



**USA
CLIMBING**

Technical Briefing - Lead/Top Rope 2022 Regional Championship

This is not a substitute for, nor does it take precedence over, the USA Climbing Rulebook. All Competitors, Coaches, and Spectators are expected to know the relevant rules in the USA Climbing Rulebook and Addendum. The Jury President shall enforce the rules at the event.

Isolation and Route Observation Period

- After checking in, climbers will be isolated from spectators in a warm-up area (aka isolation) until their turn to climb. In the competition area, they will be either climbing or seated in chairs facing away from the route. **These chairs are an extension of Isolation; climbers seated in them are not allowed to communicate with, or accept food, drink or equipment from spectators or coaches.**
- Prior to the start of a session, the competitors climbing in that session will be brought out of the isolation warm-up area as a group and given a **collective observation period of the routes**. During that time (from 4 to 6 minutes per route - as set by the Jury President), the competitors are not permitted to use any recording or laser pointing equipment, but they may:
 - touch only the first holds on the route, without leaving the ground
 - use binoculars to observe the route
 - make hand-drawn sketches and notes
 - discuss the route and share beta with other competitors

Climber Flow / Logistics

- The Jury President (JP) will set and publish the amount of time that climbers have to attempt each route (the Rotation Period) as either 5 or 6 minutes. The JP will also set the amount of time (between 0 and 60 seconds) for the climbers to transition to their next route (Transition Period). After their transition, climbers sit in a chair and rest for the next Rotation Period and then have another Transition Period before their next climb begins. Climbers will repeat the process for routes 2 and 3.
- There will be a digital timer showing the amount of time remaining in the Rotation Period or in the Transition Period. Further, the timer system will provide audio signals indicating when one minute is remaining and during the final 5 seconds of the Rotation Period, as well as the end of the Transition Period (i.e., when the competitor may begin climbing). An example timer with audio tones is provided on the USAC [Rules page](#).
- Competitors may make only a single attempt on each route.
- If a competitor finishes their attempt before the Rotation Period has ended, they return to the chair for the time remaining in that Rotation Period. They are still in isolation, and must not have communication with any spectators.
- Spectators and Coaches must not have any interaction with the Climbing Judges.
- Remember: No “beta,” coaching or advice may be given at any time.
- Competitors or spectators may be issued an official warning (Yellow Card) or expulsion (Red Card) for rule infractions. See Rulebook Section 4.

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Lead Climbing Ropes & Procedures

- If a climber in the B, A, or Junior category is required to or chooses to provide their own rope for lead climbing, the rope is subject to inspection by and approval by the Jury President and Chief Belayer. It must have a diameter of 9.5mm to 10.1mm and a length that meets the requirement set by the host gym. The rope must be a dynamic rope in good condition, and approved for lead climbing by the manufacturer.
- A single rope may be shared by multiple lead climbing competitors provided such competitors have a climbing start time that is at least one hour apart.
- Lead climbing competitors shall tie-in with a figure-8 knot plus a "safety knot." (Rule 3.1.14)

Starting the Route

- A competitor may use any hold on the route to start the climb, and their attempt shall be deemed to have started when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground

Scoring and Ranking

- Climbers are scored based on Controlling and/or Using designated Holds and the degree to which they get to the top of the route. The terms "Control" and "Use" are defined in the Rulebook Glossary, and Rule 7.11.2 defines how a competitor is scored on a route:
 - *on Top Rope a competitor must Control the highest scored hold to receive a "TOP"; 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"*
- Scores will be recorded via electronic device; a competitor may request to view their score. Judges will maintain a paper tally sheet as a backup to the electronic scoring.
- If a competitor disagrees with a Climbing Judge's score, they should discuss that with the judge immediately, in a respectful manner. If not resolved immediately to the competitor's satisfaction, they should file an Appeal before the relevant appeal deadline. See below.
- As set forth in Rule 7.12.2, competitors are ranked in their Category by the cube root of the product of their fractional rankings on each route (lower number = a better ranking).

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Artificial Aid ("off route" - what the competitor cannot Use or Control)

- Red tape: any Artificial Hold or Structure/Volume beyond red tape cannot be Controlled or Used by any part of the body. (Note: the wall surface can be Controlled/Used to flag/smear/hook/grab with feet or hands.)
- Black tape: any part of the Climbing Surface, Artificial Holds, or Structures/Volumes beyond black tape cannot be Controlled or Used by any part of the body.
- Features (e.g. arêtes) are on, unless specifically marked by black tape.
- The side edge and top edge of the wall are off (unless designated as part of the route)
- T-nut holes in the wall and volumes are off for hands; bolt holes in holds themselves are on.
- If they have questions about the route, the competitor may ask the judge for clarification.

Bleeding Competitors

- As outlined in Rules 3.3.3 and 8.14.4, a bleeding competitor is not allowed to climb or continue climbing, and a bleeding competitor is not granted a technical. (i.e., the clock continues running and a bleeding competitor is not given extra time.) A medic will be available to help all competitors. Additional assistance for bleeding competitors in the Youth D and Youth C Categories is addressed in Rule 3.3.3.
- USA Climbing recommends that all competitors have a small medical kit that includes tape, bandages, gauze, etc with them in the Competition Area, in case the medical professional is not able to immediately supply them with what is needed to stop minor bleeding.

Technical Incidents (a "technical")

- In general, a Technical Incident is an event or circumstance that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor and which is beyond the control of that competitor. Examples include: a spinning/broken hold, collision with another climber, or timing system failure.
Note that issues with clothing or hair, twisted ankles, etc. are NOT technicals.
- The competitor must call a technical immediately and, if the judge agrees, the competitor must cease the attempt or will forfeit the ability to call the technical.

Appeals

- See Rulebook Section 6 for information about Appeals.
- Without overwhelming evidence, the default is to defer to the original determination of the Climbing Judge.
- If Official Video is not available, unofficial (spectator, competitor, coach) video may be submitted as part of an Appeal; use of such video is at the discretion of the Jury President. If Official Video is available, no unofficial video may be used for Appeals.

**Please contact a Regional Coordinator or the Jury President if you have any questions.
Good Luck and Have Fun!**