



# Team Selection Procedures

ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | PARACLIMBING

## **USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures**

—

*This Team Selection Procedures document shall remain in effect until a subsequent version has been published.*

—

*Any amendments to these rules will be published on the USA Climbing website [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.*

—

*This Team Selection Procedures document is subject to approval by the Board of Directors of USA Climbing in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer. In the event of any conflict between USA Climbing's Bylaws and this document, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control.*

### **USA Climbing Contact Information**

*Email: [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org) | Phone: 801-618-0740*

*Mail: USA Climbing | 440 W 800 S Suite 120 | Salt Lake City, UT 84101*

*Team Selection Committee: The Team Selection Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Team Selection Procedure document(s) for the organization. The Team Selection Committee may be reached via e-mail: [teamselection@usaclimbing.org](mailto:teamselection@usaclimbing.org).*

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	3
List of Tables .....	4
Introduction .....	5
Effective Date .....	7
Order of Rule Precedence .....	7
Glossary .....	8
<b>1 General.....</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 General - USA Climbing.....	9
1.2 General – National Teams, National Development Team, and Competition Starts.....	9
1.3 General - Athlete Requirements .....	10
1.4 General - Rankings and Ranking Points.....	11
1.5 General - Registration of Interest and Acceptance of Competition Start .....	12
1.6 General - USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion.....	15
<b>2 Elite: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts.....</b>	<b>16</b>
2.1 Elite: National Team Ranking Points .....	16
2.2 Elite: National Team & National Development Team Selection.....	19
2.3 Elite: Competition Starts .....	21
2.4 Elite: Speed Benchmarks.....	22
<b>3 Elite: National Championship: Eligibility, Format, and Ranking Points.....</b>	<b>24</b>
3.1 Elite: NCH Age Requirement .....	24
3.2 Elite: NCH Eligibility .....	24
3.3 Elite: NCH Competition Format.....	29
<b>4 Elite: National Team Trials: Eligibility, Format, and Ranking Points.....</b>	<b>30</b>
4.1 Elite: NTT Age Requirement.....	30
4.2 Elite: NTT Eligibility .....	30
4.3 Elite: NTT Competition Format .....	31
<b>5 Youth: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts .....</b>	<b>33</b>
5.1 Youth: National Team Ranking Points.....	33
5.2 Youth: National Teams & National Development Team Selection.....	33
5.3 Youth: Competition Starts: IFSC Youth World Championships and Youth Pan American Championships .....	33
<b>6 Collegiate: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts.....</b>	<b>34</b>
6.1 Collegiate: National Team Ranking Points .....	34
6.2 Collegiate: National Teams & National Development Team Selection.....	34
6.3 Collegiate: Competition Starts: World University Championships .....	34
<b>7 Paraclimbing: Teams and Competition Starts .....</b>	<b>35</b>
7.1 Paraclimbing: National Team Ranking Points.....	35
7.2 Paraclimbing: National Teams & National Development Team.....	35
7.3 Paraclimbing: Competition Starts: Paraclimbing World Cups and Paraclimbing World Championships.....	36

## List of Tables

Table 1-1 General –Ranking Points used for each Ranking .....	11
Table 2-1 National Team Ranking Points – Lead .....	16
Table 2-2 National Team Ranking Points – Boulder .....	16
Table 2-3 National Team Ranking Points – Speed .....	16
Table 2-4 National Team Ranking Points – Rank Points .....	17
Table 2-5 National Team Ranking Points – Bonus Points – CUWR Top-40 .....	18
Table 2-6 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Lead and Boulder .....	19
Table 2-7 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Speed .....	19
Table 2-8 2024 National Team and National Development Team – Boulder & Lead.....	19
Table 2-9 2025 National Team and National Development Team – Lead, Boulder, and Speed.....	19
Table 3-1 NCH Eligibility – Competitions Where Ranking Points Are Awarded .....	24
Table 3-2 NCH Eligibility – Ranking Points .....	27
Table 3-3 NCH Eligibility – Criteria .....	28
Table 4-1 NTT Eligibility – Lead and Boulder .....	30
Table 4-2 NTT Eligibility – Speed Summary.....	30
Table 4-3 NTT Advancement – Example .....	31
Table 5-1 Youth National Team and National Development Team .....	33
Table 6-1 Collegiate National Team and National Development Team .....	34
Table 7-1 Paraclimbing National Team and National Development Team.....	35

## Introduction

*This Introduction and Significant Changes sections are not binding rules. Only the rules themselves, beginning with the Order of Rule Precedence and Glossary sections, shall govern. USA Climbing strongly recommends that members, host facilities, and other interested parties review the actual text of the Team Selection Procedure rules themselves.*

The USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document was introduced in 2022 as part of an effort to align with other USOPC National Governing Bodies as well as other climbing National Federations by separating the Team Selection Procedures from the Rulebook. By decoupling Team Selection Procedures updates from the schedule of Rulebook updates, USA Climbing can provide clearer communication about the (Elite) National Championships and the National Team Trials, in addition to the pathways and qualifications for National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes to represent the US in international competitions.

## Highlighted Changes

### World Climbing

References to IFSC have been changed to World Climbing (WCL) to reflect the branding update of that organization. What were called World Cups are now WCL Series events.

### National Team Eligibility

For consistency with USA Climbing's National Team Eligibility Policy, the terms **National Team Eligible (NTE)** and **National Team Ineligible (NTI)** are used, replacing terms no longer used by that policy.

### Elite Series National Team Selection

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).

### Elite Speed Benchmarks

Some changes have been made to Speed benchmark application (race times now rounded down).

### Youth Series Speed National Team Selection

The NTE athlete with the fastest time at the National Championship will be the first member of the National Team, followed by NTE athletes in order of their National Championship General ranking.

## **Effective Date**

This Team Selection Procedures document shall be effective upon publication.

## **Order of Rule Precedence**

In the event and to the extent any rules contained in this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document address the same or substantially the same subject matter but do not actually conflict, the more recently added provisions or amendments shall be deemed to have superseded earlier provisions.

Any inconsistency between this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document and the USA Climbing Rulebook (and amendments) shall be resolved by giving precedence to this USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document on matters of:

- a) The (Elite) National Championship and National Team Trials events; and
- b) Ranking Points, Rankings, National Teams; and
- c) International Competition Starts (priority, order, and process),

and otherwise giving precedence to the USA Climbing Rulebook.

## Glossary

### 1. The following acronyms shall apply throughout this document:

**CNCH** is USA Climbing Collegiate National Championship;  
**NACS** is North American Cup Series;  
**NCH** is USA Climbing (Elite) National Championship;  
**NTR** is National Team Ranking;  
**NTT** is USA Climbing National Team Trials;  
**PACH** is Pan-American Championship;  
**PNCH** is Paraclimbing National Championship  
**WCL** is World Climbing (formerly IFSC)  
**WCH** is WCL World Championship;  
**YNCH** is USA Climbing Youth National Championship;  
**YWCH** is WCL Youth World Championship.

### 2. In addition to the terms & definitions in the USA Climbing Rulebook Glossary, the following definitions shall apply throughout this document:

**Boulder & Lead** means the ranking or designation corresponding to WCL Boulder & Lead format. (Equivalent to Boulder+Lead references in the USA Climbing Rulebook.)

**Competition Start** means a National Team Eligible (NTE) athlete is (to be) registered by USA Climbing to compete in an international competition.

