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TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES UPDATE

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Where Olympic Journeys Begin

INTRO

USA Climbing' priority for the last two IFSC World Cups, the PanAm COQE in Santiago (Pan American Games), and during the Olympic Qualifying Series (OQS) the first six months of 2024 is maximizing the potential for US Olympic qualification. The Team Selection Procedures doc updates are to support and incentivize that primary USA Climbing goal.

ZOOM RECORDING

Recording: [LINKED HERE](#)

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The 2023 NCH Eligibility criteria are somewhat altered from those used for the 2022 NCH. The Collegiate National Team Ranking eligibility is extended to top-6 (from top-3) to match that of Youth National Team Ranking eligibility for NCH. [\(Read section 3.2.3\)](#)

The Lead and Boulder “cross-eligibility” criteria (those achieving eligibility for Boulder being automatically eligible for Lead, and vice-versa) is going to be more limited than for the 2022 NCH eligibility. While 2023 NCH cross-eligibility remains as it was for 2022 NCH, the 2024 (and beyond) NCH cross-eligibility is limited to: **(Read section 3.2.3)**

- Team Pre-select and Recent Team members (and Olympic)
- NCH Eligibility Ranking top-25 (not all top-100 eligible for individual Lead or Boulder)
- Youth and Collegiate top-3 (not all top-6 eligible for individual Lead or Boulder)

NTT Eligibility

2024 NTT eligibility based on NCH performance is now restricted to only those ranked in the top-40 at the 2023 NCH, whereas eligibility at prior NTTs may have extended beyond top-40 if there were more than 60 competitors at the corresponding NCH. [\(Read section 4.2.1\)](#)

NCH & NTT

EVENTS & FORMATS

- National Championships
Single-discipline Format
- National Team Trials
Single-discipline Format

Paraclimbing Team Preselected

Criteria for a Paraclimbing being designated Team Preselected has been established. [\(Read section 7.2.1\)](#)

Registration of Interest

The method and description of the registration of interest and Competition Start allocation process has been updated. [\(Read section 1.5\)](#)

Team Selection Discretion



Team Selection Discretion

Team Selection Discretion has been updated to provide for proposals submitted by the USA Climbing AAC (as well as the USA Climbing High Performance staff as before). The approval and communication processes, as well as the scope, have been updated.

Team Selection Discretion

1.6 General - USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion

- 1.6.1 USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion provides the authority to waive or amend rules in this document, subject to the following:
- a) The USA Climbing High Performance team (or equivalent) or USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee 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 proposal should be communicated to all affected athletes in a timely manner.
 - c) The USA Climbing Team Selection Committee and the USA Climbing CEO must both approve the proposal for the discretion to be granted.
 - d) 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.

Speed Considerations

For the Elite series Speed Discipline, and if USA Climbing quota remains after all National Team and National Development Team athletes are given the opportunity for a competition start, US Citizen athletes who have achieved the Competition Start minimum benchmark time may be awarded a Competition Start. [\(Read section 2.3.4 c\)](#)

Speed Benchmark times for the National Team, Competition Starts and NTT eligibility have been updated. [\(Read section 2.4\)](#)

Speed Considerations

2.4 Elite: Speed Benchmarks

2.4.1 USA Climbing Team Selection Speed Benchmark times are established at the conclusion of the calendar year, using the times achieved that year in the Speed Qualification rounds of IFSC World Cups and, if held that year, the IFSC World Championship.

