



## **2026 YETI Climbing National Championships** **Technical Meeting Outline**

*5PM ET, February 10, 2026, Zoom*

### **Overview and Disclaimer**

This document is an outline for the Technical Meeting and it will be linked on the [Event Page](#) after the online Technical Meeting. While some rules will be discussed and/or summarized here, the Rulebook and the Team Selection Procedures document govern this event.

**Going forward, all official communication, including the publication of Start Lists and Results, will go through the Athletes/Coaches WhatsApp group and USA Climbing Results Service.**

### **Event Links**

[Event Page](#) (Info Sheet, latest schedule, Results, etc.)

[USA Climbing Rulebook](#) (dated 2026-02-09)

[Team Selection Procedures](#) (dated 2026-02-06)

[Athletes/Coaches WhatsApp Group](#)

[Technical Meeting Recording](#) (Passcode: g^m8%PhS)

### **Officials**

Event Delegate: Trevor Clay

Jury President: Mike Sprague

USAC Judges: Jim Norton & Meridith Buehner

USAC Speed Judge: John Kelly

Aspirant USAC Judge: Carolyn Wentler

Results Service Manager: Tami Pelicane

Head Belayer: Meagan Knecht

Assistant Head Belayer: Catherine Ladner

Head Routesetter – Lead: John Oungst

Head Routesetter – Boulder: Nic Oklobzija

## General Info

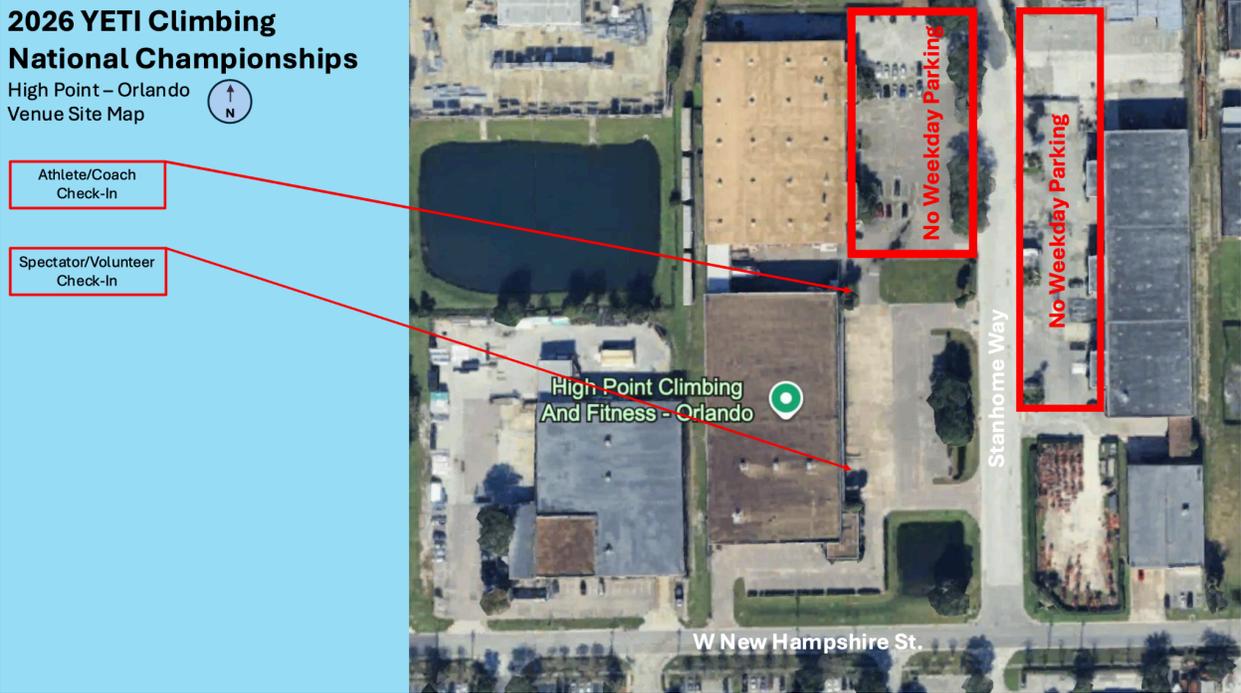
- Venue information: High Point Climbing & Fitness, 1978 Stanhome Way, Orlando, FL
  - No public WiFi, but cell service is available
- Competitors and coaches are responsible to know information provided in the Info Sheet, the Final Schedule, Current USAC Rulebook, and the information presented in the Technical Meeting
- Semis and Finals for Lead and Boulder and Speed Finals will be Livestreamed on OutsideTV; link provided on Event Page
- Any competitors coming to spectate will be allowed entry at same times as spectators (as indicated on Schedule) and must show their bib to be allowed entry. A Competitor list will be provided to the front desk for competitors who wish to spectate but have not yet received their bib(s).
- All Competitors must check-in during their respective check-in times as outlined in the schedule
  - USAC will be taking headshots for Finals graphics as a part of the Semi-Final check-in process (*Qualification for Speed*). Please factor this into your arrival time for warm-up on the affected days.
- Coach Check In:
  - Coaches were required to register for the “YETI Climbing National Championships Coaches Registration” through their USA Climbing Membership Account and will be required to scan their electronic or PDF membership card and show ID upon check in at the event
  - Coaches must have registered no later than Noon Mountain Time on Tuesday, Feb 10, 2026
- Bibs
  - There is a separate bib for each discipline
  - Climbers will need to keep their assigned bib through all rounds for that discipline
  - Bibs must be visibly worn on the back of the shirt (and not under harness)
    - Competitors may not modify, cut, and/or fold their bib and should be fully displayed
- Start Lists
  - Start Lists will be found on the USAC Startlist/Results website linked on the Event Page
  - Start Lists will be posted as PDF files to the Athletes/Coaches WhatsApp group
  - Official Start Lists will be produced:
    - A) for the qualification round: after the confirmation of participation, either at or shortly after the Technical Meeting for the relevant event,
    - B) for each other round: immediately after publication of the Official Results and the conclusion of any appeals procedure for that round.
- Results
  - Results can be found on the USAC Startlist/Results website linked to the Event Page
  - Official results will be posted to the Athletes/Coaches WhatsApp group. If there are any technical difficulties, they will be posted at the gym

