



**USA
CLIMBING**

Nov 1, 2023

To all current and aspirant USA Climbing Routesetters,

The Routesetting Committee in partnership with the National Routesetting Director has drafted this letter to provide clarity on upcoming changes to the program requirements.

The committee has reviewed the Routesetting Certification System and made changes that will be effective at the start of the 2024 season. These changes were brought on by a number of factors including but not limited to:

- Speed of progression through the system resulting in a lack of experience at higher level events
- Bottlenecks in the certification progression process

Some of the changes include:

- Increased requirements to move from one level to the next
 - Number of events at L3, L4, and L5
- Restructure of process from L2 to L3
 - Still 2 internships, different order and outcome with endorsements
- Restructure of process from L3 to L4
 - 3 apprenticeships (previously 2)
- Clarifying expectations of climbing abilities at each level
- Addition of prerequisites that must be met prior to application

These changes and the requirements set forth to progress are intended to create better, more experienced setters, and are not intended to limit progression. The Committee believes that by creating more experienced setters at all levels, event quality and consistency will increase.

The new requirements were developed through analysis of previous applicants resumes who excelled at their positions along with feedback from Chief Routesetters (CRS) about their specific events. Those requirements can be found under the Routesetters section of the USA Climbing website under "Resources".

Understanding that routesetting at the National level is earned through hard work and consistent performance is crucial. Competition Routesetting is difficult and USA Climbing expects that all members of a crew arrive fit and capable of doing the job to the level required by the event and up to the expectations of the CRS.

These changes to the system are necessary to uphold a standard of excellence. As the capability of our athletes continuously increases, we as setters must also become better routesetters and stronger climbers.

Sincerely,



Salt Lake City Utah
usaclimbing.org