



# Team Selection Procedures

ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | PARACLIMBING

## **USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures**

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*This Team Selection Procedures document 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 Team Selection Procedures document 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 document, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control.*

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*Team Selection Committee: The Team Selection Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Team Selection Procedure document(s) for the organization. The Team Selection Committee may be reached via e-mail: [teamselection@usaclimbing.org](mailto:teamselection@usaclimbing.org).*

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# Introduction

*This Introduction 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 Team Selection Procedure rules themselves.*

USA Climbing is pleased to introduce the new USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures. This document is part of an effort to align with other USOPC National Governing Bodies as well as other climbing National Federations by separating the Team Selection Procedures from the Rulebook. By decoupling such content from the schedule of Rulebook version releases, the separate document represents USA Climbing’s priority to provide communication about the (Elite) National Championships and the National Team Trials, in addition to the pathways and qualifications for U.S. citizen athletes to represent the US in international competitions.

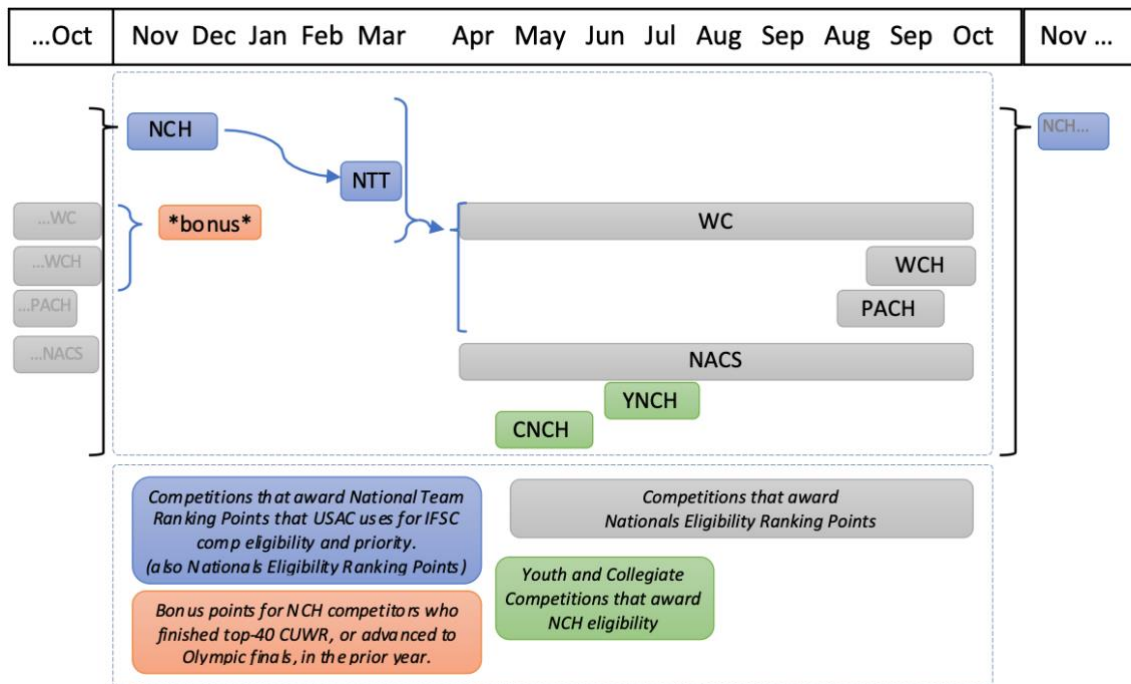
## National Rankings

There are two types of National Rankings addressed in this document:

- Nationals Eligibility Rankings – primarily as an eligibility criterion (and seeding order) for the (Elite) National Championships
- National Team Rankings – primarily as selection/order criteria for international Competition Starts (previously referred to as “invitations”).

The National Rankings are each based on their respective National Ranking Points systems, where each system uses the IFSC CUWR 1000 point / 80 rank table for its point system as set forth in Rule 3.6. (IFSC’s new 1000-point table was introduced in a recent IFSC Rulebook version.)

The Nationals Eligibility Rankings and National Team Rankings are shown graphically below.



## National Championship Eligibility, including the Nationals Eligibility Rankings (Rule 3.2)

The (Elite) National Championship requires a competitor to meet at least one eligibility criterion, one of which a Required Rank (minimum rank) in the Nationals Eligibility Ranking. This Nationals Eligibility Ranking is a continuously updated ranking that is calculated using a competitor’s best two (2) competitions in the prior year. As the basis of an eligibility criteria for the National Championship, it considers the prior year’s National Championship, and the following events since that National

Championship: National Team Trials, World Cups, World Championships, Pan-American Championships, and North American Cup Series. Each of those events is weighted to account for both the status of the event and typical strength of competitive field. (Non-U.S. citizens are eligible by way of a minimum rank at a North American Cup Series event.)

There are additional eligibility criteria that may award a competitor eligibility to the National Championship, including: being (or having been) a member of the US Olympic Team; highly ranked performance in the prior IFSC season; or being highly ranking in a Youth or Collegiate National Team Ranking. (These criteria are only available to U.S. citizens.)

### **National Team Rankings (Rule 3.3)**

The (Elite) National Team Rankings are determined using only the results of the (Elite) National Championships and the results of the National Team Trials, with the addition of “bonus” points for highly ranked performance at the Olympics and/or in the IFSC CUWR.

The National Team Rankings are used to help select the National Teams.

### **Youth and Collegiate Team Rankings**

The Youth and Collegiate Team Rankings are based only on the respective Youth or Collegiate National Championship, using Time Rank for Speed.

### **National Team Trials**

The National Team Trials event is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the two National Team selection events, and eligibility to the National Team Trials in a Discipline (Rule 2.2) is based on a competitor’s rank in the Discipline at the National Championship. Eligibility for the National Team Trials in Speed also requires the competitor to have achieved a time at select events that is at least as fast the benchmark time for their Category.

Competitors who are USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected (i.e., World Elite or Recent Olympic Medalist) are also eligible to participate in the National Team Trial event, as the event may be a valuable opportunity for them to train and prepare for the IFSC season. However, to minimize any impact their attendance may have on those not Team Pre-Selected, the presence or absence of any Team Pre-Selected competitor will have no effect on the number of those not Team Pre-Selected who advance to the Semi-Final and Final rounds, and no effect on the National Ranking Points awarded to those not Team Pre-Selected.

### **National Teams and National World Eligible (Section 4)**

National Teams are determine using priority-ordered criteria, including status related to the Olympic Games, recent CUWR rankings, and National Team Rankings. (Rules,

National Team members are typically the first eligible for international Competition Starts.

Athletes not on a National Team may be a member of the National World Eligible set corresponding to that National Team. The National World Eligible may be eligible for international Competition Starts if available after National team members have declined to attend. In prior years, those athletes that were considered “World Cup eligible” but didn’t receive the first batch of invites could have been considered National World Eligible, though the criteria for National World Eligible now differs from those prior years.

### **2022 IFSC Season**

In preparation for the 2024 Paris Olympics, where Speed will be separate from the Lead and Bouldering Disciplines, and where Lead and Bouldering will be a “combined” competition, USA Climbing has determined that there will be an emphasis on “Boulder & Lead” athletes with regards to eligibility and priority for IFSC Competition Quota allocation for the 2022 IFSC Season.

Such eligibility and priority will be based on exceptional performance at 2021 IFSC competitions and/or exceptional performance at the 2021 (Nov) NCH \*and\* the 2022 (Mar) NTT.

### **IFSC NF Quota System and Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR)**

In the recent past, the IFSC has granted each country's National Federation (NF) the same quota as all other NFs. For this past year, there have been five (5) quota per NF at each World Cup (WC) and World Championships (WCH). IFSC has also granted an additional five (5) quota to the host NF for each event.