2.4.2 The Speed Benchmark times to be established as follows:

- a) The National Team Benchmark (NT Benchmark) is determined at the conclusion of the calendar year by:
 - i) for each World Cup (and where relevant, the World Championship) in that calendar year:
 - A) for each competitor with a valid Qualification round time (without a False Start), determining that competitor's fastest valid Qualification round time; and
 - B) determining the competition median value of those fastest Qualification round times in the competition; and then
 - ii) determining the median value among those competition median values.
- b) The Competition Start Benchmark (CS Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.07 (an increase of 7%).
- c) The NTT Eligibility Benchmark (NTT Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.40 (an increase of 40%).
- d) Each Speed Benchmark calculation (median of Qualification times, NT benchmark, CS benchmark, NTT benchmark) is rounded up to two (2) decimal digits (1/100th of a second) before being presented or used further. (e.g., 8.251 rounds up to 8.26)

For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete must achieve benchmark times using their timing-system-displayed time without rounding. (e.g., a race time of 6.201 does not meet a 6.20 benchmark time.)

Speed Considerations

e) Subject the above, the 2024 Speed Benchmark times are (estimated to be):

Benchmark	2024 Women	2024 Men
NT Benchmark	7.87s (est.)	5.63s (est.)
CS Benchmark	8.42s (est.)	6.02s (est.)
NTT Benchmark	11.02s (est.)	7.88s (est.)

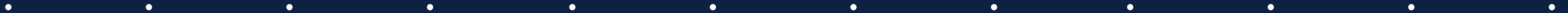
Table 2-13 2024 (estimated) Speed Eligibility Benchmark Times

Note that these Benchmark times are estimates and subject to change once the final Speed World Cup (Wujiang 22-24 Sept) has concluded.



National Team Ranking Points

HOW THEY WORK



National Team Ranking Points

Lead National Team Ranking points		
Lead National Championship Ranking points	Rule 3.4	using table in 2.1.4
+ Lead National Team Trials Ranking points	Rule 4.4	using table in 2.1.4
+ Bonus points	Rule 2.1.5	
= TOTAL points		

Table 2-1 National Team Ranking Points – Lead

Boulder National Team Ranking points		
Boulder National Championship Ranking points	Rule 3.4	using table in 2.1.4
+ Boulder National Team Trials Ranking Points	Rule 4.4	using table in 2.1.4
+ Bonus points	Rule 2.1.5	
= TOTAL points		

Table 2-2 National Team Ranking Points – Boulder

Speed National Team Ranking points		
Speed National Championship Ranking points	Rule 3.4	using table in 2.1.4 or 2.1.3
+ Speed National Team Trials Ranking points	Rule 4.4	using table in 2.1.4 or 2.1.3
+ Bonus points	Rule 2.1.5	
= TOTAL points		

Table 2-3 National Team Ranking Points – Speed

Elite: National Team Ranking Points

2.1.4 The following table is used to determine National Team Ranking points.

National Team Ranking Points											
Rank	NCH	NTT	Rank	NCH	NTT	Rank	NCH	NTT	Rank	NCH	NTT
1	1000	1200	21	145	174	41	14	16	61	4	4
2	805	966	22	130	156	42	13	15	62	4	4
3	690	828	23	120	144	43	12	14	63	4	4
4	610	732	24	105	126	44	11	13	64	3	3
5	545	654	25	95	114	45	11	13	65	3	3
6	495	594	26	84	100	46	10	12	66	3	3
7	455	546	27	73	87	47	9	10	67	3	3
8	415	498	28	63	75	48	9	10	68	3	3
9	380	456	29	56	67	49	8	9	69	2	2
10	350	420	30	48	57	50	8	9	70	2	2
11	325	390	31	42	50	51	7	8	71	2	2
12	300	360	32	37	44	52	7	8	72	2	2
13	280	336	33	33	39	53	7	8	73	2	2
14	260	312	34	30	36	54	6	7	74	2	2
15	240	288	35	27	32	55	6	7	75	1	1
16	220	264	36	24	28	56	6	7	76	1	1
17	205	246	37	21	25	57	5	6	77	1	1
18	185	222	38	19	22	58	5	6	78	1	1
19	170	204	39	17	20	59	5	6	79	1	1
20	155	186	40	15	18	60	4	4	80	1	1

