



Rulebook

RULES & REGULATIONS

BOULDER | SPEED | LEAD | TOP ROPE | COMBINED

ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | PARA | RECREATIONAL

USA Climbing Rulebook

This Rulebook 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 and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.

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

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Rules Committee: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Rulebook(s) for the organization, as well as keeping current with World Climbing standards and practices. The Rules Committee may be reached via e-mail: rules@usaclimbing.org.

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Highlighted Changes

In the fall of 2025, USA Climbing released the 2025–2026 Provisional Rulebook, adopting significant changes to the organization, structure, and language in continued alignment with the rules and regulations of the IFSC, now World Climbing (WCL). This new version of the Rulebook is the next phase in adopting those 2025 IFSC / World Climbing rules, incorporating Para Climbing rules as well as select Speed changes in the 2026 World Climbing rules.

As in the Provisional Rulebook, blue text is used to highlight the differences from World Climbing rules and regulations for ease of comparison. (Black text represents content that is the same as World Climbing, save some regional language differences and syntax edits.)

For this updated (non-Provisional) Rulebook, highlighted changes include:

- The aforementioned addition of rules and regulations specific to Para Climbing
- ADA accommodations
- Speed: the definition of a "fall" and qualification round ranking with respect to False Starts
- Safety-related instruction and notifications made to competitors
- Additional detail regarding disciplinary procedures
- Revised appeal deadlines (5 minutes for all events except QEs)
- Updated minimum time gap between flash routes (Lead/TR) and flash courses (Boulder)

Updates first made in the Provisional Rulebook include:

- Boulder Scoring – Scoring follows World Climbing's updated point-based system first used in the 2025 IFSC / World Climbing.
- Terminology Updates – Several key terms are revised for alignment with World Climbing terminology. For example:
 - On-Sight Format replaces Isolation Format
 - Boulder Flash replaces Boulder Rotation Redpoint
 - Out-of-Bounds replaces Illegal Aid
- Though the scope and definitions of terms such as Control changed from USA Climbing rulebooks of prior years, and new concepts like Establishing Movement and Advancing Movement have been introduced, the practical effect on judging and scoring have been minor.
- Certain details are delegated to USA Climbing policies
- Simplified language is used for readability
- Footnotes provide examples and clarifying statements
- Terminology updates throughout the document
- One change in the Provisional Rulebook that was inadvertently not highlighted was a change to charge an attempt for a "repositioning hop" in Boulder to align with World Climbing rules. Note that the competitor can leave the ground (to brush or any other reason) if they don't make use of the climbing surface or touch any other holds. (World Climbing and USA Climbing allow a repositioning hop in Lead/TR because the competitor only has one attempt in that Discipline.)

How to Read This Rulebook

The document is organized as follows:

- **Competition Rules** – Fundamental rules of the sport.
- **Glossary** – Explicit definitions of common terms used in USA Climbing rules, regulations, and policies.
- **Competition Regulations** – Rules for how competitions are organized and run, with separate annexes for specific discipline rules covering Lead/TR, Speed, and Boulder as well as annexes specifically for Para Climbing.

Some items from previous editions have been moved to separate policies:

- Climbing Teams policy
- Event Authority & Discretion policy
- Event Preparation, Access, and Routesetting policy

Other specifics may also appear in separate documents.

Language Simplification

World Climbing has simplified rule language to improve clarity for competitors, coaches, officials, and other members, and USA Climbing has adopted the same approach. In addition to simplification, examples and clarifying statements have been moved to **footnotes**. Footnotes may be updated more frequently than the main rule text.

Judge Guidance

For some topics—including the terminology changes noted below—the Judges Committee will provide additional guidance and documentation to assist Head Judges in running competitions and to support the training of climbing judges.

Terminology Changes

Disciplines

- *Lead/TR* – Previously referred to as Lead/Top Rope.

Formats

- *On-Sight Formats* – Previously called Isolation Formats.
 - *Boulder On-Sight Format* – Previously Boulder Isolation Format.
 - *Lead/TR On-Sight Format* – Previously Lead/Top Rope Isolation Format.
- *Flash Format* – Previously Rotation Redpoint in Boulder; unchanged for Lead/TR.
 - *Boulder Flash Format* – Previously Boulder Rotation Redpoint Format.
 - *Lead/TR Flash Format* – Unchanged.

Competition Areas

- *Warm-Up Area* – Previously called Isolation Area. Rules for On-Sight format rounds are similar to those used for the former Isolation Area.

Scoring Positions / Movements

Definitions have been updated as follows:

- *Control* – Now refers to intentional management of position and movement, not stability.
- *Establishing Movement* – Replaces the concept of *Control* in scoring considerations.
- *Advancing Movement* – Replaces the concept of *Use* in scoring considerations.

Rules and Regulations

This Rulebook consists of rules and regulations, where the competition rules are those elements that are fundamental to the sport of climbing, and the regulations set forth the required elements of a climbing competition.

USA Climbing documents may use the term “rules” to refer to both rules and regulations within this document.

Order of Precedence

In the event and to the extent any rules contained in this Rulebook 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.

AI Interpretation of Rules, Regulations, and Policies

The use of technology like AI (e.g., artificial intelligence agents) to search and summarize documentation is both powerful and prevalent in today’s world.

In many cases, however, USA Climbing has found that AI agents provide incomplete or incorrect interpretations and summaries of USA Climbing Rules, Regulations, and Policies. As such, the general membership is cautioned to not rely on such interpretations and summaries when making decisions. Further, USA Climbing officials are not to rely on such interpretations and summaries when making field of play or event organization decisions.

COMPETITION RULES

1 The Competition Area and Field of Play

1.1 In keeping with the ethos for the sport, competitions held under these rules must take place on artificial climbing structures and not on natural rock formations or boulders.

Competition Area

1.2 The Competition Area encompasses the Field of Play together with any off-field holding areas (e.g., Call Zones) and transits, technical areas, competitor preparation areas (both for warm-up and warm-down activities), and any mixed areas used for immediate post-competition activities.

A) The term “Iso” refers to the competitor warm-up area during **on-sight** rounds and is subject to more restricted access than the warm-up area during other rounds.
During **on-sight** rounds, Call Zones and transits are also subject to restricted access.

1.3 The Competition Area must be delineated and physically separate from any part of the venue open to the public.

Field of Play

1.4 The Field of Play is the public facing area on which competitive activity takes place. The Field of Play may encompass multiple climbing surfaces, as required for the planned events.

1.5 The dimensions of the Field of Play are determined by the number, configuration and size of the climbing surfaces required for the competition. The boundary of the Field of Play should extend beyond both any impact area and the projected ground area of the climbing surfaces to allow competitors and on-field officials to transit without entering the fall zone of another competitor.

1.6 Entrances/exits to the Field of Play should allow unimpeded access for competitors and technical officials.

Design

1.7 Each route/boulder will be designed to limit the risk of injury to a climber or any 3rd party, to avoid obstruction to any other climber or route/boulder, and without moves which create a collision risk.^{1,2}

¹ Moves that include downward or sideways dynos where the climber may collide with the climbing surface or any holds (whether the move is completed or not) are not permitted.

² For U15 and younger categories, the boulder must be set so that the lowest part of the body shall never be higher than two-and-a-half (2.5) meters (approx. eight (8) feet) above the safety matting. This height limitation shall not apply to Classic Redpoint Format competitions, though the height limitation should be considered for boulders that a U15, U13, or U11 Category competitor may attempt at a Classic Redpoint Format competition

COMPETITION RULES 1.8 - 1.13

- 1.8 The impact area around each route/boulder must be kept clear from obstructions/objects. The Head Route Setter will adjust the number and design of the boulders to the safety matting available.³
- 1.9 Routes and boulders may, if allowed by the applicable competition regulations, be constructed with visually distinctive holds (e.g., in a specific color). Any holds which do not share this visual distinction will be treated as **out of bounds**.⁴
- 1.10 For the Elite Series, the number of handholds on any boulder should not exceed 12 and the average number per boulder across a round should be between 4 and 8.
For other Series, the number of handholds on any boulder with one Zone should not exceed 12, and any boulder with two Zones should not exceed 16.

Technical Markings

- 1.11 Each lead route must be clearly marked to show which anchor is the **TOP**. Each top rope route must be clearly marked to show which hold is the **TOP hold**.⁵
- 1.12 Each boulder must be clearly marked to show:⁶
 - A) a Starting Position defined by holds/macros/volumes fixed to the climbing surface and marked for both hands and both feet. These markings must use a distinctive color and should not indicate specific hand placements,⁷
 - B) a Top, which will be either a finishing hold marked in the same color as the starting holds or a standing position on top of the boulder, each with a “25” placard,
 - C) any Zone hold(s) marked using a different color to the starting holds, and each with a “5” or “10” placard as relevant.
- 1.13 Any hold designated as a Safety Hold will be clearly marked with a blue cross, with a second blue cross positioned adjacent to the bolt hangar for the associated quickdraw. All Safety Holds must be marked on the relevant scoring topo and pointed out during any collective observation period.

³ If a climber uses any equipment to clean holds on a boulder, it is the climber's responsibility to place that equipment in a position where it presents minimal risk of harm to themselves or any climber close to them.

⁴ The visual distinction may be one of monochromatic holds, the use of tape of a particular color and/or pattern, or some other method that is communicated in the Technical Meeting.

⁵ The TOP hold for a top rope route is the final hold in the sequence of the climb and the TOP hold does not have a point value.

⁶ The type and color of these markings should be the same throughout a competition. An example may be placed in the warm-up area.

⁷ Each Starting Position must have 4 markings, regardless of the number of holds, macros or volumes used in its construction. These markings should be placed to clearly identify the holds forming part of the start.

If Route Setters use additional holds to modify or limit the usable part of a starting hold, these **blocker holds** must not be designated as starting holds. Climbers cannot Control any **blocker holds** when starting the boulder.

1.14 Holds or parts of the climbing surface that are **out of bounds** for a specific route/boulder must be clearly marked to show they cannot be used.⁸

2 Technical Equipment

2.1 The climbing structure, safety matting, holds (including any macros and volumes), fixed anchor points, and all technical equipment used in competition - whether provided by the [Host Facility event organizer](#), equipment partner or individual competitors or teams - must comply with the [IFSC Equipment Code Host Facility policy and Manufacturer's Recommendations](#).

Any technical equipment used in any Sanctioned Event must meet the relevant ISO, ANSI, or EN Standard or comparable international equivalent (the "Applicable Standard") unless otherwise specified by USA Climbing. The provider of such equipment is responsible to review that the equipment meets all appropriate Applicable Standards.

3 Personal Equipment

3.1 Each competitor is entirely and solely responsible for the technical equipment and clothing they intend to use or wear during competition.

3.2 Competitors may not use or wear any device or equipment which could impair the ability of on-field officials to communicate with them while on the Field of Play, except as allowed by the applicable competition regulations.⁹

3.3 Competitors must wear climbing shoes and, where relevant, a climbing harness during their attempts. Competitors may also use:

- A) a chalk bag and commercially available dry or liquid climbing chalk for their hands.
- B) a climbing helmet.

⁸ Boundary markings may be used to mark holds, macros, volumes or parts of the climbing surface that cannot be used during an attempt, including distinct features like arêtes or corners. Boundary markings may also be placed to prevent interference between adjacent routes/boulders.

Any boundary markings must all use the same color [tape](#) ([black for surface + holds, red for holds only](#)) for all routes/boulders in a round, and for all rounds of competition. If a ([black](#)) boundary marking is used to delineate some part of the climbing surface, the marking should extend to each edge of the surface.

[Red tape is not allowed at National events.](#)

If any holds or parts of the climbing surface are marked **out of bounds** by a ([black for surface + holds, or red for holds only](#)) boundary marking, climbers may touch or use the marking without being considered out of bounds.

The judging of potential **out of bounds** infractions should apply the concepts of advantage and safety. Rulings should avoid arbitrary distinctions and recognize the purpose of the relevant boundary marking. An **out of bounds** ruling should be made if an infraction is intentional or if it alters the intended difficulty or character of the climbing movement.

If an infraction is unintentional, determining that a climber is **out of bounds** should focus on effect:

- incidental contact (e.g., a simply brushing or touching without weight transfer) can be allowed.
- any active or passive use (e.g., pulling on, stepping on, or stabilizing with a feature or using it for progression) is not allowed.

⁹ The Jury President has the discretion to allow passive noise-dampening devices (e.g., soft/silicon ear plugs) subject to safety measures evaluated by the Jury President, including the ability of the competitor to receive and respond to instructions from officials.

For accommodation requests due to ADA-compliant disabilities, please see the USA Climbing Accommodations Policy on the policy page on the www.usaclimbing.org website.

COMPETITION RULES 3.4 - 4.4

3.4 Unless allowed by applicable competition regulations, competitors are prohibited from:

- A) using any substance or equipment that modifies the condition of holds or the climbing surface,¹⁰
- B) wearing gloves or kneepads.¹¹

4 Technical Officials

Jury President

4.1 Each competition must be controlled by an official who has full authority to enforce the rules (the **Jury President**). The Jury President must maintain strict neutrality and independence. The Jury President:

- A) ~~should~~ **Must** be independent of the Event Organizer,¹²
- B) should have no family, professional, or close personal relationship with any competitor or coach¹³,
- C) must be free from any financial or other interests that could influence their decisions.

4.2 The Jury President, in consultation with the Head Route Setter, has authority to make decisions about safety within the Competition Area. The Jury President may:

- A) delay, interrupt, postpone, or stop any part of a competition and/or require the replacement of any facilities/equipment where necessary for safety reasons,
- B) order any competitor to be stopped where continued progress or attempts would present undue risk to the safety of the competitor or any other person,
- C) dismiss or have removed any person whose actions present, or may present, a risk to the safety of any person.

4.3 Under no circumstances may the Jury President make special provisions for the benefit of an individual competitor.¹⁴

Other technical officials

4.4 Other technical officials (category judges, route/boulder judges, route setters) may be appointed as set out in the applicable competition regulations. The Jury President, category judges and route/boulder judges are, collectively, the **on-field** officials.

¹⁰ The transfer of chalk residue from the hands, which occurs naturally during climbing, is not considered a violation of this rule.

¹¹ Climbers may use elasticated compression bandages/wraps (for arms/legs); and/or kinesiology and similar tape where necessary for the prevention or management of injury.

¹² For youth and collegiate events, the Event Organizer may be the most experienced judge and in these cases having the Event Organizer and the Jury President be the same individual may be preferable.

¹³ USA Climbing allows Jury Presidents to have a conflict of interest and has procedures for recusal from some decisions. (e.g., Appeals Jury)

¹⁴ No request should be granted (i) to allow a climber to descend to the ground using any equipment not permanently part of the route/boulder, e.g., a ladder, or (ii) to provide security measures different to those considered necessary for the route/boulder as whole, e.g., pre-clipping additional quickdraws, or providing additional safety matting.

COMPETITION RULES 4.5 - 5.3

4.5 The on-field officials have the power to make decisions regarding the scoring of attempts on any route/boulder, the classification of any incident as a Technical Incident, and infractions of the rules within the Competition Area. The applicable competition regulations must identify how such powers are delegated.

Miscellaneous

4.6 The interpretation and implementation of the rules by the on-field officials may be contested only where the rules permit a protest or appeal (§12).

4.7 The applicable competition regulations must identify who will replace a technical official if they are unable to start or continue.

5 Definition And Types of Attempts

General

5.1 An individual effort made by a climber to complete a route or boulder is referred to as an **attempt**. Once an attempt starts, it is considered in-progress until ruled **successful** or **unsuccessful**, whichever comes first. These rules set out:

- limits on the number and duration of attempts (§6),
- when an attempt starts (§7),
- when an attempt ends, either successfully or unsuccessfully (§8),
- how attempts are judged and scored (§9).

Types and principles for attempts

5.2 Competitors and coaches must not:

- A) interfere in the preparation or attempts of other competitors,¹⁵
- B) change or attempt to change any holds or markings on a route/boulder or otherwise change the condition of a route/boulder for later starting competitors.¹⁶

5.3 Climbing is a problem-solving sport requiring creative movement, spatial awareness, and the ability to read and interpret complex three-dimensional challenges. These skills are most effectively tested where attempts are made **on-sight**. If a round is declared as **on-sight**:

¹⁵ Attempts by a competitor to assist another competitor who is injured or in distress are not considered to be interference.

¹⁶ The transfer of chalk residue from the hands, which occurs naturally during climbing, is not considered a violation of this rule.

COMPETITION RULES 5.4 - 5.5

A) competitors must not seek or accept any information about the route/boulders beyond that which is officially provided or gained in any scheduled observation period (collective or individual). Observing other competitor's attempts, or the work of the route setters in creating the route, is prohibited.¹⁷

B) coaches and other individuals associated with competitors are prohibited from attempting to communicate any additional information about the routes/boulders to the competitors.

C) any attempt to circumvent these rules, whether by competitors seeking information or by others trying to provide it, will be considered a serious breach of these rules.

Although only a competitor's first attempt can be **on-sight**, these principles of fair play and problem-solving integrity apply to every attempt made by all competitors in a round, and these rules should be interpreted and applied with this in mind.

5.4 If a round is declared as **on-sight**:

A) a collective observation period **may** be organized prior to the start of the round. During this period, competitors may observe the routes/boulders, and touch the starting holds, but must not practice any moves on the routes/boulders.¹⁸

B) a competitor may share information gathered during the collective observation period with another competitor only where neither has attempted the route/boulder.

C) coaches **and spectators** must not communicate any information about or relating to the routes/boulders with competitors until they have completed the round.

5.5 If a round is declared as **flash**:

A) a demonstration of the routes/boulders must also be made prior to the start of the round.

B) coaches, other competitors, **and spectators** may communicate information about or relating to the routes/boulders with competitors before, **—during** and after their attempts.

¹⁷ Enforcing strict on-sight regulations in climbing competitions presents challenges in outdoor venues. The integrity of individuals and teams, as well as their adherence to a shared ethos is fundamental to maintaining the spirit of fair play.

Where the competition venue is open to the public or overlooked by a public area, competitors may observe routes/boulders from these areas whilst they are open, however the following actions are prohibited:

- watching, recording, or making use of any recordings of the work of the route setters.
- using drones or other devices to gain a closer or detailed view not generally available to the public.

¹⁸ During a collective observation period, competitors may touch the climbing surface and:

(a) on lead/TR routes: any hold they can reach from the ground, and

(b) on boulders: only the marked starting holds and any associated blocker holds.

Competitors may use binoculars to view routes/boulders and make hand-written notes or sketches of routes/boulders but may not take photographs or make recordings of routes/boulders.

A competitor may share information gathered during the collective observation period with another competitor if neither has attempted the route. A competitor may share information about a route with other competitors where they have each completed their attempts in a round. e.g., when in a "leader corner" or similar.

6 Number And Duration Of Attempts

Lead/TR

- 6.1 For on-sight and flash rounds, a climber may make a single scoring attempt on a route in any round of competition.¹⁹ ~~If attempts are to be made after work, climbers will be allowed a practice period before their scoring attempt. This practice period may be time- or attempt-limited.~~
- 6.2 A climber may be allowed to restart an attempt if a Technical Incident has occurred.
- 6.3 The allowed climbing time for each attempt will be set out in the applicable competition regulations and should not exceed 6 minutes.

Speed

- 6.4 A climber may make a single scoring attempt on a route in any scheduled heat. A practice period may be organized before the start of the first round of the competition. This practice period may be time- or attempt-limited but any attempts made will not count as scoring attempts.
- 6.5 A climber may be allowed to restart their attempt if a Technical Incident has occurred, or where a race was stopped following a False Start, or if required by the applicable competition regulations as a tie-break process.
- 6.6 A maximum climbing time for each attempt may be set out in the applicable competition regulations.

Boulder

- 6.7 A climber may be allowed a limited number of attempts on each boulder in a round of competition, given a time limit for their attempts on each or all boulders, or a combination of both. ~~A practice period may be organized before the start of the first round of the competition. This practice period may be time- or attempt-limited but any attempts made will not count as a scoring attempts.~~
- 6.8 A climber may be allowed additional time or attempts if a Technical Incident has occurred which impeded the climber's attempt(s).
- 6.9 The allowed climbing time for attempts on any individual boulder, or for all boulders in a round, will be set out in the applicable competition regulations. The allowed climbing time may be measured from:
 - A) the start of the round,
 - B) from a defined starting signal for each boulder attempted, or
 - C) the start of the climber's attempts on a boulder.

