

# USA Climbing Policy – Climbing Teams

USA Climbing does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or national origin.

USA Climbing believes that every athlete should be allowed to compete in a respectful, safe and harassment-free environment. USA Climbing also believes that every athlete should be allowed to participate in fair competition in accordance with USA Climbing's rules, policies, and mission.



## Purpose & Scope:

USA Climbing recognizes and appreciates the important role that Climbing Teams and their coaches play in the development of competition climbing in the US.

USA Climbing's Climbing Teams Policy ("this Policy") sets forth the requirements, process, and timelines regarding Climbing Teams.

## Policy:

Any questions regarding this Policy may be directed to USA Climbing at [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org).

### 1 Youth Climbing Teams

1.1 A USA Climbing Youth Climbing Team, for purposes of Team Championships at USA Climbing events, shall consist of USA Climbing members who compete and train together under the guidance and direction of a single USA Climbing head coach. Youth Climbing Team members may have their results counted toward Team Championships at a Championship competition, subject to the following:

- a) A valid team roster must be maintained as set forth in Section 3.1 by a USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach affiliated with the team.
- b) All Youth Climbing Team members must meet the requirements set forth in Section 1.2.
- c) A Youth Climbing Team should have a USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach at the time of each USA Climbing event.

1.2 All team members of a given Youth Climbing Team must:

- a) have an active USA Climbing Competitor membership; and
- b) remain in good standing with their coach, team policies, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing; and
- c) have the same Youth Membership Region (effectively, the team's Youth Membership Region); and
- d) train as a team regularly, where:
  - i) "train as a team" means all team members training in person under the guidance (directly or indirectly) of a single head coach:
    - A) at a single location (even if at different times); or
    - B) at several (e.g., rotating) locations together as a group for the training session(s),
  - ii) "regularly" means at least three (3) days of training together every two (2) weeks during the six (6) week period ending the Monday before the relevant competition; and
- e) represent the team at the Championship competitions held during the period that the athlete is on the roster, including wearing the team uniform at all Championship competitions.

Team members should represent the team at non-Championship competitions held during the period that the athlete is on the roster, including wearing the team uniform.

1.3 All Youth Climbing Team roster competitors will be removed from their respective Youth Climbing Team rosters between the Youth National Championship and the beginning of the following competition year.

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- 1.4 An athlete may be on only one Youth Climbing Team's roster at a time, and this Youth Climbing Team roster applies to all Disciplines.
- USA Climbing recognizes that some competitors may be part of different teams for some Disciplines and is investigating allowing per-Discipline Youth Climbing Team roster membership. However, at this time, such per-Discipline Youth Climbing Team roster membership is not supported nor allowed.
- 1.5 Further information regarding Youth Climbing Teams is available in the Coaches section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website or at [coaching@usaclimbing.org](mailto:coaching@usaclimbing.org).

### 2 Collegiate Climbing Teams

- 2.1 A USA Climbing Collegiate Climbing Team, for purposes of Team Championships at USA Climbing events, shall consist of undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at the same university or college. Collegiate Climbing Team members may have their results counted towards Team Championships at a Championship competition, subject to the following:
- a) A valid team roster must be maintained as set forth in Section 4.1 by either a USA Climbing Collegiate Member, Collegiate Recreational Member, or Level 2 Certified Coach. This individual must be affiliated with the team.
  - b) All Collegiate Climbing Team members must meet the requirements set forth in Section 2.2.
  - c) The university or college must recognize the team.
- 2.2 All team members of a given Collegiate Climbing Team must:
- a) have an active USA Climbing membership; and
  - b) remain in good standing with their coach, team policies, universities/colleges, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing; and
  - c) have the same Collegiate Membership Division (effectively, the team's Collegiate Membership Division); and
  - d) regularly train together; and
  - e) be enrolled at the same university or college, and
  - f) represent the team at the Championship competitions held during the period that the athlete is on the roster, including wearing the team uniform at all Championship competitions.
- Team members should represent the team at the non-Championship competitions held during the period that the athlete is on the roster, including wearing the team uniform.
- 2.3 All Collegiate Climbing Team roster competitors will be removed from their respective Collegiate Climbing Team rosters between the Collegiate National Championship and the beginning of the following competition year.