Starting in the 2023 IFSC season, and not including the additional quota granted to a host NF, IFSC WC quota will be reduced to two (2) quota per NF, plus one additional quota per NF for each of that NF's athletes (up to three (3)) who finished the prior season in 11th to 40th in the Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR) for the gender/Discipline, resulting in an upper limit of five (5) quota per NF. The host NF for a particular competition receives an additional host quota, expected to be four (4) additional quota. (Those finishing in 1st to 10th of the CUWR are eligible, by name, for all the Discipline's WCs and do not count against the NF's quota.) As such, it is in USA Climbing's interest to maximize the number of US athletes that finish in the top-40 in the CUWR.

### **IFSC Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR)**

The CUWR is separate from, and calculated differently than, the "World Cup Ranking." The CUWR uses a competitor's rank at each of the WC and WCH events to award CUWR points. IFSC maintains six (6) CUWRs: one for each of the male and female Categories for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines.

The CUWR is used for:

- Seeding at an IFSC competition (e.g., Bouldering starting order in Qualification Round)
- Top-10 in CUWR at season end have (by-name) eligibility the next year.
- Top-11 through top-40 in CUWR at season end will contribute to their NF's quota for the following year. [new]

Recent changes to the CUWR include:

- Awarding CUWR points to the top-80 using a new 1000point table (instead of top-30 or top-40 rank 100-point table still used by the World Cup Rankings)
- Using a Status factor instead of a Field Factor. For example, World Cups are all valued the same as each other, but World Championships are valued more.
- See the IFSC's World Ranking Working Group report on the IFSC website ranking page: <https://www.ifsc-climbing.org/index.php/world-competition/ranking>

Upcoming CUWR changes could include including more events in the CUWR, and also including quantity factors (e.g., number of competitors) as well as strength factors that are calculated for the region, not necessarily the strength of the field.

### **Quota Allocation to WC/WCH, and to PACH**

Generally, the first allocation of some of the US quota (Competition Starts) will be to the Boulder & Lead National Team members, and any remaining US quota will be allocated to the relevant individual Discipline National Team members. If the relevant eligible US National Team members do not register interest (or register interest and later retract such interest), remaining Competition Starts will be distributed to the USA Climbing World Eligible athletes in a manner that is designed to provide equitable opportunity to multiple such athletes, with USA Climbing having the ultimate discretion regarding such distribution.

### **Quota Allocation to Youth (YWCH, YPACH), Collegiate (World University Games), and Paraclimbing (PWC, PWCH)**

Generally, the US quota (Competition Starts) to international Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing events is allocated in order of the relevant National Team Ranking in the Discipline.

## Significant Changes

This Significant Changes section is not a binding Team Selection Procedures rule. Only the rules themselves, beginning with the Order of Rule Precedence, 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, not all changes may be so highlighted.

Updated in the 20220328 version:

- 4.2.4(b) - a typographical formatting error is fixed so as to correctly separate the NACS events from an Elite speed trials events in the text, and the rule is updated to clarify that only Elite speed trials since the NTT are considered. (This last change has no effect this year, as no Elite speed trials were held before the 2022 NTT.)
- 4.5.2 – this rule is added to correct the accidental omission of U.S. Paraclimbing National World Eligible, to be considered for Paraclimbing Competition Starts.
- 5.4.2(a) - Paraclimbing Competition Starts also consider the above U.S. Paraclimbing National World Eligible.

## Order of Rule Precedence

In the event and to the extent any rules contained in this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document 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 this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document and the USA Climbing Rulebook (and amendments, as relevant) shall be resolved by giving precedence to this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document on matters of:

- a) Qualification, seeding, and Semi-Final and Final round quotas for the (Elite) National Championship and National Team Trials events; and
- b) National Ranking Points, National Rankings, National Teams; and
- c) international Competition Starts (priority, order, and process),

and otherwise giving precedence to the USA Climbing Rulebook.

## Glossary

### 1. The following acronyms shall apply throughout this document:

**CNCH** is USA Climbing Collegiate National Championship;

**NACS** is North American Cup Series;

**NCH** is USA Climbing (Elite) National Championship;

**NTT** is USA Climbing National Team Trials;

**PACH** is Pan-American Championship;

**WC** is IFSC World Cup;

**WCH** is IFSC World Championship;

**YNCH** is USA Climbing Youth National Championship;

**YWCH** is IFSC Youth World Championship;

### 2. In addition to the terms & definitions in the USA Climbing Rulebook Glossary, the following definitions shall apply throughout this document:

**Boulder** and **Bouldering** have the same meaning (IFSC uses the term Boulder and USA Climbing generally has used the term Bouldering), and both are separate from the term **Boulder & Lead** (see below).

**Boulder & Lead** (or **Boulder&Lead**, or **Boulder & Lead Combined**) means the ranking or designation corresponding to IFSC new Boulder & Lead format. (Equivalent to Boulder+Lead references in the USA Climbing Rulebook.)

**Competition Start** means a US Citizen athlete is (to be) registered by USA Climbing to compete in an international competition (a Competition Start was previously referred to as an "invitation");



# 1 Designations

## 1.1 USA Climbing IFSC Pre-Qualified

1.1.1 **USA Climbing IFSC Pre-Qualified** (aka IFSC Pre-Qualified) means US citizen athletes that IFSC considers pre-qualified, by athlete name, for WC and WCH competitions in the upcoming season, and who achieved such pre-qualification status representing the US.

For the avoidance of doubt, pre-qualification status has typically been granted to those athletes ranked in the top-10 of the Discipline's IFSC CUWR using the prior season's results.

## 1.2 USA Climbing World Elite

1.2.1 USA Climbing recognizes that US athletes that finish an IFSC season highly ranked in the IFSC CUWR have demonstrated exceptional and consistent achievement. Subject to the specific ranking requirements below, such US athletes may be designated as "USA Climbing World Elite."

Note that the ranking requirement (e.g., currently, top-16) is subject to being made more restrictive (e.g., top-12) in subsequent seasons.

1.2.2 The World Elite CUWR used for World Elite purposes shall be the athlete's ranking in the individual Discipline's IFSC CUWR using only the results in the prior IFSC season.

For the avoidance of doubt, the World Elite for use in Team Selection for the 2022 IFSC season shall use the results of only the 2021 IFSC season competitions.

1.2.3 An athlete must have achieved their rank in the World Elite CUWR representing the US in order to be designated USA Climbing World Elite.

1.2.4 For each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines, the USA Climbing World Elite shall be athletes who meet one or more of the criteria below:

- a) are USA Climbing IFSC Pre-Qualified; or
- b) are US citizen athletes ranked in the top-10 of the World Elite CUWR; or
- c) if (a) and (b) above constitute fewer than two (2) unique athletes, are the one (1) next highest ranked athlete in the top-16 of the World Elite CUWR.

For the avoidance of doubt, World Elite status is limited to one (1) athlete who is not IFSC Pre-Qualified or World Elite CUWR top-10.

1.2.5 The USA Climbing Boulder & Lead World Elite shall be athletes who meet all the requirements below:

- a) in Lead, are USA Climbing IFSC Pre-Qualified or World Elite CUWR top-16; and
- b) in Bouldering, are USA Climbing IFSC Pre-Qualified or World Elite CUWR top-16.

## 1.3 US Olympic Team

1.3.1 **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 the 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.

1.3.2 **Recent US Olympic Team** refers to a team in the prior twelve (12) months.

## 1.4 Recent US Olympic Medalist

1.4.1 **Recent US Olympic Medalist** is an athlete who won an Olympic Medal as part of the US Olympic Team in the prior twelve (12) months.

