

USA Climbing Policy

Climbing Teams



USA Climbing does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, or national origin.

USA Climbing believes that every eligible athlete has the right to compete in a respectful, safe and harassment-free environment and has the right to participate in fair competition in accordance with USA Climbing's rules, policies, and mission.

Purpose & Scope

USA Climbing recognizes the vital role that climbing teams and their coaches play in fostering the growth and development of competition climbing in the United States. Climbing teams provide structured training environments, mentorship, and community support that help athletes progress from local to national and international levels of competition.

This Climbing Teams Policy ("this Policy") establishes the requirements, processes, and timelines for the formation, recognition, and maintenance of climbing teams. It also defines the responsibilities of teams, athletes, and coaches in ensuring fair competition, consistent training standards, and adherence to USA Climbing rules, mission, and core values.

Questions regarding this Policy should be directed to the relevant Series Manager:

- **Youth Series:** youthseries@usaclimbing.org
- **Elite Series:** eliteseries@usaclimbing.org
- **Para Series:** paraseries@usaclimbing.org
- **Collegiate Series:** collegiateseries@usaclimbing.org

Policy

General

Some USA Climbing Competitions include a Team Championship ranking where competitors on a given team roster¹ are eligible to contribute to team ranking points for their team, and the teams are then ranked by those team ranking points. For each Discipline, a team's highest-ranked team-eligible competitor(s) contribute to team ranking points.

Series	Number of contributing ranking points in each Category
Youth	single highest-ranked competitor
Collegiate	three (3) highest-ranked competitors

- Team ranking points (for competitors contributing such points) are based on each competitor's General rank among all competitors in the Category using Table 1 on the next page.
- For each Discipline at an event, a team's ranking points for that Discipline are calculated as the sum of all eligible ranking points at that event across all Categories.²
- For Overall (all-Discipline) Team Championships, a team's ranking points are calculated as the sum of the team's team ranking points in all individual Disciplines at the relevant event.
- Teams are ranked in descending order of total points, and teams with the same total points are ranked equally.

¹ A team roster is an official roster (list) of eligible team members maintained in the USA Climbing Result Service.

² Team ranking points are *not* carried over from one Championship event to the next. (e.g., not carried over from the Regional Championship to the Divisional Championship or from the Divisional Championship to the National Championship.)

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Team Ranking Points

Team ranking points (for competitors contributing such points) are based on each competitor's General rank among all competitors in the Category.

Ranking Points							
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1	1000	21	145	41	14	61	4
2	805	22	130	42	13	62	4
3	690	23	120	43	12	63	4
4	610	24	105	44	11	64	3
5	545	25	95	45	11	65	3
6	495	26	84	46	10	66	3
7	455	27	73	47	9	67	3
8	415	28	63	48	9	68	3
9	380	29	56	49	8	69	2
10	350	30	48	50	8	70	2
11	325	31	42	51	7	71	2
12	300	32	37	52	7	72	2
13	280	33	33	53	7	73	2
14	260	34	30	54	6	74	2
15	240	35	27	55	6	75	1
16	220	36	24	56	6	76	1
17	205	37	21	57	5	77	1
18	185	38	19	58	5	78	1
19	170	39	17	59	5	79	1
20	155	40	15	60	4	80	1

Table 1 Ranking Points³

In the case of ties, competitors with the same rank will be awarded the average of the points allocated for the tied rank positions rounded down to two (2) decimal places.⁴

However, if there's a tie that includes competitors who are members of same team where:

- one (1) or more such members are eligible to be awarded team ranking points; and
- one (1) or more such members are not eligible to be awarded team ranking points,

then the team ranking points awarded to such members who are so eligible is determined as if the tie was smaller by the number of competitors who cannot contribute to team points.⁵

³ Ranks 81 and beyond are awarded zero (0) points.

⁴ For example, a three-way tie for 2nd place between competitors on 3 different teams results in each of those competitors' teams being awarded 701.66 points.
($[805+690+610]/3 \approx 701.666\dots$, rounded down to 701.66)

⁵ For example, a three-way tie for 2nd place between 1 competitor on team A and 2 competitors on team B where only one of them is eligible to receive points (e.g., Youth series where only the highest-ranked competitor gets team ranking points), team A is awarded 701.66 points (reflecting the full three-way tie; see math in example above) and team B is awarded 747.50 points (the team B member that doesn't earn team ranking points does not diminish their teammate that can).
($[805+690]/2 = 747.50$)

USA Climbing has the discretion to suspend this "tie among teammates" rule depending on USA Climbing Result Service capability.

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Team Roster (General)

- A team roster must include only athletes who are eligible members of the team.
- A team roster can include competitors who are not competing in the next upcoming event.
- A team roster update made after a competition's first start list is generated will not affect Team Championship calculations for that competition.⁶
- A team roster applies across all disciplines and therefore an athlete can appear on only one Youth Team roster at a time.⁷
- USA Climbing may, at its discretion, reset/clear all team rosters between the relevant (Youth or Collegiate) National Championship and the beginning of the next competition year.

Team Uniforms

Athletes representing a Youth or Collegiate Climbing Team are to wear a **distinctive team uniform top** (tank, short sleeve, or long sleeve) in the team's colors or design. Uniform tops may include the team's logo. All team members should wear the same colors/designs during a competition round (styles may vary).⁸

Appeals

Appeal deadlines for team points and rankings align with the final appeal deadline for individual competitor scoring and rankings.⁹

⁶ Once the start list for a competition is generated in the USA Climbing Result Service, the team rosters' effect on the competition is considered "locked". This timing can vary from competition to competition, though it will be no earlier than the end of registration for the competition.