- Appeals
  - Appeals must be made in person
    - If nearing an Appeal deadline and one intends to file an Appeal, inform a Head Judging Official verbally and immediately and time may be given to write appeal
  - Appeals may be made by a competitor or by a Certified Coach
  - Appeal Fee (\$100) must be submitted through a USA Climbing Membership account
  - Only Official Video and official broadcast video recordings will be considered in appeals
- Competitors must use the ropes provided by USA Climbing for the event.
- Technical Incidents
  - If a competitor elects to continue an attempt after a potential or confirmed Technical Incident that adversely affected their attempt, the incident will be considered waived and closed for that competitor
- Warm-up Area (all disciplines & all rounds)
  - Climbers must carry all belongings with them when leaving the warm-up area; personal belongings are not permitted to be left in warm-up areas
  - Bag drop area provided for each round
  - Other than as specifically allowed by annexes A to C, climbers are not allowed to bring personal belongings onto the Field of Play
- USA Climbing Support during competition
  - Boulder & Lead: National Team Head Coach, Josh Larson, will be in warm-area for each round until the beginning of the each round and available to assist all competitors
  - National Team Speed Manager, Matt Madison, will be available Wednesday afternoon, and Thursday during Speed competition
  - Zack di Cristino, USA Climbing Medical Manager: Physical therapist available to all athletes during competition
- Lead-Qualification and Speed Warm-Up Area
  - Competitors must check in after the scheduled check-in time
  - Competitors may leave and return to the warm-up area as needed
- On-Sight-Round Warm-Up Area (formerly Isolation Zone; Lead Semis & Finals; Boulder all rounds)
  - Any devices with wireless (wifi/cellular/Bluetooth) connectivity are not allowed and will be collected upon warm-up entry and can be picked up at the spectator entry/exit
  - **If you are late to warm-up-area check-in, you will not be allowed to check-in or start the round.** If there is an extenuating circumstance that will make you late (e.g., traffic accident), you **must** notify the JP at [jurypresident@usaclimbing.org](mailto:jurypresident@usaclimbing.org) as early as possible and before the warm-up area closes
  - Warm-up area will have porta-potties/handwashing stations, water fountains (*with filter*), spray wall, Tension Board 2, Moonboard (2025), Kilterboard, hangboards,