¹⁹ The maximum number of attempts for Modified Redpoint and Classic Redpoint rounds is set forth in the rules for those formats.

7 The Start of an Attempt

Lead/TR

7.1 An attempt is considered to have started when a climber leaves the ground.²⁰

Speed

7.2 An attempt is considered to have started when the force on the starting pad falls below the threshold required to trigger the timer.

7.3 A start will be judged invalid (i.e., a **False Start**) if a climber's recorded Reaction Time is less than 0.100s **and** less than that of any other climber in the same race.

Boulder

7.4 An attempt is considered to have started when a climber leaves the ground.²¹

7.5 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**. A start will be invalid (i.e., a **False Start**) if the climber fails to achieve this or uses any other holds before doing so.²²

²⁰ The route judge has discretion to determine whether a climber's movement is an adjustment prior to starting or the actual start of the attempt.

²¹ A climber may jump to brush a hold ([or for any reason](#)) - this action will not be counted as a scoring attempt provided they do not make use of the climbing surface or touch any other holds in the process.

²² [Prior to the start of the attempt, a climber may only touch the climbing surface, marked starting holds, and associated blocker holds. A competitor touching other holds shall be charged with an attempt and may be given a disciplinary sanction.](#)

When validating a climber's start, a boulder judge must assess whether:

- (a) the climber has demonstrated they have Control of the marked starting holds and successfully achieved the Starting Position, and
- (b) the climber's movement(s) to establish the Starting Position are separate and distinct from any movement initiated from that position for progress.

8 The End of An Attempt

8.1 An attempt will be ruled **unsuccessful** if the climbing time has expired or prior to that, a climber either:

- A) makes a False Start,
- B) falls from the route/boulder,²³
- C) touches the ground,
- D) has gained an advantage by using any part of the climbing surface or any holds, macros, or volumes marked **out of bounds** in accordance with §1.9 and §1.14,
- E) has gained an advantage by using the climbing rope/lanyard or other safety equipment (including quickdraws or bolt hangars), any open edges to the climbing surface, any placards on the climbing surface, or (with the hands) any unused/unplugged T-Nut emplacements,
- F) has their attempt stopped by an on-field official.

²³ In speed, a fall should be considered to have occurred where a climber:

- (a) slips and is not able to recover by grabbing a hold or by re-gaining their footing,
- (b) pulls on the auto-belay rope/lanyard during their ascent,
- (c) acts to repeatedly practice a section of the route,
- (d) strikes the finishing pad but fails to stop the timer,

Limb (a) replaces the stipulation within the 2020-2024 rulebook that a **fall** would be deemed to have occurred where a climber *“arrests any fall/slip other than using the highest hold Controlled/Used prior to the fall/slip”*. This stipulation was assessed as circular in its formulation and judged to result in artificial distinctions in races where both climbers fell at similar heights/times. Limb (a) may be understood as follow:

- i) A slip will be considered to have occurred where there is a loss of friction between a foot and the climbing surface, or between a hand and a hold and the climber’s upward motion is slowed or stopped. A slip may or may not result in a fall.
- ii) A climber will be considered to have fallen where, following a slip or otherwise during an in-progress attempt, they have lost contact (with both hands) of the holds on the route and/or they are descending under the control of the auto-belay.
- iii) A climber who has slipped per (i) may continue their attempt if they regain control without having fallen per (ii).

Limb (b) is added to clarify that a climber may not actively use the auto-belay lanyard during an attempt, whether to regain control following a slip or in any other circumstance.

Limb (c) is added to clarify that a climber may not practice or “work” sections of the route during any attempt. This limb principally relates to any practice session, but applies to any phase of competition.

Lead/TR

8.2 An attempt in lead will also be ruled **unsuccessful** if a climber:

- A) clips a quickdraw out of sequence,²⁴
- B) unclips any quickdraw²⁵ other than to correct a z-clip,²⁶
- C) makes any climbing movement past the Last Safe Position on a route.²⁷

8.3 An attempt in lead will be ruled **successful** if a climber clips the final anchor on the route.²⁸ An attempt in top rope will be ruled **successful** if a climber Controls the hold marked Top with at least one hand to complete an Establishing Movement.²⁹

Speed

8.4 An attempt in speed will be ruled **successful** if a climber stops the timer by striking the finishing pad with a hand.

Boulder

8.5 An attempt in boulder will be ruled **successful** if a climber:

- A) finishes standing on top of the boulder before the climbing time expires, or
- B) **Controls**/matches the marked finishing hold with both hands³⁰ and having done so:
 - i) achieves a stable position before the climbing time expires, and

²⁴ If a quickdraw becomes unclipped during an attempt, the attempt should be ruled **unsuccessful** at the Last Clipping Position for that quickdraw unless there is compelling evidence that:

- (a) the quickdraw was properly clipped initially, and
- (b) it became unclipped due to factors outside the competitor's control.

²⁵ If a competitor clips a quickdraw on another nearby route, they may unclip the quickdraw and continue their attempt. They must unclip this off-route quickdraw before clipping the next on-route quickdraw or their attempt is terminated.

²⁶ A z-clipped quickdraw will be treated as unclipped, and scoring will stop when the competitor reaches the Last Clipping Position for that quickdraw. Scoring will restart from the same hold if the competitor corrects the z-clip.

A Z-Clip may be corrected by un-clipping and re-clipping either of the two relevant quickdraws.

If a competitor fails to correct a Z-Clip, §8.2(C) will govern when the attempt is ruled **unsuccessful**.

²⁷ The Last Safe Position is distinct from the Last Clipping Position:

- if a competitor reaches the Last Clipping Position for an unclipped quickdraw without clipping it, scoring will stop, but the attempt remains in progress (i.e. the competitor can still correct the situation).
- the attempt becomes **unsuccessful** only if the competitor passes the Last Safe Position for that quickdraw without having clipped.
- if the competitor clips the quickdraw before passing the Last Safe Position, scoring will resume from the hold designated as the Last Clipping Position.

The Jury President must always act with due regard to their responsibility for the safety of the competition and must stop an attempt if it is safe to do so where further progress would be unsafe.

²⁸ In the lead discipline, the climber's result will be marked as "TOP" regardless of the hold used to clip the final anchor. In the lead stage of the boulder&lead discipline, a result will be marked as "TOP" only where the competitor clips the final anchor from the marked finishing hold.

²⁹ See Establishing Movement.

³⁰ Matching requires both hands to have simultaneous contact with the marked finishing hold. A hold will not be considered matched where one hand is placed over another without contact on the hold itself.

COMPETITION RULES 9.1 - 9.8

ii) either performs some action common to the sport or Controls the marked finishing hold long enough to do so.³¹

9 Determining The Result of an Attempt

Lead/TR

9.1 The result of an **unsuccessful** attempt in lead/TR will be last scoring hold Controlled with the hands to:

- A) complete an Establishing Movement,³² or
- B) **for on-sight and flash rounds**, make an Advancing Movement.³³

9.2 **For on-sight and flash rounds**, if a hold is Controlled to make an Advancing Movement, the result will be marked with the postfix “+”.

9.3 No postfix “+” may be awarded where an attempt has ended **unsuccessfully** under §8.2.

9.4 The result of a **successful** attempt in lead/TR will be recorded as **Top** and, when required by the applicable competition regulations, the climbing time.

Speed

9.5 The result of an **unsuccessful** attempt in speed will be recorded as a **Fall** or a **False Start**, depending on the cause.

9.6 The result of a **successful** attempt in speed will be recorded as the climbing time.

Boulder

9.7 The result of a **successful** attempt in boulder will be recorded as **Top** together with the number of attempts required.

9.8 If the design and marking of a boulder includes any **Zone** holds, and the climber during an in-progress attempt Controlled the hold with their hands to:

- A) complete an Establishing Movement,³⁴ or

³¹ Actions common to the sport include:

- clipping: i.e. securing a rope into a quickdraw or anchor.
- shaking out: e.g., relaxing one arm while maintaining balance to manage fatigue.
- celebrating: e.g., acknowledging a successful move or ascent.
- chalking up: e.g., applying chalk to hands for improved grip.
- changing foot position: adjusting foot placements for better balance and efficiency.

³² See **Establishing Movement**.

³³ See **Advancing Movement**. In lead/TR **on-sight and flash rounds** **competitions**, the *next hold in a sequence* will normally be the next sequentially numbered hold marked on the scoring topo. However, a higher-numbered hold (beyond the next sequentially numbered hold) may also be credited as the *next hold in a sequence* if another climber shows that it is possible to complete the movement to this hold.

For Redpoint format rounds, Advancing Movement is not scored.

³⁴ See **Establishing Movement**.

COMPETITION RULES 9.9 - 11.5

B) complete an Advancing Movement to achieve a stable position on some hold further along a line of progression of the boulder,³⁵

9.9 then the result of the attempt will include the relevant **Zone(s)**.

10 Timing Attempts

10.1 Only times recorded in scoring attempts may be considered for the purposes of records, results or rankings.

11 Sporting And Other Incidents

11.1 Any incident or unusual/unforeseen circumstance affecting a climber's attempt on a route or boulder will be evaluated under the principle that climbers are primarily responsible for their own actions and decisions, while acknowledging that external factors may impede or assist an attempt.

Technical Incidents

11.2 The on-field officials will determine whether any incident or unusual/unforeseen circumstance affecting a climber's attempt is classified as a Technical Incident. The on-field officials will consult with the Head Route Setter when necessary.

11.3 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. A competitor may not waive an incident that provided an advantage.

11.4 If a Technical Incident is confirmed and cannot be waived or is not waived:

- the relevant attempt may be ruled unsuccessful at the point and time of the incident,
- the climber may be allowed to restart the route/boulder once the cause of the incident is rectified and, if necessary, the allowed climbing time will be reset or adjusted to account for any time lost.
- the result of the attempt will be the better of the progress made before the incident and after any restart.

11.5 The process for managing Technical Incidents should be set out in the applicable competition regulations.

³⁵ In certain circumstances, a climber may attempt to use a Zone hold *en passant* without attempting to stabilize on the Zone (e.g., making a 'paddle move'). If the climber use[s] the Zone to change their direction of motion and advance their hand or body, their movement would be classed as an Advancing Movement. However, the Zone should only be scored if the onward movement is successfully completed, and the climber achieves a stable position.

Blood injuries

11.6 If a climber sustains a blood injury, any contaminated holds must be cleaned and the wound cleaned/dressed. Where the competition format allows the climber to make multiple attempts or involves multiple routes/boulders, the Jury President must be satisfied that the wound is adequately dressed and that the risk of blood transfer is minimal before allowing the climber to continue.³⁶

12 Protests And Appeals

12.1 A competitor (or a coach acting on their behalf) may file an **appeal** if their result/ranking in an event is affected by:

- A) a judging error,
- B) an error in scorekeeping or timekeeping,³⁷
- C) some matter relating to the eligibility or conduct of a competitor or coach.

12.2 To be admissible, an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Appeal Jury:

- A) by the competitor affected or a coach with Appeal Eligibility under the applicable competition regulations (the **appellant**),
- B) inside the time limits specified in the applicable competition regulations, and
- C) must state the competitor affected, the substance of the appeal and the rule basis for the appeal.

If ruled inadmissible, the appeal form will be returned and marked as **invalid**. No appeal fee will be payable.

12.3 In examining an appeal, the Appeal Jury will have regard for and consider the spirit and intent of the rules and the need to uphold the integrity of the sport.³⁸

12.4 The Appeal Jury will consider the Admissible Evidence allowed under the applicable competition regulations. If this evidence:

- A) is conclusive and supports the appeal, the appeal will be marked as **successful** and the decision on the Field of Play will be amended or the error otherwise corrected.
- B) is inconclusive or does not support the appeal, the appeal will be marked as **unsuccessful** and the decision on the Field of Play will stand.

All appeal decisions will be confirmed in writing and communicated to the appellant.

³⁶ A climber with a blood injury must remedy any bleeding prior to making or continuing their attempts. The on-field officials may stop an attempt where a climber has a blood injury. If the climber is unable to remedy any bleeding themselves, the Jury President may request either the event medical team or a team doctor to treat the wound.

If a blood transfer to any climbing holds has occurred, the holds should be cleaned before any other climbers start their attempts.

A blood injury will not be treated as a Technical Incident and no additional time/attempts will be granted, unless the blood injury itself is the consequence of a Technical Incident. (e.g., a splinter from the wall drawing blood.) [Meroni, SLC/2022].

³⁷ An HJO has the discretion to handle questions about, and fix, clerical issues (score or time recording) without an appeal being filed, though such issues must still meet appeal deadlines.

³⁸ In determining any appeal, the Appeal Jury should balance the following principles:

- **consistency:** decisions should align with previous rulings.
- **correctness:** decisions should reflect an accurate application of the rules and their spirit.
- **fairness:** rigid adherence to precedent should not override the need to reach a fair outcome.

COMPETITION RULES 12.5 - 13.4

- 12.5 If the Admissible Evidence does not allow the matter under appeal to be reviewed, the decision made on the Field of Play will stand, and the appeal marked **undetermined**.
- 12.6 An appeal fee may only be charged if an appeal is unsuccessful.
- 12.7 A decision of the Appeal Jury will be considered as a Field of Play rule decision and is not subject to further review or appeal, other than as allowed under the [IFSC Disciplinary Rules](#) [USA Climbing Bylaws, rules, regulations, and policies](#).

13 Rule Infringements And Misconduct

Sanctions

- 13.1 Sanctions may be imposed for infringement of these rules and/or for misconduct as follow:

Caution	Disqualification
Breach of these rules without actual or potential serious impact on the fairness or results of competition.	Breach of these rules with actual or potential serious impact on the fairness or results of competition. Observation or gathering information on any route/boulder intended to be attempted on-sight beyond that contemplated within these rules.
Non-compliance with the instructions of an USA Climbing official.	
Unsporting conduct of a minor nature. Use of obscene or abusive language or behavior of a relatively mild nature.	Unsporting conduct of a serious nature. Use of obscene or abusive language or behavior of a serious nature. Receipt of two cautions in an event.
Safety violations of a minor nature ³⁹	Safety violations of a serious nature

Table 13-1 Sanctions

- 13.2 Sanctions may also be imposed as set out in any code given the status of a rule within any applicable competition regulations.
- 13.3 The imposition of a sanction will be accompanied by showing a Yellow Card (for a caution) and/or a Red Card (for a disqualification).⁴⁰

Consequences

- 13.4 A competitor in receipt of a caution may continue to participate in the event. [A coach in receipt of a caution will not be allowed access to the Competition Area for the remainder of the event.](#)

³⁹ E.g., the use of a laser pointer in or into the Competition Area is a safety violation, though a laser pointer may be used within a warm-up Area only if it has an output power of less than 5 mW, is equipped with a non-locking, momentary on/off switch, and is used in a safe manner.

⁴⁰ A verbal warning may be given for a first offense for any matter where a Caution is discretionary. The Jury President has authority to determine whether some relevant matter warrants a Caution or Disqualification.

COMPETITION RULES 13.5 - 13.7

- 13.5 A competitor who is disqualified will be ineligible to participate in any subsequent rounds and will be unranked.⁴¹
- 13.6 A competitor disqualified for a serious offense in any event will be disqualified for all events in the competition.

Other Persons

- 13.7 The Jury President may order the removal of any person infringing these rules or disrupting the competition and, if necessary, suspend any competition activities whilst this takes place.

⁴¹ A disqualified competitor will be unranked in the General Ranking and in the last round in which they competed or were eligible to compete. The results of that round may be restated to allow this.

GLOSSARY

The following terms will apply throughout these rules:

Including shall be understood to mean “including without limitation”, and **for example** (or **e.g.**) shall be similarly understood to be not limited to the example(s) given.

Shall, and **must** mean a mandatory requirement.

Shall not and **must not** mean a prohibition.

Should and **should not** are recommendations, there may be reasons to choose a different course of action, but the full implications must be understood, and the case carefully weighed before doing so.

May means a discretionary matter.

The terms **athlete**, **climber** and **competitor** are used interchangeably.

They, **Them**, and **Their** are personal pronouns used in both singular and plural contexts, a grammatical usage commonly accepted and chosen by USA Climbing toward gender identity inclusion.

The following definitions will apply throughout these rules:

Admissible Evidence means the evidence allowed to be used in determining the results of any appeal, as set out in the applicable competition regulations.

An **Advancing Movement** is a single or continuous series of climbing movements aimed at securing the next hold in a sequence, in which the climber attempts to reach or grip that hold with their hand(s) and advances or repositions their body to enable this.⁴²

After-Work means an attempt on a route/boulder made with first-hand knowledge of the intended climbing sequence. This knowledge comes from pre-practice of or prior attempts on the route/boulder.⁴³

Appeal Eligibility means an entitlement to make an appeal as set out in the applicable competition regulations.

Appeal Jury means the technical officials responsible for determining the results of any appeal, as set out in the applicable competition regulations.

Competition Area means those parts of the venue set aside:

- for use by technical officials, and/or on-venue results management teams.
- for athletic warm-up/warm-down before and after climbing, and/or areas set aside specifically for recovery.
- as Call Zones and transits to/from these, the Field of Play and adjacent technical areas, including any areas set aside for coaches (e.g., any “coaches’ corridor”).

Control means the intentional management of a climber's position and movement by either:

- A) using the climbing surface/holds, or
- B) shifting their center of mass.

An **Establishing Movement** is a single or continuous series of climbing movements aimed at stabilizing a

⁴² A single or continuous series of climbing movements will not be considered an Advancing Movement if the climber's body is falling away from the next hold or the climbing surface.

Indicators of an Advancing Movement include:

- the parallel or sequential movement of a climber's hips, shoulders and hand toward the next hold in a sequence.

⁴³ For USA Climbing competition, **After-Work** only applies to Speed Discipline Competitions.

COMPETITION RULES 13.7 - 13.7

climber's position on a hold, in which the climber uses the hold to adjust their position, re-grip, or shift weight to achieve balance and stability.⁴⁴

Event Seeding means the preliminary ordering or ranking of competitors for an event, based on their previous performances or other specified criteria.

False Start has the meaning given in §7.3 and §7.5.

Fixed Time means a specific time at which an event or activity is scheduled to take place.

Flash means a ground-up attempt on a route/boulder made with some knowledge of the intended climbing sequence but without prior practice/attempts.

Invalid Result Mark or **IRM** means a mark or code indicating a non-scoring or invalid result. IRMs include failure to start (**DNS**), disqualification for technical infractions (**DSQ**), and disqualification for unsporting behavior (**DQB**).

Last Clipping Position means the last hold from which the Head Routesetter has ruled it possible to clip some quickdraw, or from which a competitor has shown it is possible to clip.

Last Safe Position means that a competitor has Control of, but not yet made any climbing movement to pass beyond:

- A) a marked Safety Hold where the associated quickdraw has not been clipped, or
- B) any other hold beyond which, in the reasonable opinion of the Jury President or category judge, further progress would be unsafe.

Not Earlier Than (NET) time means the earliest possible time for an event or activity.

Official Results means the results published following the conclusion of any round of an event, marked as such and issued by an authorized official.

Official Start List means a list of all competitors scheduled to start a round in the order and/or at the time set out on the list. Each Official Start List will show:

- the event and round,
- the starting order and, where competitors are scheduled to start at a fixed time, the starting times for each competitor,
- the name [and IOC country code](#) of each competitor,
- the time at which warm-up area will be open and/or closed for entry, and for any collective observation, and the Start of Play,
- the scheduling of any cleaning breaks.

On-Sight means a ground-up attempt on a route/boulder made without any prior knowledge of the intended climbing sequence and without any prior practice/attempts.

Provisional Results means any results published whilst a round is underway and/or prior to the publication of the Official Results for the relevant round.

Reaction Time means the difference between the time at which an attempt is considered to have started and the initiation of the Starting Signal.

⁴⁴ An Establishing Movement will be considered successful where a climber has a clear grasp of a hold and is able to make a movement consolidating their position with that hold, e.g., transferring their weight onto that hold.