**Current Youth World Champion** means a US athlete who achieved World Champion status at the most recent Youth World Championship.

**CUWR** means the WCL Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR) at the start of the year (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>) in the year of US Team Selection.

**WCL Name-Eligible** means a National Team Eligible (NTE) athlete that WCL considers eligible, by athlete name, for WCL competitions in the upcoming season, and who achieved such pre-qualification status representing the US -- eligibility that historically has been awarded to those in the CUWR top-10 at the start of the calendar year.

**National Team Eligible (NTE)** means an athlete who meets the requirement to be classified as NTE (National Team Eligible) in the National Team Eligibility Policy.

**National Team Ineligible (NTI)** means an athlete who meets the requirement to be classified as NTI (National Team Ineligible) in the National Team Eligibility Policy.

**Olympic Team** or **US Olympic Team** means an athlete who has qualified as a National Team Eligible (NTE) for the Sport Climbing event at the immediate next, or current, Olympic Games.

**Past Olympian** means an athlete who represented the US in Sport Climbing at the Olympics.

**Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist** means an athlete who advanced to the Final round<sup>1</sup> at a WCL Series Event or WCL World Championship.

**Recent National Team Member** means an athlete who in the prior twelve (12) months was a member of an (Elite) National Team.

**Speed Trial** means a USA Climbing sanctioned Speed event for the purpose of athletes running speed races on a Qualifying Standard wall in order to meet a benchmark time, the schedule and details for which should be published by USA Climbing at least 30 days prior to the Speed Trial.

---

<sup>1</sup> If a WCL event's final round is held with an advancement quota larger than specified in the WCL rules (e.g., in the case of cancelation of a round for weather reasons), then for the purposes of Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist means an athlete that finish with a general ranking as high as the rules-specified Quota. For example, if the last round of a Lead WCL event had 26 athletes, then only those who finish that round in the top-8 are considered "Finalists".

# 1 General

## 1.1 General - USA Climbing

- 1.1.1 As a USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document, all references herein to National Team, National Development Team, or National Team Ranking shall be read to refer to the relevant US entity.
- 1.1.2 The procedures contained within this Team Selection Procedures document shall apply separately to each applicable Category. For example, the procedures for the Elite Series shall apply to both the female and male Categories separately.
- 1.1.3 At any given time, an athlete may be a member of more than one of the National Teams or National Development Teams, but for a given Series, Category, and Discipline an athlete cannot not be on both the National Team and the National Development Team.

## 1.2 General – National Teams, National Development Team, and Competition Starts

- 1.2.1 Competition Start allocation procedures for a competition shall be understood as having a separate allocation of Competition Starts to those National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes that WCL considers Name-Eligible for that competition; Competition Start allocation for US quota shall not consider those Name-Eligible athletes.
- 1.2.2 If a National Team or National Development Team member is not eligible to register for the international competition's Category for which USA Climbing has determined them qualified for, they are ineligible for an international Competition Start.  
For example, an athlete electing to compete in USA Climbing competitions in a gender category that differs from the competitor's birth certificate gender (subject to the USA Climbing rules and policies) accepts the risk of not being eligible for an international Competition Start.
- 1.2.3 Some portion of the competition's US quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive Competition Starts under these rules.

### 1.3 General - Athlete Requirements

- 1.3.1 A member of a USA Climbing National Team or National Development Team may be required to submit a signed Athlete Agreement in order to obtain support from USA Climbing with respect to an Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and/or Paraclimbing international competition and/or event, provided that the form of Athlete Agreement is on reasonable terms and has been reviewed by the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, USA Climbing's athlete representative on the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council, and the USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee.

The Athlete Agreement must be signed by the athlete and must also be signed by a parent/guardian if the athlete is under the age of eighteen (18) years. The current Athlete Agreement document is located on the National Team page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete Agreement term or condition may be reasonable even if other terms or conditions that could have been used would have likewise been reasonable.

- 1.3.2 All National Team members and National Development Team members:

- a) shall be required to have an active USA Climbing Competitor Membership (or in the case of a Collegiate athlete competing in the World University Games, a Collegiate Membership), and must timely reactivate their Membership in the event their Membership expires or otherwise becomes non-active, or are otherwise; and
- b) shall be able to provide evidence of US citizenship accepted by WCL upon request by USA Climbing; and
- c) should possess a valid (unexpired) US passport that has an expiration date a least one year after the upcoming National Championship,

where those athletes not meeting these requirements are subject to being declared ineligible for an international Competition Start.

## 1.4 General - Rankings and Ranking Points

1.4.1 Elite Rankings are determined using the corresponding Ranking Points.

Ranking	Points used
NCH Eligibility Ranking	NCH Eligibility Ranking Points
National Team Ranking	National Team Ranking Points

Table 1-1 General –Ranking Points used for each Ranking

The Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing National Team Rankings are simplified and do not use Ranking Points; the National Team Rankings are determined directly from National Championship Rankings.

1.4.2 For each Ranking that uses the relevant Ranking Points to determine relative rank between competitors, the competitors are ranked in descending order of Ranking Points, and the following shall apply to competitors with an equal number of ranking points:

- a) In determining the ranking where any competitors have the same Ranking Points, the relative ranking of the competitors with equal Ranking Points shall be determined by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors at the competitions included in the Ranking Point system (i.e., competitor A shall be ranked higher (better) if competitor A has ranked higher than competitor B in more such competitions than competitor B ranked higher than competitor A, for such competitions where both competitor A and B competed).  
The application of this rule shall be weighted by each competition's first (1<sup>st</sup>) place points as set forth in the table in Rule 2.1.4, such that a head-to-head win in a competition with greater first (1<sup>st</sup>) place points shall be considered more significant than a head-to-head win in a competition with fewer (1<sup>st</sup>) place points.
- b) Where the test in (a) does not determine a unique rank, the ranking will be determined by the best ranking in any of the competitions included in the Ranking Point system, and the number of competitions where that ranking was achieved. If that does not determine a unique rank, then the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best ranking in any such competition, and the number of competitions with that ranking, and so on.

1.4.3 When awarding Ranking Points at a competition/round, the points awarded to tied competitors will be the average of the points for the tied rank positions, rounded down to whole numbers. (e.g., if three competitors are tied for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place, each is awarded the sum of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place points, divided by 3, rounded down.)

1.4.4 For some Speed competitions, points awarded to a competitor are those points based on their Resolved Time Rank.

Time Rank points are determined using a competitors Resolved Time Rank in the competition, which is a ranking among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors and is in order of increasing Time Rank time and, within a set of competitors having the same Time Rank time, is in order of increasing (worse) General Rank.

That is, Resolved Time Rank is the same as Time Rank except that any ties in Time Rank are broken using General Rank in the competition.

## 1.5 General - Registration of Interest and Acceptance of Competition Start

This section addresses the overall process of Competition Start allocation, how an athlete's status as a National Team (NT) or National Development Team (NDT) member and their registration of interest may result in Competition Starts.

In general:

- National Team members (in the Elite Series) have priority that includes: being initially considered "interested"; first consideration regardless of any Registered Interest Deadline; and consideration for a provisionally allocated Competition Start.
- National Development Team members that register interest before the Registered Interest Deadline have priority over those who register after; among those NDT members that register interest after the deadline, their priority is ordered by time of interest registration.

