligibility: Per section 18.2 of the USA Climbing Rulebook, there are a few paths to earning eligibility to compete at the Youth Lead/Top Rope Regional Championships.

- **For US citizens:** be ranked in the top twenty-six (26) in your Region and Category's Youth Qualification Lead/Top Rope Rankings when only US citizens are considered and no Regionals pre-qualified athletes are considered. (Non-US citizens and Regionals pre-qualified athletes do not affect another competitor's place in this ranking.)
- **For non-US citizens:** be ranked in the top twenty-six (26) in your Region and Category's Youth Qualification Lead/Top Rope Rankings among all athletes in your Region. (Unlike above, non-US citizens and Regionals pre-qualified athletes may affect another competitor's place in this ranking.)
- Athletes who are pre-qualified for Regionals are those who:
 - are a current World Champion, Pan American Champion, or National Champion in Lead/Top Rope in either the Youth or Elite Series; or
 - are the current National Champion in the All-Around Combined, among US citizens who competed in all of the Boulder, Lead, and Speed Disciplines at the 2021 Youth National Championships; or
 - were ranked in the top three (3) in the National Rankings in Lead/Top Rope in the Youth or Elite Series in any category at the end of the 2020-21 season; or
 - represented the US in Lead at the 2021 Youth World Championships; or
 - are a resident of the state of Alaska or Hawaii (Alaska residents compete in Region 12; Hawaii residents compete in Region 31)

In addition, per Rule 2.7.3, if an athlete changes Regions during the Lead/Top Rope season but does not achieve a top-26 ranking in their new Region by the end of the season, the athlete shall be "extra-qualified" for Regionals (i.e., doesn't take anyone else's spot), but only if the Ranking Points from their best Lead/Top Rope QE result from their previous Region and/or their current Region is greater than or equal to the Ranking Points of the twenty-sixth (26th) ranked competitor in their Category in their new Region. Contact USA Climbing at events@usacimbing.org if you believe this applies to you.

USA Climbing will publish the final Youth Qualification Lead/Top Rope Rankings at the conclusion of the QE season, which ends on Sunday, March 27.

Registration: Anyone who meets one of the eligibility requirements above will receive an invitation from USA Climbing, sent to the email address in your account in the USAC Membership System (usacimbing.sport80.com) per the schedule outlined at the end of this document. Eligible athletes wishing to compete must have an active Competitor Membership, and their Membership Region must match the Region of the Youth Regional Championship for which they are registering. Registration takes place through the USAC Membership System; the 2022 Regionals registration fee is \$135 (Normal Period) or \$185 (Extended Period).

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The timeline for the registration process for the Youth Regional Championships is guided by sections 2.6.6 and 18.3.2 of the Rulebook. In the 2022 season, there are two different weekends on which the Youth Lead/Top Rope Regional Championships will be taking place, depending on the Region. As such, there will be two registration periods based on the date of the Regional Championship. The overall timeline for Regionals registration is outlined below.

Sunday, March 27	Last Lead/TR Qualification Events completed
Monday, March 28	Preliminary Rankings and Regionals Eligibility lists published on USAClimbing.org
Tuesday, March 29	Final Rankings and Regionals Eligibility lists published on USAClimbing.org
Wednesday, March 30 OR Wednesday, April 6	Regional Invitations Emailed to Eligible Competitors by USAC and the Normal Registration Period (\$135) Opens
Sunday, April 3 OR Sunday, April 10	Normal Registration Period Closes and the Extended Registration Period (\$185) Opens
Wednesday, April 6 OR Wednesday, April 13	Extended Registration Period Closes
Saturday & Sunday, April 9-10 OR Saturday & Sunday, April 16-17	Regional Championship Weekend

Divisional Championships

The top 13 finishers at the Regional Championships in all Categories except for D are invited to compete at the Divisional Championships, where they are joined by the advancing competitors from their “sibling” Region. Divisional Championships are two-round events held over two days. In 2021-22, the dates vary by Division but will be either May 7-8 or May 14-15 (check your Region’s webpage for dates and locations).

At Divisionals, the top 12 finishers in each Category from the first-day Qualification round advance to the second-day Final round. The top 6 finishers in each Category’s Final round earn an invitation to compete at the Youth National Championships (July 25-31).

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If you have additional questions about how the USA Climbing Youth Series works, the best sources of information are:

- The USA Climbing Rulebook (<https://usaclimbing.org/rules/>)
- Your Region's page on the USA Climbing website (<https://usaclimbing.org/compete/regions/>)
- Your Region's Facebook group (link should be posted on your Region's webpage)
- Your gym's coaches and/or other team parents

We look forward to seeing you at one of our Youth Qualification Events soon!