## 1.5 USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected

- 1.5.1 **USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected** (aka Pre-Selected) for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines means US citizen athletes that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- a) For the Lead and Bouldering Disciplines only, are a Recent US Olympic Medalist.
  - b) Are USA Climbing World Elite in the Discipline. (Note that all USA Climbing IFSC Pre-Qualified are also USA Climbing World Elite.)
- 1.5.2 **USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected** (aka Pre-Selected) for Boulder & Lead means US citizen athletes that meet at least one of the following criteria:
- a) are a Recent US Olympic Medalist.
  - b) are USA Climbing World Elite in Boulder & Lead.

## 1.6 USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion

- 1.6.1 Where so granted in this Team Selection Procedures document, USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion (Team Selection Discretion) grants to USA Climbing the authority to waive or amend the relevant rule to the extent provided by that rule, subject to the following:
- a) The USA Climbing High Performance team (or equivalent) must submit a written proposal to the USA Climbing Team Selection Committee outlining:
    - i) the requested discretion; and
    - ii) the justification for the discretion, based, in part, on performance at recent USA Climbing, IFSC, or NACS competitions; and
    - iii) any precedents relevant to the discretion; and
    - iv) the anticipated impact of such discretion.
  - b) The USA Climbing Team Selection Committee must approve the proposal in order for the discretion to be granted.
  - c) The USA Climbing Board of Directors must be informed within fourteen (14) days of any exercise of discretion, by way of submission of the proposal and the Team Selection Committee recommendation/approval to the board.
- 1.6.2 For each position set forth in the Team Selection Committee charter that is either not filled or where the individual has recused themselves due to a conflict of interest, that Team Selection Committee voting position for Rule 1.6.1 purposes is filled in the following order, as such individuals are available:
- a) For an athlete position on the Team Selection Committee:
    - i) USOPC AAC Representative alternate.
    - ii) USA Climbing AAC Chair.
    - iii) A member of the USA Climbing AAC.
  - b) For a non-athlete position on the Team Selection Committee:
    - i) USA Climbing CEO.
    - ii) A member of the USA Climbing Board of Directors.

Positions should be filled with attention paid to avoid conflicts of interest.

## 2 Event Qualification, Seeding, and Round Quotas

### 2.1 (Elite) National Championship Qualification and Seeding

2.1.1 The (Elite) National Championship event rules are set forth in the USA Climbing Rulebook, subject to relevant eligibility and seeding rules within this Team Selection Procedures document.

2.1.2 To be eligible for the National Championship, a competitor must be sixteen (16) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the first World Cup immediately following the National Championship.

For the avoidance of doubt, if the National Championship is late in the calendar year, a competitor who is fifteen (15) years of age on December 31st of the year of the National Championship will not have been eligible for other Elite Series events that year (e.g., North American Cup Series), but may still achieve eligibility for the National Championship via performance at the Youth National Championship that year.

2.1.3 The competitor Qualification requirements for NCH eligibility for US citizens for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines are as follows:

Pri	NCH Disc.	Set of Eligible Athletes	Seed Order Within Set (*d)	Notes
1	B,L,S	US Olympic Team or Recent US Olympic Team	Olympic Seed/Rank	(a)
2	B,L,S	Discipline World Elite	Disc CUWR	(a)
3	B,L,S	Top-N Discipline Nationals Eligibility Ranking	Disc NER	(b)(c)(d)
4	B,L,S	Recent US Team member	Relevant NR	(a)
5	B,L	Top-3 Boulder & Lead Youth National Team Ranking	B+L YNTR	(a)(d)(e)(f)
6	B,L,S	Top-6 Discipline Youth National Team Ranking	Disc YNTR	(a)(d)(e)
7	B,L	Top-1 Boulder & Lead Collegiate National Team Ranking	B+L CNTR	(a)(d)(e)(f)
8	B,L,S	Top-3 Discipline Collegiate National Team Ranking	Disc CNTR	(a)(d)(e)

NCH Disc. column: criterion applies to (B)oulder, (L)ead, and/or (S)peed.

Notes:

- a) Only applicable to U.S. citizens. (e.g., National Team Rankings only include U.S. citizens.)
- b) For each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines, USA Climbing will determine and publish a Required Rank (N) in that Discipline's Nationals Eligibility Ranking in order for an athlete to be eligible via the Discipline Nationals Eligibility ranking for the National Championship in that Discipline.

- c) Given the number of National Team Ranking points required at the NCH+NTT for an athlete to be eligible for a WC/WCH, it is highly unlikely for that athlete to not have enough Nationals Eligibility ranking points from the NCH+NTT to qualify for, and likely be seeded well in, the following season's NCH, even if they do not accumulate any additional points between the NTT and the following season's NCH.
  - d) Unless specified otherwise, order within a set is by way of the relevant National Team Ranking, Youth National Team Ranking, or Collegiate National Team Ranking.
  - e) Eligibility is based on Youth (or as relevant, Collegiate) National Team Ranking points solely from the Youth (or as relevant, Collegiate) National Championships in the last 15 months, based on ranking among \*all\* U.S. citizen competitors in the category, including those otherwise qualified for NCH and those not age-eligible for upcoming NCH. (i.e., top-N eligibility does not pass to any other competitor.)
  - f) Not applicable to 2021 National Championship.
- 2.1.4 The competitor Qualification requirement for NCH eligibility for non-US citizens for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines is a top twenty (top-20) rank in a NACS competition in the Discipline since the prior National Championship.
- 2.1.5 The competitor Qualification requirements for NCH eligibility in this document are in addition to further requirements (e.g., USA Climbing membership) set forth in the USA Climbing Rulebook.
- 2.1.6 The competitor Seeding Order (i.e., used for starting lists in Bouldering Qualification Round) is strictly by the order of priority list in Rule 2.1.3. Non-US citizens shall be seeded as if they had Nationals Eligibility Ranking points and were ranked in the Nationals Eligibility Ranking. For the avoidance of doubt, non-US citizens are not actually awarded such points or ranking, but similar determinations are made for seeding purposes only.
- 2.1.7 For the 2021 National Championship only, any competitor:
- a) granted eligibility for Lead by Rule 2.1.3 and/or 2.1.4 and not granted eligibility for Bouldering by Rule 2.1.3 and/or 2.1.4 is nonetheless granted eligibility for Bouldering and such a competitor is seeded last in Bouldering; and
  - b) granted eligibility for Boulder by Rule 2.1.3 and/or 2.1.4 and not granted eligibility for Lead by Rule 2.1.3 and/or 2.1.4 is nonetheless granted eligibility for Lead and such a competitor is seeded last in Lead.

## 2.2 National Team Trials Qualification, Seeding, and Round Quotas

2.2.1 National Team Trials event rules are set forth in the USA Climbing Rulebook, subject to relevant eligibility, seeding, and Semi-Final and Final round quota rules within this Team Selection Procedures document.

2.2.2 To be eligible for the National Team Trials, a competitor must have been old enough to be eligible for the immediately prior National Championship.

2.2.3 To be eligible for each of the National Team Trials Lead and Bouldering Disciplines, a competitor must:

- a) be designated USA Climbing World Elite in the relevant Discipline or Boulder & Lead; or
- b) be a Recent U.S. Olympic Medalist in the Discipline, in Boulder & Lead Combined, or for 2022 only (due to the All-Around Combined nature of the Tokyo Olympics), a Recent U.S. Olympic Medalist; or
- c) at the National Championship, have:
  - i) finished with an event ranking in the Discipline among U.S. citizen competitors that meets the National Team Trials Eligibility Rank in the relevant Discipline (e.g., Lead or Boulder); or

where the Eligibility Rank requirements are as follows:

Required Value	Requirement Name
<b>60% of NCH ranked competitors rounded down. Minimum of 40 competitors and Maximum of 60 competitors.</b>	National Team Trials Lead/Boulder Eligibility Rank

2.2.4 To be eligible for the National Team Trials Speed Discipline, a competitor must:

- a) be designated USA Climbing World Elite in the Speed Discipline; or
- b) be a Recent U.S. Olympic Medalist in the Discipline; or
- c) at the National Championship, have:
  - i) finished with an event ranking in Speed among U.S. citizen competitors that meets the National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Rank; and
  - ii) either:
    - A) had at least one race with a Valid Time that meets the National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time for their Category (including any speed trials that may be arranged by USA Climbing at the National Championship event); or
    - B) if a Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time waiver process is published by USA Climbing, submits evidence of a race with a time that meets the National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time for their Category, subject to such waiver process,

where the Eligibility Rank and Benchmark Times are as follows:

Required Value	Requirement Name
<b>60% of NCH ranked competitors rounded down. Minimum of 40 competitors and Maximum of 60 competitors.</b>	National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Rank
<b>11.00s</b>	National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time - Female
<b>8.00s</b>	National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time - Male

- 2.2.5 The competitor seeding order for each of the National Team Trials Disciplines shall be:
- a) first seeded are USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected in order of the competitor's CUWR ranking in the relevant Discipline; and
  - b) next seeded are all others in order of their competition ranking in that Discipline at the National Championship.