The rules in this section include:

- 1.5.1 – That US Competition Starts are only allocated as below
- 1.5.2 – How the timing of an athlete's registration of interest impacts their designation as a Registered Interest Athlete and their *consideration* for a Competition Start (note: the method for an athlete to register their interest is published outside this document)
- 1.5.3 – When the allocation of Competition Starts is initiated
- 1.5.4 – What the Competition Start allocation process includes
- 1.5.5 – How Competition Starts get returned to USA Climbing due to an athlete withdrawing
- 1.5.6 – Which documentation may be required by USA Climbing
- 1.5.7 – What is published by USA Climbing
- 1.5.8 – Team Section Discretion

1.5.1 Registration through USA Climbing is the sole means of a competitor to express interest for (acceptance of) an International Competition Start from USA Climbing.

1.5.2 Regarding designating an athlete to be a "Registered Interest Athlete", an athlete (National Team member or National Development Team member) may be designated as a Registered Interest Athlete as follows:

- a) An athlete who is a National Team (NT) member:
  - i) is initially designated a NT Registered Interest Athlete (requiring no explicit registering of interest on their part) and remains so until and unless they deregister their interest; and
  - ii) who deregisters their interest, is no longer designated a Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - iii) if they subsequently reregister their interest, they are (again) designated a NT Registered Interest Athlete, regardless of the time of such reregistration of interest.
- b) An athlete who is a National Development Team (NDT) member:
  - i) is not initially designated a Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - ii) must explicitly register their interest to be designated a Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - iii) if they explicitly register their interest (or reregister their interest after deregistering their interest):
    - A) before the Registered Interest Deadline of 11:59pm MT fourteen (14) days prior to the Competition's registration deadline, are considered an NDT (Normal) Registered Interest Athlete; or
    - B) after such deadline, are considered an NDT (Late) Registered Interest Athlete; and
  - iv) who deregisters their interest, is no longer designated an NDT Registered Interest Athlete.

- c) USA Climbing will publish the method(s) for registering interest, though the method for National Team members may be different than the method for National Development Team members.
- d) Athletes who have registered their interest in a Competition, but later become unavailable, ineligible, or otherwise unable to accept a Competition Start to the Competition must contact USA Climbing via [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org) immediately in order to deregister their interest. (See 1.5.5)

1.5.3 Regarding the timing of Competition Start allocation initiation,

Competition Starts are allocated (and the provisional period as set forth in Rule 1.5.4(b) begins) immediately after one of the following initiation events occur:

- a) the Registered Interest Deadline; and
- b) when an athlete granted a Competition Start deregisters their interest and there are Registered Interest Athletes not granted a Competition Start; and
- c) when an athlete (re)registers their interest in a competition with available quota, where such allocation is subject to:
  - d) WCL deadlines for athlete competition registration and/or registration changes; and
  - e) for allocation less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the relevant WCL deadline, USA Climbing reasonable effort expectations; and
  - f) for allocation less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the relevant WCL deadline and for a competition with multiple disciplines, USA Climbing discretion to restrict the Competition Start grant to be to an athlete already having a Competition Start to another Discipline at that Competition, where the athlete must meet all of the requirements for that quota (Discipline and Competition); however, in the event there are no competitors eligible to receive such Competition Starts, the requirements rule may be relaxed such that ranking requirement is 50% more inclusive, rounded down. For example, any top five (5) requirement may be relaxed to top seven (7); any top ten (10) requirement may be relaxed to top fifteen (15); any top twenty (20) requirement may be relaxed to top thirty (30); etc.

For the avoidance of doubt:

Rule 1.5.4(b)(v) sets forth that only select (re)registrations of interest will be considered during a provisional period; and

If, during a provisional period (Rule 1.5.4(b)), a subsequent Competition Start allocation initiation event occurs (e.g., another athlete granted a Competition Start deregisters their interest), then a new Competition Start allocation process begins for the newly-available quota, but the quota allocated by the currently-provisional process is not affected.

1.5.4 Regarding the allocation procedure for Competition Starts,

when allocating available USA Climbing quota for an International Competition:

- a) USA Climbing shall publish provisional Competition Starts to eligible athletes who have registered interest in each Discipline at the Competition, in an order and number based on the quota available to USA Climbing and the relevant Competition Start order outlined in this Team Selection Procedures document,
  - i) first considering only NT Registered Interest Athletes and NDT (Normal) Registered Interest Athletes; and
  - ii) then (only if quota remains) considering NDT (Late) Registered Interest Athletes, prioritized strictly by the date/time order of their most recent (re)registration of interest (earliest date/time having highest priority); and
- b) during the forty-eight (48) hours after publication (“provisional period”), Competition Starts will be re-evaluated if:
  - i) any of the athletes granted a provisional Competition Start decline (i.e., deregister their interest); or
  - ii) for the Elite Series, any National Team member reregisters their interest; or

iii) any provisional Competition Start is found to be erroneous (including without limitation those published due to clerical errors),

in which case, the provisional Competition Starts will be newly determined by and published by USA Climbing, and:

- iv) no new provisional forty-eight (48) hour period begins; and
- v) no new Registered Interest Athlete, other than set forth in 1.5.4(b)(ii), is considered; and
- c) at a time forty-eight (48) hours after publishing provisional Competition Starts, said provisional Competition Starts (as updated and/or corrected, if applicable) shall become Competition Starts and USA Climbing will register the invited athletes for the International Competition; and
- d) if the provisional period begins less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Competition's relevant registration deadline, the provisional period shall be twelve (12) hours, unless provisional period begins less than twelve (12) hours prior to the Competition's relevant registration deadline, in which case the provisional period a nominally short time (e.g., 30 minutes) or may be eliminated.

For the avoidance of doubt, National Team members (in the Elite Series) have priority that includes consideration if they reregister interest during the provisional period. Once the provisional period ends, Competition Starts are not revoked without Team Selection Discretion.

1.5.5 Competition Starts extended by USA Climbing are considered accepted unless an athlete declines or deregisters their interest.

- a) Declining a Competition Start or withdrawing from the competition (including without limitation becoming no longer available, eligible, or interested in attending the Competition) is to be considered the same as deregistering interest.
- b) If an athlete who received a Competition Start to a given Competition deregisters their interest, the Competition Start is retracted, and USA Climbing will attempt to deregister the competitor from the International Competition.

1.5.6 For the purposes of facilitating expedient registration of an athlete for the international competition, USA climbing may require that an athlete have particular credentials and/or documentation (e.g., a valid US passport) in order to register their interest in a Competition.