Indicators that a climber has completed an Establishing Movement include:

- arresting their motion,
- being able to release or reposition their trailing hand,
- moving their center of mass and repositioning one or both feet.

COMPETITION RULES 13.7 - 13.7

A **Safety Hold** is a designated hold on a route, placed in circumstances where progression past the hold without clipping an associated quickdraw would pose a significant safety risk. A Safety Hold and its associated quickdraw must be clearly marked on the route.

Starting Signal means a unique tone broadcast by an automated timing system to indicate the start of the climbing time.

The **Start of Play** for any round of competition is the time when the first competitor taking part in the round enters the Field of Play to commence their attempt or any period of individual preparation/observation.

Technical Incident means:

- A) a broken or loose hold,
- B) an improperly positioned quickdraw or carabiner,
- C) a tight rope caused by the action or inaction of the belayer, which either assists or hinders a competitor,
- D) a critical failure of an official timing system,⁴⁵ or
- E) any unusual or unforeseen circumstance that places the competitor in a situation different from their peers,

and in each case (a) must result in a material disadvantage or advantage to a climber's attempt and (b) must not be the result of the climber's own action or inaction.

The following terms relating to starting orders will apply throughout these rules:

Rank Ascending Order means the best seeded competitor will start first. The seeding for any round will be determined from the competitor's General Ranking (if applicable) followed by their Event Seeding. Unseeded competitors will start after all seeded competitors in random order. Competitors with identical seeding will be ordered randomly.

Rank Descending Order means the best seeded competitor will start last. The seeding for any round will be determined from the competitor's General Ranking (if applicable) followed by their Event Seeding. Unseeded competitors will start before all seeded competitors in random order. Competitors with identical seeding will be ordered randomly.

Tournament Bracket Order means the starting order for a single elimination tournament for 4, 8 or 16 competitors. The general principle for constructing the bracket order is that the best seeded competitors should, all other factors being equal, meet in the final heat of the round. Where two competitors have the same seed, their position in the first stage of the bracket will be decided by random selection.

Random Order means each competitor's starting order is independent of rank or seeding, distributed at random.

Offset Order means the starting order for each course or route will be a cyclical shift from the starting order of the first course/route, proportional to the number of routes (e.g., half the number of competitors, rounded down, for 2 courses/routes).

The following terms relating to rankings and results will apply throughout these rules:

General Ranking means the overall standing of competitors who have participated in at least one round of an event (excluding any competitors disqualified during or following the event), calculated after each completed round. Where a round of competition was held with multiple starting groups, the General Ranking of competitors in that round:

- A) will be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied,
- B) cannot be used for any countback purposes in a subsequent round of competition.

⁴⁵ A failure of the timing system may be considered critical where the start/end of the climbing time cannot be measured. E.g., unless it impacted the start/stop signals, a temporary interruption of the timing signal during a boulder rotation would not **automatically** be classed as a Technical Incident.

COMPETITION RULES 13.7 - 13.7

Ranking refers to the ordinal position of competitors determined using the *standard competition ranking* method unless another method has been specified.

The following terms relating the structure of competitions apply throughout these rules:

An **event** is a specific competition defined by a unique combination of discipline, sport class, age group and category (i.e., gender grouping).

A **round** is a major subdivision of an event to which a set of competitors is qualified to participate, e.g., qualification, semi-final and final round.

The term **phase** is used as a synonym for a **round** in the context of ranking calculations and medals/titles more generally. e.g., the **medal phase** of an event is normally the final round but may be an earlier round if the final round cannot take place⁴⁶.

A **stage** is a subdivision of a round. e.g., each round in a Boulder&Lead competition includes lead and boulder stages, the final round in a Speed competition will include (at least) final and semifinal stages.

A **heat** or **race** is a competitive unit within a stage or round typically involving multiple competitors. The terms are used interchangeably in Speed competitions.

A **course** is a set of boulders attempted by a set of competitors. A round or stage will typically include a single course but may include multiple courses, e.g., if the competitors have been split into two starting groups.

An **attempt** is the smallest competitive unit, representing a single effort by an individual competitor on a single route/boulder.

⁴⁶ The terms **phase** and **round** are used to separate the organization of a round (its format) from the calculation of rankings. For example, if the final round of a competition is cancelled, the semifinal round will become the medal phase, and in certain cases tie-breaks typically not applied in a semifinal may be used.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS

1 General

[IFSC-specific content removed]

Disciplines

1.1 USA Climbing competitions under these rules include the following competition Disciplines:

Discipline	Description
Lead/TR	Competitors are ranked based on their progression on one or more routes, where competitors may be secured by clipping into protection points or by a 'top rope', subject to the specific competition rules
Boulder	Competitors are ranked based on the number of boulders completed and their progression on boulders not completed
Speed	Competitors are ranked based on the time needed to climb a standard route. (In some cases, a non-standard route may be used.)
Combined	[reserved for potential use]

Table 1-1 Disciplines

Competition Series

1.2 USA Climbing organizes competitions into five (5) Competition Series.

Series	Active Membership Requirement	Age Requirement
Elite	Competitor Membership	Seventeen (17) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the National Championship
Youth	Competitor Membership	Nineteen (19) years of age or younger on December 31st of the year of the Youth National Championship
Collegiate	Collegiate or Collegiate Recreational Membership	None
Para	Para Climbing Membership	Seventeen (17) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the National Championship, except for Youth Categories
Recreational	Recreational Membership	None

Table 1-2 Competition Series

A) All Para Series competitors must meet the qualifications of at least one Para Climbing Category defined by way of the Para Climbing Classification System.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 1.3 - 1.3

B) The Recreational Series is open to all competitors with an active Recreational Membership, of any age, although at the discretion of the Event Organizer each competition may provide for categories and/or registration restrictions based on age or other criteria, subject to USA Climbing's Bylaws and Rulebook of USA Climbing.

Categories

1.3 USA Climbing organizes competitions using Categories based on age and/or gender.

A) Gender category participation in USA Climbing competitions follows the USA Climbing Transgender Athlete Participation Policy, as published on the policy page on the www.usaclimbing.org website.

B) Youth competitors are further classified based on year of birth and compete in male/open and female age-based Categories:

USA Climbing Youth Categories for Sep 2025 through Aug 2026			
Birth Year	Age Category	(Competition) Category	
		Female	Male/Open
2016 or later	U11-mixed	n/a (mixed)	n/a (mixed)
2014 or 2015	U13	F-13	M/O-13
2012 or 2013	U15	F-15	M/O-15
2010 or 2011	U17	F-17	M/O-17
2008 or 2009	U19	F-19	M/O-19
2007	U20	F-20	M/O-20

Table 1-3 Youth Categories

C) Collegiate Series competitions may use alternative Categories as follows:

- Female Intermediate
- Female Advanced
- Male/Open Intermediate
- Male/Open Advanced

Subject to Sport Discretion, Collegiate Series Competitions may use additional Categories (e.g., Non-Binary Intermediate and Non-Binary Advanced at Collegiate Qualification Events).

D) Para Climbing Categories are defined by way of a Para Climbing Classification System set forth as follows:

- i) All athletes must meet the qualifications of at least one classification in the Para Climbing Classification System unless competing in the Open Category.
- ii) USA Climbing will utilize the World Climbing Para Climbing Categories and their classification as set out in the World Climbing Para Climbing Classification Rules.
 - The World Climbing Para Climbing Classification Rules used shall be those in force as of the publication of this USA Climbing Rulebook.
 - The World Climbing Classification Rules shall be interpreted in the context of USA Climbing competitions (e.g., NF (National Federation) is replaced by Coach/Athlete).
- iii) An athlete's need to classify for World Climbing Para Climbing Categories at USA Climbing Para Climbing events will be determined based on their classification status from World Climbing:
 - A Confirmed (C) status means the athlete does not need to classify at Para Climbing Nationals.
 - A Future Review Date (FRD) means the athlete only needs to be reclassified in the

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 1.3 - 1.3

year of their FRD.

- iv) In addition to the World Climbing Para Climbing Categories, USA Climbing may establish an additional set of Para Climbing Categories for which USA Climbing publishes classification rules and which are:
 - open to athletes with a physical impairment who meet such classification rules; and
 - subject to the classification and protest processes as defined in such classification rules.
- v) There shall be two (2) classification panels and athletes will be assigned to one of the panels (at the discretion of the Event Organizer) for classification.
 - Athletes given a Non-Eligible (NE) designation by the first panel that classifies the athlete will be seen by the other classification panel.
 - If both panels give an NE designation, the athlete is not able to protest.
- vi) Protests of classification must be filed within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the athlete's classification appointment.
- vii) The Para Climbing Open Category is open to athletes with a physical impairment who:
 - do not request classification; or
 - do not qualify for allocation into a Para Climbing Category set forth in Rule 1.3(D)(ii) or Rule 1.3(D)(iv).¹
- viii) Para Climbing events may, at the discretion of USA Climbing, include mixed-category events.
- ix) If at the registration deadline there are not at least four (4) competitors registered for a Sport Class (Sport Class Registration Threshold²), USA Climbing has the discretion to combine Sport Classes as set out in PARA ANNEX A, and may, for the AL1 Sport Class only, include a mixed-category event (i.e., with men and women competing together).³

E) While all USA Climbing Sanctioned Events must include the categories defined in this Rulebook for all aspects of the competition, from registration to results, a Youth or Collegiate Qualification Series or Recreational Series competition is allowed to, in addition, utilize the results in alternate additional categories, provided such categories are not contrary to the rules or policies of USA Climbing. Such alternate categories shall not replace the categories defined and used in this Rulebook.

¹ An athlete who has a NE designation after the protest process is complete is eligible to compete in the Open Category

² USA Climbing has no requirement for minimum registration that would result in Category / Sport Class not being included in a competition.

³ PARA ANNEX A sets out limitations on combining Sport Classes.

Competitions

1.4 USA Climbing organizes the following competitions.⁴ ⁵

Series	Competition	Disciplines ⁶	Nat ⁷	Champ ⁸
Elite	National Championship	L, B, S	Y	Y
	National Team Trials	L, B, S	Y	N
Youth	Youth National Championships	LTR, B, S	Y	Y
	Youth Divisional Championships	LTR, B	N	Y
	Youth Regional Championships	LTR, B	N	Y
	Youth Qualification Series ⁹	LTR, B	N	N
Collegiate	Collegiate National Championships	LTR, B, S	Y	Y
	Collegiate Nationals QE (CNQE)	LTR, B	N	N
	Collegiate Qualification Series ¹⁰	LTR, B	N	N
Para	Para Climbing National Championship	LTR	Y	Y
Youth, Collegiate	Qualification Speed Trials (QST)	S	N	N

Table 1-4 Competitions

1.5 USA Climbing will issue an **Event Information Sheet** (aka “Info Sheet”) that includes the event location, Disciplines, Categories (Sport Classes), general competition format information, registration deadlines, and other important details.

A) For Para Climbing events, an Event Information Sheet identifying confirmed individual Sport Class events, mixed-category events and/or Combined Class Events should be issued not less than 5 days prior to the first day of the competition.

Accommodations

1.6 USA Climbing encourages the participation of competitors with disabilities.

A) The Para Series is open to eligible competitors with a disability that results in physical impairment.

The eligibility requirements for competitors in the Para Series are set forth in PARA REGULATIONS which sets forth further information regarding the Para Series, the Para Climbing Classification system and requirements, and Para Climbing competitions.

⁴ The North American Cup Series (NACS) competitions are jointly organized by member organizations (including USA Climbing) and are governed by the rules and regulations in the NACS Event Manual.

⁵ For formatting or spacing reasons

- Regional Championship may be shortened to Regionals
- Divisional Championship may be shortened to Divisionals
- National Championship may be shortened to Nationals

⁶ L:Lead LTR:Lead/TR B:Boulder S:Speed

⁷ Column “Nat” indicates which competitions are “National Events”

⁸ Column “Champ” indicates which competitions are “Championship Events”

⁹ Youth QE are Youth Qualification Events, part of the Youth Qualification (Cup) Series

¹⁰ Collegiate QE are Collegiate Qualification Events, part of the Collegiate Qualification (Cup) Series

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 1.7 - 1.7

B) The Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and Recreational Series competitions are open to competitors regardless of ability, and competitors with disabilities may request accommodations.

1.7 Any individual desiring an ADA-compliant accommodation (due to, for example, color-blindness, Type-1 Diabetes, serious allergies, neurodivergence, physical disorders or disabilities that require a Competitor Aide, etc.) must submit a request as directed in the USA Climbing Accommodations Policy on the policy page on the www.usaclimbing.org website. If USA Climbing grants (an) accommodation(s), the Jury President shall have the authority to implement such accommodations, including where such accommodations conflict with the rules.

2 USA Climbing Policies Applicable Codes and Regulations

- 2.1 Each person taking part in a ~~World Cup or any championship event~~ USA Climbing event must comply with the ~~IFSC~~ USA Climbing Competition Rules, these regulations, and any amendments noted in the Event Information Sheet.
- 2.2 USA Climbing Bylaws are found at www.usaclimbing.org/rules.
- 2.3 USA Climbing Codes of Conduct are found at www.usaclimbing.org/rules and include, though are not limited to:
 - USA Climbing Code of Conduct
 - USA Climbing Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Coaches Code of Conduct
 - Judges Code of Conduct
 - Routesetters Code of Conduct
 - Coordinator Code of Conduct
- 2.4 USA Climbing Policies, Criteria, and Standards are found at www.usaclimbing.org/rules and include, though are not limited to:
 - USA Climbing Codes of Conduct
 - USA Climbing Athlete Eligibility Criteria
 - USA Climbing National Team Eligibility Policy
 - USA Climbing Membership & Refund Policy
 - USA Climbing Teams Policy
 - USA Climbing Event Registration & Refund Policy
 - USA Climbing Accommodation Policy
 - USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards
- 2.5 USA Climbing Operating Policies are found at www.usaclimbing.org/rules and include, though are not limited to:
 - Anti-Discrimination Policy
 - Anti-Doping Policy
 - Confidentiality Policy
 - Grievance Policy¹¹
 - Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy
 - Privacy Policy

¹¹ Under USAC Climbing's Bylaws and the Grievance Policy, the final decision of a referee regarding a "field of play" decision that is within their authority to make is not reviewable by the USA Climbing Judicial Committee unless the decision is the product of fraud, corruption, partiality, or other misconduct of the referee.

A "referee" is any individual with discretion to make "field of play" decisions, including all competition judges and officials.

A "field of play" decision is a decision made with the intent to implement USA Climbing rules, regulations, and policies within the host facility, especially in the Competition Areas. Such decisions include those related to the preparation for, and execution of, a climbing competition and include, without limitation, challenges relating to the physical area(s) prepared for and utilized during the competition (i.e., the host facility and climbing walls), the competition format and schedule, the routesetting or specific design of the routes/boulders, judging or scoring of competitors during the competition, and any rulings otherwise made at the discretion of a referee, or in the exercise of CEO Authority & Discretion or Sport Authority & Discretion if in preparation for or during a competition.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 2.6 - 2.7

- Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy

2.6 USA Climbing Safe Sport Policies are found at www.usaclimbing.org/rules and include, though are not limited to:

- Background Check Policy
- Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy
- Safe Sport and Response and Resolution Policy
- Safe Sport Code
- Team Travel Policy

2.7 ~~The following sporting codes also have the status of rules for the purposes of these regulations:~~

[~~IFSC Anti-Doping Rules~~](#)

[~~IFSC RED-S Health Screening Rules~~](#)

[~~IFSC Betting and Anti-Corruption Code~~](#)

[~~IFSC Disciplinary Rules~~](#)

[~~IFSC Eligibility Code~~](#)

[~~IFSC Equipment Code~~](#)

[~~IFSC Uniform Code~~](#)

3 Safety

Injuries

3.1 The Host Facility ~~IFSC Medical Delegate~~ (§12) will confirm that a medically trained individual (however specified as required by the Host Agreement) ~~doctor~~ is available to attend any accident or injury to any competitor ~~team member~~ (the **Competition Medical Professional**). The **Competition Medical Professional** must be present for all scheduled warm-up and competition activities.

3.2 The Jury President ~~IFSC Medical Delegate~~ is responsible for deciding whether an injured climber may continue or return to competition. The ~~Jury President IFSC Medical Delegate~~ will consult with the **Competition Medical Professional**, and the relevant team's medical staff¹² when making their assessment, and may delegate the decision to the **Competition Medical Professional**. The priority must be to safeguard the health and safety of the climber. The potential outcome of the competition must never influence such decisions.

3.3 For Para Climbing events, the Jury President may make special provisions for individual competitors only upon the written request of the Classification Panel.

Safety Petitions

3.4 Coaches may make a Safety Petition where a serious safety issue is believed to exist. Safety Petitions must be made in writing and signed by the Team Managers from 3 separate teams. If the Jury President agrees that a serious safety issue exists, they must address the issue without delay. Any Safety Petition, and its resolution, must be reported to the **USA Climbing Chief of Sport IFSC Sport Director**.

Safety Instructions and Attempt Termination

3.5 A competitor may be provided instruction or notification by a Judge or Belayer if they deem the communication to be necessary or prudent in the interest of safety.¹³ Such communication provided to a competitor by a Judge or Belayer does not itself result in the termination of the competitor's attempt, subject to rule 3.6 below.

3.6 A competitor's attempt should be terminated¹⁴ for reasons of safety if, for example:

- the competitor has not responded to address an earlier safety-related communication, or
- the actions of the competitor are deemed to be flagrant violations of safety, or
- the competitor's safety has become sufficiently compromised.

¹² The IFSC Medical Commission recommends that a team's medical staff include a medical doctor, ideally a sports medicine doctor.

¹³ E.g., a competitor who:

- is passing or has passed an unclipped draw is not instructed to clip unless/until there is a safety concern.
- makes a Z-clip is not instructed to fix the Z-clip unless/until there is a safety concern.
- clips an off-route draw is not notified unless/until there is a safety concern.
- has a body part between the rope and the wall or holds is notified if there is a safety concern.

¹⁴ See rules governing appeals relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt.

The termination of scoring for an attempt may be independent of any (or no) instructions given to a competitor to cease their climbing. Communication to the competitor at or around the time of attempt termination should be in the interest of safety.

Safety-related termination of attempt may be accompanied by a disciplinary action.

4 The Competition Area

4.1 Only the following persons may enter the Competition Area:

- A) [International and National Technical Officials](#),
- B) [USA Climbing](#) and event staff,
- C) anti-doping agency staff [and SafeSport audit or compliance staff](#),
- D) competitors participating in current round, plus the accredited coaches for those competitors,
- E) other persons authorized by the Jury President. Such persons must be supervised and must not distract or interfere with any climber.

4.2 Coaches are not allowed to enter the Field of Play, Call Zones, or adjacent transit areas, without the express permission of the Jury President.¹⁵

4.3 If attempts are made **on-sight** in any round of an event, no team member may carry or use any electronic communication equipment while in the Competition Area without the approval of the Jury President.¹⁶

4.4 [In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\), individuals requiring service animals in the Competition Area may obtain an accommodation provided by USA Climbing as set forth in the USA Climbing Accommodation Policy. Non-service animals are not allowed in the Competition Area and are subject to facility rules regarding animals allowed in the facility. No animals are allowed in the Competition Area unless authorized by the Jury President.](#)

4.5 For an **on-sight** round, access the warm-up area (“Iso”) is limited to:

- A) [USA Climbing officials and individuals specifically authorized by the Jury President](#).
- B) [USA Climbing staff](#).
- C) [Event Organizer officials](#).
- D) [competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition](#).
- E) [USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coaches](#).¹⁷

4.6 Competitors, coaches, and other individuals permitted to enter Iso shall remain under isolation conditions throughout their stay in the Competition Area, including the Call Zones, transits, and Field of Play and are not allowed to communicate with persons outside the Competition Area, unless specifically authorized to do so by a Head Judging Official.
Competitors and coaches may not re-enter the Iso Zone once they have left it, unless authorized by the Jury President.

¹⁵ The Jury President may permit members of a team’s medical staff to enter a Call Zone to assist in the treatment of an injured athlete.