- 2.2.6 For the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, and for each of the Semi-Final and Final Rounds, the Rulebook quota for the round shall be filled with the top ranked competitors who are not Team Pre-Selected in the Discipline, and where advancement shall also be granted to Team Pre-Selected competitors who are ranked the same or better than the competitors not Team Pre-Selected who are advancing.

For the avoidance of doubt, and by way of example, if there is a Team Pre-Selected competitor ranked 6<sup>th</sup> and another tied for 7<sup>th</sup> (tied with a competitor not Team Pre-Selected) in the Boulder Semi-Final Round, then the not Team Pre-Selected competitors ranked 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> and tied for 7<sup>th</sup> would advance (i.e., the top 6 competitors not Team Pre-Selected) to the Final round, as would the Team Pre-Selected competitors ranked 6<sup>th</sup> and tied for 7<sup>th</sup>, resulting in a total of eight (8) competitors advancing to the Final round.

- 2.2.7 For the Speed Discipline, only competitors not Team Pre-Selected in the Discipline shall advance to the Final Round.

USA Climbing may conduct an exhibition competition after the National Team Trials Speed competition. This exhibition competition should include top ranked competitors from the National Team Trials Speed competition Knockout round and competitors who are Team Pre-Selected. Results from this exhibition shall not be eligible for Time Rank purposes but shall be eligible for National Record recognition.

## 3 Nationals Rankings and National Ranking Points

### 3.1 National Rankings – General

- 3.1.1 USA Climbing shall maintain the following National Rankings for each relevant Category:
- A Nationals Eligibility Ranking (Elite) in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, as well as Boulder & Lead Combined.
  - A National Team Ranking (Elite) in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, as well as Boulder & Lead Combined.
  - A Youth National Team Ranking in each of the Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, based solely on the Youth National Championships.
  - A Collegiate National Team Ranking in each of the Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, based solely on the Collegiate National Championships.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not National Rankings:
- Youth Qualification Series Rankings (see USA Climbing Rulebook)
  - Collegiate Qualification Series Rankings (see USA Climbing Rulebook)
  - North American Cup Rankings (see the Event Manual for that Series).
- 3.1.2 National Ranking Points are calculated using competition results as set forth in Rules 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5, in conjunction with the National Ranking Points table set forth in Rule 3.6.
- 3.1.3 When accruing Ranking Points, the points awarded to tied competitors will be the average of the points for the tied rank positions, rounded down to whole numbers. (e.g., if three competitors are tied for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place, each is awarded the sum of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place points, divided by 3, rounded down.
- 3.1.4 National Rankings are determined using the corresponding National Ranking Points.
- Nationals Eligibility Rankings are calculated using the relevant Nationals Eligibility Ranking Points.
  - National Team Rankings is calculated using the relevant National Team Ranking Points.
  - Youth National Team Rankings is calculated using the relevant Youth National Team Ranking Points.
  - Collegiate National Team Rankings is calculated using the relevant Collegiate National Team Ranking Points.
- 3.1.5 Where a Ranking uses Ranking Points to determine relative rank between competitors, competitors are ranked in descending order of Ranking Points, and the following shall apply to competitors with an equal number of ranking points:
- In determining the ranking where any competitors have the same Ranking Points, the relative ranking of the competitors with equal Ranking Points shall be determined by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors at the competitions included in the Ranking Point system (i.e., competitor A shall be ranked higher (better) if competitor A has ranked higher than competitor B in more such competitions than competitor B ranked higher than competitor A, for such competitions where both competitor A and B competed).  
The application of this rule shall be weighted by each competition's first (1<sup>st</sup>) place points as set forth in the table in Rule 3.6.3, such that a head-to-head win in a competition with greater first (1<sup>st</sup>) place points shall be considered more significant than a head-to-head win in a competition with fewer (1<sup>st</sup>) place points.
  - Where the test in (a) does not determine a unique rank, the ranking will be determined by the best ranking in any of the competitions included in the Ranking Point system, and the number of competitions where that ranking was achieved. If that does not determine a unique rank, then the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best ranking in any such competition, and the number of competitions with that ranking, and so on.
- 3.1.6 For some Speed competitions, points awarded to a competitor may be based on their General Rank or based on their Time Rank.

- a) The Time Rank points are in Rule 3.6.2.
- b) Time Rank points are determined using a competitors Resolved Time Rank in the competition, which is a ranking among only U.S. citizen competitors and is in order of increasing Time Rank time and, within a set of competitors having the same Time Rank time, is in order of increasing (worse) General Rank.
- c) Where competitor may be eligible for a selection of the higher value of either General Rank points or Time Rank points, such a has no effect on other competitors. For the avoidance of doubt, any “unused” General Rank points or “unused” Time Rank points do not pass to any other competitor.

3.1.7 For each National Ranking, USA Climbing shall publish the current such Ranking on the National Team page of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).



## 3.2 Nationals Eligibility Ranking Points

3.2.1 Nationals Eligibility Ranking Points (in each Category and for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines) for a competitor shall be the sum of the points from the best two (2) eligible competitions since the prior National Championship, where:

- a) the best two (2) competitions are the two competitions that provide the competitor with the greatest number of points; and
- b) the eligible competitions are listed in the table directly below, along with which competitors are eligible for ranking points and the method used to rank the competitors in the Discipline for purposes of determining their National Eligibility Ranking points; and
- c) the points are determined by using such ranks and the table in Rule 3.6.3.

Competition	Citizenship Requirement	Rank used for Determination of Ranking Points
<b>USA Climbing National Championship</b>	(none)	Relative to only U.S. citizens who are not USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected
<b>USA Climbing National Team Trials</b>	US	Relative to only U.S. citizens who are not USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected
<b>IFSC World Cup</b>	US	Relative to all competitors
<b>IFSC World Championship</b>	US	Relative to all competitors
<b>Pan-American Championships</b>	US	Relative to all competitors
<b>North American Cup Series</b>	(none)	Relative to all competitors

For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor's Nationals Eligibility Ranking Points total could be from the NCH and a NACS, or from the NTT and a WC; or two WCs; etc.

For the avoidance of doubt, the YNCH and CNCH do not award Nationals Eligibility Ranking Points. However, the Youth National Team Ranking and Collegiate National Team Ranking are determined at the YNCH and CNCH, respectively, and the Youth National Team Ranking and Collegiate National Team Ranking are used for NCH Eligibility, as set forth in Rule 2.1.

