



USA Climbing Rulebook 2022-2023

# Addendum B

## **USA Climbing Rulebook Addendum**

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*This Rulebook Addendum shall be read in conjunction with USA Climbing Rulebook 2022-2023 and shall remain in effect until a subsequent addendum or 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 Rulebook Addendum is subject to approval by USA Climbing's Chief Executive Officer. In the event of any conflict between USA Climbing's Bylaws and this Rulebook, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control.*

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*Rules Committee: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Rulebook(s) for the organization, as well as keeping current with IFSC standards and practices. The Rules Committee may be reached via e-mail: [rules@usaclimbing.org](mailto:rules@usaclimbing.org).*

## Rulebook Addendum

This USA Climbing Rulebook Addendum (Rulebook Addendum), which replaces all prior Addenda, each in its entirety, is to be read in conjunction with USA Climbing Rulebook 2022-2023 (Rulebook).

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

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

Updated since version 20230227 of Addendum A

- Typo fixed (7.5 intended to be 7.9).
- Glossary definition of Electronic Communication Equipment updated for clarity.
- Rules 7.5.6 and 8.9.2 updated to clarify coaching during Flash format.
- Rule 7.11.2 updated to fix typos.
- Rule 8.9.3 added as 2023 Youth Nationals will be the first use of Boulder Flash format.

## Glossary

**Electronic Communication Equipment** means any device or object capable of data, voice or other communication, regardless of the operational state (e.g., airplane mode) of said device or object, including without limitation: telephones, smart watches, pagers, walkie-talkies, cameras, personal fitness devices, wireless headphones, etc. USA Climbing rules prohibit or restrict the possession or use of Electronic Communication Equipment in some areas. For the avoidance of doubt, equipment that is not capable of wireless communication and is not connected for wired communication is exempt;

### 3 General Rules

#### 3.15 Technical Meeting

3.15.2 The Jury President shall conduct the Technical Meeting, and at their discretion may conduct it as:

- a) an in-person meeting to include only Certified Coaches, that is to be recorded and published; or
- b) an online meeting via a virtual “town hall” service that is to be recorded and published, and where the Event Organizer may arrange for all Certified Coaches to be able to attend in-person; or

c) an in-person meeting:

i) for an Isolation format round, in isolation, after competitor check-in has closed; or

e)ii) otherwise, in an area accessible to all relevant competitors (and coaches) and at a published time prior to the start of the session,

where any Technical Meeting recording is to be published on a relevant page on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website immediately after the meeting.

#### 3.16 Isolation

3.16.10 Animals shall not be allowed in the Isolation Zone. Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), exceptions may be authorized in conjunction with the Jury President.~~The Jury President may authorize exceptions from this rule.~~

## 7 Lead

### 7.4 Onsight and Flash Format Starting Orders and Quotas

- 7.4.3 The quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall each be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the immediately prior completed round as at the point in time when the results for that round have been made official and any appeals sentenced.
- 7.4.4 The starting order within each Starting Group in the Qualification Round shall be determined as follows:
- a) for route A, by random selection; and
  - b) for route B, in the same order as route A:
    - i) if there are two routes, with a stagger of 50%. For example, where the Start List includes twenty (20) or twenty-one (21) competitors, the competitor starting 11th on route A will start 1st on route B; and
    - ii) if there are three routes, with a stagger of 33%; and
  - c) for any route C, in the same order as route A with a stagger of 66%.
  - d) Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), ~~Youth National Championship and Qualification Series~~ competitors may be allocated to similarly sized, non-overlapping Starting Waves, where the competitors in each Starting Wave shall have a starting order as set forth in Rules 7.4.4(a) to (c).

### 7.5 Onsight and Flash Format Competition Procedure

~~a)7.5.6 At Lead/Top Rope Flash Format competitions, “beta” (coaching, advice) shall not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the route (including without limitation “running beta”); however, beta may be given to a competitor before their attempt of a route.~~

### 7.9 Redpoint Formats Competition Procedures

- 7.9.1 At Redpoint Format competitions, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb, subject to the following:
- a) This minimum time requirement may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) in response to a timely request of the Event Organizer.
  - b) At the discretion of the Jury President, the minimum time may be extended, but not shortened.
  - c) Competitors should be given a “five-minute warning” before the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes every competitor still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their scorecards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, competitors must turn in their scorecard. A Head Judging Official, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.
  - d) The deadline for a competitor to check in and not be marked as DNS shall be ninety (90) minutes after the start of the relevant competition session, though the Jury President has discretion to allow later check in if contacted prior to the deadline.

