

USA Climbing Head Judging Officials Job Descriptions

Overview

This document contains "Job Descriptions" for the Head Judging Officials at USA Climbing Events: Jury President, USAC Judge, and USAC Speed Judge. Please note the following:

- It is based on the USA Climbing Rulebook 2022-2023 – 20221001, but the Rulebook takes precedence in all matters
- The document is meant to provide a convenient reference listing event responsibilities for each Official
- The "Job Descriptions" are written for **national-level competitions**, but most of the items also apply to Divisional and Regional Championships and Qualifying Events
- This document is maintained by the USA Climbing Judges Committee; comments should be emailed to judges@usacimbing.org

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Jury President

The Jury President has overall authority within the Competition Area. The overall authority of the Jury President covers all aspects of the running of a competition. This authority extends to covering the activities of the media and all persons assigned to the competition by the Event Organizer. The Jury President presides over (or delegates) all meetings of USA Climbing Officials and organization and technical meetings with the Event Organizer and competitors and Certified Coaches. The Jury President oversees all aspects of judging the competition and interprets and applies the rules in a fair and consistent manner.

BEFORE COMPETITION:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Ensure you are receiving jurypresident@usacimbing.org emails
- Ensure communication is established with Event Organizer, USAC Judges, Head Belayer, Chief Routesetter(s), Isolation Coordinator, Competitors, EMT, Volunteer Coordinator, Scorekeeper, and Production/Media Staff
- Communicate with EMT about expectations, where to be located, and competitors with accommodations (i.e. Type 1 Diabetes, hearing impaired, severe allergies), if applicable
- Work with USAC staff, production/media, and belayers to create the schedule, making sure to include collective route observation when applicable
- Participate in pre-event meetings
- Check scoring app access and function and discuss scoring procedures with scorekeeper
- Verify and approve Start Lists before deadlines
- Preside over the Technical Meeting
 - Prepare a draft Technical Meeting document and share with the Event Organizer, Chair of the Rules Committee, and Chair of Judges Committee for review at least 5 days before the Technical meeting for national-level competitions
 - In collaboration with the Chief Routesetter, determine which categories will have Safety Hold, which must be announced in the the Technical Meeting
- Brief or delegate briefing of all Climbing Judges on the application of the USA Climbing Rules before the start of a competition
- Assign tasks and delegation of duties to USAC Judges
- Assign the Appeals Jury for each round/category; the Jury should be comprised of the Jury President and a single USAC Judge; the Jury should be selected in manner that avoids conflicts of interest, real or perceived
- Ensure there are printed appeal and incident forms

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FIELD OF PLAY

- Direct placement of cameras for video playback and confirm playback is functional before day of event
- For Isolation Format Boulder competitions, ensure that the timing system is visible to all competitors on the Field of Play and in each Transit Zone; verify that the audio system is working and that the timer is aligned with the category start time
- Review the scoring tool to ensure routes and lanes are correct in software
- Preview all routes and check with Chief Routesetter to anticipate any problems
- Preview all routes and climbing area for any safety concerns, proper starts and demarcation, and adherence to the rules
- Discuss routes with Head Belayer to predict any potential belaying challenges
- Make sure isolation monitors know where/when/who to bring out. Make sure they know transmitting devices are not allowed in isolation and to look out for them.
- Communicate brush breaks to isolation staff and Head Belayer
- Ensure additional appeal chair setup for final boulder
- Inspect the isolation zone to ensure everything is in accordance with rules
- Inspect the secondary Transit Zone (i.e., secondary isolation), which may be used in the case of Technical Incidents
- Work with Event Organizer to determine approach for resupplying water to competitors when incidents cause unexpected gaps between routes/boulders

DURING COMPETITION:

- Oversee athlete meetings
- Answer questions of athletes during route previews
- Responsible for safety during competition
- Open/Close isolation according to the published schedule and ensure all athletes have made it in by the published closing time
- Manage technical incidents, including the slotting of any necessary additional attempts
 - Ensure team understands plan for technical slot insertion
- Review official video for appeals; convene and chair appeals jury
- Inform impacted competitor(s) and coach(s) when their results have changed after an appeal
- Approve each round's results and starting lists
- Issue verbal warnings and Yellow and Red Cards as necessary
- May permit the use of otherwise non-allowed equipment in the isolation zone

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- Manage problems among officials
- Ensure tally sheets have been checked against digital scoring system
- Approve Official Results including advancement

POST COMPETITION:

- Organize a debriefing for USAC Judges and apprentice(s)
- Organize a debriefing with event organizer and other key event officials
- Collect recordings of appeal video playback and submit to Judges Committee if deemed useful for future teaching or seminars
- Submit performance reports on all USAC Judges and apprentices
- Submit Appeal Forms, Final Results, Disciplinary Action Report, and Incident Reports
 - Appeals Forms and Incident Reports are sent to documents@usacimbing.org
 - Send to judges@usacimbing.org any official video for appeals that may be a valuable educational tool
 - Disciplinary Action Reports are sent to john@usacimbing.org

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USAC Judge

The USAC Judge is appointed by USA Climbing to assist the Jury President in undertaking all aspects of judging a competition. Additional USAC Judges may be appointed for a given competition. USA Climbing may also appoint Aspirant USAC Judges who undergo the final, practical phase of their training program by assisting the USAC Judge in their judging duties.

BEFORE CLIMBING:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Attend pre-event meetings if requested
- Assign volunteer judges (Signup Genius) to routes
- Set phone alarm with important times (iso closing, judges' meetings)
- Prepare production notes about semis and finals for athlete meetings
- Identify where medical is and what the EMT's name is. Keep a roll of tape in pocket
- Be aware of competitors with Type 1 Diabetes or other conditions and understand protocol
- Ensure food and beverages are provided for the judging team
- Confirm yellow cards are accessible

FIELD OF PLAY

- Ensure isolation zone has example markings
- Check for start, zone, and top tape in all bouldering rounds
- Check wall and mats for screws and ensure volumes are secured
- Ensure that the number of holds per boulder are according to the rulebook
- Look out for black tape and anticipate movement past it
- Check for downward jumps and blue cross safety holds
- Verify hold numbers on topo maps for lead rounds and ensure there are topos available for route judges and event officials
- Checks the Transit Zone for each boulder in rotation period rounds
- Converse with Chief Routesetter to determine what might be tricky to judge
- Make sure there are brushes on the mat for each boulder; one long-handled brush that reached top of Boulder and one short-handled brush should be available at each boulder
- Make sure judges have electronic devices that are charged, connected to wifi, and logged into the scoring system, clipboard with tally sheet, and pens and are at their route prior to the round starting; verify with Event Organizer the day before the competition that these are set up
- Ensure all judges can access scoring app and know how to correctly record scores

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- Check topo map top scores match scoring app
- Verify that playback system is operating correctly
- Verify isolation zone and call-zone and that monitors know when/where/who to bring out
- Verify secondary isolation zone
- Ensure timing devices are working properly and are synced to tablets
- Ensure roll of athletic tape and bandages are at each Judges station
- Have a climber placeholder placard ready for technicals, scratches, etc.

DURING COMPETITION:

- Ensure all competitors have checked into isolation
- Responsible for announcing the publication of starting and result lists, appeal deadlines, and any important changes to the competition program
- Responsible for safety during competition
- Consult with Head Belayer to replace belayers or other people jeopardizing safety
- Organize and supervise the work of the Climbing Judges
- Help Climbing Judges decide about Control/Use when needed
- Follow first competitor through entire rotation to ensure rest periods are observed and judges are judging correctly
- Instruct competitors to start climbing after 40 second route observation time (Lead/TR in Climb Time format rounds)
- Organize and supervise route observation; answer competitor questions during preview
- Issue verbal warnings and Yellow Cards as necessary and inform the Jury President
- Inform competitors when their attempt is under review in cases where video needs to be consulted to determine the result (ex: use of artificial aid)
- Serve as a member of the Appeals Jury
- Ensure isolation monitor is checking for bibs
- Declare a technical incident, make a slot for affected competitors and inform affected competitors of next steps
- Check the provisional results including advancement after each round; check and approve starting lists for subsequent rounds.
- Keep track of all competitors' scores in finals (get your own tally sheet)

