

# USA Climbing Policy – Membership

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:

The USA Climbing Membership Policy (“this Policy”) sets forth the requirements, process, and timelines regarding USA Climbing memberships.

This Policy addresses USA Climbing membership types as well as the requirements for USA Climbing Coach Certification, Collegiate Series membership, and Region/Division selection for Youth and Collegiate Series athletes.

## Policy:

All participants at a USA Climbing event, including competitors, coaches, routesetters, staff, volunteers, and aides, must have a USA Climbing membership.

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

### 1 Membership – General

1.1 USA Climbing has multiple membership categories as outlined in USA Climbing's Bylaws. Members may register for membership in more than one category, subject to eligibility, and in some cases may be required to register in more than one category. Membership in multiple categories is subject to the limitations on Athlete voting rights set forth in the Bylaws.

The list of USA Climbing Memberships may be found on the [Memberships](#) page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

1.2 Additional information regarding USA Climbing Memberships, including purchasing and other information, may be found on the [Memberships](#) page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website. Memberships are valid for twelve (12) months from the date of purchase and are processed online at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).

1.3 Membership purchases are non-refundable.

### 2 Responsibilities

2.1 In addition to the requirements set forth in the USA Climbing Rulebook and the USA Climbing Bylaws, Members must acknowledge and adhere to all requirements applicable to their membership(s) set forth in USA Climbing's other codes, rules, and policies, and in the applicable codes, rules, and policies of any third parties referenced therein. Memberships may be revoked for, among other things, failure to meet such requirements (e.g., failing a background check, a Code of Conduct violation, etc.), a violation of USA Climbing's Athlete Safety Policies, or to effect a final decision of the United States Center for SafeSport, subject to USA Climbing's Bylaws.

### 3 Participation

3.1 Athletes must hold an active Competitor, Collegiate, Paraclimbing or Collegiate Recreational Membership to compete in a USA Climbing Sanctioned Event. (See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy.)

### 4 Coach Membership and Certification

4.1 USA Climbing Coach Certification is subject to review by USA Climbing, and revocation is subject to the USA Climbing's Bylaws.

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- 4.2 A coach must meet both membership and qualification requirements to be considered for recognition as a USA Climbing Certified Coach.
- 4.3 To qualify for an active USA Climbing Level 1 Coach Certification, a coach must have a USA Climbing Level 1 Coach Membership and meet the following qualification requirements:
- a) submit verification of their coaching role in the form of either a letter from the coach's employer stating that the coach is employed as a coach or a personal letter and curriculum vitae documenting their coaching experience, accompanied by references; and
  - b) authorize USA Climbing to conduct a criminal background check (via the coach's USA Climbing account), respond timely to any requests from the background check vendor for additional information, and successfully complete that background screening; and
  - c) complete all required SafeSport training, which is accessed through their USA Climbing account. If the coach has completed SafeSport training outside their USA Climbing account, they must reach out to [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org) for further assistance.
- Refer to USA Climbing's SafeSport Screening and Background Check Policy for details.
- 4.4 To qualify for an active USA Climbing Level 2 Coach Certification, a coach must have a USA Climbing Level 2 Coach Membership and meet the following qualification requirements:
- a) fulfill all USA Climbing Level 1 Coach Certification qualification requirements; and
  - b) submit documentation evidencing current First Aid and CPR certification.
- 4.5 For the avoidance of doubt, a USA Climbing Coach Certification immediately becomes inactive when any qualification requirement (e.g., criminal background check, SafeSport training, or First Aid and CPR certification) expires or otherwise lapses or is cancelled.
- 4.6 Certified Coach Rights at a competition are subject to the following:
- a) The right to enter a Coaches-only area is limited to coaches holding an active USA Climbing Level 1 or Level 2 Coach Certification.
  - b) The right to file an appeal on behalf of an athlete is limited to coaches holding an active USA Climbing Level 1 or Level 2 Coach Certification.
  - c) The right to enter the Isolation Zone is limited to coaches holding an active USA Climbing Level 2 Coach Certification.
- 4.7 A Summary Chart is shown below:

		Level 1 Coach	Level 2 Coach
<b>Certified Coach Requirements</b>	Active Membership Type	Level 1 Coach Membership	Level 2 Coach Membership
	Coaching Role Verification	Required	Required
	Background Check	Required	Required
	SafeSport	Required	Required
	First Aid and CPR	Not Required	Required
<b>Certified Coach Rights</b>	Coach Area Access	Yes	Yes
	File Appeals	Yes	Yes
	Enter Isolation	No	Yes

Table 0-1 USA Climbing Certified Coach Requirements & Rights

- 4.8 To be eligible for the Certified Coach Rights at a Championship or National competition:
- a) the relevant membership, authorization, training, certification, and documentation must be completed and submitted at least fourteen (14) days prior to the start of the competition to avoid a late fee; and
  - b) otherwise, such items completed and submitted by 12:00pm (noon) MT the day prior to the start of the competition may require a \$50 late fee.

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- 4.9 For the avoidance of doubt, to be eligible for the Certified Coach Rights at any competition, all relevant membership, authorization, training, certification, and documentation must be completed and submitted.
- 4.10 The submission of any required coach certification information or authorization less than fourteen (14) days prior to the start of a competition is subject to the best efforts of USA Climbing and its relevant subcontractors and may not result in certification in time for the start of the competition.
- 4.11 An individual is not eligible for Certified Coach Rights unless they meet all requirements set forth in this Policy. For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, a criminal background check that is in process and not yet successfully completed does not meet such requirements.
- 4.12 Refer to the Coaches section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website for instructions on submitting documentation and for any additional information on coach membership and certification requirements and deadlines.

### 5 Youth Membership Regions and Divisions

- 5.1 When registering for a USA Climbing Membership, Youth athletes shall select a Youth Membership Region as follows:
  - a) The athlete shall select their Youth Region based on either the location of their primary residence, primary climbing gym, or their team's primary climbing gym, where:
    - i) if an athlete is affiliated with a team, their Youth Region shall be either the location of their primary residence or the location of their team's primary gym; or
    - ii) if an athlete is not affiliated with a team, their Youth Region shall be either the location of their primary residence or the location of the athlete's primary gym.
  - b) If either relevant location (but not both) is outside of the US, the athlete's Youth Region shall be the relevant location inside the US.
  - c) If both relevant locations are outside of the US (e.g., living and training in Canada), the athlete's Youth Region shall be: if the competitor is a US Citizen, the one closest in distance to their primary residence; otherwise, the Youth Region of their choice.

Note: USA Climbing recommends that athletes affiliated with a team consult with their coach about the selection of a Youth Membership Region.

- 5.2 An athlete's Youth Membership Division is the Division that contains their Youth Membership Region.
- 5.3 In the case of a change to an athlete's primary residence, team affiliation, or primary climbing gym, the athlete may request a change of their Membership Region during the season by submitting a request to [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org). USA Climbing should respond in a timely manner to either grant or deny such a request. Any update to an athlete's Membership Region is subject to at least the following:
  - a) A Youth athlete's Membership Region shall not be changed during a period that begins two (2) weeks before the registration deadline for a Regional Championship and ends the Monday after the following Divisional Championship in that same Discipline.
  - b) Unless the Membership Region change request is due to a change in the geographic location of the athlete's primary residence, their Membership Region shall not be changed to a region that was their Membership Region at any time during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months.

For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete may compete in the Regional and Divisional Championships of one Youth Region for a first Discipline and compete in the Regional and Divisional Championships of a different Youth Region for a second Discipline. If the athlete is eligible to compete in the National Championships for both Disciplines, the registration quota for each Discipline will respect the athlete's Youth Region at the time of that Discipline's Divisional Championships. That is, such an athlete may register for the National Championships as an athlete of one Youth Region for a first Discipline, and as an athlete of a different Youth Region for a second Discipline, though they are a member of only one Youth

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Climbing Team at a time.