### 7.11 Judging and Scoring

- 7.11.2 Each route shall be judged by at least one (1) Climbing Judge, who shall record for each competitor:

- a) for Climb Time Format competition rounds (and other rounds at the discretion of the Jury President), assisted by a Time-Keeper, the competitor's climbing time to the nearest (lower) second; and
  - b) their achieved score, which shall be either:
    - i) where the competitor has remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt:
      - A) "TOP", where the competitor has either:
        - 1 clipped the final Protection Point on the route when climbing on Lead; or
        - 2 Controlled the hold marked as "TOP" when climbing on Top Rope,in both instances within the allowed Climbing Period; or
      - B) the scoring value on the Topo for the ~~last~~ highest scored hold Controlled or Used by the competitor prior to their:
        - 1 falling; or
        - 2 attempt being terminated; or
    - ii) where the competitor has not remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt, the scoring value on the Topo for the ~~last~~ highest scored hold Controlled by the competitor while in a Legitimate Position,
- and in each case:  
...

## 8 Boulder

### 8.5 Isolation Format Starting Order and Quotas

8.5.3 The quota for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall each be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the immediately previous completed round as at the point in time when the results for that round have been made official and any appeals sentenced.

### 8.9 Flash Format

8.9.2 At Boulder Flash Format competitions, “beta” (coaching, advice) shall not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the boulder (including without limitation “running beta”); however, beta may be given to a competitor before or between attempts of a boulder.

8.9.3 Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), the rules for Boulder Flash format may be updated.

### 8.11 Redpoint Formats Competition Procedures

8.11.1 At Redpoint Format competitions, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb, subject to the following:

- a) This minimum time requirement may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) in response to a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) At the discretion of the Jury President, the minimum time may be extended, but not shortened.
- c) Competitors should be given a “five-minute warning” before the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes every competitor still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their scorecards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, competitors must turn in their scorecard. A Head Judging Official, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.
- d) The deadline for a competitor to check in and not be marked as DNS shall be ninety (90) minutes after the start of the relevant competition session, though the Jury President has discretion to allow later check in if contacted prior to the deadline.



## 9 Speed

The 2023 IFSC Rulebook updated certain Speed rules, to codify existing practices (start lists finalized at the end of the prior round) and, more significantly, to update the relative ranking of competitors who lose in a particular stage of the Final round. Whereas the 2022 IFSC rules (and the first version of the USA Climbing 2022-2023 Rulebook) only use the race times from the Qualification round for certain rankings, the 2023 IFSC rules include all races run in completed rounds/stages so far. The updates affect ranking in the Final round, including: a final (tie-breaking) ranking criteria, the relative ranking of the eight race losers in the stage of 16 and of the four race losers in the stage of 8; as well as a General ranking criteria in the case of an incomplete competition.

As an example, these Addendum rules provide for the ranking of Final round stage of 8 race losers by their fastest (non-practice round) race times from the stage of 8 or earlier stages/rounds in the competition.

### 9.9 Starting Orders – Semi-Final Round

9.9.1 The Semi-Final Round starting order is as follows:

- a) the round Qualifiers (competitors advancing to the Semi-Final Round) are paired and ordered according to their rank from the immediately preceding round as at the point in time when the results for that round have been made official and any appeals sentenced; and
- b) ....

### 9.10 Starting Orders – Final Round

9.10.1 Speed Competitions with multiple rounds, where the Final Round uses a Knockout Format Final Round as required by Rule 9.3.3(a), shall use, for each stage of the Final Round, the starting orders as set out below, which also sets out the lane allocation for each race. If two or more competitors are tied following the immediately preceding round, their starting order in the first stage of the Final Round shall be determined by random selection. The starting order and race pairings for the initial stage will be fixed at the point in time when the results for the immediately prior round have been made official and any appeals sentenced.

