



USA Climbing Rulebook 2021-2022 v1.0

Addendum A

USA Climbing Rulebook Addendum

This Rulebook Addendum shall be read in conjunction with USA Climbing Rulebook 2021-2022 v1.0, and shall remain in effect until a subsequent addendum or version has been published.

Any amendments to these rules will be published on the USA Climbing website www.usaclimbing.org and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.

This Rulebook Addendum 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.

Rulebook Addendum

This USA Climbing Rulebook Addendum (Rulebook Addendum), which replaces all prior Addenda, each in its entirety, is to be read in conjunction with USA Climbing Rulebook 2021-2022 v1.0 (Rulebook).

Where there is any conflict between this Rulebook Addendum and the Rulebook for any rule, this Addendum shall govern.

To assist the reader in identifying the changes contained in this Rulebook Addendum, commentary text is presented in *italic text*, rule text that has been added is marked in **blue text**, and rule text that has been deleted is marked in ~~blue-strikethrough-text~~.

1 USA Climbing

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

Rule 1.7.5 shall be updated to note that where no National Champion status of a given type (e.g., Discipline and Category) was awarded at the most recent relevant National Championship, that National Champion type no longer is current or recognized in the Rulebook. For example, after the July 2021 Youth National Championship, there are no current Youth D National Champions.

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.

For the avoidance of doubt: where no National Champion status of a given type (e.g., Discipline and Category) was awarded at the most recent relevant National Championship, that National Champion type no longer is current or recognized in the Rulebook.

1.8 Competition Officials

Rule 1.8.3 shall be modified to eliminate redundancies regarding the USA Climbing Certified Judge program, and instead refer to the Judges section on the USA Climbing website.

- 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, and details are found in the Judges section on the www.usaclimbing.org website. ~~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 (i.e.e.g., Level 1 through Level 5), with appropriate Lead/Top Rope and Bouldering endorsements, and details are found in the Routesetters section on the www.usaclimbing.org website.
 - c) USA Climbing may develop a competition belaying ~~system process~~ that includes training, supervision, and evaluation, along with a competition belaying endorsement system that provides for multiple levels of competition belaying endorsement.

2 Memberships, Regions, Divisions, and Teams

2.8 Youth Climbing Teams

Rule 2.8.2(c)(ii) shall be modified in recognition of the impracticality of auditing team representation at Qualification Series events.

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, 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 **should ~~must~~ represent the team at all Youth Qualification Series and **must represent the team at all** 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.

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

3 General Rules

3.8 Advertising

Rule 3.8.1 shall be modified so that Advertising rules apply to all USA Climbing Championship and National events.

- 3.8.1 In USA Climbing Championship and National ~~Elite Series~~ competitions except for North American Cup Series competitions (which are governed by a separate set of rules), 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.

3.12 Accommodations

Rule 3.12.2 shall be modified to expressly note that the Judges Committee may be consulted for any accommodation to be granted.

- 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, 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, [Judges 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

Rule 3.13.2 shall be modified to clarify that a host facility can submit a waiver request to the entrance restrictions in this rule.

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 [in response to a written proposal by the host facility submitted at least thirty \(30\) days prior to the event, detailing the nature, extent, and justification for relevant alternative Rule 3.13.2 entrance policies and procedure;](#) ~~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.

3.19 Super-Final Rounds

Rule 3.19.2 shall be modified to clarify that the Super-Final ranking procedure is the same as that used in the Final round, including, if the primary score is the same, the use of climbing time for Lead/Top Rope or the use of the number of flashes, the number of tops on the 2nd attempt, etc., for Bouldering.

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. [For the avoidance of doubt, this includes, as relevant, the ranking procedures set forth in Rule 7.12.3\(c\)\(ii\) or Rule 8.13.3\(a\)\(ii\).](#)
- 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.

7 Lead

7.1 Lead/Top Rope Competition Types

Rule 7.1.1 shall be modified so that the Lead/Top Rope format table therein reflects the changes within Addendum A regarding the Lead/Top Rope Modified Redpoint format and the note below is added.