Table 2-5 National Team Ranking Points – Rank Points



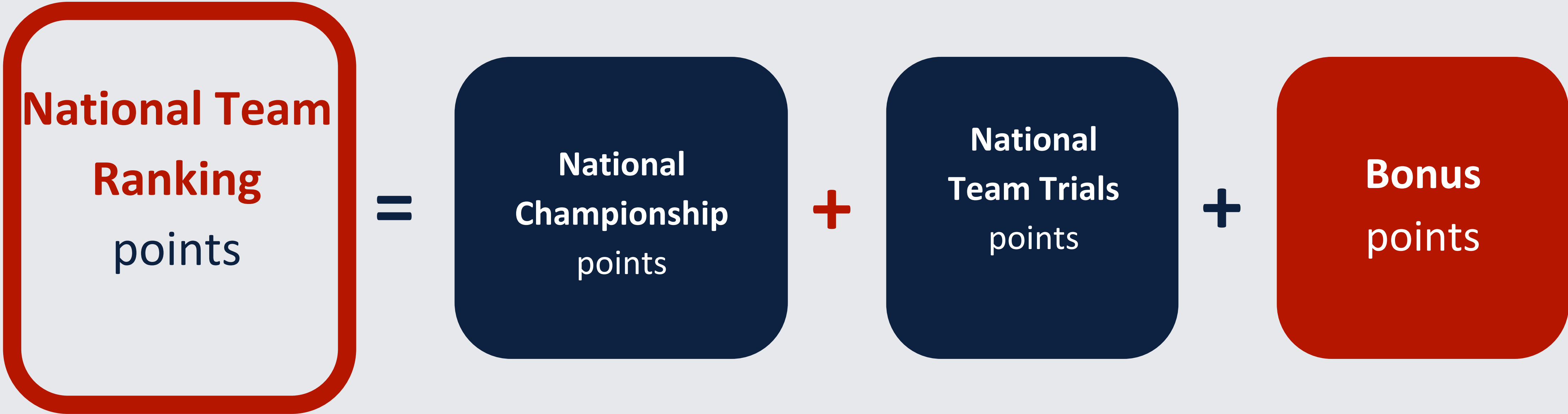
Elite: National Team Ranking Points (Speed Time Rank)

2.1.3 For the Speed Discipline, National Team Time Rank points, as set forth in 1.4.4, are:

Resolved Time Rank	National Team Time Rank Points		Note: where these points fall as compared to the table in Rule 2.1.4
	NCH	NTT	
1 st	820	990	(between 1 st and 2 nd in competition rank)
2 nd	810	980	(between 1 st and 2 nd in competition rank)
3 rd	700	850	(between 2 nd and 3 rd in competition rank)
4 th or lower	0	0	

Table 2-4 National Team Ranking Points – Time Rank Points

National Team Ranking Points



CUWR Bonus Points

Same as before. See 2.1.5(a)

2.1.5 National Team Ranking Bonus points are as follows:

- a) At the conclusion of the National Championship, IFSC CUWR Top-40 National Team Ranking Bonus points are awarded in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, where their points are determined from their CUWR top-40 rank in the Discipline using the table below:

National Team Ranking Bonus – CUWR Top-40							
CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts
1	1000	11	392	21	230	31	137
2	824	12	370	22	217	32	133
3	721	13	352	23	208	33	129
4	649	14	334	24	194	34	127
5	590	15	316	25	185	35	124
6	545	16	298	26	175	36	121
7	509	17	284	27	165	37	118
8	473	18	266	28	156	38	117
9	442	19	253	29	150	39	115
10	415	20	239	30	143	40	113

Table 2-6 National Team Ranking Points – Bonus Points – CUWR Top-40

Olympic Pathway Bonus Points

USA Climbing has established National Team Ranking Bonus points and NTT eligibility for athletes who qualify for the Continental Olympic Qualification Event (COQE) and/or the OQS, in lieu of such athletes competing at the NCH event. Such consideration is towards USA Climbing's goal of maximizing the opportunity and probability of filling the US Olympic quota. [\(Read section 2.1.5 b\)](#)

Olympic Pathway Bonus Points

b) Olympic Qualification Process National Team Ranking Bonus points are awarded to select athletes who do not compete at the 2023 NCH, as follows.