⁷ USA Climbing recognizes that although some competitors may train with different groups of coaches/teams for different Disciplines, USA Climbing Result Service does not provide for per-Discipline Youth Climbing Team rosters, and there is no plan to provide this.

⁸ Team uniform rule adherence is not subject to appeal, and an appeal is invalid if filed regarding team uniform rule adherence. Concerns may be reported to the relevant Series Manager. Repeated team uniform violations may result in sanctions that include but are not limited to: athletes being ineligible to be on a roster for a period of time, a team not being eligible to have a team roster for a period of time, etc.

⁹ As noted above, team uniform rule adherence is not subject to appeal.

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Youth Climbing Teams

For the purposes of Team Championships at Youth Series USA Climbing events, a **Youth Climbing Team** is defined as a group of USA Climbing members who train and compete together under the leadership of a designated **USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Head Coach**.

Youth Team Championships are awarded at the following Competitions:

Competition	Per- Discipline Team Championships	Overall (all-Discipline) Team Championships
Youth Regionals	Yes	No
Youth Divisionals	Yes	No
Youth Nationals	Yes	Yes

Table 2 Youth Competitions with Team Championships

A Youth Climbing Team is eligible for the Team Championships if they meet the following:

- All team members meet the requirements as set out below.
- A valid team roster is maintained by the team's Level 2 Certified Coach as set out below.
- A Level 2 Certified Coach is present with the team at the USA Climbing event.

Youth Climbing Team Members must meet the following requirements to be on the team roster:

- Hold an active USA Climbing Competitor membership.
- Be in good standing with their coach, team, and USA Climbing rules and policies.
- Have the same Youth Membership Region as their team.
- Train together regularly with their team.¹⁰
- Represent their team at Championship competitions, including wearing the team uniform.¹¹

Additional Youth Team roster notes:

- The team roster may change between events.¹²
- If an athlete switches teams, the coach maintaining the team roster the athlete is leaving will remove the athlete from the roster so that the coach maintaining the team roster the athlete is joining can add them.
Concerns or questions should be directed to youthseries@usaclimbing.org for assistance.
- Team roster management instructions can be found in the Coaches section of the www.usaclimbing.org website.

¹⁰ “Together” means that athletes train in person under the direction of a single head coach, either at a single location (even if at different times) or rotating together across multiple locations.

“Regularly” means at least three (3) training sessions every two (2) weeks during the six (6) weeks leading up to the Monday before the competition.

USA Climbing has the discretion to grant a waiver to the six (6) week requirement in this Policy in response to a written request by an athlete describing the justification for the team change (e.g., a change in permanent residence) and stating the athlete's intention to train regularly with the team.

¹¹ The wearing of team uniform is not subject to field-of-play appeals. See “Team Uniform” section.

¹² Note: the “train together regularly with their team” requirement may effectively prevent a competitor from moving from one team roster to another between Championship competitions.

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Collegiate Climbing Teams

For the purposes of Team Championships at Collegiate Series USA Climbing events, a **Collegiate Climbing Team** consists of undergraduate or graduate students enrolled at the same university/college.

Collegiate Team Championships are awarded at the following Competitions:

Competition	Per- Discipline Team Championships	Overall (all-Discipline) Team Championships
Collegiate Nationals	Yes	Yes

Table 3 Collegiate Competitions with Team Championships

A Collegiate Climbing Team is eligible for the Team Championships if they meet the following:

- All team members meet the requirements as set out below.
- A valid team roster exists for the team.
- Meet all university/college requirements.¹³

Collegiate Climbing Team Members must meet the following requirements to be on the team roster:

- Hold an active USA Climbing Collegiate Membership.
- Be enrolled at the same university/college.
- Be in good standing with their university/college, and USA Climbing rules and policies.
- As possible, train together regularly as a team and represent their team at Championship competitions, including wearing the team uniform.¹⁴

A Collegiate Team roster may be “*unmanaged*” or “*managed*”:

- If *unmanaged*, Collegiate athletes are automatically added to the team roster corresponding to their university/college as listed in their USA Climbing Member Portal profile.
- If *managed*, a team captain or team manager manages the team roster on the USA Climbing Results Service as set forth below.

A *managed* Collegiate Youth Team roster must be managed as follows:

- A team captain or team manager must contact the USA Climbing Collegiate Series Manager at collegiateseries@usacimbing.org to request authorization to be “Organization Manager” of their Collegiate team roster on the USA Climbing Result Service.
- Team roster management instructions can be found in the Collegiate section of the www.usacimbing.org website.

University/College Transfers:

- In the event that an athlete changes university/college (especially during the year), the athlete is encouraged to contact collegiateseries@usacimbing.org for assistance.

¹³ For example, a university/college may require that the team have formal recognition from the institution.

¹⁴ The “train together” and “represent” are not required for Collegiate Teams.

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Grievance Process

Individuals who believe that an action or decision was inconsistent with USA Climbing bylaws, rules, regulations, codes, or policies may submit a grievance by way of the [USA Climbing Grievance Policy](#). That policy is administered by the USA Climbing Judicial Committee and outlines the grievance submission process as well as how a grievance is processed. Grievances and/or questions may be sent to the Judicial Committee at judicial@usacimbing.org.

External References

- [USA Climbing Rulebook](#)
- [USA Climbing Policies](#)
- [USA Climbing Grievance Policy](#)

Terminology

See the USA Climbing rules and regulations.

Approvals / Dates

Approved	USA Climbing CEO 2025-12-16
Effective	2025-12-16
Review	Yearly

Revision History

Date/Version	Changes
20230923	Initial version
20251216	Added (moved from Rulebook) team championships and uniform rules. Updated contents to reflect new policy approach and USA Climbing Result Service mechanics.