Any area provided for the use of coaches during a round (i.e. coaches zone/corridor) is considered part of the Competition Area.

¹⁶ Permission is deemed to be given for coaches to use electronic devices within the coaches zone, provided they are not used to communicate with competitors.

¹⁷ The Jury President may, at their discretion, limit the number of team coaches for each team allowed to enter Iso.

5 Clothing And Equipment

- 5.1 Climbers may take personal belongings such as bags/rucksacks or other luggage, battery-powered fans, spare/street clothing, etc. into the Call Zone. The Jury President may withdraw permission where such articles would inconvenience other climbers.
- 5.2 Other than as specifically allowed by annexes A to C, climbers are not allowed to bring personal belongings onto the Field of Play.
- 5.3 At the discretion of the Jury President, climbers must wear an identifying bib on the back of their top when in the Call Zone and on the Field of Play.¹⁸
- 5.4 Para Climbing competitors are subject to the following:
 - A) Competitors in the B1 sport class (i.e., equivalent to a World Climbing category that requires a blindfold) must wear a blindfold provided by the Event Organizers or a self-provided blindfold approved by the Jury President, who may delegate this to a Chief Classifier.
 - B) Competitors in any of the B sport classes must provide and use wireless radios (e.g., headsets) to communicate with their sight guide ("caller") during each attempt.

6 Competition Schedule

- 6.1 The Event Information Sheet will specify the location, date, time and other arrangements for confirming participation in each event, and for any planned meetings in connection with the competition schedule, logistics or technical matters.

Confirmation of participation

- 6.2 [removed] The participation of all team members must be confirmed by the deadline specified in the Event Information Sheet or, if no separate deadline is specified, 30 minutes before the start of the Technical Meeting (§6.3). Climbers not confirmed by the deadline will not be included on the Official Start List. Confirmation should be made by the in person attendance of at least one team official (or if no such person is registered, a team member).¹⁹

Technical Meeting

- 6.3 The Jury President Event Delegate will chair a meeting to expand on the information contained within the Event Information Sheet, inform teams of the detailed event schedule, and advise specific information related to the application/interpretation of the rules (the **Technical Meeting**).

Event Schedule

- 6.4 Event schedules must respect the following constraints for each round:
 - A) for On-Sight and Flash rounds, the opening time for the warm-up area should not be less than 2 hours before the scheduled Start of Play (and never less than 90 minutes),
 - B) for On-Sight rounds, the closing time for the warm-up area should not be less than 30 minutes before the scheduled Start of Play
 - C) for Redpoint rounds, the opening time for the warm-up area should be not less than 1 hour before the scheduled Start of Play.

¹⁸ Competitors must not mark up or otherwise modify the bib provided by the Event Organizer.

¹⁹ [6.2] In exceptional circumstances only (e.g., strikes, traffic delay), alternative confirmation methods, such as SMS or email to the Event Delegate, may be accepted.

7 Start Lists, Results and Rankings

- 7.1 All start lists, results and rankings will be prepared and published using the [USA Climbing](#) Results Service. If the [USA Climbing](#) Results Service is unavailable, the Jury President may authorize use of a backup system and in this case the results of the competition will remain provisional until verified using the [USA Climbing](#) Results Service.
- 7.2 All start lists, results and rankings will be distributed to coaches in electronic form or, where this is not practical, published on an official notice board.

Starting Orders

- 7.3 The starting order within each round will be determined as set out in [the relevant annexes A to E](#).
- 7.4 Event Seedings [are as set out in section 14.8. will be determined from the World Ranking on the day preceding the start of the competition.](#)
- 7.5 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.
 - C) Additional copies may be made available to the event organizer, coaches, the competition speaker, and media.
- 7.6 Where following publication of an Official Start List, any climber withdraws or otherwise is ineligible to start, the list will be re-issued with the relevant Invalid Result Mark (DNS/DSQ/DBQ) added.²⁰

Event Results/Rankings

- 7.7 Official Results will be published as soon as possible after completing the relevant round. Official Results [should](#) be published with a timestamp and, if modified, an amendment notice. Additional copies may be made available to the event organizer, coaches, the competition speaker, and media.
- 7.8 A General Result will be published at the end of each event showing the General Ranking and results for each round.

[Cup Rankings](#)

- 7.9 [For the purposes of these regulations:](#)
[Cup Ranking means the overall ranking of a competitor in a specific discipline across a series of World Cup competitions.](#)
[National Team Ranking means the overall ranking of a national federation or country in either \(a\) a specific discipline across a series of World Cup competitions, or \(b\) across all disciplines within](#)

²⁰ The starting order and any Fixed or NET times on the Official Start List will not be changed, [though gaps in the Starting Order and start times may be collapsed subject to Jury President discretion](#). No substitute/replacement competitors will be advanced.

a championship competition.

7.10 Cup Ranking points will be awarded to competitors at the end of each event equal to the World Ranking Points for their placing in the General Ranking.

7.11 National Team Rankings will be calculated for each World Cup competition by summing the Cup Ranking points awarded to the 3 best ranked climbers from the team in both men's and women's categories (the Team Points). Teams will be ranked in descending order of their Team Points.

7.12 Cup Rankings will be calculated for each series of World Cup competitions as follow:

- A) for each climber awarded Cup Ranking points, ranking climbers in descending order of the total points awarded across the series, and
- B) for each team with a National Team Ranking, in descending order of the total Team Points awarded across the series.

7.13 If two or more climbers are tied 1st in the Cup Ranking with the same number of points, the tie will be broken by:

- A) comparing their win-loss record against each other, and
- B) if the tie is not broken by (A), comparing the number of best results, starting with the number of 1st places, then the number of 2nd places, etc.

Championship rankings.

7.14 National Team Rankings for championship competitions will be calculated by summing the World Ranking points awarded to the 3 best ranked climbers from the team in each event held (the Championship Team Points). Teams will be ranked in descending order of their Championship Team Points.²¹

8 Ceremonies, Medals, and Prizes

Medal Ceremonies

8.1 Medal ceremonies will be held as soon as practical following the end of each event in accordance with the IFSC Awards Ceremony Protocol. Any alternative schedule/arrangements for medal ceremonies must be set out in the Event Information Sheet.

Event trophies, medals, and prizes

8.2 A trophy will be awarded to the winner of each event. Gold, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded to the climbers placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the General Ranking. Multiple medals will be awarded if climbers are tied.

8.3 Prize money will be awarded per the amounts established by the IFSC Board, or any greater amount agreed by the IFSC and the event organizer. Tied climbers will receive the average of the prize money for the tied places.

²¹ [7.14] If any world championship is organized as a series of competitions rather than a single competition, the National Team Ranking will be calculated upon the conclusion of the final competition in the series.

Cup trophies, medals, and prizes

8.4 ~~On completion of the last events in each World Cup series, trophies will be awarded to the climbers and teams placed 1st in the Cup Rankings. Plates will be awarded to the climbers placed 2nd and 3rd in the Cup Rankings.~~

Championship trophies, medals, and prizes

~~The winner of each event held at a world championship competition will be awarded the title of World Champion in that event.~~

9 Disciplinary Procedures

9.1 Disciplinary sanctions may be imposed by officials as follow:

Caution / Yellow Card	Disqualification / Red Card
Jury President	Jury President ²²
USAC Judge	

Table 9-1 Disciplinary Sanction Issuing Officials

Authority

9.2 The Jury President has the overall authority over all activities and decisions affecting competition activities within the Competition Area and areas designated for spectators.

9.3 Persons other than competitors and coaches (e.g., spectators, family members, staff, and others) shall be held, as relevant, to the same discipline and conduct standards as competitors and coaches for any infringement and subject to the appropriate sanctions with the difference that:

- A) an official warning is issued in lieu of a Yellow Card; and
- B) dismissal from the facility is in lieu of a Red Card; and
- C) the sanctions may be issued by a Head Judging Official, the Event Organizer, or USA Climbing.

²² Prior to issuing a Red Card sanction, the Jury President is encouraged to consult with the USA Climbing Chief of Sport regarding consistency and precedent.

Issuance

9.4 A Yellow or Red Card sanction is imposed by an HJO on a competitor or coach by showing the sanctioned individual a Yellow or Red Card (as relevant)²³ and providing a verbal summary of the reason for the infraction, as witnessed by another official or uninvolved party.²⁴
The HJO will submit a report of the sanction to USA Climbing.²⁶

Consequences

9.5 ~~As soon as possible after imposing a sanction, the IFSC will publish a sport communication summarizing the matter, including whether the matter is to be referred to the IFSC Disciplinary Commission.~~

9.6 ~~If a person receives 3 cautions in the same year, their International License will be suspended after the competition where they received the 3rd caution. The duration of this suspension will be decided by the IFSC Disciplinary Commission and the national federation's team quota reduced during this period.~~

9.7 The Chief Executive Officer and/or the Board of Directors of USA Climbing shall review all Red Card and Yellow Card violations, all official warnings, and all dismissals of individuals from a host facility, where such review may, subject to the due process protections afforded under USA Climbing's Bylaws, result in sanctions that include, without limitation, the revocation of the relevant individuals' memberships in USA Climbing for however long as deemed appropriate. In this instance, no membership or entry fee refunds are given

9.8 The Jury President shall be authorized to take the following actions in respect of infringements of these rules and with regard to matters of discipline by a competitor or coach:

- A) Disqualification of a competitor or coach from the event, accompanied by the issuance of a Red Card; and/or
- B) dismissal from the host facility for the remaining duration of the event.

9.9 A competitor also registered as a coach will be considered as the same person in relation to any disciplinary sanctions and any cumulation of sanctions.

²³ The "Card" may take other forms, including that of an electronic display of a (mostly) solid color.

²⁴ If the sanctioned individual is a minor, an adult representative for that minor must be present. If the sanctioned individual is not at the venue or otherwise unavailable, the sanction is still considered imposed, the USA Climbing Chief of Sport should be notified in a timely manner, and the showing of the card and delivering of the verbal summary to the individual should be at the earliest reasonable time. If, within a reasonable time, the Jury President determines that additional evidence justifies a change from Yellow to Red Card, or from Red to Yellow Card, such a change must be only done after consultation with the USA Climbing Chief of Sport.

²⁶ The sanction submission method is to be on the Judges page of the USA Climbing website. The submission should be completed within 24 hours of the sanction being imposed.

10 Appeals

Appeal Jury

10.1 Appeals will be decided by the ~~Jury President or, if the appeal relates to some relevant judgement on the Field of Play made by the Jury President, an IFSC Judge Appeals Jury, which must consist of two (2) individuals and should consist of the Jury President and a USAC Judge at the event.~~^{27 28}

Appeal Process

10.2 For the purposes of these regulations:

Appeal Eligibility means a team official who:

- is registered for the relevant event in the capacity of team manager or coach, and
- represents a competitor participating in the current round of the event.

Admissible Evidence means:

- the statements made on the relevant appeal form,
- official video recordings and/or any authorized broadcast stream²⁹, and
- statements collected from on-field officials.

10.3 Appeals relating to a competitor's attempts in any round must be made within the time limits set out in annexes A to C.

10.4 Appeals relating to an error in the Official Results must be made³⁰: ~~immediately on publication for the medal phase of an event, or within 5 minutes of publication for any other round.~~

- A) For the 2025-2026 season only³¹, for Youth QEs, Collegiate QEs, and Recreation Series event, within ten (10) minutes of publication, and
- B) for all other events, within five (5) minutes of publication.³²

10.5 In the event updated results are published (e.g., following a change as a result of an appeal), any new appeal must be made:

²⁷ The Jury President may recuse themselves from the Appeal Jury for a Category if they have a conflict of interest, in which case they shall appoint a suitable replacement for the two (2) person Appeals Jury.

²⁸ Subject to published guidance from the USA Climbing Judges Committee, if the two (2) person Appeals Jury cannot be formed with Head Judging Officials (e.g., an event without a USAC Judge), the Jury President should select a suitably qualified (e.g., Level 3) USA Climbing Certified Judge for the Appeals Jury.

²⁹ If official video recordings are not available, unofficial video may be solicited or used at the sole discretion of the Jury President in such a way as to not risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors, recognizing that it is possible that a ruling on appeal based on an incomplete set video evidence that does not show every competitor in the relevant session on the route or boulder subject to the appeal may unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors.

³⁰ An appeal meets the deadline if the appellant has verbally informed an HJO by the deadline of their intent to file an appeal. In this case, the written appeal must be submitted within five (5) minutes, otherwise the appellant should be given an official warning upon the first such offence at the event, and a yellow card upon the second or later offence.

³¹ Starting with the 2026-2027 season, all events will use the same 5 minute appeal deadline.

³² For the Final round of Elite Series events, the appeal deadline may be ended early if waived by all Final round competitors.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 1.1 - 10.8

- i) for non-National events during the 2025-2026 season, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the updated results, or within five (5) minutes of the appeal deadline for the most recent prior publication of results, whichever is later,³³ or
- ii) for all other events (e.g., National events and all events after the 2025-2026 season), by the original appeal deadline³⁴.

10.6 The Appeal Fee is as follows:

Competition Types & Categories	Appeal Fee
QEs (Youth and Collegiate):	\$25
Rec Series	None
All other competitions	\$100

Table 10-1 Appeal Fees

10.7 In the event a minor competitor (under the age of eighteen (18) years old) is making an appeal without their coach, an adult representative for that minor must be present at all times. The adult representative should be another USA Climbing Certified Coach, if possible. In the event the adult representative is not a USA Climbing Certified Coach (e.g., is a parent/guardian), that representative's involvement is limited to assisting the minor competitor with the written appeal.

10.8 For Youth Qualification Series competitions (QEs), Appeals:

- A) may be disallowed at the discretion of the Jury President; and
- B) are disallowed for all Peer-judged competitions,

and such information must be communicated to competitors and coaches prior to the start of the competition via the Info Sheet and/or Technical Meeting.³⁵

³³ An appeal deadline is only extended one time (per round, per Category)

³⁴ Even if results change after the deadline as a result of an appeal made before the deadline, no new appeals may be made.

³⁵ Scoring data entry mistakes may still be corrected.

11 Unplanned Events

11.1 Unplanned events and weather-related interruptions will be handled according to the [USA Climbing](#) protocols (including but not limited to the [USA Climbing Event Discretion policy](#)) for managing event schedule disruption. These protocols may involve adjusting event timelines, rescheduling, or cancelling rounds or stages. If an event is cancelled, no medals, [prizes](#), or ranking points will be awarded.

12 Technical Officials

12.1 [USA Climbing](#) will appoint³⁶ the following technical officials:

- A) an Event [Organizer](#)³⁷,
- B) [For Para Climbing events](#), a Medical Delegate,
- C) a Jury President,
- D) a Head Routesetter, [and one or more international routesetters](#),
- E) one or more [USAC](#) Judges to act in the capacity of category judge, and to replace the Jury President should he/she be unable to start or continue.
- F) [For Para Climbing events](#), a Chief Classifier, where classification activities are scheduled.

[The Jury President and USAC Judges are collectively referred to as Head Judging Officials \(HJOs\).](#)

12.2 The Event Organizer will appoint:

- A) [a medical doctor \(the Competition Doctor\) as part of their medical team. The Competition Doctor will chair the medical panel if an IFSC Medical Delegate is not appointed or is unable to perform their duties.](#)
- B) a team of route/boulder judges, [assigned on a 1:1 basis for each route/boulder in a round and](#) responsible for the judging and scoring of competitors on that route/boulder. Each route judge [team](#) should [have an be assisted by a second](#) official to record climbing times and results.
- C) an on-venue results service manager to assist the [USA Climbing IFSC](#) technical officials in the preparation and publication of start lists and results.

12.3 [The Host Facility will appoint:](#)

- A) [a medical professional as required by the Host Agreement \(the Competition Medical Professional\).](#)
- B) a team of routesetters to work with the Head Routesetter [appointed by the IFSC](#).
- C) for any lead or speed competition, a team of belayers.

³⁶ The Event Organizer typically nominates the Jury President, Head Routesetter, and USAC Judges for approval by USA Climbing.

³⁷ For National Events, the Event Organizer is USA Climbing.
For Youth Divisional Events, the Youth Divisional Coordinator(s).
For Youth Regional Events and QEs, the Youth Regional Coordinator(s).
For CNQEs and Collegiate QEs, the Collegiate Divisional Coordinator(s).

13 Redpoint Formats - General

13.1 Redpoint formats include Classic Redpoint and Modified Redpoint.

13.2 A Redpoint session should allow at least three (3) hours for the competitors to climb.^{38 39}

- A) The deadline for a competitor to check in and not be marked as DNS is ninety (90) minutes after the start of the relevant competition session.⁴⁰
- B) Redpoint Format competitors choose which routes/boulders to attempt and may attempt as many different routes/boulders as they wish during the session, within the rules of the specific Redpoint Format.⁴¹

13.3 At the discretion of the Event Organizer, Classic Redpoint competitions may be peer-judged. Other formats must not be peer-judged.

13.4 Competitions that are not peer-judged are subject to the following:

- A) At least one judge must be assigned by a Head Judging Official to perform as judge for a "lane" (a set of spatially adjacent routes/boulders on the climbing wall surface) for the session.⁴²
- B) Competitors are provided with "Queue Cards".⁴³
- C) Each attempt, unsuccessful or successful (TOP), is recorded by the Climbing Judge in the online system or on the scorecard, as directed by the Jury President.

³⁸ The duration of the session is at the discretion of the Event Organizer, and may be longer or shorter based on factors such as number of competitors, number of lanes available to the competition, etc. The Jury President has the discretion to extend the session. (e.g., if volunteer resources were insufficient to run the competition as planned.)

³⁹ Competitors should be given a "five-minute warning" before the end of the session. At the end of those five minutes, a competitor in progress of an attempt will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their Queue/Score Cards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). A Head Judging Official, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.

⁴⁰ The Jury President has discretion to allow later check-in, either for all late competitors or only if contacted prior to the deadline.

⁴¹ Competitors declare their intention to attempt a route/boulder by handing their Queue Card or Score Card to the relevant volunteer who will call competitors in order of the cards. After each unsuccessful attempt, the competitor may return to the back of the queue or elect to attempt another route/boulder.

⁴² Judge assignments should strive to maintain judging consistency in each lane during a session.

⁴³ If the competition is using electronic scoring, the Queue Card has no official scorekeeping role, though in extraordinary cases (such as network or computer system issues) the Jury President may utilize paper-based scorekeeping, which may involve designating Queue Cards to serve as Score Cards.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 13.5 - 13.7

13.5 Competitions that are peer-judged are subject to the following.

- A) Competitors are provided with "Score Cards".
- B) If they TOP the route/boulder, competitors mark their Score Card with the appropriate TOP and must have a peer-witness initial the Score Card for this TOP.
- C) At Collegiate QEs, competitors perform online results system data entry.
- D) For other competitions, the Event Organizer will arrange for adult volunteers to help with line/queue management, as well as safety management, and the Event Organizer will arrange for adult volunteers to perform online results system data entry. The competitor is responsible for providing their Score Card to a results system data entry volunteer as indicated in the Info Sheet and/or Technical Meeting.⁴⁴

13.6 Redpoint Format competitors are allowed to watch other competitors climb on a route/boulder prior to their own attempt. At Redpoint Format competitions, "beta" (coaching, advice, etc.) must not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the route/boulder (e.g., "running beta"); however, beta may be given to a competitor before and between attempts of a route/boulder.

13.7 A competitor's attempt on a route/boulder may be subject to a climbing period time limit, at which time the competitor's attempt is terminated.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ At these competitions, competitors do not perform online results system data entry, though they should confirm the online results match their Score Card.

⁴⁵ The limit is at the discretion of the Jury President.

There may be no defined limit. When there is no defined time limit, if a competitor's current attempt has been determined to have been more than six (6) minutes, the Jury President has the discretion to inform the competitor that they have one (1) minute remaining in their attempt, after which the Jury President may terminate the climber's attempt.

When there is a time limit, the competitor should be notified one (1) minute prior to the end of the timing period.

For fair and consistent application of the time limit, the Jury President has the discretion to reserve enforcement of this limit to only HJOs. Enforcement shall be limited to HJOs at Peer-Judged competitions.