POST COMPETITION:

- Attend debriefing for USAC Judges and apprentice
- Submit reports on event officials, apprentices, and aspirant judges

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Speed Judge

The USAC Speed Judge is appointed by USA Climbing to assist the Jury President and USAC Judge in undertaking all aspects of organizing and judging a Speed competition. USA Climbing may also appoint Aspirant USAC Speed Judges who undergo the final, practical phase of their training program by assisting the USAC Speed Judge in their duties.

BEFORE CLIMBING:

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Assign and brief speed volunteers (Signup Genius)
- Participate in pre-event meetings
- Prepare production notes for athlete meetings
- Identify where medical is and what the EMT's name is
- Be aware of competitors with accommodations (i.e. Type 1 Diabetes, hearing impaired, severe allergies, etc.), and understand protocol
- Work with USAC staff, JP, production, and gym contact to create the schedule
- Announce the publication of starting and result lists, appeals, and any important changes to the Speed competition program
- Communicate with JP to ensure roles are clarified
- Ensure there are printed appeals forms
- Ensure score cards (if applicable) or scoring sheets/brackets are printed, correct, and have clipboards

FIELD OF PLAY

- In day(s) before competition, inspect the Speed wall (see speed wall inspection document); determine if Wall is eligible for national records
- Inspect the starting platform and ensure all necessary markings are in the correct position
- Ensure lane demarcations exist for the staging area and on the speed wall
- Check that starting and timing devices are working properly; determine if 3 decimal places are able to be displayed; determine if back-up devices are available; arrange with USAC staff to have access to back up timing system if available
- Make sure there is someone in the transit zone checking for bibs
- Check with results services and starter prior to commencing each round
- Review procedure with clippers, starter, score recorders, and stager prior to beginning of round; ensure clippers have slings available

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- Confirm placement of cameras for video playback. Confirm the start pad can be seen, including the change of colors at the start tone; confirm the finish pad can be seen (not blocked from view by the climber), and that the entire route can be seen and that playback is functional; if available, delegate video playback tasks during competition to a judge, volunteer, or aspirant judge to handle
- Review the scoring tool/software to ensure routes, starting lists, and functionality of the software
- Preview routes and check with Routesetter/USAC Staff/Gym Staff to correct any problems
- Prepare staging and transition areas using tape, signage, stanchions, etc.
- Make sure Stagers know where/when/who to bring out
- Communicate brush breaks to all officials, starter, stagers, and clippers
- Inspect the warm up area to ensure everything is in accordance with rules and regulations and athletes have adequate space without gym patrons to warm up
- Ensure a routesetter or USAC staff is available and ready during the comp to assist with technical incidents (spinners, timing system malfunctions, blood, etc)

DURING COMP

- Issue verbal warnings and Yellow Cards as necessary and inform the Jury President of any warnings/yellow cards issued
- Serve on Speed Appeals Jury
- Check with results services and starter prior to commencing each run
- Declare a technical incident and inform affected competitors of next steps
- Check the provisional results and advancement after each round. Check and approve starting lists and lanes for subsequent rounds
- Complete or review brackets and lane assignments for finals
- Review official video for appeals
- Observe every speed run for falls, technical incidents; delegate observation of runs when necessary
- Communicate with stagers, starter, production, USAC Staff to manage flow of competition
- Ensure times are correctly entered into scoring system