

USA Climbing Policy Event Registration



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

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

Purpose & Scope:

The USA Climbing Event Registration Policy (“this Policy”) sets forth the requirements and timelines for a USA Climbing member to register for USA Climbing Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing Series events.

Policy:

USA Climbing provides transparent and fair registration for USA Climbing events to competitors, coaches, aides, and others.

It is the potential registrant’s individual responsibility to verify their eligibility status and registration status for a USA Climbing event. Individuals (e.g., competitors, coaches, aides, etc.) may review their eligibility status and registration status on the www.usaclimbing.org website. If a competitor discovers an error, they must immediately contact USA Climbing at the appropriate email address below.

Youth Series	youthseries@usaclimbing.org
Elite Series	eliteseries@usaclimbing.org
Paraclimbing Series	paraseries@usaclimbing.org
Collegiate Series	collegiateseries@usaclimbing.org

Any questions regarding this Policy may be directed to the USA Climbing email address above.

1 Registration

- 1.1 Registration for all USA Climbing Elite, Youth, Collegiate, or Paraclimbing Series events is conducted directly with USA Climbing.¹ USA Climbing publishes event registration information on the www.usaclimbing.org website, typically in the event Info Sheet.
- 1.2 To register for a USA Climbing event, an individual (including competitors, coaches, aides, etc.) must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Have an active USA Climbing membership of the required type at the time of registration that will remain active through the end of the event.
 - b) Provide accurate information during registration and ensure that their information on the USA Climbing membership platform is up to date, including:
 - i) Name
 - ii) Date of Birth
 - iii) Gender (see the USA Climbing Competition Eligibility Policy)
 - iv) Citizenship, residency status, and World Climbing (formerly IFSC) participation history (see the USA Climbing National Team Eligibility Policy)
 - v) Contact information: phone, email, mailing address

¹ Registration for Recreational Series events may be either directly with USA Climbing or the host facility. See the info sheet.

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- c) Agree to USA Climbing policies, Codes of Conduct, rules, waivers, and attestations.
If the individual is a minor, a legal guardian must agree to these.
- d) Complete registration before the event's registration deadline(s).
 - i) It is the individual's responsibility to meet the published event registration deadlines.
 - ii) Registration after the deadlines, other than provided for in this Policy, is not subject to appeal.
- e) Complete registration before the event registration capacity, if any, is met or exceeded.
- f) Ensure that they meet any event eligibility and qualification requirements, as set forth in this Policy. For example:
 - i) Select events (e.g. Youth Qualification Events, Regionals, Divisionals) are open only to those competitors with memberships in the corresponding Region/Division.
 - ii) Select events (e.g. Championship events) are open only to competitors who are qualified, pre-qualified, or extra-qualified for the event.

1.3 Registration for a USA Climbing event shall be available to all eligible individuals simultaneously, regardless of team, gym, or host facility affiliations.²

1.4 Upon registering for an event, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address associated with the competitor's profile in the registration system. A competitor who does not receive a confirmation email or see their name in the public registrant list within fifteen (15) minutes of submitting their registration should contact USA Climbing immediately at the appropriate email listed on the first page of this Policy.

2 Membership Type

2.1 To register as a competitor in an event, the following table sets forth the required active membership type.

Series	Event Type	Required Membership Type
Elite	North American Cup Series National Championships National Team Trials	Competitor or International
Youth	Qualification Series Regional Championships Divisional Championships National Championships	Competitor
Collegiate	Qualification Series	Collegiate or Collegiate Recreational
Collegiate	Nationals Qualification Events National Championships	Collegiate
Youth, Collegiate or Elite	Qualification Speed Trial	Competitor or Collegiate or Collegiate Recreational
Paraclimbing	National Championships	Paraclimbing

Table 1 Membership Types

² USA Climbing may grant host facilities reserved Youth QE registration slots above and beyond stated quotas that the host can distribute at their discretion.

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- 2.2 To register as a coach at an event, the individual must have an active USA Climbing Certified Coach membership. While an L1 Certified Coach may register as a coach for an event, only L2 Certified Coaches are allowed entry to Isolation.
- 2.3 To register as an aide (e.g., Paraclimbing “caller”) for a USA Climbing event, the individual must have an active Covered Volunteer Membership.

3 Accurate Member Information

- 3.1 Fair and transparent USA Climbing events require participants to provide accurate information that affect categorization, advancement, eligibility, etc.
- 3.2 By registering for USA Climbing events, participants attest to the accuracy of the information provided, and USA Climbing may require documentation in some circumstances.
- 3.3 Providing inaccurate information, especially that which affects other participants, may result in the participant’s eligibility being denied, their USA Climbing membership being suspended, and/or the participant being removed or disqualified from an event and/or competition.