The Jury President should inform competitors (e.g., Info Sheet or Technical Meeting) of the time limit enforcement, and instruct Judges the same.

14 Competition Formats

14.1 For the competition formats in this section:

- A) Where the table provides for discretion, or a competition round appears more than once in the table, the format selected shall be at the discretion of the Jury President after consultation with the Event Organizer and the Head Routesetter.
- B) The Modified Redpoint and Classic Redpoint Format rules are set out in those sections of the rulebook and not specified in these tables.

14.2 Subject to Sport Discretion and Rules Committee approval, alternative competition formats may be used at a Qualification Series event (Youth or Collegiate). Host Facilities interested in discussing such alternative competition formats should contact the USA Climbing Chief of Sport at sport@usaclimbing.org for more information.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 14.3 - 14.3

14.3 Lead/TR Formats are set forth in the following tables.⁴⁶

Round	Number of Routes	Modus / Format	Climbing Time	Starting Order
Elite Series				
(see Lead/TR Annex)				
Youth Series				
QE	(format rules)	Modified Redpoint	(format rules)	n/a
QE	(format rules)	Classic Redpoint	(format rules)	n/a
QE	2 or 3	On-sight	5' or 6'	Random
QE	2 or 3	Flash	4', 5', or 6'	Random, Offset
Regionals	3	On-sight	5' or 6'	Random
Regionals	3	Flash	5' or 6'	Random, Offset
Divisionals Qual	2	Flash	5' or 6'	Random, Offset
Divisionals Final	1	On-sight	6'	Rank Descending
Nationals Qual	2	Flash	6'	Random, Offset
Nationals Semi	1	On-sight	6'	Rank Descending
Nationals Final	1	On-sight	6'	Rank Descending
Collegiate Series				
QE	(format rules)	Modified Redpoint	(format rules)	n/a
QE	(format rules)	Classic Redpoint	(format rules)	n/a
QE	2 or 3	Flash	4', 5', or 6'	Random, Offset
CNQE	2 or 3	Flash	5' or 6'	Random, Offset
Nationals Qual	2 or 3	Flash	5' or 6'	Random, Offset
Nationals Final	1	Flash (Intermediate only)	6'	Rank Descending
Nationals Final	1	On-sight	6'	Rank Descending
Para Series				
Nationals Qual	2 or 3	Flash	5' or 6'	Random, Offset
Nationals Qual	(format rules)	Modified Redpoint	(format rules)	n/a
Nationals Final	1	On-sight	6'	Rank Descending

Table 14-1 Competition and Round Lead/TR Formats

⁴⁶ The (') mark is used to indicate *minutes* as the unit of time.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 14.4 - 14.6

14.4 Speed Formats (other than Qualification Speed Trials) are as set forth in ANNEX B – SPEED Events.

14.5 The format for each Qualification Speed Trial (QST) competition is at the discretion of the Event Organizer, provided that the format and schedule are described in the event Info Sheet, timed runs are recorded and submitted to USA Climbing, the format and execution provide fair access to all competitors, and equipment, structures, and process meet the safety standards as outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document.

14.6 QST formats should generally follow the formats set out for a standard Speed competition in these rules, though deviation from those formats is allowed. Event Organizers should email youthseries@usaclimbing.org with questions.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Considerations for a QST:

- Any periods without Start Orders (e.g., untimed practice period) should be available to all competitors.
- Any non-Knockout periods with Start Orders (e.g., like one or more “Qualification” rounds) should be arranged so that each competitor has the same number of scheduled races, split evenly between lane A and lane B (if there are two lanes).
- For any Knockout round, eligibility and format need to be defined in the Info Sheet.
- A race may include competitors from different Categories.
- Where Start Orders are used, competitors should have the opportunity for a Resting Time as set forth in the rules.
- False Starts should follow the relaxed standards as set forth in the rules.
- The speed climbing wall must comply with standards of safety – see relevant certification standards as outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document, as updated in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide. Email youthseries@usaclimbing.org with questions.
- An automated timing system should be used, but if such a timing system is not available, the timing system should meet the manual timing requirements published in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide on the www.usaclimbing.org website.
- A competitor from any Youth Region can compete in any QST, in any Youth Region.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 14.7 - 14.7

14.7 Boulder Formats are set forth in the following table:⁴⁸

(*) specified in Redpoint format rules

(**) one or more courses

4 means 1 course of 4 boulders; 2+2 means 2 courses of 2 boulders each; etc.

All Rotation Times are “(fixed)”, not “(max)”

Round	Number of Boulders	Zones	Modus / Format	Rotation Time	Starting Order
Elite Series					
(see Boulder Annex)					
Youth Series					
QE	(*)	1 or 2	Modified Redpoint	(*)	n/a
QE	(*)	1 or 2	Classic Redpoint	(*)	n/a
QE	4	1 or 2	On-sight	4'	Random
QE	4 – 10 (**)	1 or 2	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
Regionals	4	1 or 2	On-sight	4'	Random
Regionals	4, 2+2, or 3+3	1 or 2	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
Divisionals Qual	4	1 or 2	On-sight	4'	Random
Divisionals Qual	4, 2+2, or 3+3	1 or 2	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
Divisionals Final	4	1	On-sight	4'	Rank Descending
Nationals Qual	4 or 5	2:U15-1:U17+	On-sight	4'	Rank Ascending
Nationals Qual	4, 5, 6, 2+2, 2+3, or 3+3	2:U15-1:U17+	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
Nationals Semi	4	1	On-sight	4'	Rank Descending
Nationals Final	4	1	On-sight	4'	Rank Descending
Collegiate Series					
QE	(*)	1 or 2	Modified Redpoint	(*)	n/a
QE	(*)	1 or 2	Classic Redpoint	(*)	n/a
QE	4 – 10 (**)	1 or 2	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
CNQE	(*)	1 or 2	Modified Redpoint	(*)	n/a
CNQE	4 – 10 (**)	1 or 2	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
Nationals Qual	(*)	1 or 2	Modified Redpoint	(*)	n/a
Nationals Qual	4 – 10 (**)	1 or 2	Flash	4'	Random, Offset
Nationals Final	4 – 10 (**)	1	Flash (Intermediate only)	4'	Rank Descending, Offset
Nationals Final	4	1	On-sight	4'	Rank Descending

Table 14-2 Competition and Round Boulder Formats

⁴⁸ The (') mark is used to indicate *minutes* as the unit of time.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 14.8 - 14.8

14.8 The following table sets out the Event Seeding for USA Climbing competitions. Competitions not listed in the table below are not seeded.

Competitions	Event Seeding
Elite Boulder Nationals	As described in the Team Selection Procedures
Elite National Team Trials	As described in the Team Selection Procedures
Youth Boulder Nationals	Seeding is by each competitor's ranking at Youth Divisionals, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• those with equal Divisionals ranking seeded equal; and• those pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships seeded equal with those ranked 1st at Divisionals.
All other events	No seeding.

Table 14-3 Event Seeding

15 Youth Series Qualification Series

15.1 Youth Qualification Series Rankings for the Lead/TR and Boulder Disciplines:

- A) After each competition within the Youth Qualification Series, all competitors who rank in the top-80 among all competitors in a Category, shall be awarded Ranking Points for the competition as set out in the table below.⁴⁹
- B) USA Climbing shall maintain and regularly publish a season Youth Qualification Series Ranking for each Youth Region for each Category for the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines, where:
 - i) rankings include results from only Youth Qualification Series competitions in the same Discipline, in the same Membership Youth Division; and
 - ii) the maximum number of Youth Qualification Series competition results contributing to the total number of Ranking Points in that Discipline shall be two (2)⁵⁰; and
 - iii) each Ranking shall be in descending order of the total number of Ranking Points accumulated; and
 - iv) competitors with an equal total number of Ranking Points are assigned the same rank.
- C) The Youth Qualification Series Ranking points are awarded based on competition rank using the following table: (ranks 81 and beyond are not awarded points)

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

Table 15-1 Ranking Point Table (1000 points / 80 ranks)

- D) Competitors with the same rank will be awarded the average of the points allocated for the tied rank positions rounded down to two (2) decimal places.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Ranking Points are awarded to all competitors at a Qualification Series, including those pre-qualified for Youth Regionals, non-US citizens, and other competitors considered EA in the Qualification Series Ranking.

⁵⁰ Competitors do not need to have two Youth Qualification Series competition results to be ranked in the Youth Qualification Series Rankings. Competitors with a ranking 80th or better in only one (1) Youth Qualification Series competition are ranked in the Youth Qualification Series Rankings.

⁵¹ For example, a 3-way tie for 2nd place results in 701.66 points for each of the three (3) tied competitors. ([805+690+610]/3 = 701.6666..., which is 701.66 when rounded down.)

16 Advancement Quota

16.1 Elite Series - Advancement Quota

- A) Qualification to Elite events is set forth in the Team Selection Procedures
- B) Quota is as set forth in the Discipline ANNEX
- C) Quota applies to top-ranked NTE competitors who are not Team Preselected.
- D) Semi and Final round Quota applies to prior round rank.
- E) In Lead and Boulder, Team Preselected and NTI ranked higher or equal to advancing NTE also advance.
- F) NTI do not advance to Speed Final round.

16.2 Youth Series - Pre-Qualified (PQ)⁵²

PQ to Regl	PQ to Divl	PQ to Natl	Criteria
YES	YES	YES	In the Discipline, U.S. Olympic Team or Elite National Team or Elite National Development Team at any time in the twelve (12) months prior to the competition.
YES	YES	YES	World Champion, Pan American Champion, or National Champion in the Discipline in the Youth, Collegiate (only Advanced Category), or Elite Series
YES	YES	YES	Youth National Team in the Discipline
YES	YES	No	Youth National Development Team in the Discipline
n/a	YES	No	U20 Alaska resident who achieves PQ status via AKSE rank ⁵³
YES	No	No	U11-U19 Alaska resident who achieves PQ status via AKSE rank
YES	No	No	Hawaii resident
YES	YES	YES	US military outside NA – Nationals Final the prior years ⁵⁴
YES	YES	No	US military outside NA – Nationals Semi the prior years ⁵⁵
YES	No	No	US military outside NA – Nationals Qual the prior years ⁵⁶

Table 16-1 Youth Pre-Qualified Criteria

⁵² Only NTE are eligible to be PQ.

Regl is Regionals, Divl is Divisionals, Natl is Nationals

⁵³ Alaskan Selection Event (AKSE) is a competition by which Alaskan residents may achieve qualification for R12 Regionals.

⁵⁴ Youth National Championship competitors from the immediately prior year may request special PQ status if their family is in the US military and currently stationed outside North America (NA). For the 2026 Youth Season, both the 2024 and 2025 Youth National Championship will be considered.

⁵⁵ See prior footnote.

⁵⁶ See prior footnote.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 16.3 - 16.4

16.3 The Youth Series Alaskan Selection Event (AKSE) is a single competition in AK for each of Lead/TR and Boulder, held during QE season.⁵⁷

Competition Format is determined by Host Facility and USA Climbing, and published for AK residents in a timely manner.

AK resident competitors can achieve Regionals PQ status (for U20, Divisionals PQ status) by way of their AKSE rank among only AK resident competitors.⁵⁸

PQ	U11-mixed, F13, M13	F15, M15, F17, M17, F19, M19	F20, M20
PQ to Regionals	2	3	(n/a)
PQ to Divisionals	(n/a)	(n/a)	2

Table 16-2 AK Selection Event PQ

16.4 Youth Series – Extra-Qualified

If a change to a Youth Series competitor's Membership Youth Region during the season meets the USA Climbing Membership Policy requirement to have their Qualification Series results in their prior Region available for consideration for being extra-qualified in their new Region, and the competitor:

- A) is NTE and not PQ to Regionals; and
- B) is not qualified using only results and Ranking Points earned in their new Region; and
- C) has Ranking Points calculated using the best two (2) of their Qualification Series competition results from their previous Region and their current Region that are greater than or equal to the total Ranking Points of the last ranked eligible competitor in their new Region's Youth Qualification Rankings,
- D) then the competitor shall be extra-qualified for the Youth Regional Championships in the Discipline.

⁵⁷ Non AK athletes may participate in the AKSE though they are not awarded Qualification Series ranking points for the AKSE.

⁵⁸ Like other PQ, those achieving PQ status at the AKSE would be considered EA in the Qualification Series ranking

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 16.5 - 16.6

16.5 Youth Series – Lead/TR and Boulder Advancement Quota

- A) Regionals Quota is from QE Series
- B) Divisionals Qual Quota is from Regionals (two Regions), except for U20 which is from QE Series.⁵⁹
- C) Nationals Qual Quota is from Divisionals Finals (nine Divisions).
- D) Semi and Final round Quota applies to prior round rank.
- E) Quota applies to top-ranked NTE competitors who are not PQ (pre-qualified) for the round or later rounds
- F) In Lead and Boulder, PQ and NTI ranked higher or equal to advancing NTE also advance.
- G) U20 Categories do not have a Semi-Final round at Nationals – the top ranked competitors in the Qualification round advance to the Final round.

Category	Regionals Quota	Divisionals Qual Quota	Divisionals Finals Quota	Nationals Qual Quota	Nationals Semi Quota	Nationals Final Quota
U11-mixed	20	none	none	none	none	none
F13, M13	26	13/Reg = 26	13	none	none	none
F15, M15 F17, M17 F19, M19	32	16/Reg = 32	16	7/Div = 63	24	8
F20, M20	none	5/Reg = 10	5	3/Div = 27	none	8

Table 16-3 Youth Advancement Quota

16.6 Youth Series - Speed National Championship

- A) A U20, U19, or U17 competitor is awarded Speed National Championship eligibility if:
 - They have at least one race time that meets or is faster than their Category's Qualification Speed Benchmark time for the Speed wall height.
 - They achieved that time since the immediately prior Speed National Championship.
 - The time was achieved at:
 - a Qualification Speed Trial; or
 - a National level USA Climbing Speed event (e.g., the National Championship, National Team Trials, North American Cup Series, and the Collegiate National Championship); or
 - a World Climbing or Pan American Council Speed event; or
 - a Speed wall approved for Youth Speed National Championship eligibility and with evidence submitted of a race time meeting the Category's Qualification Speed Benchmark time for the Speed wall height where the wall approval and evidence submission process is set forth by USA Climbing.⁶⁰
- B) All U15 competitors are eligible for the Speed Youth National Championship.

⁵⁹ For U20 Categories only, if a Category has a number of QE Series ranked competitors that is fewer than the Divisionals quota, USA Climbing has the discretion to move the quota difference to the Category in the sibling region.

For example, if R81 has only 3 competitors ranked in the F-20 QE series and the Divisionals Quota is 5, then USA Climbing has the discretion to reduce the R81 F-20 quota to those 3 competitors and increase the R82 F-20 quota to 7. This quota transfer is only done prior to the start of Divisionals registration and is not affected by how many competitors actually register for the Divisionals event.

⁶⁰ Contact USA Climbing at eligiblity@usaclimbing.org for questions regarding special speed time approval process.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 16.6 - 16.6

- C) The Qualification Speed Trial results and Speed National Championship eligibility lists are published on the www.usaclimbing.org website.
- D) The (knockout) Speed Final round quota is 16 and NTI do not advance to the Final round.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 16.7 - 16.10

16.7 Collegiate Series - Pre-Qualified (PQ)⁶¹

PQ to CNQE	PQ to Nationals	Criteria
YES	YES	U.S. Olympic Team or Elite National Team or Elite National Development Team at any time in the twelve (12) months prior to the competition.
YES	YES	World Champion, Pan American Champion, or National Champion in the Youth, Collegiate, or Elite Series
YES	YES	Competed representing the U.S. at the most recent World University Games
YES	YES	Collegiate National Team
YES	YES	Youth National Team
YES	NO	Collegiate National Development Team
YES	NO	Youth National Development Team

Table 16-4 Collegiate Pre-Qualified Criteria

16.8 Collegiate Series - Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events (CNQE)

- A) Qualification for the CNQE is granted to a competitor who:
 - i) competed in a Collegiate QE, in any Category, in any Collegiate Division, and received any score (even if their score was zero (0)); or
 - ii) competed in a recognized non-USA Climbing collegiate climbing event. ⁶²
- B) Collegiate competitors eligible for CNQEs:
 - i) shall not compete in more than one CNQE; and
 - ii) may compete in any CNQE, in any Collegiate Division; and
 - iii) may compete in any Category that is compatible with their membership gender; and
 - iv) may compete in one (1) or more Disciplines.

16.9 Collegiate Series – Nationals

- A) Qualification for the Collegiate National Championship in the Speed Discipline is granted to all Collegiate Competitors.
- B) Qualification for the Collegiate National Championship in the Lead/TR and Boulder Disciplines is subject to achievement (rank) and participation, in the Category, at a Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event.

- i) Phase 1 eligibility considers CNQE rank, in either Lead/TR or Boulder:

Category	CNQE to Collegiate Nationals Qualification Criteria
Advanced	Top-8 ⁶³ in either Discipline at any CNQE qualify for Nationals
Intermediate	Top-5 in either Discipline at any CNQE qualify for Nationals

- ii) Phase 2 eligibility, if USA Climbing determines event capacity allows, is granted to all CNQE ranked competitors on a first-come first-served basis.

16.10 Collegiate Series – Nationals Advancement Quota

⁶¹ Only NTE are eligible to be PQ.

Collegiate PQ athletes are not eligible for the Collegiate Intermediate Category.

⁶² Contact collegiateseries@usaclimbing.org for more information.

⁶³ Among only those not PQ for Collegiate Nationals.

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 16.10 - 16.10

Discipline	Nationals Final Quota
Lead	20
Boulder	20
Speed	16

Table 16-5 Collegiate Advancement Quota

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 16.11 - 16.12

16.11 Para Series - Pre-Qualified (PQ)⁶⁵

PQ to Nationals	Criteria
YES	Team Preselected in the Category

16.12 Para Series – Nationals Advancement Quota

- A) Quota applies to top-ranked NTE competitors who are not Team Preselected.
- B) Team Preselected and NTI ranked higher or equal to advancing NTE also advance.
- C) For Para Climbing National Championship, the quota for the Final round should be a “floating” quota determined as follows:

Number of Competitors in the Qualification Round with a valid result ⁶⁶	Final Round Quota
1 to 6	4
7 to 15	5
16 or more	6

Table 16-6 Competition Para Climbing “Floating” Final Round Quota

⁶⁵ Only NTE are eligible to be PQ

⁶⁶ i.e. excluding any competitors who are recorded with an Invalid Result Mark for the round (DNS, DSQ, DQB).

ANNEX A – LEAD/TR EVENTS

1 General

- 1.1 Lead/TR events take place on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls **that should have having** a minimum width of 3 meters for each route on the wall. The height of the wall **should will** not be less than 15m.¹
- 1.2 Competitors attempt to climb **lead** routes belayed from below, secured by clipping the rope through a series of quickdraws during their attempt. **Competitors attempt to climb top rope routes belayed through a top rope anchor.**
- 1.3 Rules regarding Lead vs Top Rope routes are as follows:
 - A) In the Elite Series, all routes must be climbed on lead.
 - B) In the Youth Series, U15 and younger must only climb routes on top rope.
 - C) In the Youth Series, U17 and older:
 - i) may climb on lead or top rope at QEs; and
 - ii) must climb on lead at Regional, Divisional, and National Championship events.
 - D) In the Collegiate Series, the Intermediate Category:
 - i) must climb on top rope
 - ii) the Advanced Category must climb on lead in the National Championship Final round.

2 Format

- 2.1 **Elite Series** Lead events will be organized with 3 rounds as follows:

Round	Nr Routes	Modus / Format	Climbing Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	2	Flash	6'	Random, Offset	80 (group)
Semi-Final	1	On-Sight	6'	Rank Descending	24
Final	1	On-Sight	6'	Rank Descending	8

Table 2-1 **Elite Series Lead/TR Event Formats**

- 2.2 All other Lead/TR events, as well as special rules regarding the Elite Series Lead events, are set forth in **COMPETITION REGULATIONS** §14 "Competition Formats" and §16 "Advancement Quota".
- 2.3 **In the Elite Series**, if the qualification quota is exceeded at the registration deadline, the field may be divided into 2 starting groups of approximately equal number and strength. Competitors will be assigned to a starting group based on their Event Seedings as follows:

¹ These specifications are highly recommended for National events, and generally recommended for all Championship events.

