



USA Climbing Policy – National Team Discretionary Funding

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 National Team Discretionary Funding Policy ("this Policy") establishes the criteria and procedures for awarding or denying discretionary funding to athletes on the National Team and Development Team across the Boulder, Lead, and Speed disciplines.

This Policy applies to:

- **Development Team** athletes seeking discretionary funding support.
- **National Team** athletes subject to funding continuation or denial.

Policy

USA Climbing is committed to supporting its athletes through transparent and fair discretionary funding decisions. These decisions are based on objective performance criteria and adherence to high-performance standards set forth by USA Climbing.

It is the athlete's individual responsibility to understand their eligibility status concerning discretionary funding. Athletes may review their eligibility status by contacting the USA Climbing High Performance Staff. If an athlete identifies an error or has questions regarding their status, they must immediately contact USA Climbing at highperformance@usacimbing.org.

Any questions regarding this Policy may be directed to USA Climbing at info@usacimbing.org.

1. Development Team – Discretionary Funding Criteria

1.1 Performance-Based Eligibility

To be considered for discretionary funding, Development Team athletes must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- **Top-30 Placement:** Achieve a top-30 finish in either Boulder or Lead disciplines at an IFSC World Cup event within the past or current calendar year.
- **Performance Improvement:** Demonstrate progressive performance improvement across two or more IFSC World Cup events within the current season, as assessed by the High Performance Staff.

1.2 Exceptional Circumstances

Athletes who do not meet the above criteria may still be considered for discretionary funding in exceptional cases, including but not limited to:

- **Return from Injury:** Athletes returning from injury with evident improvement.
- **Notable International Results:** Athletes with demonstrated potential or notable international results outside of IFSC World Cups.
- **Preliminary Season Support:** At the beginning of the World Cup season, the High Performance Staff may choose to provide funding to Development Team athletes for early-season competitions where performance data is still being established, or when early participation is deemed necessary for athlete development and evaluation, or in an effort to meet High Performance Program goals.
 - When Preliminary Season Support is implemented, the available funding will be distributed evenly among all Development Team athletes competing at the respective World Cup(s).
 - The High Performance Staff will communicate any available funding to Development Team athletes following the confirmation of starts for the respective World Cup(s).

2. National Team – Funding Denial Criteria

2.1 Lack of Competitive Performance

National Team athletes may be denied funding if they:

- Consistently fail to achieve top-40 placements at IFSC World Cup events in their primary discipline(s), unless mitigated by injury, illness, or other approved extenuating factors.
- Demonstrate a lack of commitment to competing during the World Cup season in order to attain a top-40 CUWR quota for the following year.

2.2 Non-Compliance with Athlete Improvement Plans

Funding may also be denied if athletes:

- Do not engage in training aligned with the guidance of the Head Coach.
- Fail to adhere to an Athlete Improvement Plan created and monitored by the High Performance Staff.

3. Decision Process

3.1 Authority

All discretionary funding decisions are made by the USA Climbing Chief of Sport, in consultation with the Head Coach and relevant High Performance personnel.

3.2 Documentation

All discretionary decisions will be documented and reviewed by the High Performance Staff. A record of the justification and any supporting data will be maintained for internal accountability.

4. Appeals Process

4.1 Submission

Athletes who wish to appeal a funding decision may do so by submitting a written request to the Athlete Advisory Committee within 14 days of the decision.

4.2 Review

The panel will review the appeal and respond within 21 days of submission.

Review and Amendments

This Policy will be reviewed annually by the Chief of Sport in consultation with the High Performance Staff and the Athlete Advisory Committee.