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 table in this Rule shall be considered updated in a manner such that Modified Redpoint entries are consistent with the updated Rule 7.8.3 set forth below.]

...

For the avoidance of doubt, the Competition Type Format specifications in this rule are subject to modification within specific Event rules.

7.4 Onsight and Flash Format Starting Orders and Quotas

Rule 7.4.4 shall be modified to allow Starting Waves for Qualification Series events.

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 and Youth Qualification Series 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).

7.8 Redpoint Formats

Rule 7.8.3 shall be modified to set forth an updated approach to scoring and ranking for Lead/Top Rope Modified Redpoint format competitions.

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

- a) The Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer, shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare three (3) to five (5) ~~eight (8)~~ routes to be assigned to each category. A route may be assigned to more than one Category, as appropriate, and each route must be offered as only Lead or only Top Rope. Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), up to seven (7) routes may be assigned to each Category, provided the Jury President and Event Organizer demonstrate how providing more routes can still achieve the goal of allowing each competitor the opportunity to make at least two attempts on each route assigned to their Category. For the avoidance of doubt, this goal should always be considered when organizing a Modified Redpoint Lead/Top Rope Format competition.
- b) The Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer, may set a fixed climbing period of four (4), five (5), or six (6) minutes, at which time a competitor's attempt shall be terminated. For the avoidance of doubt, the Jury President is not required to set a fixed climbing period. ~~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 ~~a the same~~ number of scored holds, where there is a clearly discernible order to the scored holds of a given route, and the TOP ~~top~~ (highest) hold on a Top Rope route shall be ~~a 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. For example, one route in a Category may have six (6) scored holds, numbered 1 through 6, while another route may have ten (10) scored holds, numbered 1 through 10.
- e) ~~(rule removed) 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 (5th) 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 a flash of tape placards, or similar, that ~~indicate the hold's scoring value~~. For a Top Rope route, the TOP hold shall be marked with a placard; for a Lead route, the TOP Protection Point shall be marked with a placard. The markings should be done in such a way as to indicate, without the need for a Topo, which holds are scored holds, and scored holds below the TOP may also be marked with a placard, or similar, in addition to the flash of tape.
- 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.~~ The competitors will be ranked as follows:
 - i) For each route assigned to a competitor's Category, that competitor shall be ranked among competitors in their category as set forth in Rule 7.11.2 (except that Use shall not be scored, i.e., Rule 7.11.2(b)(iii) shall not apply and no postfix "+" designation shall be used), 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, where competitors not attempting the route shall be awarded a score of zero (0),
where competitors having the same score in (A) or (B) shall be ranked by number of attempts to get such score, where fewer attempts is ranked higher/better.
 - ii) Each competitor shall be awarded Ranking Points for each route equal to their Fractional ranking on the relevant route.

- iii) The ranking of competitors shall be calculated in ascending order of the product (i.e., multiplication) of the route Ranking Points for each competitor (i.e., lower product is better).
- h) There shall be a limit set on the number of ~~five (5)~~ attempts a competitor may make on any given route. The Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer, may set this limit to be no less than two (2) attempts and no more than three (3) attempts ~~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.

8 Bouldering

8.1 Bouldering Competition Types

Rule 8.1.1 shall be modified with the additional note below.

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).

...

For the avoidance of doubt, the Competition Type Format specifications in this rule are subject to modification within specific Event rules.

8.3 Format

Rule 8.3.2 shall be modified to allow the cancellation of a boulder (subject to Sport Discretion) in a round, including Modified Redpoint or Classic Redpoint format rounds.

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.

8.9 Redpoint Formats

Rule 8.9.3 shall be modified to limit the maximum number of attempts to be between 5 and 20, inclusive, at the discretion of the Event Organizer.