Group A	Group B
1 →	2 ↓
4 ↓	← 3
5 →	6 ↓

Table 2-2 Elite Series Lead/TR Starting Group Seeding

Unseeded competitors will be assigned randomly to maintain near-equal group numbers. The routes for each group should be designed with similar overall difficulty and character. The quota for the next round will be divided equally between the 2 groups.

2.4 The quota for each round will be filled by the best ranked competitors from the preceding round, including any competitors tied in the last qualifying position.

3 Safety

3.1 The Jury President, the **USAC** Judge and Head Routesetter will inspect each route prior to the start of each round to decide whether any Safety Holds are required.

3.2 The Jury President may also require the climbing rope pre-fixed to one or more quickdraws and/or use of a “spotter” to provide added security for the lower part of **the a lead** route.²

3.3 The climbing rope will be controlled from the ground by 1 belayer for each rope.³

² Wherever possible, the design of the route should make such precautions unnecessary, and such precautions must be implemented for all competitors or none. The Jury President will not consider requests for added security measures by or on behalf of individual competitors.

³ **The belay system (including anchor system and acceptance of rope, carabiners, belay devices, and knots)** are the responsibility of the Host Facility. The Host Facility may utilize a pre-tied rope as a method for tying-in, which may include a captive-eye, triple-action auto-locking carabiner used at the tie-in point, or alternatively two opposite-facing auto-locking carabiners used at the tie-in point. For top rope routes, a two-belay system may be used with either two ropes or a single rope with a knot suitable for the purpose and approved by the Host Facility.

Exclusively for non-Championship competitions, at the discretion of the Event Organizer, in consultation with the Jury President and Head Routesetter, competitors may be secured from above using a belay system and belay devices determined by the host facility to be designed or suitable for such Top Rope climbing (e.g. auto-belay), used in a manner approved by the manufacturer, with all belay devices in good working order to the best knowledge of the host facility after reasonable diligence and regularly scheduled maintenance, as applicable, and subject to the limitations and notifications in the Host Agreement.

The belay system equipment and methods are subject to full compliance with both Host Facility policies and manufacturer specifications. **Only manual belay devices are allowed as for use in lead events (other than during any working session).**

4 Competition Organization – On-sight & Flash

General

4.1 Competitors **and coaches** must report to the warm-up area by any closing time stated on the Official Start List for the round.⁴ Competitors **and coaches** who are not present in the warm-up area at this time will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.⁵

4.2 Where a route is to be attempted on-sight, competitors must remain in the warm-up area until called for observation, presentation or to climb. Competitors who leave the warm-up area without permission will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.

4.3 For the Elite Series, if the number of starters is greater than 22, the route will be cleaned at evenly distributed intervals. The interval should not exceed 20 and must not exceed 22 competitors.
 For other Series, if the number of starters is greater than 28, the route should be cleaned at evenly distributed intervals. The interval should not exceed 28 competitors.
 Cleaning intervals will be marked on the Official Start List.

4.4 Each competitor must start in the order set out on the Official Start List. Where a **flash** round includes more than one route, each competitor will be entitled to a minimum time gap ~~of not less than 50 minutes~~ between the completion of their attempt on one route and the start of their attempt on the next.

- For National and Divisional Championship events, the minimum time gap shall be 50 minutes.
- For all other events, the minimum time gap shall be 20 minutes.⁶

4.5 Where consecutive rounds of an event take place on the same day, there must be a minimum time gap of 2 hours between the publication of the Official Results for the round and the Start of Play for the next round.

4.6 ~~The Final round should be preceded by a presentation of the finalists and have a scheduled duration not greater than 90 minutes.~~

4.7 A round that has more than one route to be attempted on-sight is a **multi-route on-sight** round and is subject to the following:

- Each round will be organized as a series of rotations, with the competitors attempting each route in a set order. There will be a 15-second to 60-second interval after each rotation to clear the Field of Play.
- The Start List will provide for two (2) rotations between the end of a competitor's attempt rotation on one route and the start of their attempt rotation on their next route.⁷
- Each competitor:
 - must start their attempt on any route in the order set out on the Official Start List,

⁴ Typically only applies to On-Sight format rounds.

⁵ For On-Sight format rounds, this time is the “Iso check-in deadline”.

In exceptional circumstances and subject to Sport Discretion, competitors and coaches may be allowed to enter the **on-sight** round warm-up area (“Iso”) past the closing time stated if the Jury President was informed prior to the closing time.

⁶ Youth Regionals, CNQE, and all QEs have a minimum time gap of 20 minutes.

⁷ The Jury President should ensure that competitors stay in the Call Zone for at least 1 full rotation after completing their attempts on the course.

- ii) must return to the Call Zone⁸ on completing their attempts or at the end of the rotation.

Route Previews/Observation

- 4.8 If route is to be attempted **flash**, a route demonstration will be made available at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled Start of Play either as a video recording made available for individual download/streaming (or as an alternative, continuously played back in the warm-up area) or where video recordings cannot be provided, as a live demonstration.^{9 10}
- 4.9 If a route is to be attempted **on-sight**, a 6-minute collective observation period will be held. Coaches are not allowed to take part in any collective observation. Competitors may, before entering the warm-up area, make limited observation of the route from areas open to the public.¹¹
- 4.10 For National Competitions, the Jury President will arrange for **un-numbered, un-labeled** images of the route(s) to be placed in the warm-up area when it opens. Only images of the route provided by the Event Organizer and approved by the Jury President may be brought into the warm-up area.

Organization of attempts

- 4.11 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Start List for the route. A competitor not in the Call Zone at the relevant time will not be entitled to climb and will be marked DNS on the route.¹²
- 4.12 Prior to a competitor entering the Field of Play and/or starting their attempt, the belayer must check that the climbing rope is coiled or arranged in a manner without kinks or knots, the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and the rope is securely connected to the competitor's harness using a Figure 8 knot with an added safety knot.

⁸ The Call Zone may include the area in front of the Field of Play, such that the competitors in that portion of the Call Zone are positioned so as to not view routes they have not yet attempted.

⁹ In deciding which video distribution method is appropriate, the Jury President must consider the availability of wireless connections and the accessibility of video hosting services.

¹⁰ The recording should show all climbing movement (including clipping protection points) for the route.

¹¹ Enforcing strict on-sight regulations in climbing competitions presents challenges in outdoor venues. The integrity of individuals and teams, as well as their adherence to a shared ethos is fundamental to maintaining the spirit of fair play. Where the competition venue is open to the public or overlooked by a public area, competitors may observe routes/boulders from these areas whilst they are open, however the following actions are prohibited:

- entering any part of the Competition Area or any other area not open to the public.
- watching, recording, or making use of any recordings of the work of the routesetters.
- using drones or other devices to gain a closer or detailed view not generally available to the public.

With the exception of some events where USA Climbing is the Event Organizer, there are no areas open to the public that provide a view into the route prior to the competitors entering the warm-up area.

¹² The Jury President will allow a competitor who is not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb where their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

4.13 Except for a **multi-route on-sight round**, 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.¹³

4.14 The belayer must ensure that the competitor is not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose, any fall is stopped in a dynamic and safe manner, and the competitor is safely lowered to the ground at the end of their attempt.

4.15 **A multi-route on-sight round is subject to the following:**

- Competitors will be released onto the Field of Play at the start of the rotation period and may start their attempt immediately.

5 Scoring – On-sight & Flash

5.1 A Scoring Topo will be prepared by the Head Routesetter in consultation with the on-field officials before the start of each round. Scoring holds and values will be annotated on this topo, which should not be changed or amended following the Start of Play. Only holds used by either hand will be considered for scoring purposes. The Scoring Topo:

- may be made public after the closing time for the warm-up area,¹⁴
- should be **made available distributed** to coaches with Appeal Eligibility in any coaches' zone following the end of any collective observation period **and/or prior to the Start of Play**.

6 Timing – On-sight & Flash

6.1 A timing system should be used in the semifinal and final rounds to display, for **both the public and** competitors, the remaining time in the collective or individual observation/preparation periods, as well as the remaining climbing time.¹⁵

6.2 For a **multi-route on-sight** round, a timing system must be used as set out for On-sight and Flash Boulder competitions in ANNEX C §6.1.

7 Ranking – On-sight & Flash

General

7.1 Competitors will be ranked on any single route in the following order:

- first: all competitors who made successful attempt, and
- second: all competitors who made an unsuccessful attempt in descending order of their score on the route.

¹³ In a round where the competitor enters the Field of Play and must wait for judge instructions to begin, the period of 40 seconds begins upon that instruction that they may begin. If the round is on-sight, the competitor must face away from the wall while awaiting instruction to begin.

¹⁴ The Scoring Topo may be distributed internal to the IFSC prior to the closing of the warm-up area. The Event Delegate may authorize release of the Scoring Topo to media ahead of this time where suitable embargo arrangements are in place.

¹⁵ Such a timing system may not be at non-National events.

Qualification

7.2 Competitors who do not start at least one route in the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors who start at least one route in the round will be ranked on each route in ascending order of the Qualification Points awarded to each competitor (i.e. lower Qualification Points is better) according to the following [geometric mean](#) formula:¹⁶

$$QP = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{r=1}^n Pr}$$

where:

QP = Qualification Points, rounded to 3 decimal places.¹⁷

Pr = the competitor's *fractional ranking* on route "r".¹⁸

n = the number of routes

Semifinal/final

7.3 Competitors who do not start the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round.¹⁹ Competitors starting the round will be ranked using §7.1. Ties will be broken:

- first: by count-back to the General Ranking after the preceding round, unless that round used multiple starting groups.
- second: in the scheduled **medal phase** only, breaking [podium](#) ties remaining after countback by using climbing times, lower times being better.²⁰

8 Sporting & Technical Incidents

8.1 If a competitor, coach, belayer, route setter, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately report it to an [HJO](#) who will determine whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed [more than one \(1\) minute after following](#) the next scheduled competitor has started the relevant route.²¹

8.2 If a competitor has fallen or their attempt has been ruled unsuccessful as the direct result of a potential or confirmed Technical Incident,

¹⁶ For routes not started by a competitor, their rank shall be last.

As an example of geometric mean, the geometric mean for 3 routes is the cube-root of the product of the three fractional rankings.

¹⁷ Points data presented on the Official Results will be presented rounded to 3 decimal places.

¹⁸ A competitor who has a result on only one route will be ranked equal last on the other route.

¹⁹ For a Flash format round, competitors starting at least one route are considered to have started the round.

²⁰ For example, in a lead [competition World Cup](#):

- If the final round is cancelled before the semifinal round begins, the semifinal round will become the scheduled **medal phase**, and climbing time will be used as a countback factor.
- If the final round is cancelled after the semifinal round has started, the final round remains the scheduled **medal phase** and climbing time will not be used as a countback factor in the semifinal round. i.e. the results of the semi-final round will not be recalculated or restated.

²¹ A ruling regarding any incident during an attempt may be made during or following the attempt. The on-field officials must consider whether allowing the attempt to continue or stopping an in-progress attempt would cause the least disturbance to the competition and/or the least disruption to the competitor.

- A) they will be held in a separate area with access to warm-up facilities to await the completion of any investigation into and/or rectification of the Technical Incident and for the duration of any allowed recuperation period. The competitor may communicate only with competition officials during this period. The Technical Incident will be closed, and no supplementary attempts allowed, if the affected competitor leaves this area without permission; and
- B) the Jury President will fix a recuperation period, calculated as 1 minute for each scoring hold used prior to the Technical Incident, to a maximum of 20 minutes. The Jury President will schedule a restart for the affected competitor to follow as soon as practical following this recuperation period. The affected competitor and any other competitors yet to climb must be informed about this decision,

8.3 A restart will be cancelled if the restarted attempt cannot affect the competitor's ranking at the end of the round.

8.4 When a restart occurs, the competitor's result will be the better of their original and restarted attempts.

9 Appeals

9.1 An appeal relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt. Notice of an intention to appeal under this paragraph may be made verbally and the appellant will be allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.²² The affected competitor will be managed as described in §8.2 until the appeal is resolved.

9.2 An appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor must be made in writing and by the deadline set out in COMPETITION REGULATIONS §10.4.:
~~A) in the medal phase of an event: immediately following the publication of the competitor's Provisional Result.²³~~
~~B) in any other round: within 5 minutes of the publication of the Official Results.~~

²² If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If a written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.

²³ The Appeal Jury may allow appeals after this deadline where the Provisional Results are not live.

10 Redpoint

See the “Redpoint Formats - General” section above.

Lead/TR Redpoint Competition Organization

10.1 The number of routes, climbing period, and maximum number of attempts shall be determined by the Jury President, in consultation with the Head Routesetter and the Event Organizer, and must be consistent between Categories.²⁴

- A) The maximum climbing period allowed for an attempt should be four (4), five (5), or six (6) minutes, or may be unlimited.

10.2 The routes are subject to the following:

- A) For Classic Redpoint, there should be a minimum of twenty (20) routes.
- B) For Modified Redpoint, there should be three (3) to five (5) routes assigned to each category.
- C) Each route must be offered as only Lead or only Top Rope.²⁵
- D) Each route must have a scored TOP:
 - i) a Top Rope route must have a scored TOP (final) hold marked with a flash of tape that shall be connected to a “TOP” placard.
 - ii) a Lead route must have a scored TOP (final) Protection point marked with a flash of tape that shall be connected to a “TOP” placard.
- E) For Modified Redpoint, each route should have six (6) to twelve (12) numbered scored holds in addition to the TOP (final) scored hold or Protection point. These scored holds must have a clearly discernible order to the scored holds and be marked with a flash of tape connecting that hold to a numbered placard indicating the scoring number of the hold.^{26 27}
- F) For Classic Redpoint, the routes should be numbered one (1) up to the number of the routes, with each route assigned a point value by the Head Routesetter reflecting that route's anticipated rating/difficulty compared to other routes²⁸, and the routes should be numbered such that the point values increase for higher numbered routes.

10.3 The number of attempts a competitor may make on any one route is limited:

- A) For Classic Redpoint, the limit should not be less than five (5) attempts.²⁹
- B) For Modified Redpoint, the limit should be either two (2) or three (3) attempts.

²⁴ These format attributes may deviate from these rules if approved by Sport Discretion.

²⁵ A route can be Top Rope in one session and Lead in another session. Within the same session, the same sequence of holds may be offered as two routes, one Top Rope and one Lead, and would have to have two different TOP markings: the top rope one on the TOP hold; the lead one on the final Protection Point.

Attempts on one route shall have no effect on the score for the other route.

²⁶ The markings should be done in such a way as to indicate, without the need for a Topo, which holds are scored holds and their scoring order.

²⁷ For Modified Redpoint, different routes may have a different number of numbered scored holds.

²⁸ E.g., two routes could both have the same point value.

²⁹ The limit for Classic Redpoint may be set high enough so as to effectively be unlimited.

Lead/TR Redpoint Scoring

10.4 For Classic Redpoint, the competitors are scored as either TOP or no TOP for each attempt.³⁰

10.5 For Modified Repoint, scoring follows the On-sight & Flash competition rules, except that:

- A) If their score is not a TOP, their score is the scoring value of the highest controlled numbered scored hold, where such holds are numbered from 1 to the number of such scored holds.
- B) Advancing Movement is not scored on the numbered scored holds (i.e., only Establishing Movement of the numbered hold is awarded points and no postfix "+" designation is used).

Lead/TR Redpoint Ranking

10.6 For Classic Redpoint, a competitor's ranking is subject to the following:

- A) A competitor's total score is the cumulative value of their top three (3) completed routes.
- B) No deduction is made for unsuccessful attempts.
- C) Competitors are ranked in descending order of their total score. Competitors with the same total score are tied.

10.7 For Modified Redpoint, ranking follows the On-sight & Flash competition rules, except that:

- A) Competitors having the same score on the route are ranked by number of attempts to get such score, where fewer attempts is ranked higher/better.³¹

³⁰ Classic Redpoint ranking does not consider attempts – see Ranking rules.

³¹ The ranking on a route for competitors with the same score and different number of attempts may be implemented in the results service as a 0.1 point deduction for each attempt made before the score was achieved.

ANNEX B – SPEED EVENTS¹

1 General

- 1.1 Speed events will take place on artificial climbing walls designed and built to the specification set out in the [USA Climbing Speed Certification document IFSC Speed License Rules](#) (Speed Walls) with 2 parallel routes or **lanes**.
- 1.2 Competitors attempt to climb the wall, usually in pairs, belayed from above using an auto-belay system. The left-hand route is always named Lane A and the right-hand Lane B.

2 Format (Two Lanes)

- 2.1 Speed events will be organized with 2 rounds as follow:

Round	Nr Routes	Modus	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	2	After-Work	Random, Offset	--
Final	2	After-Work	Tournament Bracket	16/8/4

Table 2-1 [Elite Series Speed](#) Event Formats

- 2.2 In the qualification round, each competitor is scheduled to make one attempt on each of lane A and B, in the order set out in the Official Start List. The quota for the final round will be determined from the number of competitors who have completed qualification with a valid result as follows:²

Competitors with a qualifying result	Final quota
4 - 7	4
8 - 15	8
> 15	16

Table 2-2 [Elite Series Speed](#) Finals Quotas

- 2.3 If the quota for the final round is exceeded because of ties, the tied competitors will make additional runs on Lane A until all qualifying ties are broken. These runs will not be considered scoring attempts, and no official times will be recorded.³
- 2.4 The final round will be organized as a single elimination tournament where the winner of each heat advances to the next stage of the tournament.⁴ In the semifinal stage, the losers of each heat will advance to race for 3rd and 4th place (the **small final**) and the winners will advance to race for 1st and 2nd place (the **big final**).

3 Safety

- 3.1 A belayer will be assigned to each lane to ensure the safe exchange of the auto-belay between competitors and attempts.

¹ Speed QSTs are not required to adhere to this entire Speed Annex.

² i.e. excluding any competitors who are recorded with an Invalid Result Mark for the round (DNS, DSQ, DQB).

³ e.g., no record time may be set in these runs.

⁴ e.g., tournament brackets for 16 and 8 starters are illustrated in figures 1 and 2 to this annex.

4 Competition Organization

General

- 4.1 A practice period should be organized ahead of the qualification round. The time and arrangements for this practice period should be set out in the Event Information Sheet and/or announced at the Technical Meeting.⁵
- 4.2 Each competitor:
 - A) must report to the warm-up area by the time stated on the Official Start List for the round.⁶
 - B) must start their attempt on each lane in the order set out on the Official Start List.
 - C) will be entitled to a minimum time gap of not less than 5 minutes between the completion of one race and the start of their next race, other than where a race is re-run.
- 4.3 Each competitor starting a round will remain in the Competition Area:
 - A) qualification round: until they have completed both races,
 - B) final round: until eliminated from the round.
- 4.4 Route cleaning should take place after the practice period, and after the qualification round of each event.
- 4.5 A presentation of the finalists *may* *will* take place before the semifinal heats of each event.

Organization of attempts

- 4.6 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Start List (or in the final, the **pairing tree**).⁷
- 4.7 On entering the Field of Play, each competitor will go to the base of their route. Competitors will, without delay, position the starting pad as appropriate for their preferred starting position and, having done so, present themselves to their belayer. Competitors must remain on the ground during this preparation period.⁸

⁵ In any practice period, competitors will be entitled to make one attempt on each route and will not be stopped if they, or a competitor racing with them, make a False Start.

The practice period should include a demonstration of the False Start signal and use the same timing equipment as will be used for scoring attempts. The practice period will not be repeated if any article of equipment found or suspected to be faulty and exchanged or replaced following the practice, or the route adjusted where some issue is found during the practice period.

The practice period will normally be organized as a dry run of the qualification round, but the Jury President may vary the timing and format to reflect circumstances specific to a competition.

⁶ Only if the Speed Official Start List indicates a required warm-up report time.

⁷ The Jury President may not allow a competitor who is not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb unless their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

If a competitor is marked DNS in a round where competitors start in a Tournament Bracket, the relevant race will not be run, and the winner will receive a bye to the next stage.