### 9.13 Competition Procedure: Final Round

9.13.1 In any race in a Knockout Format Final Round, the winner shall be:

- a) where both competitors record a valid time, the competitor who records the lowest valid time; or
- b) where one competitor is determined to have made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5), the other competitor; or
- c) where both competitors record the same time or neither competitor records a valid time (other than where a False Start has occurred):
  - i) the result of a re-run race between the same competitors; or
  - ii) if both competitors remain tied after the re-run race, determined by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times)~~the competitor with the better ranking from the immediately preceding round~~; or
- d) where any competitor fails to report to the Call Zone when called, the other competitor.

### 9.20 Final and General Ranking

9.20.2 Competitors in a Final Round using the Knockout Format shall be ranked in the Final Round based on their finish in the last stage in which they competed and within each stage in the following order:

- a) first, the race winner(s) in that stage, ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times) in order of their ranking from the immediately preceding round; and
- b) second, the race loser(s) in that stage, ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times) in order of their ranking from the immediately preceding round.

9.20.6 Where any stage in the Final Round is cancelled, the competition will be considered concluded and the General ranking for the competition will be the General ranking after the last completed stage, the race winners in the last completed stage being ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times) based on their respective times (using rankings from the immediately preceding round if necessary to break continuing ties).

## 11 Boulder & Lead

*The Boulder & Lead rules updates in this Addendum reflect the 2023 IFSC rules changes that codify the Boulder & Lead format expected to be used at the 2024 Paris Olympics.*

### 11.1 General

- 11.1.3 The design of each boulder/route will conform to the requirements set out in Sections 7 and 8 with the following amendments:
- Each route shall also be designed with no fewer than ~~forty (40)~~thirty (30) scoring holds.
  - Each boulder shall also be clearly marked to identify two (2) “Zone Holds”, each positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance.

### 11.3 Competition procedure

11.3.4 Where:

- in the Qualification or Semi-Final round, consecutive stages take place on the same day, there should be a minimum time gap of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first stage and the scheduled start of the following stage.
- in the Final round, there should be a minimum time gap of twenty (20) minutes between the time when the last competitor finishes the first stage and the scheduled start of the observation period for the following stage ~~(inclusive of any period of collective observation, or presentation).~~

11.3.5 A presentation of the competitors participating in the Final round should be made prior to the commencement of the first stage in that round.:

- ~~should be made prior to the start of the Boulder stage;~~
- ~~may be made prior to the start of the Lead stage;~~

11.3.6 Each Boulder stage in a competition will be organized as a series of rotations; ~~each equal in duration to the Attempt Period for the stage.~~

- Each competitor participating in the stage:
  - will start their attempts on each boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time; and
  - will attempt each boulder of the relevant course in the prescribed order; and
  - will have a resting period equal to either one (1) or three (3) Attempt Periods in between their attempts on each successive boulder. The selection of the resting period will be announced at the Technical Meeting preceding the competition.
- At the end of the Climbing Period, the competitors who were climbing shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any boulder not yet attempted.
- At the start of each Climbing Period, the competitors who were resting may commence their attempts on the next boulder in succession or having finished the course, leave the Competition Area.
- A Head Judging Official should ensure that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the rotation following their completion of the course.

### 11.4 Observation procedure

11.4.1 Competitors may observe the boulders and routes in each stage from any area open to the public at any time prior to their reporting to the Isolation Zone, excluding any period of time when routes/boulders are being constructed/tested. Following this:

- a) the Boulder stage for the Final round (~~and optionally the Semi-Final round~~) will be preceded by a collective observation period of two (2) minutes per boulder. There will be no separate observation period for the Boulder stage for any other round; and
- b) the Lead stage in each round will be preceded by a collective observation for period of six (6) minutes:  
and in each case:
- c) during any period of collective observation, competitors may:
  - i) touch (only) the Starting Holds on a boulder or the first holds on a route without leaving the ground; and
  - ii) use binoculars to observe the route; and
  - iii) make hand-drawn sketches and notes,
- d) but shall not use any electronic recording equipment; and
- e) at the end of any collective observation period, competitors will return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by a Head Judging Official.