National Team Ranking Bonus – Olympic Qual Process									
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	1000	11	325	21	145	31	42	41	14
2	805	12	300	22	130	32	37	42	13
3	690	13	280	23	120	33	33	43	12
4	610	14	260	24	105	34	30	44	11
5	545	15	240	25	95	35	27	45	11
6	495	16	220	26	84	36	24	46	10
7	455	17	205	27	73	37	21	47	9
8	415	18	185	28	63	38	19	48	9
9	380	19	170	29	56	39	17	49	8
10	350	20	155	30	48	40	15	50	8

Table 2-7 National Team Ranking Points – Bonus Points – Olympic Qual Process

Olympic Pathway Bonus Points

iv) At the conclusion of the COQE, athletes who competed at COQE and did not compete at NCH

are awarded Ranking Bonus points that are the sum of four-hundred (400) points plus sixty percent (60%) of the points in Table 2-7 above using their COQE rank.

A) Speed Ranking Bonus points use the Speed COQE rank.

B) Lead and Boulder Ranking Bonus points use the Boulder & Lead COQE rank.

For the avoidance of doubt, the purpose of these bonus points is to incentivize focus on the COQE by the athletes eligible to compete there. That event is part of the Olympic qualification pathway; even if the US Olympic quota of two (2) is filled at WCH, representation at the PanAm Games by top athletes is of high importance to USA Climbing.

In 2023, the NCH is less than two (2) weeks before the COQE, and USA Climbing desires to incentivize the relevant athletes to prepare for the COQE without the distraction of the NCH's place in the pathway to 2024 World Cup Competition Starts. In effect, these bonus points provide a means for relevant athletes to treat the COQE as a substitute for NCH – depending on the results of the remainder of 2023, such athletes would still be able to attend the NTT with some measure of NTR points.

Olympic Pathway Bonus Points

- v) At the conclusion of the COQE, and only if US Olympic NF quota was not filled upon the conclusion of the WCH, athletes who did not compete at COQE and did not compete at NCH,
if they are among one of the top four (4) ranked US athletes within the set of:

- A) for Lead and Boulder, the top forty-eight (48) ranked world athletes in the Boulder & Lead CUWR not (yet) qualified for the Olympics; or
B) for Speed, the top thirty-two (32) ranked world athletes in the Speed CUWR not (yet) qualified for the Olympics,

are awarded four-hundred fifty (450) Ranking Bonus points.

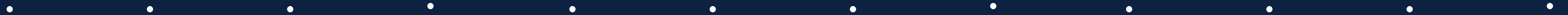
For the avoidance of doubt, the purpose of these points is to incentivize an athlete who, after NCH, is a reasonable likely candidate for OQS but is not eligible for COQE, to focus on the remaining WCs during the four weeks before NCH. This incentive:

- Recognizes that COQE NF quota is 3 while OQS quota is 4.
- Is not present in the case of the US filling Olympic quota at WCH (if the US does fill Olympic quota at WCH, an athlete has time to prepare for the NCH).
- Is only available to those within the nominal range of CUWR ranking that are assured of OQS eligibility, subject to NF eligibility.
- Is only available to up to one athlete per Discipline.