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

- a) The [Jury President, in consultation with the](#) Event Organizer, shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare six (6) to ten (10) boulders, inclusive, to be assigned to each category.
- b) 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.
- c) A competitor shall be scored as for an Isolation Boulder competition.
- d) The [Jury President, in consultation with the](#) Event Organizer, ~~shall may~~ apply a limit on the total number of attempts a competitor may make on any given boulder, [and that limit must be no less than five \(5\) attempts and no more than twenty \(20\) attempts](#). Each attempt shall be recorded.

16 Qualification Speed Trials

16.4 Competition Procedure

Rule 16.4.1 shall be modified to allow, subject to USA Climbing approval, the use of select manual timing devices (e.g., stopwatches) at Qualification Speed Trials.

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.
- c) Subject to Sport Discretion, the automated timing system requirement for a Qualification Speed Trial event may be waived by USA Climbing, and such an event is further subject to the following, using information published in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide on the www.usaclimbing.org website:
 - i) The event shall comply with the Qualification Standard as outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document, as updated in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide.
 - ii) The official start timing tones must be used to start each race, where recordings or software to produce such tones shall be published in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide.
 - iii) Approximations to a timing system's starting foot pads and finish pads (screwed to the wall) must be used, as described in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide.
 - iv) The manual timing devices must comply with the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide.
 - v) Each lane shall have a minimum of two timer volunteers, each operating a manual timing device, and the awarded time for a competitor shall be the average of the measured times, after first eliminating obvious timing errors. A case where an accurate time cannot be determined shall result in a Technical Incident.

For the avoidance of doubt, if an automatic timing system is not used, the Probationary False Start rules in Rule 9.15 shall apply.

16.6 Event Results and Rankings

Rule 16.6.3 shall be modified to relax the Benchmark requirements in cases where a Qualification Speed Trial uses manual timing devices.

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.

For times recorded at a Qualification Speed Trial using manual timing devices, Speed National Championship eligibility is also awarded if the time recorded at the Qualification Speed Trial is within one fifth of a second (0.2 seconds) of the Benchmark time.

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.

17 Youth Qualification Series

17.7 Qualification Series Rankings

Rule 17.7.2 shall be modified so that the Youth Qualification Series ranking for the Lead/Top Rope Discipline shall be determined using only the competitor's best single Qualification Series event:

- 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:
- a) 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
 - b) each Ranking shall be in descending order of the total number of Ranking Points accumulated, where:
 - i) the maximum number of Youth Qualification Series competition results contributing to the total number of Ranking Points in that Discipline shall be:
 - A) for Bouldering, two (2); and
 - B) for Lead/Top Rope, one (1); and
 - ii) competitors with an equal total number of Ranking Points are assigned the same rank.

18 Youth Regional Championships

18.2 Eligibility

Rule 18.2.3 shall be updated to correct a typo related to ranking required to be extra qualified. This rule was inadvertently not updated when Rule 18.2.2 was updated to change the rank of advancement to 26th from 25th.

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-sixth ~~twenty-fifth~~ (26th~~25th~~) 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

Rule 18.3.2 shall be updated to allow for deadline flexibility due to scheduling complexities related to the Lead/Top Rope Youth Regional Championships.

18.3.2 Youth Regional Championships competitions shall have an Extended Registration period and shall not have a Late Registration period, and USA Climbing may set the deadlines for the Normal and Extended Registration periods as deemed necessary, subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), Rules 2.6.6(a) and 2.6.6(b) notwithstanding.

23 Collegiate Divisional Championships

23.4 Competition Procedure

Rule 23.4.1 shall be updated to allow alternative formats

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".
- b) Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), a Collegiate Division's Collegiate Divisional Championship competition may be run as a single round, using either the Qualification Round format or the Final Round format.

24 Collegiate National Championships

24.2 Eligibility

Rule 24.2.3 shall be updated to allow USA Climbing to declare all Collegiate members to be eligible for the Speed Discipline at the Collegiate National Championships.

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.

USA Climbing shall have the discretion to declare all Collegiate members to be eligible.