### 3.3 National Team Ranking Points

- 3.3.1 National Team Ranking Points (in each Category and for each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines) shall be awarded at each of the National Championship and the National Team Trials to U.S. citizens not USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected and shall be the sum of:
- the points in Rule 3.6.3, or for Speed the points in Rule 3.6.2 if greater (as set forth in 3.1.6), using a competitor's competition rank in the respective competition, ranked only against U.S. citizen competitors who are not USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected; and
  - at the National Championship, bonus point awards as set forth in Rule 3.6.1,
- where all National Team Ranking points shall expire upon the commencement of the following National Championship.
- For the avoidance of doubt, for each Discipline, a competitor may be awarded points from both the National Championship and the National Team Trials and shall only be awarded at most one set of bonus points.
- 3.3.2 National Team Ranking points (in each Category) for Boulder & Lead Combined shall be awarded at each of the National Championship and the National Team Trials to U.S. citizens not USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected as set forth in 3.3.1, except using the Boulder & Lead Combined results (USA Climbing Rulebook Rule 3.21), instead of individual Discipline results, ranked only against U.S. citizen competitors who are not USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected, and as modified by Rule 3.3.3; and
- 3.3.3 For the National Championship and the National Team Trials, if a competitor is registered for both the Boulder and Lead Disciplines at the event, competes in one of those Discipline, and withdraws from the other Discipline for medical reasons, the competitor may petition for a medical exemption which, if granted by processes to be defined by the Team Selection Committee, shall result in that competitor to be ranked equal last in the withdrawn Discipline along with any other competitors with granted medical petitions in that Discipline at that event. For the avoidance of doubt, such a competitor would be considered as having competed in both Bouldering and Lead at the event and ranked in Boulder & Lead Combined as outlined in the USA Climbing Rulebook, using the granted last place ranking in the Discipline for which they were granted the waiver.

### 3.4 Youth National Team Ranking Points

- 3.4.1 Youth National Team Ranking Points (in each Category and for each of the Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines) shall only be awarded to a U.S. citizen and shall be the points in Rule 3.7.3, or for Speed the points in Rule 3.7.2 if greater (as set forth in 3.1.7) for the Youth National Championship,
- using a competitor's competition rank against only U.S. citizen competitors, and
- where all Youth National Team Ranking points shall expire upon the commencement of the immediately following Youth National Championship.

### 3.5 Collegiate National Team Ranking Points

- 3.5.1 Collegiate National Team Ranking Points (in each Category and for each of the Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines) shall only be awarded to a U.S. citizen and shall be the points in Rule 3.7.3, or for Speed the points in Rule 3.7.2 if greater (as set forth in 3.1.7) for the Collegiate National Championship,
- using a competitor's competition rank against only U.S. citizen competitors, and
- where all Collegiate National Team Ranking points shall expire upon the commencement of the immediately following Collegiate National Championship.

### 3.6 National Ranking Points Tables

3.6.1 National Team Ranking “bonus” points awarded as set forth in Rule 3.3 are as follows, where such bonus points are awarded only at the National Championship at the conclusion of the event, and where a competitor shall only be awarded at most one set of bonus points for a given Discipline or Boulder & Lead:

Points	National Team Ranking Bonus Criteria
<b>200</b>	A competitor who advanced to the Olympic Games Final round as US Olympic Team member during the Olympic games in the prior 12 months is awarded bonus points toward National Team Ranking for each of Lead, Bouldering, Speed, and Boulder & Lead.
<b>150</b>	A competitor who was a US Olympic Team member during the Olympic games in the prior 12 months is awarded bonus points toward National Team Ranking for each of Lead, Bouldering, Speed, and Boulder & Lead.
<b>100</b>	For each of Lead, Bouldering, and Speed, a competitor who finished the immediately prior IFSC season ranked in the top-40 of the Discipline’s CUWR is awarded bonus points toward National Team Ranking in the Discipline. A competitor who finished the immediately prior IFSC season ranked in the CUWR top-40 of both the Lead and Bouldering Disciplines is awarded bonus points toward National Team Ranking in Boulder & Lead Combined.

3.6.2 National Team Time Rank points, as set forth in 3.1.6, are:

Resolved Time Rank	NCH YNCH CNCH	NTT	Note
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	820	990	(between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> in General Rank)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	810	980	(between 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> in General Rank)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	700	850	(between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> in General Rank)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> or worse</b>	0	0	

3.6.3 The following table is used to determine Nationals Eligibility Ranking points and National Team Ranking points as set forth in Rules 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Youth and Collegiate National Team Ranking points use the NCH points in the table for the relevant ranking in the national Championship for the respective Series, not for Nationals Eligibility Ranking points.

Rank	NCH YNCH CNCH	NTT	WC	WCH	NACS	PACH	Rank
<b>1</b>	1000	1200	2500	3500	500	500	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	805	966	2012	2817	402	402	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	690	828	1725	2415	345	345	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	610	732	1525	2135	305	305	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	545	654	1362	1907	272	272	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	495	594	1237	1732	247	247	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	455	546	1137	1592	227	227	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	415	498	1037	1452	207	207	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	380	456	950	1330	190	190	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	350	420	875	1225	175	175	<b>10</b>

<b>11</b>	325	390	812	1137	162	162	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	300	360	750	1050	150	150	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	280	336	700	980	140	140	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	260	312	650	910	130	130	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	240	288	600	840	120	120	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	220	264	550	770	110	110	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	205	246	512	717	102	102	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	185	222	462	647	92	92	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	170	204	425	595	85	85	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	155	186	387	542	77	77	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	145	174	362	507	72	72	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	130	156	325	455	65	65	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	120	144	300	420	60	60	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	105	126	262	367	52	52	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	95	114	237	332	47	47	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	84	100	210	294	42	42	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	73	87	182	255	36	36	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	63	75	157	220	31	31	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	56	67	140	196	28	28	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	48	57	120	168	24	24	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>	42	50	105	147	21	21	<b>31</b>
<b>32</b>	37	44	92	129	18	18	<b>32</b>
<b>33</b>	33	39	82	115	16	16	<b>33</b>
<b>34</b>	30	36	75	105	15	15	<b>34</b>
<b>35</b>	27	32	67	94	13	13	<b>35</b>
<b>36</b>	24	28	60	84	12	12	<b>36</b>
<b>37</b>	21	25	52	73	10	10	<b>37</b>
<b>38</b>	19	22	47	66	9	9	<b>38</b>
<b>39</b>	17	20	42	59	8	8	<b>39</b>
<b>40</b>	15	18	37	52	7	7	<b>40</b>
<b>41</b>	14	16	35	49	7	7	<b>41</b>
<b>42</b>	13	15	32	45	6	6	<b>42</b>
<b>43</b>	12	14	30	42	6	6	<b>43</b>
<b>44</b>	11	13	27	38	5	5	<b>44</b>
<b>45</b>	11	13	27	38	5	5	<b>45</b>
<b>46</b>	10	12	25	35	5	5	<b>46</b>

<b>47</b>	9	10		22	31	4	4	<b>47</b>
<b>48</b>	9	10		22	31	4	4	<b>48</b>
<b>49</b>	8	9		20	28	4	4	<b>49</b>
<b>50</b>	8	9		20	28	4	4	<b>50</b>
<b>51</b>	7	8		17	24	3	3	<b>51</b>
<b>52</b>	7	8		17	24	3	3	<b>52</b>
<b>53</b>	7	8		17	24	3	3	<b>53</b>
<b>54</b>	6	7		15	21	3	3	<b>54</b>
<b>55</b>	6	7		15	21	3	3	<b>55</b>
<b>56</b>	6	7		15	21	3	3	<b>56</b>
<b>57</b>	5	6		12	17	2	2	<b>57</b>
<b>58</b>	5	6		12	17	2	2	<b>58</b>
<b>59</b>	5	6		12	17	2	2	<b>59</b>
<b>60</b>	4	4		10	14	2	2	<b>60</b>
<b>61</b>	4	4		10	14	2	2	<b>61</b>
<b>62</b>	4	4		10	14	2	2	<b>62</b>
<b>63</b>	4	4		10	14	2	2	<b>63</b>
<b>64</b>	3	3		7	10	1	1	<b>64</b>
<b>65</b>	3	3		7	10	1	1	<b>65</b>
<b>66</b>	3	3		7	10	1	1	<b>66</b>
<b>67</b>	3	3		7	10	1	1	<b>67</b>
<b>68</b>	3	3		7	10	1	1	<b>68</b>
<b>69</b>	2	2		5	7	1	1	<b>69</b>
<b>70</b>	2	2		5	7	1	1	<b>70</b>
<b>71</b>	2	2		5	7	1	1	<b>71</b>
<b>72</b>	2	2		5	7	1	1	<b>72</b>
<b>73</b>	2	2		5	7	1	1	<b>73</b>
<b>74</b>	2	2		5	7	1	1	<b>74</b>
<b>75</b>	1	1		2	3	0	0	<b>75</b>
<b>76</b>	1	1		2	3	0	0	<b>76</b>
<b>77</b>	1	1		2	3	0	0	<b>77</b>
<b>78</b>	1	1		2	3	0	0	<b>78</b>
<b>79</b>	1	1		2	3	0	0	<b>79</b>
<b>80</b>	1	1		2	3	0	0	<b>80</b>