- 5.4 In the event that:
- USA Climbing grants an athlete's Membership Region change request due to a change in the geographic location of their primary residence; and
  - the athlete's Membership Division changes; and
  - the athlete has Qualification Series competition results in the Discipline of the upcoming Youth Regional Championships in the Youth Region from which they changed,
- then USA Climbing shall make the Qualification Series competition results from their previous Youth Region provisionally available to the athlete for use in their new Youth Region, subject to the Rulebook rules regarding being extra-qualified for the Youth Regional Championships.

## 6 Collegiate Membership Eligibility

- 6.1 To be eligible for a Collegiate Membership, an athlete must be an undergraduate or graduate student with a high school diploma or equivalent and enrolled at a university or college during the Collegiate season. An athlete who may be graduating during the Collegiate season, participating in an internship, travel or work-study program during a portion of the Collegiate season, or who otherwise may not be enrolled full-time but can demonstrate they have had or will have Collegiate student status during all or part of the Collegiate season shall be eligible to compete during the entire Collegiate season.
- 6.2 An active Collegiate Membership requires an athlete to:
- purchase a USA Climbing Collegiate Membership; and
  - confirm Collegiate student status by uploading proof of enrollment within the USA Climbing registration process for approval by USA Climbing staff; and
  - complete all required SafeSport training, which is accessed through their USA Climbing account. If the athlete has completed SafeSport training outside their USA Climbing account, the SafeSport completion certificate must be submitted to [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org) for manual addition to the athlete's account.
- 6.3 The submission of necessary items for an active Collegiate Membership or Collegiate Recreational Membership less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of the competition is subject to the best efforts of USA Climbing and may not result in activation of the membership in time for the start of the competition. For the avoidance of doubt, a purchased but not yet active Collegiate Membership or Collegiate Recreational Membership does not meet the requirements for registration for a Collegiate series competition.
- 6.4 Refer to the Collegiate section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website for instructions on submitting documentation and for any additional information on Collegiate membership and proof of enrollment requirements and deadlines.

## 7 Collegiate Membership Divisions

- 7.1 When registering for a USA Climbing Collegiate Membership, athletes shall select a Collegiate Membership Division that corresponds to the geographic location of their university or college or, in the case of an online university or college, their primary residence.
- 7.2 Collegiate athlete may change their Collegiate Membership Division upon permanently transferring from one university or college to another, provided they have submitted documentation of such a university or college transfer, along with a request to change their Collegiate Membership Division. Refer to the Collegiate section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website for instructions on submitting the above documentation.
- 7.3 Collegiate athletes may request a temporary change of their Collegiate Membership Division based on an educational program that results in temporary residency away from their university or college location. USA Climbing may, in its discretion, grant the request provided that the athlete:

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- a) is participating in a temporary educational program related to their studies (such as a co-op, internship, semester abroad or at another college or university) or has a hardship requiring them to temporarily live away from campus and complete regular coursework offered online by the college or university; and
- b) has submitted documentation from their college/university outlining the temporary educational program or hardship and the location and duration of the educational program, along with a request to change their Collegiate Membership Division for said duration. Refer to the Collegiate section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website for instructions on submitting the above documentation.

## Procedures:

### 8 Membership Registration

- 8.1 An individual may register for a USA Climbing Membership at the [USA Climbing Membership webpage](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
  - a) An individual registering for a USA Climbing Collegiate Membership (including Collegiate Recreational Membership) must confirm their Collegiate student status by uploading proof of enrollment within the USA Climbing registration process for approval by USA Climbing staff.

### 9 Coach Documentation Submission

- 9.1 A coach must submit requirement documentation via their membership profile on the USA Climbing Membership platform. This profile is accessed via the “Login” button on the [USA Climbing Membership webpage](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## Review/Complaint Processes:

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

### 10 Grievances/Appeals - General

- 10.1 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](#)
  - [USA Climbing SafeSport and related policies](#)

## Terminology:

See the USA Climbing Rulebook Glossary.

# USA Climbing Policy – Membership

## 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