



USA Climbing Youth Series Task Force **Charter for Group's Organization and Operation** **Effective April 14, 2024**

Article 1. Name. The name of this group is the USA Climbing Youth Series Task Force (“the Task Force”).

Article 2. Purpose. The Task Force is an Operational Committee as provided under Article 9 of the USA Climbing Bylaws (“the Bylaws”). The purpose of the Task Force is to make recommendations to the USA Climbing staff, Strategic Planning Task Force, and the Board of Directors (the “Board”) on all aspects of the Youth Series to improve inclusiveness, athlete well-being, growth of the series, ease of hosting, and international competitive success. The scope of the Task Force’s recommendations includes but is not limited to the youth development pipeline, recreational series, competition season, competition formats, and International Federation rules alignment. The Task Force’s recommendations are intended to take effect for the 2025-26 season; however, interim recommendations may be approved by the USA Climbing President & CEO to take effect earlier if so proposed by the Task Force.

Article 3. Task Force Duties and Responsibilities. The Task Force shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Review the American Development Model (ADM) and propose recommendations that embrace sound principles of youth development in sport based on the ADM and other evidence-based models.
2. Review the strengths and weaknesses of USA Climbing’s current Youth Series in comparison to the qualification models of other National Governing Bodies.
3. Review the updated IFSC Youth Age Categories and determine alignment for the USA Climbing Youth Categories including which categories should compete at which events.
4. Review the current USAC Youth competition season including traditional timeframes of the disciplines, and make recommendations on potential changes, with the understanding that the season length should not increase.
5. Make recommendations on the Championship event structure including whether the National Championships should be an all-discipline or individual-discipline event.
6. Make recommendations regarding USAC competition formats to better allow for the future growth of the Youth Series, while also reducing the complexity, burden, and cost of hosting events.
7. Make recommendations regarding recreational Youth Series events and how they might integrate with the competitive track.
8. Collaborate with other USAC Committees (i.e., Rules, Paraclimbing, Routesetting, Coaching), the USAC Athletes Commission, the USAC / Climbing Wall Association Joint Committee, the Strategic Planning Task Force, and other stakeholders as applicable, such as Regional Coordinators and USA Climbing staff in an effort to identify potential obstacles to its recommendations and to maximize the likelihood that its recommendations, if approved, can be implemented in a smooth and timely manner.

9. Host a minimum of X “open houses” (virtual and/or in-person at USAC events) to solicit input and provide updates on the Task Force’s work to the USAC membership.
10. Prepare and submit an initial set of recommendations to the Strategic Planning Task Force by no later than September 2024 and a final report and recommendations to the President & CEO and Board by no later than May 2025. The final report and recommendations will be intended for public dissemination and should highlight the changes that are proposed to take effect with the 2025-26 Youth season. The timing of any Task Force recommendations should allow for the development and implementation of a stakeholder communication and engagement plan well in advance of implementation.

Article 4. Task Force Meetings and Actions.

1. The Task Force shall endeavor to meet at least once per month via telephone, or more frequently as circumstances dictate.
2. The Task Force may invite any individuals, including Board members or staff of USAC, to attend its meetings (or portions thereof) as needed.
3. Task Force decisions may be made via email or teleconference discussions and voting.
4. The quorum for transaction of any formal Task Force business is more than half of the Task Force members. Effort should be made for all members to be present for the transaction of any business; however, the Chair may organize the Task Force into sub-groups of one or more members to collect information and/or to make recommendations to the full Task Force.
5. A majority vote of those Task Force members in attendance or participating where a quorum is present is necessary to transact any business brought before the Task Force.
6. The Chair will develop the agenda for Task Force meetings, and any member may suggest agenda items for consideration. Briefing materials, if any, will be provided to the Task Force members as far in advance of meetings as practicable.
7. In the event the Chair is not present at the meeting, the other members present at that meeting shall designate an acting Chair for such meeting by a majority vote.
8. The Task Force shall follow basic rules of parliamentary procedure in conducting meetings, when practicable. The Chair shall generally call each meeting to order, review the past meeting’s minutes, discuss unfinished business, then introduce any new business.
9. Minutes of Task Force meetings documenting business discussed and any official votes, along with any relevant reports, shall be submitted to the President & CEO, by the Chair or their designee. Minutes of the Task Force meetings shall be kept on file with USAC.

Article 5. Task Force Composition. The Task Force shall be composed of up to fifteen (15) members. The Task Force membership should include representation from various stakeholder groups, with at least 33% Athlete representation. The Chair of the Task Force shall be selected by the President & CEO in consultation with the members of the Task Force.

Article 6. Appointment of Task Force Members. Non-athlete members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the President & CEO in consultation with the Nominating Committee. Athlete members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the USA Climbing Athletes Commission.

Article 7. Tenure. The term for all members of the Task Force shall end upon the submission of the final report to the Board, but shall not exceed more than 24 months from the effective date of this Charter.

Article 8. Amendments to Charter. Amendments to this Charter must conform to the Bylaws and may be made by the President & CEO. A two-thirds majority vote of Task Force members is required to propose any charter change(s) to the President & CEO.

Article 9. USAC Commitment to Diversity. USA Climbing encourages all to participate. Members of the Board, committees, working groups, and task forces are selected without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. USA Climbing is committed to providing equal opportunity to amateur athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in climbing competitions without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, or national origin. Diversity at all levels of USA Climbing is desirable, including among the membership of the Board, Committees, Task Forces, and Working Groups, and among its athletes. Open discussion and the presentation of a diversity of views is encouraged.

Article 10. Conflicts. In the event of any conflict between this Charter and the Bylaws, the Bylaws shall control.