1.5.7 For each International Competition (Competition) for which USA Climbing has an allocated quota, USA Climbing shall publish, on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website,

- a) the date(s) and location(s) of the Competition; and
- b) the Discipline(s) that the Competition includes; and
- c) the list, for each Discipline at the Competition, of athletes eligible to register their interest for a Competition Start in that Discipline at the Competition; and
- d) the method(s) for registering interest; and
- e) the credentials and/or documentation required in order to register interest.
- f) the Registered Interest Deadline; and
- g) the Athlete Swap End Date; and

By way of example, USA Climbing may publish a table as follows:

Date Location	Discipline Eligible Athlete List	Registered Interest Deadline (11:59pm MT)	Athlete Swap End Date (11:59pm MT)	Required Credentials /Documentation	Current Interest Report
4/15 Meiringen	Boulder (eligibility list)	4/1	4/5	Valid US Passport	<a href="#">Link</a>
5/21 SLC	Boulder (eligibility list)	4/22	5/4	None	<a href="#">Link</a>

1.5.8 [removed – redundant with 1.6]

## 1.6 General - USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion

1.6.1 USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion provides the authority to waive or amend rules in this document, subject to the following:

- a) The USA Climbing High Performance team (or equivalent) or USA Climbing Athletes' Advisory Committee must submit a written proposal to the USA Climbing Team Selection Committee outlining:
  - i) the requested discretion; and
  - ii) the justification for the discretion, based, in part, on performance at recent USA Climbing, WCL, or NACS competitions; and
  - iii) any precedents relevant to the discretion; and
  - iv) the anticipated impact of such discretion.
- b) The proposal should be communicated to all affected athletes in a timely manner.
- c) The USA Climbing Team Selection Committee and the USA Climbing CEO must both approve the proposal for the discretion to be granted.
- d) The USA Climbing Board of Directors must be informed within fourteen (14) days of any exercise of discretion, by way of submission of the proposal and the Team Selection Committee recommendation/approval to the board.

1.6.2 For each position set forth in the Team Selection Committee charter that is either not filled or where the individual has recused themselves due to a conflict of interest, that Team Selection Committee voting position for Rule 1.6.1 purposes is filled in the following order, as such individuals are available:

- a) For an athlete position on the Team Selection Committee:
  - i) USOPC AAC Representative alternate.
  - ii) USA Climbing AAC Chair.
  - iii) A member of the USA Climbing AAC.
- b) For a non-athlete position on the Team Selection Committee:
  - i) A member of the USA Climbing Board of Directors.

Positions should be filled with attention paid to avoid conflicts of interest.

## 2 Elite: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

### 2.1 Elite: National Team Ranking Points

- 2.1.1 National Team Ranking Points, for each Discipline, are the sum of:
- the National Championship (NCH) competition National Team Ranking points; and
  - the National Team Trials (NTT) competition National Team Ranking points; and
  - National Team Ranking Bonus points.
- 2.1.2 National Team Ranking points expire at the start of the following National Championship.
- 2.1.3 The rankings used to determine National Team Ranking points are among only age-eligible National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.
- For Lead and Boulder, the National Team Ranking Points awarded an age-eligible NTE athlete is the sum of ranking points across each round of the NCH and NTT<sup>2</sup>, with the Bonus Points as set out in section 2.1.5 which are the 2025 Bonus points scaled by a factor of  $6000/2200=2.727$  rounded down.

Lead and Boulder Team Ranking points (maximum 7000 points)		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Qualification Round	General Rank <sup>3</sup>	Table 2-3
+ NCH Semi-Final Round		
+ NCH Final Round		
+ NTT Qualification Round		
+ NTT Semi-Final Round		
+ NTT Final Round		
+ Bonus points * 2.727	CUWR	Table 2-4

Table 2-1 National Team Ranking Points – Lead & Boulder

- Speed – the National Team Ranking Points awarded an age-eligible NTE athlete is the sum of ranking points from each of the NCH and NTT, with the Bonus Points as set out in section 2.1.5 which are the 2025 Bonus points scaled by a factor of  $2000/2200=0.909$  rounded down.

Speed National Team Ranking points (maximum 3000 points)		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Speed competition	Time Rank <sup>4</sup>	Table 2-3
+ NTT Speed competition		
+ Bonus points * 0.909	CUWR	Table 2-5

Table 2-2 National Team Ranking Points – Speed

<sup>2</sup> For NTT Lead and Boulder, a competitor is not awarded NTR Points for rounds in which they are DNS.

<sup>3</sup> In the Semi-Final and Final rounds, the General Rank includes all competitors (it is an “overall” rank). For example, a competitor ranking 30<sup>th</sup> in Quals will typically be ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in the General Rank for Semis and Finals as well.

<sup>4</sup> For Speed, a competitor that has no valid times is not ranked in Time Rank for the competition and is not awarded NTR Points for the competition.

2.1.4 The following table is used to determine National Team Ranking points. (The rank used is as set out in the tables in Rule 2.1.3.)

<b>National Team Ranking Points – From NCH and NTT</b>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Points</b>
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 2-3 National Team Ranking Points – Rank Points

2.1.5 National Team Ranking Bonus points are as follows:

- a) At the conclusion of the calendar year, WCL CUWR Top-40 National Team Ranking Bonus points are awarded in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, where their points are determined from their CUWR top-40 rank in the Discipline at the end of the year using the tables below:

<b>Lead and Boulder National Team Ranking Bonus – CUWR Top-40</b>							
<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>
1	2727	11	1068	21	627	31	373
2	2247	12	1008	22	591	32	362
3	1966	13	959	23	567	33	351
4	1769	14	910	24	529	34	346
5	1608	15	861	25	504	35	338
6	1486	16	812	26	477	36	329
7	1388	17	774	27	449	37	321
8	1289	18	725	28	425	38	319
9	1205	19	689	29	409	39	313
10	1131	20	651	30	389	40	308

Table 2-4 National Team Ranking Points – Lead and Boulder Bonus Points – CUWR Top-40

<b>Speed National Team Ranking Bonus – CUWR Top-40</b>							
<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>	<b>CUWR</b>	<b>Bonus Pts</b>
1	909	11	356	21	209	31	124
2	749	12	336	22	197	32	120
3	655	13	319	23	189	33	117
4	589	14	303	24	176	34	115
5	536	15	287	25	168	35	112
6	495	16	270	26	159	36	109
7	462	17	258	27	149	37	107
8	429	18	241	28	141	38	106
9	401	19	229	29	136	39	104
10	377	20	217	30	129	40	102

Table 2-5 National Team Ranking Points – Speed Bonus Points – CUWR Top-40

## 2.2 Elite: National Team & National Development Team Selection

Notes: Because the WCL quota allocated to the US may be fewer than the number of National Team members, not all National Team members are guaranteed a Competition Start.

The National Team may include Preselected plus the top “N” from National Team Rankings (NTR).

2.2.1 The National Teams and National Development Teams shall be composed at the conclusion of the National Team Trials, in the order of criteria listed in each table, and within each criterion, age-eligible NTE athletes within that set are ordered by the ranking used in the criterion (e.g., CUWR or NTR), unless otherwise specified.

a) 2025: In each of the **Lead, Boulder, and Speed** Disciplines:

Type		Criterion
National Team	Preselected	2024 Olympic Team members in the Discipline. (Boulder & Lead Olympic Team members are Preselected in both Lead and Boulder.)
		Athletes in the top ten (10) rank of the CUWR in the Discipline at the conclusion of the prior year.
	NTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top two (2) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected.
		Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected, ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).
National Development Team	NTR Selected	Athletes not on the National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline National Team Ranking.

Table 2-6 2025 National Team and National Development Team – Lead, Boulder, and Speed

a) 2026: In each of the **Lead, Boulder, and Speed** Disciplines:

Type		Criterion
National Team	Preselected	Athletes in the top ten (10) rank of the CUWR in the Discipline at the conclusion of the prior year.
	NTR Selected <sup>5</sup>	Athletes ranked in the top two (2) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected.
		Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected, ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).
National Development Team	NTR Selected	Athletes not on the National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline National Team Ranking.