Note: the IFSC World Ranking points table is a 1000-point, 80-rank that matches the above column for NCH.

## 4 National Teams

### 4.1 All National Teams – General

- 4.1.1 USA Climbing shall maintain the following National Teams for each relevant Category:
- U.S. National Teams in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.
  - U.S. Boulder & Lead National Team.
  - U.S. Youth National Teams in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.
  - U.S. Collegiate National Teams in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.
  - A U.S. Paraclimbing National Team for each relevant Paraclimbing category.
- 4.1.2 For each National Team, USA Climbing should maintain a corresponding set of athletes designated as National World Eligible, where the National World Eligible:
- are each a set of athletes that may be awarded an international Competition Start if USA Climbing quota is available; and
  - are each determined as set forth in Rule 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, or 4.5 as relevant.
- 4.1.3 At any given time, an athlete may be a member of more than one of the National Teams or Nationals World Eligible, but for a given Series, Category, and Discipline an athlete should only be on the National Team or the National World Eligible.
- 4.1.4 National Teams are generally those selected to represent the United States in sanctioned international Lead/Top Rope, Bouldering, and Speed Discipline competitions, though members of a National Team are not guaranteed an international Competition Start and U.S. citizens who are National World Eligible members may be awarded an international Competition Start. The international registration process is set forth in Section 5.
- 4.1.5 All National Team members and National World Eligible members:
- shall be required to have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership (or in the case of a Collegiate athlete competing in the World University Games, a Collegiate Membership), and must timely reactivate their Membership in the event their Membership expires or otherwise becomes non-active, or are otherwise; and
  - shall be able to provide evidence of U.S. citizenship upon request by USA Climbing; and
  - should possess a valid (unexpired) U.S. passport that has an expiration date a least one year after the upcoming National Championship,
- where those athletes not meeting these requirements are subject to being declared ineligible for an international Competition Start defined in Section 5.
- 4.1.6 In the event that a National Team or National World Eligible member is not eligible to register for the international competition's Category for which USA Climbing has determined them qualified for, they are ineligible for an international Competition Start defined in Section 5.
- For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, an athlete electing to compete in USA Climbing competitions in a gender category that differs from the competitor's birth certificate gender (subject to the USA Climbing Rulebook) accepts the risk of not being eligible for an international Competition Start.

## 4.2 U.S. National Teams (Elite Series)

4.2.1 The Lead, Boulder, and Speed U.S. National Teams shall be composed of five (5) U.S. citizen athletes as follows:

- a) Any USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected in the Discipline; and
- b) The highest ranked competitors in the respective Discipline's National Team Ranking (and for Speed, also subject to Rule 4.2.4),

such that the total number of members on the Team is limited to five (5), and such members will be ordered (ranked) in the order of criteria listed above, where Team Pre-Selected are ranked by CUWR in the Discipline, and others are ranked by the relevant National Team Ranking.

Note: USA Climbing may determine criteria by which the number of National Team members would be increased to more than the above-specified five (5) athletes.

4.2.2 The Boulder & Lead U.S. National Team shall be composed of five (5) U.S. citizen athletes as follows:

- a) Any USA Climbing Team Pre-Selected in Boulder & Lead; and
- b) The highest ranked competitors in the Boulder & Lead National Team Ranking,

such that the total number of members on the Team is limited to five (5), and such members will be ordered (ranked) in the order of criteria listed above, where Team Pre-Selected are ranked by product of Boulder CUWR and (i.e., times) Lead CUWR, and others are ranked by the Boulder & Lead National Team Ranking.

Note: USA Climbing may determine criteria by which the number of National Team members would be increased to more than the above-specified five (5) athletes.

4.2.3 The Lead, Boulder, and Speed U.S. National World Eligible shall be U.S. citizen athletes who:

- a) are not members of the corresponding National Team; and
- b) are ranked in the top-10 of the respective Discipline's National Team Ranking, and such members will be ordered (ranked) by such National Team Ranking.

4.2.4 In addition to the rules set forth in Rules 4.2.1 and 4.2.3, the U.S. National Speed Team and U.S. National Speed World Eligible:

- a) must have obtained eligibility as a World Elite, Recent US Olympic Medalist, or US Olympic Team member; or
- b) must have achieved a minimum benchmark time at:
  - i) the immediately prior National Championship or National Team Trials (including any speed trials that may be arranged by USA Climbing at either event); or
  - ii) a North American Cup Series competition since the most recent National Team Trials;  
or
  - iii) if arranged and sanctioned by USA Climbing, an Elite speed trial event [since the most recent National Team Trials](#),

where such minimum benchmark times are as follows:

Time	Description
9.5	Minimum Benchmark Time for U.S. National Speed Team & World Eligible - Female
6.5	Minimum Benchmark Time for U.S. National Speed Team & World Eligible - Male

For the avoidance of doubt, the U.S. National Speed Team is constituted upon the conclusion of the National Team Trials and a competitor must meet the requirements of Rule 4.2.4 at that time to be a member of the U.S. National Speed Team and so the U.S. National Speed Team may have fewer than five (5) members.

4.2.5 Subject to Team Selection Discretion (Rule 1.6.1), USA Climbing may declare additional athletes to be U.S. National World Eligible in the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.

4.2.6 Subject to Team Selection Discretion (Rule 1.6.1), USA Climbing may declare a set of athletes to be U.S. National World Eligible in Boulder & Lead Combined.



### **4.3 U.S. Youth National Teams**

- 4.3.1 The Lead, Boulder, and Speed U.S. Youth National Teams shall be composed of the three (3) highest ranked U.S. citizen athletes in the respective Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking, and such members will be ordered (ranked) by such National Team Ranking.
- 4.3.2 A current Youth World Champion in a Discipline who achieved the status representing the U.S. in the prior twelve (12) months shall also be a member of the U.S. Youth Nationals Team in the Discipline.
- 4.3.3 The Lead, Boulder, and Speed U.S. Youth National World Eligible shall be U.S. citizen athletes ranked in the top-10 of the respective Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking who are not members of the corresponding Youth National Team, and such members will be ordered (ranked) by such National Team Ranking.

### **4.4 U.S. Collegiate National Teams**

- 4.4.1 The Lead, Boulder, and Speed U.S. Collegiate National Teams shall be composed of the three (3) highest ranked U.S. citizen athletes in the respective Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking, and such members will be ordered (ranked) by such National Team Ranking.
- 4.4.2 The Lead, Boulder, and Speed U.S. Collegiate National World Eligible shall be U.S. citizen athletes ranked in the top-10 of the respective Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking who are not members of the corresponding Collegiate National Team, and such members will be ordered (ranked) by such National Team Ranking.