campus board, and boulder terrain (*slab*), and the facility fitness area with treadmills, jump boxes, and free weights. There will also be an enclosed outdoor space in which climbers will be permitted.

- Wall angles are not to be adjusted

**Venue Map**



**Lead**

- Qualification: Flash Format; 2 routes per category; Climb time format with max time of 6 minutes
  - Route demonstration videos will be available via the USA Climbing YouTube channel by 7:30 am Wednesday, but are planned for release Tuesday evening. A competitor's phone or other capable device will be the sole means of accessing the route demonstration videos
  - Numbered scoring topos and route images with Last Clipping Positions will be distributed to the Coach/Athlete WhatsApp group shortly after demonstration videos are released
  - A clock will not be visible to climber or spectators; Climbing Judge will notify competitor when time is done
  - Climbers are responsible to report to their climb in order of the Start List and when called to the Call Zone. A competitor not in the Call Zone at the relevant time will not be entitled to climb that route and will be marked DNS on the route.
  - If a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time, or if the competitor is not at the Call Zone when called, no rescheduling shall be permitted
  - Climbers are responsible for being ready to climb when the climber preceding them is finished climbing
- Semi-Finals & Finals – On-Sight Format
  - 24 competitors advance to Semis, 8 advance to Finals
    - NTI and Team Preselect in Lead are considered EA (Extra Advancement)
  - Climb time format, 6 minutes, one route per Round
  - 6-minute collective observation for both Semis and Finals Routes
    - Semi-Final observation is scheduled for for 9:10 AM
    - Finals observation is scheduled for 5:50 PM
  - Numbered scoring topos and route images with Last Clipping Positions will be distributed to the Athletes/Coaches WhatsApp group shortly after the collective observation period
  - Official clock will be visible to climbers; no audible beeps
  - Finals will be preceded by competitor introductions (after collective observation)
  - For semi-finals and finals, Men/Open and Women will climb simultaneously
- An additional Team-eligible athlete will advance for each NTI athlete who places within the advancement range for a subsequent round
- All Rounds:
  - Un-labeled images of each route will be displayed in the warm-up area at opening; those images or duplicates will show the Last Clipping position for each quickdraw
  - On entering the Field of Play, each competitor will be entitled to a period of 40 seconds for individual route observation and to complete final preparation ahead of making their attempt on the route
- Brush (Cleaning) Breaks: 2 per route for Quals and 1 for Semis
- Competitors must use the ropes provided by USA Climbing for the event.
- Technical Incidents
  - No potential Technical Incident may be claimed more than one (1) minute after following the next scheduled competitor has started the relevant route

- If a competitor elects to continue an attempt after a potential or confirmed Technical Incident that adversely affected their attempt, the incident will be considered waived and closed for that competitor
- Appeals (all rounds):
  - An Appeal relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt
  - An Appeal relating to the Scoring or Ranking of any competitor must be made no later than 5 minutes after the Official Results are published on the Coach/Athlete WhatsApp group