Table 2-7 2026 National Team and National Development Team – Lead, Boulder, and Speed

2.2.2 Only for WCL events where WCL awards the US additional host quota (typically a US-hosted WCL event), the National Development Teams in Rule 2.2.1 shall be athletes ranked in the top sixteen (16) in the Discipline National Team Ranking instead of the top ten (10).

<sup>5</sup> NTR Selected athletes must meet the NT benchmark to be on the National Team.

2.2.3 Subject to Team Selection Discretion, USA Climbing may declare additional athletes to be members of the National Development Team.

## 2.3 Elite: Competition Starts

- 2.3.1 For the purposes of this document, Elite Competition Starts are those for Elite Competitions which consist of:
- a) WCL Series Events and WCL World Championship; and
  - b) Pan American Games and associated direct qualification competitions for the Pan American Games; and
  - c) the “Olympic Qualification Series”.
- 2.3.2 In order to receive a Competition Start in the Speed Discipline, an athlete:
- a) must be Speed National Team Preselected; or
  - b) must have achieved a CS Benchmark time (see Rule 2.4).
- 2.3.3 For each competition, the first one (1) Competition Start is subject to Team Selection Discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, Team Selection Discretion may extend the Competition Start to a member of the relevant National Development Team or National Team.
- 2.3.4 Elite Competition Starts in the Speed Discipline shall be extended, up to the US quota and subject to Rules 2.3.2 and 2.3.3, to those not WCL Name-Eligible in Speed as follows:
- a) to members of the Speed National Team, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - b) to the extent that any quota remains, to the Speed National Development Team, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - c) to the extent that any quota remains, to National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes who have achieved the Competition Start minimum benchmark time, where such athletes are ordered:
    - i) first, those with a National Team Ranking in Speed, ordered by such ranking; and
    - ii) second, the remaining athletes, ordered by their fastest achieved benchmark time (see Rule 2.4) (fastest ordered first).
- 2.3.5 Elite Competition Starts in Lead and Boulder shall be extended, up to the US quota and subject to Rule 2.3.3, as follows:
- a) to members of the National Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team; then
  - b) to the extent that any quota remains, to the National Development Team in the Discipline, in order of their rank within that team.

## 2.4 Elite: Speed Benchmarks

2.4.1 USA Climbing Team Selection Speed Benchmark times for the following year are established at the conclusion of the calendar year, using the times achieved that year in the Speed Qualification rounds of WCL Series Events and, if held that year, the WCL World Championship. For example, the 2026 Speed Benchmark times are determined using the results of those 2025 WCL Speed events.

- The benchmark for an athlete to be on the National Team (the NT Benchmark) is calculated from WCL event Qualification rounds in the prior year. The NT Benchmark is effectively a time that would reasonably place the athlete in the top 50% of a WCL qualification round.
- The benchmark for an athlete to get a Competition Start (the CS Benchmark) is 7% slower than the NT Benchmark.
- The benchmark for an athlete to qualify for the National Team Trials (the NTT Benchmark) is 40% slower than the NT Benchmark.

The Speed Benchmark times are published on the National Team page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

2.4.2 The Speed Benchmark times are to be established as follows:

- a) The 2027 National Team Benchmark (NT Benchmark) for each Category is determined at the conclusion of the 2026 World Climbing season by:
  - i) first determining the season's World Climbing Series (or World Championship, if relevant) event<sup>6</sup> that has the greatest number of competitors with a Qualification round valid time, and
  - ii) then determining the median value of the per-competitor fastest times.<sup>7</sup>
- b) The 2026 National Team Benchmark (NT Benchmark) for each Category is determined at the conclusion of the 2025 WCL season by:
  - i) first determining the set of valid fastest Qualification round times for each competitor ranked in that round at each WCL Series Event (and where relevant, the World Championship) in that calendar year; and
  - ii) then determining the median time of that set.

A given WCL athlete will have one "fastest time" in the set for each relevant competition in which they have a valid Qualification round time and are ranked in that round. (i.e. do not have a False Start in that round.)

- c) The Competition Start Benchmark (CS Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.07 (an increase of 7%).
- d) The NTT Eligibility Benchmark (NTT Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.40 (an increase of 40%).<sup>8</sup>
- e) Each Speed Benchmark calculation (median of Qualification times, NT benchmark, CS benchmark, NTT benchmark) is rounded *up* to two (2) decimal digits (1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second) before being presented or used further. (e.g., 8.251 rounds up to 8.26)
- f) A race time is rounded *down* to two (2) decimal digit before comparison to a benchmark time. (e.g., a race time of 6.209 is rounded down to 6.20 and *does* meet a 6.20 benchmark time.)<sup>9</sup>

2.4.3 For a given NTT and WCL competition year, an athlete may achieve a benchmark time as follows:

<sup>6</sup> Including Speed-2 and Speed-4 format events (separately), not including Speed-Relay

<sup>7</sup> Effectively, the time of the qualification round middle-of-the-pack competitor of the event with the largest competitor field – a method intended to provide a benchmark easier to determine with little calculation, though still likely to produce similar results to earlier methods. Subject to change.

<sup>8</sup> USA Climbing has the discretion to maintain the same NTT benchmark as the prior year.

<sup>9</sup> For the purposes of this rule, benchmark times are rounded up and race times are rounded down.

- a) in any of the following Speed competitions in that calendar year or in the immediately prior calendar year:
  - i) USA Climbing National competitions.
  - ii) North American Cup Series competitions.
  - iii) WCL-sanctioned world-level competitions (e.g., WCL Series Events, World Championship (any Series), Olympics and Olympic qualification competitions).
  - iv) An event (competition or speed trial) designated prior to the event by USA Climbing by way of Team Selection Discretion for NT, CS, and/or NTT Benchmark purposes. Note that a given competition or speed trial may be designated only for NTT, and not CS or NT, Benchmark purposes.

For example, for the 2024 NTT and 2024 WCL season, only times achieved at the above relevant competitions on or after January 1, 2023 are considered.

For the avoidance of doubt, race times that do not meet the timeframe or event requirements above are not considered when evaluating benchmark times for any purpose defined in this document.

- b) for NTT Benchmark only, in a manner defined in an NTT Benchmark exception policy published by and at the discretion of USA Climbing.

### 3 Elite: National Championship: Eligibility, Format, and Ranking Points

#### 3.1 Elite: NCH Age Requirement

- 3.1.1 To be age-eligible for the National Championship, a competitor must be seventeen (17) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the first WCL event immediately following the National Championship.
- if the National Championship is late in the calendar year before the WCL Series season immediately following, a competitor who is sixteen (16) years of age on December 31st of the year of the National Championship will not have been eligible for other Elite Series events that year (e.g., North American Cup Series), though is age-eligible and may still achieve eligibility for the National Championship via exceptional performance at the Youth National Championship that year.
  - If the National Championship is early in the same calendar year as the WCL Series season immediately following, the age eligibility for the NCH is the same as that WCL Series season.