### **4.5 U.S. Paraclimbing National Teams**

- 4.5.1 The U.S. Paraclimbing National Team, in each IFSC category, shall be composed of the top three (3) U.S. citizen competitors in each category from the Paraclimbing National Championship. For the avoidance of doubt, the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team composition shall be based on the IFSC categories should they differ from those used at USA Climbing competitions.
- 4.5.2 [The U.S. Paraclimbing National World Eligible, in each IFSC category, shall be U.S. citizen athletes ranked in the top-10 of the respective category from the Paraclimbing National Championship who are not members of the corresponding Paraclimbing National Team, and such members will be ordered \(ranked\) by such Paraclimbing National Championship ranking.](#)

## 5 International Competition Registration Process

### 5.1 Registration and Competition Starts – General

- 5.1.1 Competition Starts to IFSC international competitions are extended to U.S. citizen athletes based on multiple factors, including whether the competition is related to qualification for the Olympic Games, the quota of U.S. citizen athletes for the competition, whether byes are allocated for the competition by the IFSC, and when the competition is held during the international season.
- 5.1.2 While members of National Teams are typically the first to be extended Competition Starts to IFSC international competitions, Competition Starts are extended based on quotas which may vary depending on the competition. Being a member of a National Team does not guarantee a Competition Start to an international competition. As quotas are variable, there may be instances where not all members of a National Team are extended Competition Starts for a competition, or where members of a National Team are (or have been) extended Competition Starts and additional U.S. citizen athletes (e.g., National World Eligible) also receive Competition Starts.
- 5.1.3 A member of a USA Climbing National Team or National World Eligible may be required to submit a signed Athlete Agreement in order to obtain support from USA Climbing with respect to an Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and/or Paraclimbing international competition and/or event, provided that the form of Athlete Agreement is on reasonable terms and has been reviewed by the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, USA Climbing's athlete representative on the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council, and the USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete Agreement term or condition may be reasonable even if other terms or conditions that could have been used would have likewise been reasonable. The Athlete Agreement must be signed by the athlete and must also be signed by a parent/guardian if the athlete is under the age of eighteen (18) years. The current Athlete Agreement document is located on the National Team page of [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).
- 5.1.4 An athlete shall be required to have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership (or in the case of a Collegiate athlete competing in the World University Games, a Collegiate Membership) in order to be extended a Competition Start to an international competition, and shall agree to have a valid such Membership at the time of the international competition.
- 5.1.5 Rules 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4 shall be referred to as Series Competition Start Rules.
- 5.1.6 The Competition Start allocation process set forth in Series Competition Start Rules shall apply separately to each applicable Category. For the avoidance of doubt, the process set forth in Rule 5.2 shall apply to both the female and male Categories separately.
- 5.1.7 All Series Competition Start Rules shall be understood as having a first (highest priority) criteria to extend a Competition Start to any U.S. citizen athlete with a bye (pre-qualification) granted by the IFSC in the Discipline for the International Competition, provided the athlete is qualified to compete as a member of the USA Climbing National Federation. Such an athlete shall not be considered in the Series Competition Start Rules for that competition and Discipline.  

Note: The IFSC may currently recognize athletes that attained Youth Pan American Champion status while competing as either a: Junior, Youth A or Youth B competitor. Athletes that achieved this status as a Youth C or Youth D and, subsequently, "age-up" to the Junior, Youth A or Youth B category are not eligible to receive a bye to International Events.
- 5.1.8 Where Competition Starts are issued to members of a National Team, such Competition Starts shall be issued in order of their rank within that National Team.
- 5.1.9 Where Competition Starts are issued to members of a National World Eligible set, such Competition Starts shall be issued in an order as defined by the Series Competition Start Rules.
- 5.1.10 Some portion of the competition's U.S. quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive Competition Starts under these rules.

## 5.2 IFSC World Cup, World Championships, and Pan American Championship Competition Starts

5.2.1 For World Cups, World Championships, or Pan American Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended, up to the US quota, to those not IFSC Pre-Qualified in the Discipline as follows:

- a) for the Lead and Bouldering Disciplines, the first three (3) available quota extended to the highest ranked members of the U.S. National Boulder & Lead Team, in order of their rank within that team; then
- b) the remaining quota extended:
  - i) to members of the U.S. National Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - ii) to the extent that any remain, to the U.S. National World Eligible in the Discipline, in an order and manner as set forth in Rule 5.2.3.

5.2.2 For World Cups, World Championships, or Pan American Championships, Competition Starts in Boulder & Lead shall be extended, up to the US quota, as follows:

- a) for the Lead and Bouldering Disciplines, the first available quota extended to members of the U.S. National Boulder & Lead Team, in order of their rank within that team; then
- b) any remaining quota extended to the U.S. National World Eligible in Boulder & Lead Combined, if constituted as defined in Rule 4.2.6, in an order and manner as set forth in Rule 5.2.3

For the avoidance of doubt, Rule 5.2.2 applies to those events using the Boulder & Lead format and Rule 5.2.1 applies to events not using the Boulder & Lead format where a Boulder & Lead result is determined from the individual Lead and Boulder results.

5.2.3 Where Competition Starts are to be allocated to U.S. National World Eligible, such Competition Starts shall be allocated as follows:

- a) A U.S. National World Eligible athlete shall initially be eligible for one (1) Competition Start during the IFSC season, granted upon becoming U.S. National World Eligible.
- b) A U.S. National World Eligible athlete who achieves a top-30 rank in an IFSC World Cup or World Championship is awarded eligibility for a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Competition Start during that IFSC season.
- c) Among U.S. National World Eligible athletes with remaining eligibility for a Competition Start, Competition Starts shall be allocated in order of National Team Ranking in the Discipline or Boulder & Lead, as relevant, subject to registered interest (Rule 5.5) and competition registration timeline considerations.
- d) Subject to Team Selection Discretion (Rule 1.6.1), USA Climbing may award eligibility for an additional Competition Start during that IFSC season to a U.S. National World Eligible athlete based on exceptional performance.
- e) Subject to Team Selection Discretion (Rule 1.6.1), USA Climbing may award eligibility to a U.S. National World Eligible athlete for a Competition Start at a specific event in the case where otherwise US quota would go unused.
- f) Competition Start eligibility expires at the end of the IFSC season.
- g) Subject to Team Selection Discretion (Rule 1.6.1), USA Climbing may alter the allocation order of Competition Starts to U.S. National World Eligible athletes.

5.2.4 If an athlete possesses a Competition Start in the Lead and/or Bouldering Discipline by way of their membership in the respective Discipline's National Team and later becomes eligible for a Competition Start via their membership in the Boulder & Lead National Team, then their Competition Start(s) shall thenceforth be considered as being granted via the Boulder & Lead National Team criteria, thereby enabling reallocation of relevant Lead and/or Bouldering Competition Start.

### **5.3 IFSC Youth World Championship, Youth Pan American Championship, and World University Championship Competition Starts**

5.3.1 For IFSC Youth World Championships or Youth Pan American Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended as set forth in Rules 5.1, and:

- a) the entire quota extended:
  - A) first, to members of the U.S. Youth National Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team; and
  - B) Next, to members of the U.S. Youth National World Eligible in the Discipline, in order of the relevant National Ranking.

5.3.2 For World University Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Bouldering, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended as set forth in Rules 5.1, and:

- a) the entire quota extended:
  - A) first, to members of the U.S. Collegiate National Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team; and
  - B) Next, to members of the U.S. Collegiate National World Eligible in the Discipline, in order of the relevant National Ranking.