⁸ If either competitor causes undue delay, or by any action disturbs other competitors, the starter will order both competitors to return to the assembly position and the Jury President will issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

ANNEX B – SPEED 4.8 - 6.3

- 4.8 The belayer will confirm that the competitor's harness is safe and connect the competitor's harness to the auto belay system. Once their harness is connected, each competitor will assume an assembly position not more than 2 meters in front of and facing away from the wall.
- 4.9 On the command "At your marks", each competitor will, without delay, take a position with both hands and one foot on their preferred starting holds, and one foot on the starting pad. The starter will order both competitors to return to the assembly position if following the command "At your marks" but prior to their announcing "Ready".⁹
 - A) the starter is not satisfied that the race can go ahead, or
 - B) a competitor raises a hand to show that they are not ready to start.
- 4.10 Once all competitors are motionless in their starting positions, the starter will announce "Ready" and after this will initiate the timing system.
- 4.11 The race will be started with a clearly audible signal emitted by the timing system. The source of the signal should be as near possible equidistant to both competitors.

5 False Starts

- 5.1 If any competitor in a race records a Reaction Time of less than 0.100s, the starter will stop the race.
- 5.2 If both competitors in a race record an equal Reaction Time of less than 0.100s, the race will be re-run.
- 5.3 If one competitor in a race is determined to have made a **False Start**:
 - A) qualification round: the other competitor may make an immediate re-run alone,
 - B) final round: the other competitor will be the winner.

6 Scoring

- 6.1 The result of a scoring attempt will be recorded as either:
 - A) the climbing time, where the competitor successfully completed the route,
 - B) a **False Start**, in the relevant circumstances, or
 - C) a **Fall**, where the attempt is unsuccessful for any reason other than a False Start.
- 6.2 The winner of a tournament bracket race will be:
 - A) if one competitor makes a **False Start** or does not start, the other competitor,
 - B) if no competitor makes a **False Start**, the competitor who successfully completes the route with the lower (or only) climbing time.¹⁰
- 6.3 If both competitors in a tournament bracket race fall or record the same time, an additional race will run to break the tie. If following this the competitors remain tied, the winner will be determined by comparing their fastest time(s) from all scoring attempts within the event.

⁹ If either competitor causes undue delay, or by any action disturbs other competitors, the starter will order both competitors to return to the assembly position and the Jury President will issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

¹⁰ Where neither competitor starts a race in a tournament bracket, there will be no winner from that race.

7 Timing

Measurement and recording

7.1 All times will be measured and recorded to the nearest 1/1000s.

Rounding for official times

7.2 Official times, including record times, will be rounded down to the nearest 1/100s except where necessary to show an in-competition tie-break.¹¹

8 Ranking

Qualification

8.1 Competitors who do not start at least one route in the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round.

8.2 Competitors starting at least one route will be ranked in the following order:

- A) first: all competitors who have recorded at least one valid time, in ascending order of their best result. If multiple competitors have the same best result, their relative ranking will be determined by comparison of their next best results, considering all races started in the event, repeating this comparison as necessary until the tie is resolved or no further results are available, ranked in the following order: Valid Time (ascending), Fall, False Start, Not Started.
- B) second: any competitors who fail to record a valid time, with their relative ranking determined by comparison of their best results, considering all races started in the event, repeating this comparison as necessary until the tie is resolved or no further results are available, ranked in the following order: Fall, False Start, Not Started.

Final

8.3 Competitors who do not start their first scheduled race will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors starting the round will be ranked in order of the last stage completed and their placing within that stage:

- A) first: the race winners in the stage,
- B) second: any race losers in the stage,

in each case in order of their fastest time(s) from all scoring attempts within the event.

¹¹ Official times are rounded down to reflect construction and measurement tolerances for the climbing structure rather than the timing system. Stating official times to 10ms precision avoids false comparisons between times recorded on different walls.

e.g., Competitor SW finishes with a measured time of 4798ms, which is rounded down to an Official Time (and World Record) of 4.79s. Breaking this record would require a competitor to have a measured time of 4789ms or better. Any measured time that rounds down to 4.79s will equal but not break the record.

9 Sporting and Technical Incidents

- 9.1 If a competitor, coach, belayer, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately report the matter to the Jury President who will decide whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed after the “At Your Marks” command has been given in the next scheduled heat.¹²
- 9.2 A claim for a Technical Incident in relation to the performance of the auto-belay or timing system may be made only in relation to some clear or systematic error.
- 9.3 Where a Technical Incident is confirmed, only the competitor(s) directly affected by the incident will be re-run.

10 Appeals

- 10.1 No appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time, or any individual case where a competitor does not stop the timer where an USAC-recognized timing system is in use.¹³
- 10.2 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. This notice may be made verbally, and the appellant will be allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.¹⁴

¹² In deciding whether to confirm a Technical Incident, the Jury President will, where necessary, review the official video recordings and/or require a test of the timing system.

¹³ Concerns or protests concerning the behavior of the timing system can only be expressed as a claim for a Technical Incident.

¹⁴ If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If a written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.

ANNEX B – SPEED 10.2 - 10.2

Tournament Brackets

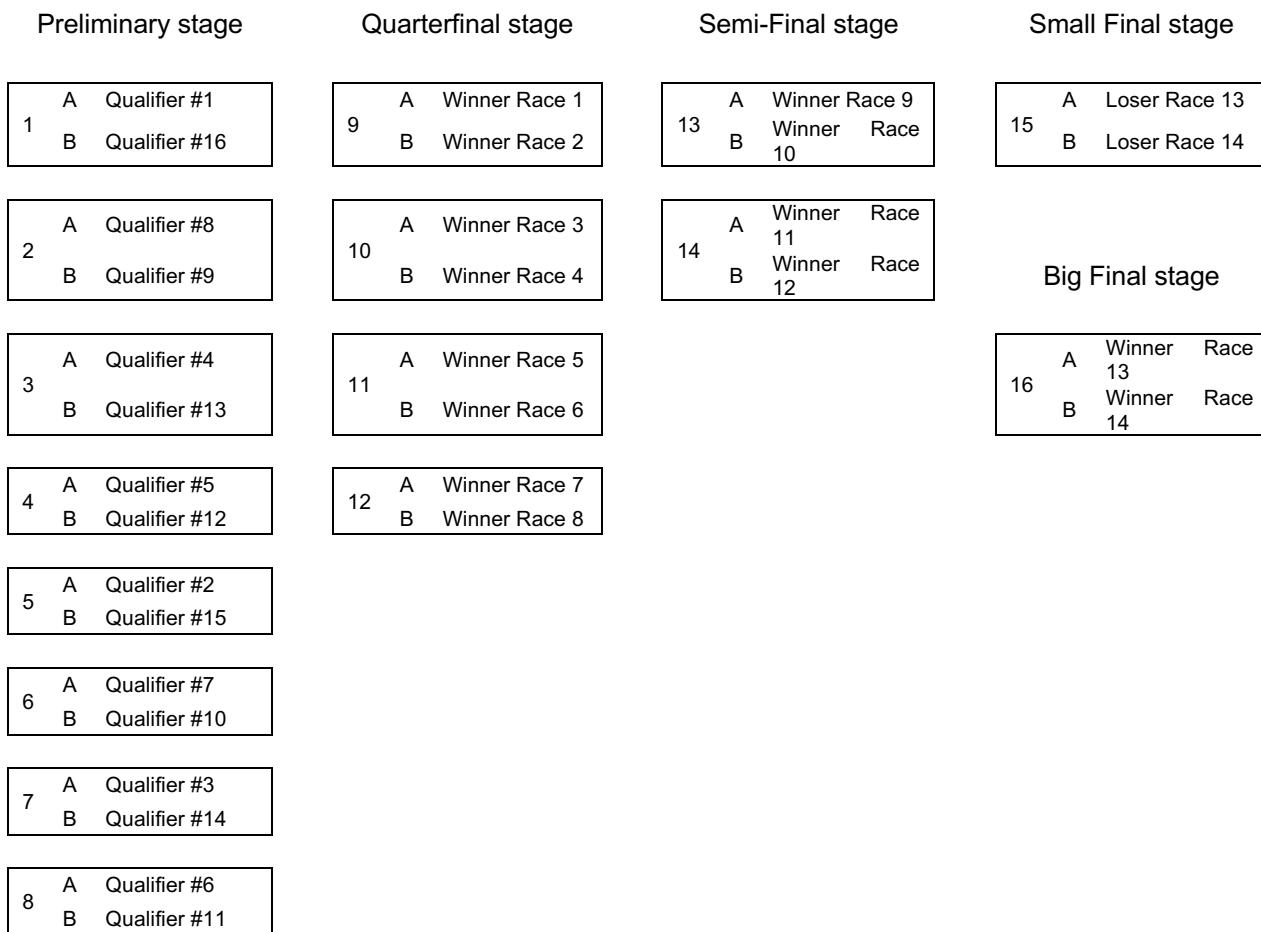


Figure 10-1 Speed Tournament Brackets (16 starters)

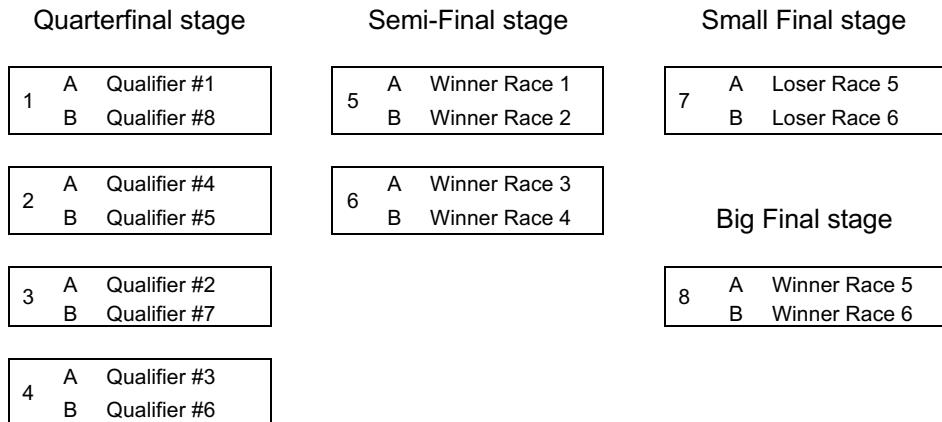


Figure 10-2 Speed Tournament Brackets (8 starters)

ANNEX C – BOULDER EVENTS

1 General

- 1.1 Boulder events take place on purpose-designed artificial climbing walls, [and should have having](#) a minimum width of 3 meters for each route (boulder).¹
- 1.2 Competitors attempt to climb short routes (**boulders**) without a rope.

2 Format

- 2.1 [Elite Series](#) Boulder events will be organized with 3 rounds as follow:²

Round	Nr Boulders ³	Modus / Format	Rotation Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	5	On-sight	5' (fixed)	Rank Ascending	60 (group)
Semi-Final	4	On-Sight	5' (fixed)	Rank Descending	24
Final	4	On-Sight	4' (max)	Rank Descending	8

Table 2-1 [Elite Series Boulder](#) Event Formats

- 2.2 All other Boulder events, as well as special rules regarding the Elite Series Lead events, are set forth in [COMPETITION REGULATIONS](#) §14 "Competition Formats" and §16 "Advancement Quota".
- 2.3 If the qualification quota is exceeded at the registration deadline, the competitors should be divided into 2 starting groups of approximately equal number and strength. Competitors will be assigned to a group based on their Event Seedings as follows:

Group A	Group B
1 →	2 ↓
4 ↓	← 3
5 →	6 ↓

Table 2-2 [Elite Series Boulder](#) Starting Group Seeding

Unseeded competitors will be assigned randomly to maintain near-equal group numbers. The boulders for each group should be designed with similar overall difficulty and character. The quota for the next round will be divided equally between the 2 groups.

¹ E.g., an event involving competitors climbing four boulders at the same time [should would](#) require a single wall of at least 12m width, or two walls each of at least 6m width.

² [Elite Series Boulder events have only one \(1\) zone per boulder.](#)

³ [Subject to Sport Discretion](#), the Jury President may, in exceptional circumstances, cancel up to one boulder in any round.

ANNEX C – BOULDER 2.4 - 4.2

2.4 ~~International youth competitions may also adopt alternative formats for the qualification round as follow:~~

Round	Nr Boulders ⁴	Modus	Rotation Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification A ⁵	4–8	Flash	N/A	Random	-
Qualification B ⁶	4–6	Flash	4/5' (fixed)	Ascending, Offset	-

Table 3 – Alternative Qualification Formats

2.5 The quota for each round will be filled by the best ranked competitors from the preceding round, including any competitors tied in the last qualifying position.

3 Safety

3.1 The Jury President, the **USAC** Judge and the Head Route Setter will inspect each boulder and the safety matting prior to the start of a round to identify and address any safety risks.

3.2 Any staff assigned by the event organizer to clean boulders must be removed/replaced if they create any safety risk.

4 Competition Organization – On-sight & Flash

General

4.1 Competitors must report to the warm-up area by the time stated on the Official Start List for the round.⁷ Competitors who are not present in the warm-up area at this time will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.⁸

4.2 ~~Where boulders are to be attempted on-sight~~, competitors must remain in the warm-up zone until called for observation, presentation or to climb. Competitors who leave the warm-up area without permission will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.

⁴ The Jury President may, in exceptional circumstances, cancel up to one boulder in any round.

⁵ Format A is a limited attempts format, with the overall duration of the round specified but not individual rotation periods.

⁶ Format B is a variation of the standard qualification format, with attempts made flash rather than on-sight. If no Event Seeding is used, the starting order reverts to random, offset.

⁷ Typically only applies to On-Sight format rounds.

⁸ For On-sight format rounds, this time is the “Iso check-in deadline”.

In exceptional circumstances and subject to Sport Discretion, competitors and coaches may be allowed to enter the **on-sight** round warm-up area (“Iso”) past the closing time stated if the Jury President was informed prior to the closing time.

ANNEX C – BOULDER 4.3 - 4.10

4.3 The Call Zone will be arranged so that competitors cannot see any boulder not yet attempted⁹
¹⁰.

4.4 Each round will be organized as a series of rotations, with the competitors attempting each boulder in a set order. There will be a 15-second interval [in the Elite Series, and a 15-second to 60-second interval in other Series](#), after each rotation to clear the Field of Play. In the Final round [in the Elite Series](#), each rotation period will end when all competitors on the Field of Play have completed their attempts, or when the maximum rotation time has elapsed. [Where a flash round includes more than one course, each competitor will be entitled to a minimum time gap of twenty \(20\) minutes between the completion of their attempts on one course and the start of their attempt on the next.](#)¹¹

4.5 Each competitor:

- must start their attempt on any boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List,
- must return to the Call Zone on completing their attempts or at the end of the rotation.

4.6 In each [Elite Series](#) round, the Jury President should arrange for the boulders to be cleaned at the end of each rotation period¹².

4.7 Where consecutive rounds of an event take place on the same day, there must be a minimum time gap of 2 hours between publication of the Official Results for the round and the Start of Play for the next round.

4.8 [In the Elite Series](#), the Final round should be preceded by a presentation of the finalists.

Route Previews/Observation

4.9 [In the Elite Series](#), a collective observation period of 2 minutes per boulder will be held ahead of the final round. Competitors are prohibited from using any recording equipment. At the end of this period, competitors will return to the Call Zone.¹³

4.10 If boulders are to be attempted [flash](#), boulder demonstrations will be made available at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled Start of Play either as a video recording made available for individual download/streaming (or as an alternative, continuously played back in the warm-up area) or where video recordings cannot be provided, as a live demonstration.¹⁴

⁹ The Jury President should ensure that competitors stay in the Call Zone for at least 1 full rotation after completing their attempts on the course.

¹⁰ The Call Zone may include the area in front of the Field of Play, such that the competitors in that portion of the Call Zone so as to not view boulders they have not yet attempted.

¹¹ The Jury President should strive to provide a similar time gap for each competitor in a Category, both for rest purposes as well as the ability to watch other competitors.

¹² In circumstances where it is not possible for the boulders to be cleaned at the end of each rotation period, the Jury President should announce this decision prior to the start of the round.

¹³ Competitors who either try to practice the boulder or touch holds other than the Starting Hold (or associated blocker holds) may be penalized either with a disciplinary sanction or by the addition of a “penalty attempt” (i.e. incrementing their attempt count on the boulder) as appropriate.

¹⁴ In deciding which video distribution method is appropriate, the Jury President must consider the availability of wireless connections and the accessibility of video hosting services.

Organization of Attempts

4.11 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Starting List for the boulder. A competitor not in the Call Zone at the relevant time will not be eligible to climb and will be marked DNS on the boulder¹⁵.

4.12 Competitors will be released onto the Field of Play:

- Qualification/semifinal and Final in Youth and Collegiate Series: at the start of the rotation period and may start their attempts immediately.
- Final in Elite Series: as directed by the Call Zone manager and will present themselves to the boulder judge. Competitors may start their attempts when a signal is given for the start of the rotation period.

4.13 Competitors may make multiple attempts within a rotation period. Each boulder must be attempted in its entirety and competitors must not practice any part of a boulder.

4.14 Competitors may clean boulders using only the equipment provided by the Host Facility¹⁶ event organizer or may request a brusher to clean.¹⁷

4.15 Competitors may carry onto the Field of Play a small bag (e.g., a musette) holding equipment necessary for their attempts, e.g., tape, chalk/liquid chalk, shoes.¹⁸

5 Scoring – On-sight & Flash

5.1 The score for a boulder will be calculated as follows:

- where the competitor has been awarded a Low Zone, as 5 points, with a deduction of 0.1 points for each attempt made before the Low Zone is awarded
- where the competitor has been awarded a Zone, as 10 points, with a deduction of 0.1 points for each attempt made before the Zone is awarded,
- where successfully completed, as 25 points, with a deduction of 0.1 points for each unsuccessful attempt.

The final score for a boulder will be the greater of the value calculated under (A) or (B) or (C), and 0.0 (i.e., the point score on a boulder cannot be negative).

6 Timing – On-sight & Flash

6.1 A timing system must be used in each round to display the time remaining within each rotation or to the start of the next rotation. The time must be visible to all competitors on the Field of Play and in the Call Zone and the system must provide audio cues as set out in to announce:

- the beginning and the end of each Climbing Period; and

¹⁵ The Jury President will allow a competitor who is not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb where their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

¹⁶ If the Event Organizer has not provided equipment to clean boulders, competitors may clean boulders using equipment designed to clean boulders without inflicting damage on the boulders.

¹⁷ Brushers (individuals who brush between competitors and/or on request) are only provided at National events, and at the discretion of USA Climbing.

¹⁸ Liquids may only be brought onto the Field of Play for the purpose of consumption, unless specifically permitted by the Competition Rules (e.g., liquid chalk) or with the permission of the Jury President.

- when one (1) minute remains within each Climbing Period; and
- a five (5) second countdown at the end of each period.

7 Ranking – On-sight & Flash

7.1 Competitors who do not attempt¹⁹ the first boulder in a round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round.²⁰ Competitors starting a course of boulders will be ranked in descending order of the total number of points gained by them on the course. Ties will be broken by count-back to the General Ranking after the preceding round, unless that round used multiple starting groups.²¹

8 Sporting & Technical Incidents

8.1 If a competitor, coach, route setter, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately refer it to an HJO who will determine whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed [more than one \(1\) minute after following](#) the start of the next scheduled rotation.

8.2 If a confirmed Technical Incident can be remedied prior to the start of the next rotation, the affected competitor may choose either:

- A) to continue their attempts within the current rotation period, and the competitor will not be given any extra time/attempts,
- B) to suspend their attempts until a time decided by the Jury President, having due regard to minimizing the impact on other competitors and for the overall competition schedule.

8.3 If a confirmed Technical Incident cannot be remedied prior to the start of the next rotation, the round will be suspended for the affected competitor and for all competitors who have not yet tried the affected boulder. Once the incident is remedied (or if irremediable, the boulder is cancelled) the affected competitors will resume their attempts as directed by the Jury President.

8.4 Where the attempts of one or more competitors are suspended following a confirmed Technical Incident, the affected competitors will be held in a transit area pending resolution/determination of the incident. A competitor who leaves this area prior to the matter being resolved/determined will not be allowed to resume their attempts.