#### 3.2 Elite: NCH Eligibility

- 3.2.1 NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (in each Category and for each Discipline) for an NCH age-eligible competitor shall be the sum of the points from the best two (2) eligible competitions (by points) since the day before the preceding National Championship.
- eligible competitions are listed in the table below, indicating which citizens are eligible for ranking points and the method used to rank the competitors in the Discipline for purposes of determining their NCH Eligibility Ranking points using the table in Rule 3.2.2
  - National Team Ineligible (NTI) competitors are awarded NCH Eligibility Ranking points only where they achieve a General Rank in the top-20 at a North American Cup Series competition

Competition	Citizen	Rank used for Determination of Ranking Points Determined using Rank relative to:
USA Climbing National Championship (prior year)	US only	all competitors
USA Climbing National Team Trials (prior year)	US only	all competitors
WCL Series Event	US only	all competitors
WCL World Championship	US only	all competitors
Pan-American Championships	US only	all competitors
North American Cup Series	Any - see (b)	all competitors <sup>10</sup>

Table 3-1 NCH Eligibility – Competitions Where Ranking Points Are Awarded

For example, a competitor's NCH Eligibility Ranking Points total could be from:

- the NCH and a NACS, or
- the NTT and a WCL Series event; or
- two WCs; etc.

<sup>10</sup> NCH Eligibility Ranking points are not granted to NACS competitors who do not meet WCL Series age requirements in the same calendar year as the NACS event.

3.2.2 The following table used to determine NCH Eligibility Ranking points using the following Elite competitions; the table is NOT used for National Team Ranking points. For the National Team Ranking points table, see Rule 2.1.4.

<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)</b>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>WCLSE<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>WCH</b>	<b>NACS</b>	<b>PACH</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>1</b>	1000	1000	2500	3500	500	500	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	805	805	2012	2817	402	402	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	690	690	1725	2415	345	345	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	610	610	1525	2135	305	305	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	545	545	1362	1907	272	272	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	495	495	1237	1732	247	247	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	455	455	1137	1592	227	227	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	415	415	1037	1452	207	207	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	380	380	950	1330	190	190	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	350	350	875	1225	175	175	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	325	325	812	1137	162	162	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	300	300	750	1050	150	150	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	280	280	700	980	140	140	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	260	260	650	910	130	130	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	240	240	600	840	120	120	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	220	220	550	770	110	110	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	205	205	512	717	102	102	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	185	185	462	647	92	92	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	170	170	425	595	85	85	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	155	155	387	542	77	77	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	145	145	362	507	72	72	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	130	130	325	455	65	65	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	120	120	300	420	60	60	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	105	105	262	367	52	52	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	95	95	237	332	47	47	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	84	84	210	294	42	42	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	73	73	182	255	36	36	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	63	63	157	220	31	31	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	56	56	140	196	28	28	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	48	48	120	168	24	24	<b>30</b>

<sup>11</sup> WCL Series Event (formerly World Cup)

<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)</b>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>WCLSE<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>WCH</b>	<b>NACS</b>	<b>PACH</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>31</b>	42	42	105	147	21	21	<b>31</b>
<b>32</b>	37	37	92	129	18	18	<b>32</b>
<b>33</b>	33	33	82	115	16	16	<b>33</b>
<b>34</b>	30	30	75	105	15	15	<b>34</b>
<b>35</b>	27	27	67	94	13	13	<b>35</b>
<b>36</b>	24	24	60	84	12	12	<b>36</b>
<b>37</b>	21	21	52	73	10	10	<b>37</b>
<b>38</b>	19	19	47	66	9	9	<b>38</b>
<b>39</b>	17	17	42	59	8	8	<b>39</b>
<b>40</b>	15	15	37	52	7	7	<b>40</b>
<b>41</b>	14	14	35	49	7	7	<b>41</b>
<b>42</b>	13	13	32	45	6	6	<b>42</b>
<b>43</b>	12	12	30	42	6	6	<b>43</b>
<b>44</b>	11	11	27	38	5	5	<b>44</b>
<b>45</b>	11	11	27	38	5	5	<b>45</b>
<b>46</b>	10	10	25	35	5	5	<b>46</b>
<b>47</b>	9	9	22	31	4	4	<b>47</b>
<b>48</b>	9	9	22	31	4	4	<b>48</b>
<b>49</b>	8	8	20	28	4	4	<b>49</b>
<b>50</b>	8	8	20	28	4	4	<b>50</b>
<b>51</b>	7	7	17	24	3	3	<b>51</b>
<b>52</b>	7	7	17	24	3	3	<b>52</b>
<b>53</b>	7	7	17	24	3	3	<b>53</b>
<b>54</b>	6	6	15	21	3	3	<b>54</b>
<b>55</b>	6	6	15	21	3	3	<b>55</b>
<b>56</b>	6	6	15	21	3	3	<b>56</b>
<b>57</b>	5	5	12	17	2	2	<b>57</b>
<b>58</b>	5	5	12	17	2	2	<b>58</b>
<b>59</b>	5	5	12	17	2	2	<b>59</b>
<b>60</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>60</b>
<b>61</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>61</b>
<b>62</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>62</b>
<b>63</b>	4	4	10	14	2	2	<b>63</b>
<b>64</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>64</b>

<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)</b>							
<b>Rank</b>	<b>NCH</b>	<b>NTT</b>	<b>WCLSE<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>WCH</b>	<b>NACS</b>	<b>PACH</b>	<b>Rank</b>
<b>65</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>65</b>
<b>66</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>66</b>
<b>67</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>67</b>
<b>68</b>	3	3	7	10	1	1	<b>68</b>
<b>69</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>69</b>
<b>70</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>70</b>
<b>71</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>71</b>
<b>72</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>72</b>
<b>73</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>73</b>
<b>74</b>	2	2	5	7	1	1	<b>74</b>
<b>75</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>75</b>
<b>76</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>76</b>
<b>77</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>77</b>
<b>78</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>78</b>
<b>79</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>79</b>
<b>80</b>	1	1	2	3	0	0	<b>80</b>

Table 3-2 NCH Eligibility – Ranking Points

3.2.3 The competitor Qualification criteria for NCH eligibility for National Team Eligible (NTE) for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines are as follows, where all Discipline criteria apply:

- first, as a Discipline criterion only to that Discipline’s NCH eligibility; and
- then, as a Boulder & Lead criterion to both Lead NCH and Boulder NCH eligibility,

and the Seeding Order (i.e., used for starting lists in Boulder Qualification Round) is by the order of the criteria below:

Set of Eligible Athletes (Order Within the Set)	NCH Discipline Eligible	NCH B&L Cross Eligible	Notes
<b>Team Preselected (Rank within Team)</b>	All	All	(a)
<b>Past Olympian</b>	All	none (e)	(a) (e)
<b>Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist</b>	All	none (e)	(a) (e)
<b>NCH Eligibility Ranking (NCH Eligibility Rank)</b>	Top-100	Top-25	(b)(c)
<b>Recent National Team Member (Prior National Team Rank)</b>	All	All	(a)
<b>Youth National Team Ranking (Youth National Team Rank)</b>	Top-6	Top-3	(a) (d)
<b>Collegiate National Team Ranking (Collegiate National Team Rank)</b>	Top-6	Top-3	(a) (d)

Table 3-3 NCH Eligibility – Criteria

*With the expected return to an individual discipline focus, the NCH eligibility will focus more on broad inclusion for the discipline, but still retain some B&L cross-eligibility for highly ranked competitors, recognizing the travel and opportunity issues involved in attending multiple NACS events.*

Notes, where listed above:

- Does not apply to National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes.
- USA Climbing has the discretion to increase (relax) the required eligibility rank within the NCH Eligibility Ranking (to include more than what is specified in the above table) by publishing that new requirement at least ten (10) days prior to the National Championship competition.
- An athlete who qualified for the National Team or National Development Team the prior year will have enough NCH Eligibility Ranking points to qualify for the next year’s NCH even if they do not accumulate any additional points between the NTT and the following season’s NCH.
- Eligibility is based on Youth (or as relevant, Collegiate) National Team Ranking points solely from the Youth (or as relevant, Collegiate) National Championships in the last 15 months, based on ranking among *\*all\** National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors, and NTE competitors in Youth, in the category.  
 Note: if a top-N competitor is otherwise qualified for NCH or not age-eligible for the upcoming NCH, their top-N eligibility does not pass to any other competitor.
- Past Olympian and Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist eligibility is granted only for the Discipline(s) from that past competition. Note, however, that an Olympian from an Olympics that combined three Disciplines is eligible for the NCH in all three Disciplines.