## 5.4 IFSC Paraclimbing World Championship Competition Starts

- 5.4.1 While categories for Paraclimbing athletes in USA Climbing competitions may be different from IFSC categories (see the USA Climbing Rulebook for information on USA Climbing Paraclimbing categories), the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championship Competition Starts shall be based on the IFSC categories.
- 5.4.2 Competition Starts to compete at the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships may be extended to:
- a) members of the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team, [then U.S. Paraclimbing National World Eligible](#), up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota; and
  - b) in addition to (a), where the IFSC grants byes to Champion status competitors to compete in the Paraclimbing World Championships, U.S. citizens that hold such status may also be extended a Competition Start.
- 5.4.3 All categories of visually impaired (B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller, who may call out the route for them in accordance to IFSC Rules. For IFSC World Cup or World Championship competitions, each U.S. Paraclimbing National Team visually impaired competitor is required to provide their own personal caller who is not competitor, is not shared with another competitor, and is not a team official. The competitor's caller must be identified as such in the visually impaired competitor's signed Athlete Agreement with USA Climbing, and the caller must also submit a signed Athlete Agreement. Such a competitor's caller shall then be considered a member of the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team and shall then have access to all competitor-only areas, subject to the rules and/or policies of the competition. In the event either a visually impaired competitor does not provide a named caller or a visually impaired competitor's named caller is not at an IFSC competition, USA Climbing has Sport Discretion (see USA Climbing Rulebook) to make a reasonable attempt to provide a caller, or to not provide a caller.

## 5.5 Acceptances, Deadlines, Accepted Competition Starts Later Declined, Athlete Withdrawal

*Note: Portions of this section are subject to change, though the basic structure is likely to remain the same. To be published no later than 45 days prior to the National Team Trials.*

5.5.1 Registration through USA Climbing is the sole means of expressing interest for (acceptance of) an International Competition Start from USA Climbing. *Missing the deadline for registration may not be appealed.*

5.5.2 The deadline for registering an athlete's interest in a Competition ("Registered Interest Deadline") shall be at 11:59pm MT fourteen (14) days prior to the Competition's registration deadline.

5.5.3 The last date that USA Climbing may swap athletes for a competition's registration ("Athlete Swap End Date") shall be at 11:59pm MT two (2) days prior to the Competition's registration deadline, subject to the following:

- a) For an International Competition that is held in the US, USA Climbing shall impose no Athlete Swap End Date other than that applied by the Competition; and
- b) For an International Competition that is held in Canada or Mexico, the Athlete Swap End Date shall be at 11:59pm MT two (2) days prior to the Competition's deadline for swapping competitors,

where USA Climbing shall impose no Athlete Swap End Date other than that applied by the Competition if the competition includes more than one Discipline and the athlete to be swapped in is already registered for another Discipline at the competition.

5.5.4 For the purposes of facilitating expedient registration of an athlete for the international competition, USA climbing may require that an athlete have particular credentials and/or documentation (e.g., a valid U.S. passport) in order to register their interest in a Competition.

5.5.5 For each International Competition (Competition) for which USA Climbing has an allocated quota, USA Climbing shall publish, on [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org),

- a) The method for registering interest; and
- b) the date(s) and location(s) of the Competition; and
- c) the Discipline(s) that the Competition includes; and
- d) the list, for each Discipline at the Competition, of athletes eligible to register their interest for a Competition Start in that Discipline at the Competition; and
- e) The Registered Interest Deadline; and
- f) The Athlete Swap End Date; and
- g) The credentials and/or documentation required in order to register interest.

By way of example, USA Climbing may publish a table as follows:

Date Location	Discipline Eligible Athlete List	Registered Interest Deadline (11:59pm MT)	Athlete Swap End Date (11:59pm MT)	Required Credentials /Documentation	Current Interest Report
4/15 Meringen	Boulder ( <a href="#">eligibility list</a> )	4/1	4/5	Valid US Passport	<a href="#">Link</a>
5/21 SLC	Boulder ( <a href="#">eligibility list</a> )	4/22	5/4	None	<a href="#">Link</a>

5.5.6 Between the registered interest deadline for a Competition and the registration deadline for that Competition, each available USA Climbing quota shall be allocated as outlined in Rule 5.5.7.

5.5.7 When allocating available USA Climbing quota for an International Competition:

- a) USA Climbing shall publish provisional Competition Starts to eligible athletes who have registered interest in each Discipline at the Competition, in an order and number based on the quota available to USA Climbing and the relevant Competition Start order outlined in this Rulebook; and
- b) During the forty-eight (48) hours after publication, any provisional Competition Starts found to be erroneous (including without limitation those published due to clerical errors) shall be corrected by USA Climbing; and
- c) At a time forty-eight (48) hours after publishing provisional Competition Starts, said provisional Competition Starts (as corrected, if applicable) shall become Competition Starts and USA Climbing will begin the process of registering the invited athletes for the International Competition.

5.5.8 Competition Starts extended by USA Climbing by way of Rule 5.5 are considered accepted unless an athlete declines or deregisters their interest. For the avoidance of doubt, declining a Competition Start to an International Competition is to be considered the same as deregistering interest.

5.5.9 Athletes who have registered their interest in a Competition, but later become unavailable, ineligible, or otherwise unable to accept a Competition Start to the Competition must contact USA Climbing via [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org) immediately in order to deregister their interest.

5.5.10 If an athlete who received a Competition Start to a given Competition withdraws (including without limitation becoming no longer available, eligible, or interested in attending the Competition), their interest is deregistered, the Competition Start is retracted, and USA Climbing will make appropriate updates to the International Competition registration.

5.5.11 Until forty-eight (48) hours prior to the International Competition's registration deadline, each newly available USA Climbing quota (including without limitation those due to the withdrawal of an invited athlete) is allocated as outlined in Rule 5.5.7.

5.5.12 Only for a Competition with multiple disciplines, beginning forty-eight (48) hours prior to the International Competition's registration deadline, any available USA Climbing quota (including without limitation those due to the withdrawal of an invited athlete) shall be allocated as outlined in Rule 5.5.7, subject to the following:

- a) The athlete must already have a Competition Start to another Discipline at that Competition.
- b) The athlete must meet all of the requirements for that quota (Discipline and Competition); however, in the event there are no competitors eligible to receive such Competition Starts, the requirements rule shall be relaxed such that: any top five (5) requirement shall be relaxed to top seven (7); any top ten (10) requirement shall be relaxed to top fifteen (15); and any top twenty (20) requirement shall be relaxed to top thirty (30).
- c) The provisional Competition Start period may be shortened or eliminated, such that the provisional period ends at the time that is the later of: twelve (12) hours prior to the Competition's registration deadline, or the time that the available quota is allocated.

For the avoidance of doubt, this rule allows USA Climbing, at multiple-Discipline competitions, and in the time period after forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Competition's deadline, including where the Competition allows for registration changes after the registration deadline, to fill available USA Climbing quota in a given Discipline only with athletes already registered in a different Discipline. Note that the available USA Climbing quota for any Discipline at the Competition may be more limited after the Competition's registration deadline than before the deadline.

5.5.13 In the event USA Climbing collects a monetary deposit in connection with an athlete's registration of interest, such a deposit is subject to the following:

- a) Upon the athlete receiving a Competition Start, the athlete's deposit shall be converted into a credit (in the same amount as the deposit), and USA Climbing shall apply such credit toward the registration fees for that same International Competition only. For an athlete who competed in the Competition, USA Climbing shall refund any unused credit to that athlete. For any other athlete, USA Climbing has discretion to refund or not refund any unused credit to the athlete, including without limitation the case of a withdrawal.

- b) At the time of the International Competition's registration deadline, each athlete not invited shall be refunded any outstanding deposit for that Competition.
- c) Any athlete deregistering their interest (Rule 5.5.9) prior to the registered interest deadline shall be eligible for a refund of the deposit for that Competition.
- d) Any athlete deregistering their interest (Rule 5.5.9) after to the registered interest deadline shall be eligible for a refund of the deposit for that Competition, provided they do not have a Competition Start (provisional or otherwise) at that time, in which case USA Climbing shall have discretion to refund or not refund the deposit under item (a) in this rule.