8.5 If it is determined that the affected competitor(s) should be given additional time/attempts, the time awarded should be calculated to compensate the affected competitor only for time lost/not used, and should not be greater than the remaining in the interrupted rotation when the attempt commenced.

9 Appeals

9.1 An appeal that a Top should have been given, for/against the scoring of a Zone, or for/against the number of attempts on the competitor's result, or otherwise not subject to §9.2, must be made in writing and [by the deadline set out in COMPETITION REGULATIONS §10.4.](#)

¹⁹ A competitor must try to begin the boulder, making an effort to establish a starting position.

²⁰ For Flash format rounds with multiple courses, competitors who do not start the first boulder in one course are eligible to start another course and are not DNS for the round if they start at least one course in the round.

²¹ For Flash format rounds with multiple courses, Ranking is done across all boulders in all courses.

ANNEX C – BOULDER 9.2 - 9.4

- A) ~~in the medal phase of an event: immediately following the publication of the competitor's Provisional Result.~~²²
- B) ~~in any other round: within 5 minutes of the publication of the Official Results.~~

9.2 An appeal which may, if upheld, result in the affected competitor being awarded extra time/attempts,²³ must be made:

- A) in the **medal phase** of an event: prior to the next competitor starting their attempts,
- B) in any other round: before the end of the next rotation.

9.3 Notice of an intention to appeal made under §9.2 may be made verbally and the appellant will be allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.²⁴ The affected competitor will be managed as described in §8.4 until the appeal is resolved.

9.4 If an appeal made under §9.2 is upheld, the Jury President will decide whether the affected competitor should be granted extra time/attempts and whether any extra attempt will be treated as a new attempt. Any extra time should be calculated to compensate the affected competitor only for time lost/not used, and should not be greater than the time remaining in the rotation when the attempt commenced.

²² The Jury President may allow appeals after this deadline where the Provisional Results are not live.

²³ e.g., an appeal has been successfully made that a Top was given where the attempt should have been stopped for a False Start, or otherwise incorrectly awarded where the climber had time remaining for additional attempts.

²⁴ If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If the written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.

10 Redpoint

See the “Redpoint Formats - General” section above.

Boulder Redpoint Competition Organization

10.1 The number of boulders, climbing period, and maximum number of attempts shall be determined by the Jury President, in consultation with the Head Routesetter and the Event Organizer, and must be consistent between Categories.²⁵

A) The maximum climbing period allowed for an attempt should be four (4), five (5), or six (6) minutes, or may be unlimited.

10.2 The boulders are subject to the following:

A) For Classic Redpoint, there should be a minimum of forty (40) boulders.

B) For Modified Redpoint, there should be six (6) to ten (10) boulders assigned to each category.

C) Each boulder must be set and marked as follows, using the On-sight & Flash competition rules.

i) All boulders must have a four-point start and TOP.

ii) For Modified Redpoint, all boulders must have one or two Zones, as indicated by specific event rules.

D) For Classic Redpoint, the boulders should be numbered one (1) up to the number of the boulders, with each boulder assigned a point value by the Head Routesetter reflecting that boulder's anticipated rating/difficulty compared to other boulders²⁶, and the boulders should be numbered such that the point values increase for higher numbered boulders.

10.3 The number of attempts a competitor may make on any one route is limited:

A) For Classic Redpoint, the limit should be not less than five (5) attempts.²⁷

B) For Modified Redpoint, the limit should be five (5) to (20) attempts.

Boulder Redpoint Scoring

10.4 For Classic Redpoint, the competitors are scored as either TOP or no TOP for each attempt.²⁸

10.5 For Modified Redpoint, scoring follows the On-sight & Flash competition rules.

Boulder Redpoint Ranking

10.6 For Classic Redpoint, a competitor's ranking is subject to the following:

A) A competitor's total score is the cumulative value of their top five (5) completed boulders.

B) No deduction is made for unsuccessful attempts.

C) Competitors are ranked in descending order of their total score. Competitors with the same total score are tied.

10.7 For Modified Redpoint, ranking follows the On-sight & Flash competition rules, except those rules regarding DNS.

²⁵ These format attributes may deviate from these rules if approved by Sport Discretion.

²⁶ E.g., two boulders could both have the same point value.

²⁷ The limit for Classic Redpoint may be set high enough so as to effectively be unlimited.

²⁸ Classic Redpoint ranking does not consider attempts – see Ranking rules.

PARA REGULATIONS

The USA Climbing COMPETITION REGULATIONS apply to Para Climbing events.¹

¹ In lieu of having two extremely similar regulation sections, USA Climbing has one section “COMPETITION REGULATIONS” that applies to all USA Climbing events.

PARA ANNEX A – COMBINED CLASS EVENTS

1 General

- 1.1 Given the purpose, principles, and rationale behind classification, it follows that athletes should be grouped for competition only with athletes from the same Sport Class to ensure fair and meaningful competition. This is not always possible in practice (for example, where there are an insufficient number of athletes within a single Sport Class to ensure that an event remains viable). Consequently, in certain circumstances, [USA Climbing](#) may allow athletes with different Sport Classes to compete against each other in Combined Class Events.
- 1.2 [USA Climbing](#) acknowledges the general principles for Combined Class Events set out by the International Paralympic Committee. In particular, [USA Climbing](#) may propose Combined Class Events to provide opportunity for participation in competition. However Combined Class Events should not be used where they would create a structural bias between the participating athletes.

2 Principles

- 2.1 [USA Climbing](#) may propose Combined Class Events where a Sport Class does not meet the [Sport Class Registration Threshold Minimum Registration Requirements](#), and where:
 - A) the relevant Sport Classes would normally or typically compete on common routes. The underlying point here is not principally the grade or difficulty of the routes, but rather that their design is impairment-agnostic.
 - B) ~~all Sport Classes being combined would be invalid in the absence of a Combined Class Event. The purpose here being to provide opportunity for participation to athletes who would otherwise lose that opportunity in the absence of a Combined Class Event.~~¹
 - C) ~~the higher impairment Sport Class being combined would be invalid in the absence of a Combined Class Event. The underlying rationale here is to allow athletes who would otherwise be unable to participate the choice to 'compete upward' against athletes with reduced impairments.~~²
- 2.2 Combined Class Events may **not** be proposed where:
 - A) the relevant Sport Classes have different functional impairments, regardless as to whether the Sport Classes typically compete on common routes. e.g., A Combined Class Event grouping athletes with a Visual Impairment together with athletes with Range/Power impairments is not permitted.

¹ ~~EXAMPLE: A Combined Class Event grouping athletes from the B2 and B3 visually impaired Sport Classes may be proposed where the number of athletes registered in each of the B2 and B3 Sport Classes are below the Minimum Registration Requirement.~~

² ~~EXAMPLE: A Combined Class Event grouping athletes from the B2 and B3 visually impaired Sport Classes may be proposed where the number of athletes registered in the B2 Sport Class is below the Minimum Registration Requirement and the number of athletes registered in the B3 Sport Class is above the Minimum Registration Requirement.~~

- B) only the lower impairment Sport Class would be invalid in the absence of a Combined Class Event. In this case, the creation of a Combined Class Event would impose an unnecessary competitive disadvantage on the [lower] Sport Class being grouped.³
- C) one or more of the relevant Sport Classes are included in the Sport Classes in the upcoming Paralympic Games and the event is part of the Team Selection Process.

3 Permitted Combined Class Events

3.1 USA Climbing has the discretion to permit Combined Class Events. ~~Following the general principles set out in this annex, the Combined Class Events may be proposed for the Sport Classes and in the circumstances as follow:~~

~~[Table removed]~~

³ EXAMPLE: A Combined Class Event grouping athletes from the B2 and B3 visually impaired Sport Classes may **not** be proposed where the number of athletes registered in the B3 Sport Class is below the Minimum Registration Requirement and the number of athletes registered in the B2 Sport Class is above the Minimum Registration Requirement.

PARA ANNEX B – TOP ROPE EVENTS

1 General

- 1.1 Top-rope events take place on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls ~~that should have having~~ a minimum width of 3 meters for each route on the wall. The height of the wall ~~should~~ not be less than 12m.
- 1.2 ~~Competitors attempt to climb routes belayed from below, secured by clipping the rope through a series of quickdraws during their attempt.~~ Competitors attempt to climb top rope routes belayed through a top rope anchor.

2 Format

- 2.1 Top-rope events will be organized with 2 rounds as follows:

Round	Nr Routes	Modus / Format	Climbing Time	Starting Order	Quota
Qualification	2 or 3	Flash	6'	Random, Offset	--
Final	1	On-Sight	6'	Rank Descending	§2.2

Table 1 – Event Formats

- 2.2 The quota for the final round is set out in COMPETITION REGULATIONS section 16.12 ~~will be determined from the number of competitors who have completed qualification with a valid result as follows:~~¹

Competitors with a qualifying result	Final quota
4, 5, 6	3
6 < n < 15	4
14 < n < 24	6
n > 24	8

Table 2 – Final Quota

- 2.3 The quota for each round will be filled by the best ranked competitors from the preceding round, including any competitors tied in the last qualifying position.
- 2.4 ~~Where relevant, competitors will be seeded for an event using their World Ranking.~~

¹ ~~i.e. excluding any competitors who are recorded with an Invalid Result Mark for the round (DNS, DSQ, DQ).~~

3 Safety

- 3.1 Each competitor will be secured using either:
 - A) a single rope pre-clipped through [an anchor a single quickdraw](#) at the top of the route; or
 - B) [one or](#) two ropes pre-clipped through two separate anchors on the route, one of which will be the anchor at the top of the route. The second anchor will be positioned to limit any pendulum effect should the climber fall on the lower part of the route.
- 3.2 Competitors are not permitted to unclip any anchor on a route.
- 3.3 Each climbing rope will be controlled from the ground by 1 belayer for each rope [for each anchor](#).²
- 3.4 The Jury President may also require a “spotter” to provide added security for the lower part of the route.³

4 Competition Organization

General

- 4.1 Competitors [and coaches](#) must report to the warm-up area by any closing time stated on the Official Start List for the round. Competitors [and coaches](#) who are not present in the warm-up area at this time will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.
- 4.2 Where a route is to be attempted on-sight, competitors must remain in the warm-up area until called for observation, presentation or to climb. Competitors (including sight guides for athletes competing in the B1, B2 or B3 Sport Classes, [regardless of coach certification](#)) who leave the warm-up area without permission will not be eligible to start and will be marked as DNS.
- 4.3 If the number of starters is greater than 22, the route will be cleaned at evenly distributed intervals. The interval should not exceed 20 and must not exceed 22 competitors. Cleaning intervals will be marked on the Official Start List.
- 4.4 Each competitor must start in the order set out on the Official Start List. Where a round includes more than one route, each competitor will be entitled to a minimum time gap of not less than 50 minutes between the completion of their attempt on one route and the start of their attempt on the next.

² The belay system (including anchor system and acceptance of rope, carabiners, belay devices, and knots) is the responsibility of the Host Facility. The Host Facility may utilize a pre-tied rope as a method for tying-in, which may include a captive-eye, triple-action auto-locking carabiner used at the tie-in point, or alternatively two opposite-facing auto-locking carabiners used at the tie-in point. For top rope routes, a two-belay system may be used with either two ropes or a single rope with a knot suitable for the purpose and approved by the Host Facility. The belay system equipment and methods are subject to full compliance with both Host Facility policies and manufacturer specifications.

Both assisted and manual belay devices may be used in top-rope events.

³ Wherever possible, the design of the route should make such precautions unnecessary, and such precautions must be implemented for all competitors or none. The Jury President will not consider requests for added security measures by or on behalf of individual competitors.

- 4.5 Where consecutive rounds of an event take place on the same day, there must be a minimum time gap of 2 hours between the publication of the Official Results for the round and the Start of Play for the next round.
- 4.6 The Final round should be preceded by a presentation of the finalists.

Route Previews/Observation

- 4.7 If route is to be attempted **flash**, a route demonstration will be made available at least 60 minutes prior to the scheduled Start of Play either as a video recording made available for individual download/streaming (or as an alternative, continuously played back in the warm-up area) or where video recordings cannot be provided, as a live demonstration.⁴
- 4.8 If a route is to be attempted **on-sight**, a 6-minute collective observation period will be held. Coaches are not allowed to take part in any collective observation. Competitors may, before entering the warm-up area, make limited observation of the route from areas open to the public.⁵
- 4.9 Sight guides for athletes competing in the B1, B2 or B3 Sport Classes are allowed to take part in any collective observation period for those sport classes. Sight guides (“**callers**”) must be individually paired with climbers- (i.e., they cannot guide multiple climbers) where a route is attempted **on-sight**.⁶
- 4.10 For National Competitions, the Jury President will arrange for **un-numbered, un-labeled** images of the route to be placed in the warm-up area when it opens. Only images of the route provided by the event organizer and approved by the Jury President may be brought into the warm-up area.

Organization of attempts

- 4.11 Each competitor will report to the Call Zone for final preparation ahead of their attempt in the order set out in the Official Start List for the route. A competitor not in the Call Zone at the relevant time will not be entitled to climb and will be marked DNS on the route⁷.
- 4.12 Prior to a competitor **entering the Field of Play and/or** starting their attempt, the belayer must check that the climbing rope is coiled or arranged in a manner without kinks or knots, the competitor’s harness is properly fastened; and the rope is securely connected to the competitor’s harness **using a Figure 8 knot with an added safety knot**.

⁴ In deciding which video distribution method is appropriate, the Jury President must consider the availability of wireless connections and the accessibility of video hosting services.

⁵ Enforcing strict on-sight regulations in climbing competitions presents challenges in outdoor venues. The integrity of individuals and teams, as well as their adherence to a shared ethos is fundamental to maintaining the spirit of fair play. Where the competition venue is open to the public or overlooked by a public area, competitors may observe routes/boulders from these areas whilst they are open, however the following actions are prohibited:

- entering any part of the Competition Area or any other area not open to the public.
- watching, recording, or making use of any recordings of the work of the routesetters.
- using drones or other devices to gain a closer or detailed view not generally available to the public.

⁶ **Individuals may serve as sight guides for multiple climbers where a route is attempted flash.**

⁷ The Jury President will allow a competitor not in the Call Zone at the relevant time to climb where their absence is the result of factors outside the control of the competitor.

4.13 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.⁸

4.14 The belayer must ensure that the competitor is not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose, any fall is stopped in a dynamic and safe manner, and the competitor is safely lowered to the ground at the end of their attempt.

5 Scoring

5.1 A Scoring Topo will be prepared by the Head Routesetter in consultation with the on-field officials before the start of each round. Scoring holds and values will be annotated on this topo, which may not be changed or amended following the Start of Play but may be varied where multiple Sport Classes share a common route.⁹ Only holds used by either hand will be considered for scoring purposes. The Scoring Topo:

- A) may be made public after the closing time for the warm-up area,¹⁰
- B) should be [made available distributed](#) to coaches with Appeal Eligibility in any coaches' zone following the end of any collective observation period [and/or prior to the Start of Play](#).

5.2 The scoring of top-rope attempts for para climbing follows the USA Climbing *Competition Rules*, other than in respect of the determination of **successful** attempt since the final anchor on the route is pre-clipped. A top-rope attempt will be ruled **successful** if a climber Controls the marked finishing hold with a **single** hand and having done so:

- A) achieves a stable position before the climbing time expires, and
- B) either performs some action common to the sport or Controls the marked finishing hold long enough to do so.¹¹

6 Timing

6.1 A timing system should be used in the final rounds to display, for [both](#) the [public and](#) competitors, the remaining time in the collective or individual observation/preparation periods, as well as the remaining climbing time.¹²

⁸ In a round where the competitor enters the Field of Play and must wait for judge instructions to begin, the period of 40 seconds begins upon that instruction that they may begin. If the round is on-sight, the competitor must face away from the wall while awaiting instruction to begin.

⁹ The Scoring Topo may allow multiple holds to have the same scoring value where left/right route variations have been created to accommodate left/right impairments.

¹⁰ [The Scoring Topo may be distributed internal to the IFSC prior to the closing of the warm-up area. The Event Delegate may authorize release of the Scoring Topo to media ahead of this time where suitable embargo arrangements are in place.](#)

¹¹ Actions common to the sport include:

- clipping: i.e. securing a rope into a quickdraw or anchor.
- shaking out: e.g., relaxing one arm while maintaining balance to manage fatigue.
- celebrating: e.g., acknowledging a successful move or ascent.
- chalking up: e.g., applying chalk to hands for improved grip.
- changing foot position: adjusting foot placements for better balance and efficiency.

¹² Such a timing system may not be at many non-National events.

7 Ranking

General

7.1 Competitors will be ranked on any single route in the following order:

- first: all competitors who made successful attempt, and
- second: all competitors who made an unsuccessful attempt in descending order of their score on the route.

Qualification

7.2 Competitors who do not start at least one route in the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round. Competitors who start at least one route in the round will be ranked on each route in ascending order of the Qualification Points awarded to each competitor (i.e. lower Qualification Points is better) according to the following **geometric mean** formula:

$$QP = \sqrt[n]{\prod_{r=1}^n Pr}$$

where:

QP = Qualification Points, rounded to 3 decimal places.¹³

Pr = the competitor's *fractional ranking* on route "r".¹⁴

n = the number of routes

Final

7.3 Competitors who do not start the round will be unranked and marked DNS in the round.¹⁵ Competitors starting the round will be ranked using §7.1. Ties will be broken:

- first: by count-back to the General Ranking, unless the preceding round used multiple starting groups.
- second: **in the scheduled medal phase only**, breaking **podium** ties remaining after countback by using climbing times, lower times being better.

8 Sporting & Technical Incidents

8.1 If a competitor, coach, belayer, or on-field official believes that some event has occurred which may be (or may cause) a Technical Incident, they must immediately report the matter to an **HJO** who will determine whether to confirm a Technical Incident. No potential Technical Incident may be claimed following the start of the next scheduled competitor on the relevant route.

8.2 If a competitor elects to continue an attempt after a potential or confirmed Technical Incident occurred which had an adverse effect on a competitor's attempt, the Technical Incident will be considered closed for that competitor.

8.3 If a competitor has fallen or their attempt has been stopped as the direct result of a potential or confirmed Technical Incident,

¹³ Points data presented on the Official Results will be presented rounded to 3 decimal places.

¹⁴ A competitor who has a result on only one route will be ranked equal last on the other route.

¹⁵ For a Flash format round, competitors starting at least one route are considered to have started the round.

- A) they will be held in a separate area with access to warm-up facilities to await the completion of any investigation into and/or rectification of the Technical Incident and for the duration of any allowed recuperation period. The competitor may communicate only with competition officials during this period. The Technical Incident will be closed, and no supplementary attempts allowed, if the affected competitor leaves this area without permission; and
- B) the Jury President will fix a recuperation period, calculated as 1 minute for each scoring hold used prior to the Technical Incident, to a maximum of 20 minutes. The Jury President will schedule a restart for the affected competitor to follow as soon as practical following this recuperation period. The affected competitor and any other competitors yet to climb must be informed about this decision,

8.4 A restart will be cancelled if the restarted attempt cannot affect the competitor's ranking at the end of the round.

8.5 When a restart occurs, the competitor's result will be the better of their original and restarted attempts.

9 Appeals

9.1 An appeal relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt. Notice of an intention to appeal under this paragraph may be made verbally and the appellant will be allowed up to 5 minutes to submit a written appeal.¹⁶ The affected competitor will be managed as described in §8.2 until the appeal is resolved.

9.2 An appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor must be made in writing and by the deadline set out in COMPETITION REGULATIONS §10.4:

- A) ~~in the final round: immediately following the publication of the competitor's Provisional Result;~~
- B) ~~in any other round: within 5 minutes of the publication of the Official Result.~~

¹⁶ If a verbal notice is given, the Appeal Jury will register the appeal so that affected parties are aware that the appeals process has been initiated. The Appeal Jury may begin reviewing admissible evidence but must not decide on the merit of the appeal until a written submission is received. If a written appeal is not submitted within the required timeframe, the appeal will be recorded as unsuccessful (**rejected**) and an appeal fee charged.