3.2.4 The competitor Qualification requirements for NCH eligibility in this document are in addition to further requirements (e.g., USA Climbing membership) set forth in the USA Climbing Rulebook.

- 3.2.5 For the National Championship, any competitor:
- a) granted NCH B&L Cross Eligibility for Lead by Rule 3.2.3 and not granted eligibility for Boulder that Rule is nonetheless granted eligibility for Boulder and such a competitor is seeded last in Boulder; and
  - b) granted NCH B&L Cross Eligibility for Boulder by Rule 3.2.3 and not granted eligibility for Lead by that Rule is nonetheless granted eligibility for Lead and such a competitor is seeded last in Lead.

### 3.3 Elite: NCH Competition Format

- 3.3.1 Where the USA Climbing Rulebook uses competition seeding for the Qualification round Start Order, the seeding is by way of Section 3.2 above.
- 3.3.2 For the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, the NCH competition adheres to USA Climbing rules, with the following exceptions:
- a) Advancement relative to National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes is as follows:<sup>12</sup>
    - i) In the Speed Discipline, National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes are not eligible to advance to the Final round.
    - ii) In the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes advancement is outlined in the USA Climbing Rulebook.
  - b) In the Boulder Discipline:
    - i) The Jury President has the discretion to set the scheduled interval after each rotation to be longer than 15 seconds.
  - c) In the Speed Discipline:
    - i) For the purposes of ranking competitors, the updated WCL Speed Ranking rules (Annex B Speed, section 8) will be used.

---

<sup>12</sup> A competitor not eligible for the relevant Elite National Team is considered NTI for the purposes of advancement in the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.

## 4 Elite: National Team Trials: Eligibility, Format, and Ranking Points

### 4.1 Elite: NTT Age Requirement

- 4.1.1 To be age-eligible for the National Team Trials, a competitor must have been age-eligible for the immediately prior National Championship.

### 4.2 Elite: NTT Eligibility

- 4.2.1 To be eligible for the National Team Trials in the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, a competitor must be a National Team Eligible (NTE) athlete and:
- be designated USA Climbing Team Preselected in the Discipline; or
  - be eligible for Bonus Points, in the Discipline, as set forth in Rule 2.1.5; or
  - at the National Championship, have achieved a top-30 ranking in the Discipline in total NTR points across all NCH rounds among National Team Eligible (NTE) excluding athletes granted eligibility by (a) or (b) above.

Summary:

<b>NTT Lead or Boulder eligible if, in the Discipline:</b>	
	USA Climbing Team Preselected in
or	Bonus Points eligible
or	NCH NTR points (all rounds) top-30

Table 4-1 NTT Eligibility – Lead and Boulder

- 4.2.2 To be eligible for the National Team Trials in Speed, a competitor must be a National Team Eligible (NTE) athlete and:

- be designated USA Climbing Team Preselected in the Discipline; or
- be eligible for Bonus Points, in Speed, as set forth in Rule 2.1.5; or
- have achieved:
  - a top-30 Time Rank in Speed at the National Championship among National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline and not eligible for National Team Ranking Bonus; and
  - an NTT Benchmark time (see Rule 2.4).

Summary:

<b>NTT Speed eligible if, in Speed:</b>	
	USA Climbing Team Preselected
or	Bonus Points eligible
or	NCH top-30 and achieved National Team Trials Speed Eligibility Benchmark Time

Table 4-2 NTT Eligibility – Speed Summary

### 4.3 Elite: NTT Competition Format

- 4.3.1 The competitor seeding order for the Boulder National Team Trials competition shall be:
- a) first seeded are Boulder Team Preselected in order of rank in the team; and
  - b) next seeded are all others in order of Boulder ranking at the National Championship.
- 4.3.2 For the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, the NTT competition adheres to USA Climbing rules, with the following exceptions:
- a) For the Lead and Boulder Disciplines:
    - i) The three rounds are:
      - A) 1<sup>st</sup> round: using Qualification round format,
      - B) 2<sup>nd</sup> round: using Semi-Final round format, and
      - C) 3<sup>rd</sup> round using Final round format,where format exceptions are further detailed in this section.
    - ii) The advancement quota is unlimited for all rounds. (i.e., all competitors are eligible to advance, even if DNS for a prior round.)
    - iii) The Starting Order for the 1<sup>st</sup> round is Random, Offset for Lead and Rank Ascending for Boulder.<sup>13</sup>
    - iv) The Starting Order for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds is Rank Descending using only the rank from the immediately preceding round.<sup>14</sup>
  - b) In addition, for the Boulder Discipline:
    - i) The Jury President has the discretion to set the scheduled interval after each rotation to be longer than 15 seconds.
    - ii) The 2<sup>nd</sup> round has five (5) boulders.
    - iii) The 3<sup>rd</sup> round has the same format as the 2<sup>nd</sup> round with the following differences:
      - A) A collective observation period is held prior to the start of the round and may allow athletes to observe any boulder at will during that period.<sup>15</sup>
      - B) The round has four (4) boulders.
      - C) The Rotation time is four (4) minutes.
      - D) Competitors have two (2) “rest” Rotation slots between boulders.<sup>16</sup>
    - iv) During the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> round, the boulders are cleaned at regular intervals not to exceed 12 competitors.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> These are the standard Qualification round Starting Orders.

<sup>14</sup> Competitor(s) marked DNS in the immediately prior round are first in the Starting Order (randomized if more than one competitor), thus starting before the competitor(s) ranked last in that prior round.

<sup>15</sup> The collective observation period should be a total of 8 minutes.

<sup>16</sup> i.e., climb, rest, rest, climb, rest, rest, ...

<sup>17</sup> e.g., using a “brush slot” or equivalent.

c) Speed:

- i) The Speed competition is a series of 6 timed races where the competitors are ranked solely by Time Rank across those races. All competitors are eligible for all races even if DNS for a prior round/race.
- ii) The 6 timed races are organized in 3 rounds, each of which has the format of a Speed Qualification round. (i.e., two races per competitor in each round).<sup>18</sup>
- iii) There is an organized practice period using the same Starting Order as the first round. Practice period times do not count towards Time Rank.
- iv) The routes should be cleaned before each round.
- v) There must be at least 30 minutes between each round.
- vi) The Starting Order for each round is as follows:
  - A) for the 1<sup>st</sup> round: Random, Offset Order (the standard Qual round Starting Order)
  - B) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds: Paired Rank Descending Order based on Time Rank from all prior rounds.<sup>19</sup>
  - C) Paired Rank Descending Order means the two best ranked (Time Rank) competitors in the competition so far are the last among all competitors to start their first race and are the last to start their second race (swapping lanes). In the case of Time Rank ties, the order of tied competitors is random. If the number of competitors is odd, the lowest ranked (Time Rank) competitor races alone. See below for an example with 7 competitors, ranked 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.

