

USA Climbing Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 8, 2025
4:00 p.m. (Virtual via Zoom)



ATTENDING

Voting Board Members

Kate Felsen Di Pietro, Chair	Laura Domoto
Meagan Martin, Vice Chair, Athlete	Bret Johnston
Trace Harris, Treasurer	Deana Labriola
Sophia Curcio, Team USA AC Rep	Connie Lightner
Maureen Beck, Athlete	Joey Molko
Kyra Condie, Athlete	Jason Pill
Jesse Grupper, Athlete	Steve Struthers

Non-Voting Ex Officio Board Members

Marc Norman, President & CEO
Nekaia Sanders, Team USA AC Alternate

Observers

Avery Cook, Nominating Committee Chair

USA Climbing Staff and Others in Attendance

Lisa Valiant, Chief of Staff (Secretary); Caitlin Curry, Finance & Admin Director; John Muse, VP of Sport; Patrick Bodnar; Zack DiCristino; Josh Larson

The meeting commenced at 4:03 PM MDT. Kate Felsen Di Pietro presided. Lisa Valiant served as Secretary.

- I. Kate Felsen Di Pietro called the meeting to order.
 - a. USA Climbing's new Team USA Athlete Representative, Sophia Curcio, and Alternate Representative, Nekaia Sanders, were welcomed to the Board. The two were elected by their peers and serve ex officio on the USA Climbing Board throughout their term on the Team USA Athletes' Commission. Existing Board members introduced themselves to the new Athlete Directors.
 - b. *On motions duly made and seconded, minutes from the December 18, 2024 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.*
- II. **Transgender Athlete Participation (TAP) and Non-U.S. Citizen Athlete Participation.** Continued discussion occurred regarding transgender and non-U.S. citizen athlete participation. After extensive consideration and over a year of community engagement relating to transgender athlete participation, the Board voted anonymously to establish consensus for various policy components and applicability to participation. The resulting direction as it relates to transgender participation will be provided to the TAP policy revision group tasked with writing a draft policy that will be brought to the Board for feedback and approval. The final policy is expected to be announced this spring, with implementation for the 2025-2026 competition season. Non-citizen participation will be clarified in the National Team Eligibility Policy. There will be no impacts on the 2024-2025 competition season.

For purposes of these minutes, please note that athletes who are not eligible to compete for the United States in IFSC-sanctioned competitions will be referred to below as "National Team Ineligible". This includes transgender athletes who do not comply with current IFSC policy and non-U.S. citizens.

The Board voted for the following as it relates to National Team Ineligible athlete participation:

Youth Series

- All athletes will be allowed to participate in all categories of the Youth Series and at all levels of competition, in addition to the Youth Recreational Series.
 - For Youth categories U17 and above:
 - Where National Team Ineligible athletes are within the range of advancement for rounds, competitions, or the US National and Development Teams, additional eligible athletes will be advanced.
 - National Team Ineligible athletes are not eligible for the US National and Development Teams, however, they can qualify for other Team benefits.

Collegiate Series

- Eligibility for the collegiate series is not based on citizenship.
- All athletes will be allowed to participate in the Intermediate category.
- Transgender athletes who are not in compliance with IFSC policy will not be allowed to participate in the Advanced category.

Elite Series

- National Team Ineligible athletes will not be allowed to participate in the Elite Series National Championships and National Team Trials.
- National Team Ineligible athlete participation in North American Cup Series events is pending further review by participating federations.

The Board also gave direction as to ineligible participation at future Series events and Paraclimbing National Championships for future approval.

The Board will continue to monitor IFSC, Federal, and State regulations while consulting with the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee in considering future measures.

- III. **Amended USA Climbing Bylaws.** Upon regular review of the USA Climbing Bylaws, the Governance Committee drafted proposed amendments for review by the Board, including updates to align with revised USOPC compliance requirements. The Board was noticed of the proposed amendments on December 6, 2024. Key changes were summarized for the Board and detail was provided in the meeting materials.

On motion duly made and seconded, the proposed amendments to USA Climbing Bylaws, as presented by the Governance Committee, were unanimously approved.

- IV. **Strategic Plan.** Given time constraints, the strategic plan discussion was continued to the next meeting.
- V. **Other.** Marc provided a progress update on interim Training Center facilities and office space, including budget and timeline. The move is expected approximately June 1 and will be the home of USA Climbing through the completion of the permanent National Training Center.

Thanks were expressed to Rebecca Ingraham for her contribution to USA Climbing, noting her full-time work ended December 31, 2024.

- VI. *On motions duly made and seconded, the Board adjourned to closed session.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM MDT.