## Speed (John Kelly, USAC Speed Judge)

- Refer to the schedule for all session times
- 15 m speed wall; Deepron Timing System; Trublue Speed auto belay; Volx barcoded holds (*new holds*); National event standard Walltopia wall
- Wall has been inspected to determine homologation for records - Certified for National Record certification
- Claims for a Technical incident must be made by the competitor or certified coach before the start of the next race
- Brush (Cleaning) Breaks: Between each round including practice round
- Clippers will clip and unclip athletes
- Start Judge will direct field of play
- *NCH Speed Competition:*
  - Start lists will be posted no later than 60 minutes before the start of the Qualification Round
  - Practice Round: Standard format
    - 2 runs, one run on each lane
    - Same format and Start List as the qualification rounds
    - In event of false start, continue climbing, may not reclip practice run
    - Athletes may opt out of practice runs
  - Qualification Round: Standard format
    - Climbers are responsible for reporting to the speed call zone in order of the starting list - Men/Open followed by Women
    - Failure to report to the call zone shall result in a DNS
    - Climbers compete in pairs in staggered random running order
    - In the event of a false start,
      - opposing athlete runs alone
        - If FS on first run, athlete may make second attempt for time rank and advancement to finals
        - If FS on second run, a valid time on first run will be used for time rank and advancement to finals
- **Finals: Knockout Rounds/Duels (Broadcast)**
  - NTI cannot advance to Knockout Finals (Team Preselect can advance to Knockout Finals.)
  - With 16 or more valid times from Qualification round, 16 athletes will advance to finals
    - If between 8-15, 8 will advance
  - Will alternate rounds, men/open followed by women
  - False starts result in a loss
  - Stages will advance through Semifinal stage then to small and big Finals similar to World Climbing knockout/dual finals
- Appeals:
  - Notice of an intention to appeal the scoring of a competitor's attempt in any heat must be made prior to the start of the next heat.

## Boulder

- Qualification:
  - Onsite Format; 5 Boulders; Fixed-time rotation; 5 minute climb time, 20 sec preparation period
  - One Starting Group for each gender
  - 24 competitors will advance to Semi finals
  - Warm-up area closes at 9AM
    - Last competitors climb around 4:00 (W) and 5:20 (M/O)
    - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Boulder athlete/coach lunch dropoff window
    - Any deliveries will need to be clearly labeled with the Athlete's or Coaches name (will only be accepted in dropoff-time window)
- For Boulder and Lead, an additional Team-eligible athlete will advance for each EA athlete who places within the advancement range for a subsequent round
- Semi-Finals:
  - Onsite Format; 4 Boulders; Fixed-time rotation; 5 minute climb time, 20 sec preparation period
  - 8 competitors will advance to Finals
- Finals:
  - Onsite Format; 4 Boulders; Max-time rotation; 4 minute maximum climb time;
  - Round will be preceded by an Observation (2 min/boulder) and is scheduled for 5:50 PM
  - Men/Open and Women will climb simultaneously
    - Competitors will have 3 rotation periods of rest between boulders
    - There will be a maximum of four competitors climbing
- Competitors are expected to provide their own supplies to manage bleeding (e.g., athletic tape, cloth); an EMT will be on site in the event of any serious injuries
- An Appeal that would entitle the competitor to make further attempts on the relevant boulder:
  - Semi-Final and Qualifier: Must be made before the finish of the next climbing rotation
  - Finals: Must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempts
- Appeals relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor must be made no later than 5 minutes after the Official Results are published on the Coach/Athlete WhatsApp group
- Reminders about a Correct Start:
  - A climber must start each attempt by Controlling the marked starting holds to achieve a stable position with both hands and both feet in the Starting Position
  - The climber's movement(s) to establish the Starting Position are separate and distinct from any movement initiated from that position for progress.
- Reminders about a Top:

An attempt in boulder will be ruled successful if a climber matches the marked finishing hold with both hands and having done so:

- i) achieves a stable position before the climbing time expires, and
- ii) either performs some action common to the sport or Controls the marked finishing hold long enough to do so.

## **Team Selection Procedures Update**

- John Muse