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## Procedures:

### 3 Youth Climbing Team Rosters

- 3.1 A USA Climbing Youth Team official roster of eligible team members (“team roster”) must be maintained as outlined in the Coaches section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- A USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coach (as set forth in Section 1.1) must login to USA Climbing’s Climbing Team platform to update a team roster; adding and/or removing competitors and/or coaches.
  - The deadline for team roster updates for a given Championship event is 12:00pm (noon) MT the Monday before the start of the event, unless USA Climbing publishes otherwise. Updates to the team roster may be disabled upon the deadline; in any case, updates after that deadline will not apply to the event.
  - The team roster may change between events. (Note that the “train as a team regularly” requirements of Section 1.2 effectively prevent a competitor from moving from one team roster to another during the six (6) weeks after a Championship competition.)
  - The team roster must include only athletes who are eligible members of the team.
  - The team roster may include competitors who are not competing in the next upcoming event.
- 3.2 In the event an athlete wishes to join a team having been on another team’s roster during the season, USA Climbing must be notified in order to review the request, approve (or disapprove) it, and make the appropriate adjustments. Any and all team designations or affiliations must be submitted and approved, following the instructions on the Coaches section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- USA Climbing has the discretion to grant a waiver to the six (6) week requirement in Section 1.2 in response to a written request by an athlete describing the justification for the team change (e.g., a change in permanent residence) and stating the athlete’s intention to train regularly with the team. USA Climbing should respond with a grant of the waiver or a denial of the waiver within fourteen (14) days.

### 4 Collegiate Climbing Team Rosters

- 4.1 A USA Climbing Collegiate Team official roster of eligible team members (“team roster”) must be maintained as outlined in the Collegiate section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- A USA Climbing Collegiate Member, Collegiate Recreational Member, or Level 2 Certified Coach (as set forth in Section 2.1) must login to USA Climbing’s Climbing Team platform to update a team roster; adding and/or removing competitors and/or coaches.
  - The deadline for team roster updates for a given Championship event is the 12:00pm (noon) MT the Monday before the start of the event, unless USA Climbing publishes otherwise. Updates to the team roster may be disabled upon the deadline; in any case, updates after that deadline will not apply to the event.
  - The team roster may change between Championship events; it must meet the deadline for each event.
  - The team roster must include only athletes who are eligible members of the team.
  - The team roster may include competitors who are not competing in the next upcoming event.

A Level 2 Certified Coach wishing to be affiliated with a Collegiate Climbing Team can contact [collegiate@usaclimbing.org](mailto:collegiate@usaclimbing.org) for assistance.

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## Review/Complaint Processes:

*Note: the term “appeal” used in The Policy is distinct from the term Appeal defined in the USA Climbing Rulebook for challenges to field-of-play decisions.*

### 5 Grievances/Appeals - General

- 5.1 The [USA Climbing Grievance Policy](#), as administered by the USA Climbing Judicial Committee, sets forth several kinds of grievances/appeals that may be filed with USA Climbing. A USA Climbing member may submit a grievance/appeal by way of the Grievance Policy if, for example, they believe USA Climbing has not adhered to USA Climbing Bylaws, Rules, and Policies.

## External References:

- [USA Climbing Rulebook](#)
- [USA Climbing Policies](#)
  - [USA Climbing Judicial Complaint Policy](#)

## Terminology:

See the USA Climbing Rulebook Glossary.

## Approvals / Dates:

<b>Approved</b>	USA Climbing CEO 2023-09-23
<b>Effective</b>	2023-09-23
<b>Review</b>	yearly

## Revision History:

<b>Date/Version</b>	<b>Changes</b>
20230923	Initial version