

Subject: Key Updates to Team Selection Procedures

As the Team Selection Committee finalizes updates to the Team Selection Procedures, we wanted to share a few key updates that will affect Elite Nationals and Team Trials.

In recent years, Speed team selection has used Time Rank to reduce the impact of any single race or round on an athlete's overall selection outcome. That focus on rewarding an athlete's fastest performance continues this year. At NTT, the traditional knockout format has been replaced with a series of head-to-head races, giving athletes multiple opportunities to post their best overall time.

For Lead and Boulder, this year's updates are designed to better reflect performance across the full competition. Team selection will consider results from all rounds at both NCH and NTT, using an athlete's ranking at the end of each round rather than relying on a single stage of competition. At NTT, all 30 athletes in each category and discipline will compete in every round, allowing athletes to be evaluated across a wide variety of routes and boulder styles. At NCH, the competition will follow the standard advancement format—24 athletes to semifinals and 8 to finals—but athletes who do not advance will still receive ranking points for the semifinal and final rounds.

The NTT points are also aligned with NCH, reflecting the fact that both events take place shortly before the World Climbing season. Previously, the maximum combined points available from NCH and NTT was 2,200 points. Because the NTT points are changing, and because Lead and Boulder now award points on a per-round basis, bonus points are scaled accordingly. Under the updated system, the maximum combined points available is now 6,000 points for Lead and Boulder (based on three scored rounds at each of NCH and NTT) and 2,000 points for Speed (1,000 points from each event).

Summary of Key Updates for Team Selection Procedures

Ineligible Athletes at Elite National Championships

- Ineligible athletes will be considered NTI (National Team Ineligible) for advancement purposes under the Team Selection Procedures.

Elite National Championships – Boulder & Lead

- No change to the competition format.
- National Team Ranking (NTR) points are awarded for each round. (i.e., 1000 points to the winner of each round)
- Athletes who do not advance will carry their NTR points from the previous round through remaining rounds. (i.e., athlete ranked 27th after the qualification round does not qualify for semifinals and will be given 73 NTR points for that rank. These points will be carried through the semifinal and final rounds totaling 219 NTR points for that athlete at the conclusion of the event.)
- Top-30 ranked athletes by total ranking points across the 3 rounds of NCH for Lead/Boulder in each discipline qualify for National Team Trials. (i.e., if an athlete wins all 3 rounds their NTR points total will be 3000 points for that discipline.)

Elite National Championships – Speed

- No change in format.
- No change to NTR point distribution.
- NTR points are awarded based on final time ranking across all rounds. (i.e., 1000 points to the athlete with the best time rank)
- Top 30 athletes qualify for National Team Trials (subject to NTT speed benchmarks).

National Team Trials – Boulder & Lead

- All athletes advance to all rounds.
- Lead format remains the same with an added brush break within finals (round 3).
- Boulder updates include:
 - No change to qualification (round 1)
 - 5-boulder semifinals (round 2)
 - Revised finals (round 3) observation, where athletes will be provided 8 minutes to observe each boulder at will during that period.
 - Revised finals (round 3) timing, where timing will be set to a 4:15 rotation which is the same approach as semifinals (round 2) but with one less minute. Two rest periods will be added between each boulder instead of just one.
 - A brushing slot will be added during finals (round 3) in the middle of the startlist performed by the Routesetters.
- NTR points adjusted to 1,000 per round, matching Elite Nationals. (i.e., 1000 points to the winner of each round)

National Team Trials – Speed

- Open practice held the day before competition.
- Morning round includes two optional practice runs and two head-to-head races.
- Afternoon/evening round includes four head-to-head races (details TBD).
- NTR points adjusted to 1,000 for best time rank across all rounds, excluding practice runs. (i.e., 1000 points to the athlete with the best time rank)

Top 40 CUWR Bonus Points – 2026

- Lead & Boulder bonus points recalculated to reflect six scoring rounds. (e.g., scaled by a factor of 2.727 – 6000 divided by 2200)
- Speed bonus points recalculated to reflect reduced Team Trials points. (e.g., scaled by a factor of 0.909 – 2000 divided by 2200)

Sincerely,

Team Selection Committee