National Team

National Development Team

Competition Starts



National Team, National Development Team, and Competition Starts

Elite Competition Starts are subject to having the first allocated competition start for each event being subject to Team Selection Discretion. This can result in an athlete who is not on the relevant National Team receiving a competition start ahead of an athlete who is on the National Team. [\(Read section 2.3.3\)](#)

For the 2024 World Cup season, Competition Start allocation will prioritize Olympic Team members, both before and after the Olympics. Athletes who have qualified for the Olympic Qualification Series (OQS) will have priority until the end of the OQS. [\(Read section 2.2.1 c, and then 2.3\)](#)

National Team, National Development Team, and Competition Starts

This is accomplished by naming all OQS competitors to the National Team until the end of the OQS. At that time, those otherwise qualified for the National Team will remain on the National Team, but other OQS competitors will move from the National Team to the National Development Team. All athletes on the National Development Team are subject to Competition Start priority/order based on Team Selection Discretion based on a proposal from USA Climbing High Performance staff or AAC.

National Team, National Development Team, and Competition Starts

2.2 Elite: National Team & National Development Team Selection

Notes: Because the IFSC quota allocated to the US may be fewer than the number of National Team members, not all National Team members are guaranteed a Competition Start.

The National Team may include Preselected plus the top "N" from National Team Rankings (NTR).

c) 2024: In each of the **Lead** and **Boulder** Disciplines:

	Type	Criterion
National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible (i.e., have a "bye" by being CUWR top-10) in the Discipline.
		Olympic Team members in Boulder & Lead
	OQS-selected	Prior to the conclusion of the OQS: those qualified and eligible for the OQS in Boulder & Lead
National Development Team	NTR Selected	The top two (2) ranked athletes in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected at the time that the OQS eligibility is finalized.
	OQS-selected	After the conclusion of the OQS: those who were qualified and eligible for the OQS in Boulder & Lead and no longer meeting the requirements of National Team.
	NTR Selected	Athletes ranked third (3 rd) through tenth (10 th) in the Discipline National Team Ranking and not on the National Team.

Table 2-10 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Lead and Boulder



National Team, National Development Team, and Competition Starts

d) 2024: In the **Speed** Discipline:

	Type	Criterion
National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are IFSC Name-Eligible (i.e., have a “bye” by being CUWR top-10) in the Speed Discipline.
		Olympic Team members in Speed
	OQS-selected	Prior to the conclusion of the OQS: those qualified and eligible for the OQS in Speed
	NTR Selected	The top two (2) ranked athletes in the Speed National Team Ranking who have achieved the NT Benchmark time (see Rule 2.4), among those not Preselected at the time that the OQS eligibility is finalized.
National Development Team	OQS-selected	After the conclusion of the OQS: those who were qualified and eligible for the OQS in Speed and no longer meeting the requirements of National Team.
	NTR Selected	Athletes ranked third (3 rd) through tenth (10 th) in the Speed National Team Ranking and not on the National Team.

Table 2-11 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Speed

Olympic Pathway Bonus Points

Q: Does an athlete get to choose between Olympic Pathway bonus points and NCH points?

A: No, if an athlete participates at the NCH, they are not eligible for the Olympic Pathway bonus points. (However, they would still be eligible for CUWR bonus points, just like last year)

Q: How were the bonus point values chosen?

A: USA Climbing believes that the athletes receiving these points would stand a reasonable chance of a high ranking at NCH, and the purpose of the bonus points is to incentivize select athletes to focus on the Olympic qualification pathway. The attempt to align such interests is clearly not precise given the dynamic nature of the sport and the differences from event to event, but represents USA Climbing's attempt to be fair to all.

Q: Does this mean that the NCH+NTT pathway for "team" may not result in any Competition starts?

A: Competition Starts for WCs held prior to the end of the OQS will prioritize Preselected and OQS selected athletes. As such, the top 2 National Team Ranking athletes on the National Team may have limited access to Competition Starts during this time.

US Projected IFSC Quota for 2024 as determined by the IFSC policy:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| - Boulder Men (5) | Lead Men (5) | Speed Men (5) |
| - Boulder Women (3) | Lead Women (5) | Speed Women (4) |

Questions?

For more information, contact John Muse

john@usaclimbing.org