

USA Climbing Competition Eligibility Process

The Grievance Process does not apply to the Competition Eligibility Policy. Only USA Climbing may challenge a competitor's eligibility, and in doing so, this Competition Eligibility Review Process will be applied when assessing a competitor's eligibility under the Policy only. The review and determination of an individual's sex may only be conducted by the Medical Review Panel. The Competition Eligibility Review Policy can be found [here](#).

1. Purpose

The purpose of this process is to establish a clear, fair, and consistent approach for reviewing and determining a competitor's eligibility to compete in the Female category in USA Climbing-sanctioned events. This process ensures that eligibility determinations are made with integrity, respect for privacy, and in accordance with USA Climbing's mission, policies, and applicable law.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals who are registered or seeking to register as competitors in the Female category at any USA Climbing-sanctioned event and to all USA Climbing members who wish to submit a petition concerning eligibility in this category. The petition process is described below.

3. Authority

3.1 Exclusive Authority to Initiate Review

Only USA Climbing has the authority to initiate a formal review of a competitor's eligibility to compete in the Female category.

3.2 Petitions by Members

USA Climbing members do not have standing to directly challenge another competitor's eligibility. Only USA Climbing members in good standing may file a **petition** to the USA Climbing CEO/Chief of Sport requesting that USA Climbing consider initiating a review, subject to the requirements outlined in Section 4.

4. Member Petitions

4.1 Submission Requirements

A petition challenging a competitor's eligibility hereunder must be submitted in writing to USA Climbing and must include:

- The name and identifying information of the petitioner;
- The name of the competitor whose eligibility is being questioned; and
- Substantiating evidence or documentation supporting the claim.

Petitions must be made in good faith, and present credible, relevant evidence supporting the claims made in the petition. Unsupported allegations, speculative claims, or claims made as retaliation or for unfair advantage will not be considered.

4.2 Confidentiality and Responsibility

Petitioners must maintain confidentiality throughout the process. Frivolous, discriminatory, malicious, or bad-faith accusations are strictly prohibited and will be reviewed under the USA Climbing's Code of Conduct or applicable policies. Likewise, public accusations of competition eligibility are prohibited and will be interpreted as a violation of the USA Climbing Code of Conduct.

4.3 Consequences for Misuse

Petitions found to be in violation of this Policy may result in disciplinary action against the petitioner, up to and including suspension of membership or other sanctions under USA Climbing's Code of Conduct or applicable policies.

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5. Preliminary Review by USA Climbing

5.1 Initial Assessment

Upon receipt of a complete petition, or upon its own initiative, USA Climbing will conduct a preliminary review of the claims in any petition received to determine whether sufficient credible evidence exists to warrant further action.

5.2 Discretionary Authority

USA Climbing retains sole and absolute discretion to decide whether or not to proceed with an eligibility review.

5.3 Closure of Matter

If USA Climbing determines that the information provided is insufficient or does not meet the criteria for review, the matter will be closed, and no further action will be taken.

6. Medical Review Panel (MRP)

6.1 Initiation of Formal Review

If USA Climbing determines that a review of a competitor's eligibility is warranted after receiving a petition related to same or initiating a review on its own, it shall forward all relevant materials and information to the **USA Climbing Medical Review Panel (MRP)** for evaluation.

6.2 Scope of MRP Review

The MRP will review all provided evidence and may request additional information from the competitor or other relevant parties, in its sole discretion. Under no circumstances will the MRP request a physical exam as part of the review process. The MRP will evaluate eligibility in accordance with USA Climbing's Competition Eligibility Policy and applicable medical or scientific guidelines.

6.3 Standard of Review

The MRP will apply the preponderance of the evidence standard, meaning if it is more likely than not that the athlete under review is Female, as defined above, then the MRP will find the athlete eligible to compete in the Female Category.

6.4 Confidentiality

All information reviewed by the MRP will be treated as strictly confidential, and disclosure shall be limited to those individuals directly involved in the determination process.

7. Determination

7.1 Final Decision

The **Medical Review Panel (MRP)** shall make the final determination regarding the competitor's eligibility to compete in the Female category.

7.2 Timing of Decision

The MRP will endeavor to issue its determination within 21 days from the time USA Climbing received the complete petition challenging an athlete's eligibility. During the review period, the athlete under review will remain eligible for competition. Should the MRP ultimately find the athlete ineligible to compete in the Female Category, USA Climbing will invalidate the athlete's results, if any.

7.3 Finality of Decision

The determination of the MRP is **final and binding**. It may not be appealed, challenged, or reviewed through any other internal or external process.

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8. Confidentiality and Recordkeeping

8.1 Confidential Handling

All communications, evidence, and determinations related to this process shall be maintained in strict confidence in accordance with USA Climbing's Privacy Policy and applicable law. Likewise, the names of the individuals serving on the MRP will be kept confidential, to the extent permissible by applicable law.

8.2 Records Retention

USA Climbing shall maintain secure records of all petitions, reviews, and determinations for a period consistent with organizational record retention policies.