## 11.5 Climbing procedure

**11.5.3** The Attempt Periods within any Boulder stage ~~shall be comprised of~~ will comprise:

- a) for the Qualification and Semi-Final rounds, a fixed Preparation Period of fifteen (15) seconds during which a competitor may prepare for their attempts prior to entering the Field or Play, and a fixed Climbing Period of five (5) minutes; or
- b) for the Final round, a Climbing Period of ~~(or four (4) minutes with no separate Preparation Period, where the stage is preceded by a collective observation period) during which they may make any attempts on a boulder.~~

~~11.5.4~~ and in each case, c Competitors may make unlimited attempts on any boulder within the relevant Climbing Period. ~~e~~ Each boulder must be attempted in its entirety, and competitors must not practice or “work” or use Illegal Aid on any part of a boulder.

## 11.6 Judging and scoring

**11.6.3** Each boulder will score a maximum of twenty-five (25) points, with scoring values (the “**Base Score**”) assigned as follow:

- a) Twenty-five (25) points where the competitor has Controlled the Top Hold (regardless of whether the competitor has Controlled any Zone Hold on the boulder);
- b) ~~ten (10) six (6)~~ points where the competitor has Controlled the second Zone Hold but not the Top Hold (regardless of whether the first Zone Hold has been Controlled on any attempt);
- c) ~~five (5) three (3)~~ points where the competitor has Controlled the first Zone Hold only,

where the score awarded to a competitor will be the relevant Base Score decreased by one-tenth (0.1) for each attempt made prior to the attempt on which the relevant scoring hold was Controlled. For example:

Result	Points	Result	Points	Result	Points
A1 z1 Z1 T1	25.0	A1 z1 Z1 T0	<del>10</del> 6.0	A1 z1 Z0 T0	<del>5</del> 3.0
A4 z1 Z1 T4	24.7	A2 z1 Z2 T0	<del>9</del> 5.9	A2 z1 Z0 T0	<del>5</del> 3.0
A4 z0 Z0 T4	24.7	A4 z1 Z2 T0	<del>9</del> 5.9	A2 z2 Z0 T0	<del>4</del> 2.9
		A4 z2 Z2 T0	<del>9</del> 5.9		

**Table 11-1 Boulder & Lead – Boulder Points Example**

where in this table:

“A” denotes the total number of attempts made by the competitor on a boulder.

“z” denotes the first attempt on which the competitor Controlled the first Zone Hold on the boulder.

“Z” denotes the first attempt on which the competitor Controlled the second Zone Hold on the boulder.

“T” denotes the attempt on which the competitor Controlled the Top Hold on the boulder.

11.6.4 Each route will score a maximum of one-hundred (100) points, with scoring values assigned to holds marked on the route Topo in descending order from the last hold marked on the route as set out in Rule 11.6.6 (*Route Scoring Values*), provided always that:

- a) a score of one-hundred (100) points shall be awarded only where a competitor has both (i) Controlled the scoring hold marked as “TOP” and (ii) clipped the final Protection Point on the route. Where the competitor:
  - i) controls the scoring hold marked as “TOP” but fails to clip the final protection point on the route, the competitor shall be scored ~~with 99.9 points as equal to Using the next lower hold (as described in Rule 11.6.4(b));~~
  - ii) clips the final protection point from a lower scoring hold, the competitor may continue their attempt, but if they do not continue shall not be scored as having achieved “TOP”.
- b) the scoring value for Using a hold (designated by the postfix “+”) will be equal to the scoring value for Controlling the same hold plus a fixed increment of one-tenth (0.1) points.

11.6.5 At any point during a round, a competitor’s score will be the sum of the points awarded to the competitor for each boulder/route on which the competitor has made attempts. Where, pursuant to Rule 11.1.2, a boulder is cancelled during a round, the relevant stage score for each competitor’s boulders will be multiplied by a factor of (4/3).