Race	Lane A	Lane B
1	7 <sup>th</sup> ranked	<i>none</i>
2	5 <sup>th</sup> ranked	6 <sup>th</sup> ranked
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> ranked	4 <sup>th</sup> ranked
4	1 <sup>st</sup> ranked	2 <sup>nd</sup> ranked
5	<i>none</i>	7 <sup>th</sup> ranked
6	6 <sup>th</sup> ranked	5 <sup>th</sup> ranked
7	4 <sup>th</sup> ranked	3 <sup>rd</sup> ranked
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> ranked	1 <sup>st</sup> ranked

- vii) For the purposes of breaking Time Rank ties, the updated WCL Speed Ranking rules (Annex B Speed, section 8) will be used.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> There is no knockout round at NTT.

<sup>19</sup> Time Rank for 2<sup>nd</sup> round Starting Order uses 1<sup>st</sup> round times.

Time Rank for 3<sup>rd</sup> round Starting Order uses 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round times.

USA Climbing has discretion to use Random, Offset Order instead of Paired Rank Descending Order for either or both of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rounds.

<sup>20</sup> i.e., if competitors have all the same best race times, the Fall / False Start / Not Started order is used to resolve Time Rank ties.

## 5 Youth: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

### 5.1 Youth: National Team Ranking Points

- 5.1.1 For each Youth National Team in the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, that Youth National Team Ranking (YNTR) is the Youth National Championship General competition ranking in the Discipline among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.
- 5.1.2 For each Youth National Team in the Speed Discipline, that Youth National Team Ranking (YNTR) is comprised from the Youth National Championship 1<sup>st</sup> Time Rank and then General ranking, both among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected, in the following order:<sup>21</sup>
- 1<sup>st</sup> in Time Rank, then
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in General Rank, then
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in General Rank, then
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> (and on) in General Rank.

### 5.2 Youth: National Teams & National Development Team Selection

- 5.2.1 The Youth National Team and National Development Team in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be composed at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by YNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
<b>Youth National Team</b>	Preselected	Athletes that are WCL Name-Eligible (i.e., typically Youth World Champion) in the Discipline.
	YNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship.
<b>Youth National Development Team</b>	YNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Youth National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship.

Table 5-1 Youth National Team and National Development Team

### 5.3 Youth: Competition Starts: WCL Youth World Championships and Youth Pan American Championships

- 5.3.1 For WCL Youth World Championships or Youth Pan American Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended, up to the US quota, to those not WCL Name-Eligible in the Discipline as follows:
- first, to the relevant Youth National Team, in order of their team rank; then
  - to the extent that any quota remains, to the relevant Youth National Development Team, in order of their National Development Team rank.

<sup>21</sup> The Youth Speed NTR is ordered as: fastest athlete in Time Rank, followed by the General ranking.

## 6 Collegiate: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

### 6.1 Collegiate: National Team Ranking Points

- 6.1.1 For each Collegiate National Team, the relevant Collegiate National Team Ranking (CNTR) is the Collegiate National Championship competition General ranking in the Discipline among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.

### 6.2 Collegiate: National Teams & National Development Team Selection

- 6.2.1 The Collegiate National Team and National Development Team in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be composed at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by CNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
<b>Collegiate National Team</b>	Preselected	Athletes that are WCL Name-Eligible (i.e., typically Collegiate World Champion) in the Discipline.
	CNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship.
<b>Collegiate National Development Team</b>	CNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Collegiate National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship.

Table 6-1 Collegiate National Team and National Development Team

### 6.3 Collegiate: Competition Starts: World University Championships

- 6.3.1 For World University Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended, up to the US quota, to those not WCL Name-Eligible in the Discipline as follows:
- first, to the relevant Collegiate National Team, in order of their team rank; then
  - to the extent that any quota remains, to the relevant Collegiate National Development Team, in order of their National Development Team rank.

## 7 Paraclimbing: Teams and Competition Starts

### 7.1 Paraclimbing: National Team Ranking Points

- 7.1.1 For each Paraclimbing National Team, the relevant Paraclimbing National Team Ranking is the Paraclimbing National Championship competition General ranking in the Discipline among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.

### 7.2 Paraclimbing: National Teams & National Development Team

- 7.2.1 The US Paraclimbing National Team, in each WCL category, shall be composed at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by PNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
<b>Paraclimbing National Team</b>	Preselected	Athletes that are WCL Name-Eligible in the Category that they still qualify for.
		If WCL does not designate Name-Eligible athletes in Paraclimbing, the highest one (1) ranked competitor in the WCL Paraclimbing World Ranking in the Category (see 7.2.1(b)) among those National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes who were ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> in a Paraclimbing WCL Series Event or ranked 1 <sup>st</sup> through 3 <sup>rd</sup> in the Paraclimbing World Championships, that Category and still qualify in that Category.
	PNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top three (3) in the Category's Paraclimbing National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing National Championship.
<b>Paraclimbing National Development Team</b>	PNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Paraclimbing National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Category's Paraclimbing National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing National Championship.

Table 7-1 Paraclimbing National Team and National Development Team

- a) In the event of Category changes and/or Category merging, Team Selection Discretion may provide Preselected status based on achievement in a different Category.
- b) In the event that WCL does not maintain a Paraclimbing World Ranking in the Category, USA Climbing shall rank Preselected-eligible National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes in the Category in a manner that follows the construction and points of the WCL CUWR for a Discipline, using each athlete's WCL World Championship result and their best one (1) WCL Series Event result.

For the avoidance of doubt, the US Paraclimbing National Team composition shall be based on the WCL categories should they differ from those used at USA Climbing competitions.

### **7.3 Paraclimbing: Competition Starts: Paraclimbing WCL Series Events and Paraclimbing World Championships**

- 7.3.1 While categories for Paraclimbing athletes in USA Climbing competitions may be different from WCL categories (see the USA Climbing Rulebook for information on USA Climbing Paraclimbing categories), the WCL Paraclimbing World Championship Competition Starts shall be based on the WCL categories.
- 7.3.2 Competition Starts to compete at the WCL Paraclimbing World Championships may be extended to:
- a) members of the US Paraclimbing National Team, then US Paraclimbing National Development Team, up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota; and
  - b) in addition to (a), where WCL grants byes to Champion status competitors to compete in the Paraclimbing World Championships, National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors that hold such status may also be extended a Competition Start.
- 7.3.3 All categories of visually impaired (B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller, who may call out the route for them in accordance with WCL Rules. For WCL Series Event or World Championship competitions, each US Paraclimbing National Team visually impaired competitor is required to provide their own personal caller who is not competitor, is not shared with another competitor, and is not a team official. The competitor's caller must be identified as such in the visually impaired competitor's signed Athlete Agreement with USA Climbing, and the caller must also submit a signed Athlete Agreement. Such a competitor's caller shall then be considered a member of the US Paraclimbing National Team and shall then have access to all competitor-only areas, subject to the rules and/or policies of the competition. In the event either a visually impaired competitor does not provide a named caller or a visually impaired competitor's named caller is not at a WCL competition, USA Climbing has Sport Discretion (see USA Climbing Rulebook) to make a reasonable attempt to provide a caller, or to not provide a caller.