11.6.6 The route Topo shall assign points as set forth in the following Route Scoring Values table:

<del>Hold relative to Top</del>	<del>Points</del>
<del>0</del>	<del>100</del>
<del>1</del>	<del>95</del>
<del>2</del>	<del>90</del>
<del>3</del>	<del>85</del>
<del>4</del>	<del>80</del>
<del>5</del>	<del>75</del>
<del>6</del>	<del>70</del>
<del>7</del>	<del>65</del>
<del>8</del>	<del>60</del>
<del>9</del>	<del>55</del>
<del>10</del>	<del>50</del>
<del>11</del>	<del>45</del>
<del>12</del>	<del>40</del>
<del>13</del>	<del>35</del>
<del>14</del>	<del>30</del>
<del>15</del>	<del>25</del>
<del>16</del>	<del>23</del>
<del>17</del>	<del>21</del>

48	49
49	47
20	45
24	43
22	41
23	09
24	07
25	05
26	04
27	03
28	02
29	01
>29	00

**Table 11-2 Boulder & Lead – Lead Points Arrangement**

<u>Hold relative to Top</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Hold relative to Top</u>	<u>Points</u>
<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>16</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u>&gt;39</u>	<u>0</u>

**Table 11-2 Boulder & Lead – Lead Points Arrangement**

## 11.7 Ranking in each Stage/Round

- 11.7.1 Where any competitor fails or is ineligible to start ~~either stage of~~ a round in accordance with the relevant provisions of ~~Section 7 (Lead) or 8 (Boulder)~~, the relevant competitor will be marked with the relevant IRM and unranked in that round.
- 11.7.2 Subject to Rule 11.7.1, each competitor participating in a round will be ranked in descending order of the points awarded to the competitor pursuant to Rule 11.6.5, provided that, where any competitors have the same score, the relative ranking of the tied competitors shall be determined by comparing (in order):
- the highest score awarded to the relevant competitors on either stage in the round; and
  - where applicable, their ranking from the preceding round; ~~and/or~~
  - ~~if necessary, any Seeding of the relevant competitors.~~

## 11.9 Technical Incidents and Appeals

*IFSC has indicated that the current Boulder & Lead rules regarding the timing of appeals are likely to change. The updated USA Climbing Boulder & Lead appeal rules set the timing of appeals within each of the Lead and Boulder stages to be as they are for the individual Disciplines. (This update is based on guidance from IFSC regarding the expected direction of IFSC changes.)*

- 11.9.1 Technical Incidents and Appeals in relation to each stage of each round will be managed as set out in Sections 7 (Lead) and 8 (Boulder) with the following amendments:
- ~~removed in respect to the timing of appeals, the provisions of:~~
    - ~~Rule 7.13.6(b) shall apply in respect of the Lead stage in all rounds of competition;~~
    - ~~Rules 8.15.5(a)(ii)(B) and 8.15.5(b) shall apply in respect of the Boulder stage in all rounds of competition;~~
- ~~For the avoidance of doubt:~~
- Once the results for any stage have been made Official and, if relevant, any Appeals determined, the results for that stage will not be capable of subsequent appeal;
  - Upon the completion of each round, the ranking and Ranking Points calculation for that round will be published as the Official Results for the round. Any appeal on the ranking and Ranking Points calculation must be made in writing and:
    - in respect of any Qualification round and/or the Semi-Final round, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
    - in respect of the Final round, immediately following publication of the Official Results.

## 12 Event Rules

### 12.10 Qualification Speed Trial Format and Speed Youth National Championship Eligibility

12.10.3 A Junior, Youth A, or Youth B competitor with at least one time that meets or is faster than their Category's Qualification Speed Benchmark time for the Speed wall height at that Qualification Speed Trial shall be awarded Speed National Championship eligibility for the relevant Competition Series. For the purposes of Youth Speed National Championship eligibility based on benchmark time, any competition race times (not in a practice round) at National level Speed event (e.g., the (Elite) National Championship, National Team Trials, North American Cup Series, and the Collegiate National Championship) will be considered.

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

Note: in the event of a change to the Benchmark time, the relevant Speed National Championship eligibility status for each competitor shall be updated based on the updated Benchmark time.