4 Policies, Codes of Conduct, Rules, Waivers, Attestations

- 4.1 For any USA Climbing event, the host facility may require additional agreements, certifications, or attestations, subject to agreement by USA Climbing and inclusion in the Host Agreement between the host facility and USA Climbing.

These additional requirements may include, but are not limited to, liability waiver agreements and certifications or attestations of lead climbing capability.

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5 Registration Deadlines and Refunds

5.1 An event may have the following Registration Periods:

- a) Normal, or
- b) Normal and Late (Late Registration includes a late \$200 fee³), or
- c) Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Phase 2 has no additional fee).

5.2 For competitors, the registration deadlines⁴ and any additional fees for USA Climbing events are as follows:

a) In the table below:

- **EOD** means “end of day” and the deadline is one (1) minute after 11:59pm MT. ⁵
- **Noon** means the deadline is 12:00pm MT.
- **Prior** means “prior to the start of the first category and discipline at the event”. E.g., for an event that starts on a Saturday, a deadline of “5 days prior, noon MT” means the deadline is the immediately prior Monday at 12:00pm (noon) MT.

Event Type	Registration Period End / Deadline(s)	
	Normal ⁶	Late
Elite National Championship Elite National Team Trials	8 days prior, EOD	1 day prior, noon
Youth National Championship Youth Divisional Championship Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event Paraclimbing National Championship	8 days prior, EOD	5 days prior, noon
	Phase 1 ⁷	Phase 2
Youth Regional Championship Collegiate National Championship	8 days prior, EOD	5 days prior, noon
	Normal only	
Youth Qualification Event Collegiate Qualification Event Qualification Speed Trial Event	3 days prior, noon	
Youth Festival	1 day prior, EOD	

Table 2 Registration Schedule

b) All competitors eligible for Normal Registration Period are typically eligible for Late Registration Period, subject to the additional late fee.

³ The late fee is in addition to all fees required during the Normal Registration Period.

⁴ All deadlines are Mountain Time (MT) unless explicitly noted otherwise. Deadlines follow the official daylight-saving time schedule, even if there is a typographical error (e.g., MST vs MDT) published or communicated by USA Climbing

⁵ An EOD deadline may be communicated as 11:59pm MT.

⁶ The transition from Normal to Late Registration Period happens at the end of the day. For example, if a Normal Period deadline is at the end of the day 8 days prior, the Late Period begins immediately following, at the start of that very next day.

⁷ The transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2 is typically not immediate - the start of Phase 2 is published for each event and typically occurs 12 to 24 hours after the Phase 1 deadline.

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- c) Phase 1 registration allows each competitor who meets a specified ranking requirement, or who is “Prequalified” or “Extra qualified”, to register before the Phase 1 deadline.⁸ Phase 2 allows competitors meeting a less stringent set of requirements to register for remaining capacity, if any, subject to that capacity and the Phase 2 deadline.⁹
- d) If an event type has multiple possible dates (e.g., Youth Regionals or CNQE scheduled across different dates), the registration periods may be relative to the 1st of the scheduled dates.
If a single-day event is scheduled for a Sunday, the registration deadlines may be relative to the Saturday immediately prior to the event
- e) Subject to Sport Discretion, USA Climbing may set deadlines different than shown in the table above.

5.3 For competitors, the registration refund deadlines and refund amounts for USA Climbing events are as follows:

Event Type	Refund Deadline ¹⁰	Refund
Elite National Championship Elite National Team Trials	3 days prior, noon	100% (b)
Youth National Championship Youth Divisional Championship Youth Regional Championship Collegiate National Championship Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event Paraclimbing National Championship	3 days prior, noon	100% (b)
Collegiate Qualification Event Qualification Speed Trials (Youth, Collegiate)	No refunds	(none)
Youth Qualification Event (Lead/Top Rope & Boulder)	No refunds	(none)
Youth Festival	Prior to the start of the event	100% (b)

Table 3 Refund Schedule

For example, if a competition with a “3 days prior, noon” refund deadline begins on a Saturday, the refund deadline will be Wednesday at 12pm (noon) MT.

- a) For events that permit refunds, an event registration refund request must be submitted via the [Withdrawal/Refund Request Form](#) prior to the refund deadline.
- b) All refunds are less processing fees.
- c) Refunds requested after the stated deadline will not be granted.

5.4 For coaches, USA Climbing may require coaches to register for an event in order to participate in coaching activities at the event. The registration process, including requirements, deadlines, and any fees, will be published by USA Climbing.

⁸ Phase 1 requirements for ranking, pre-qualification, and extra-qualification are specified in the Rulebook.

⁹ A competitor eligible for Phase 1 registration who does not register during Phase 1 will not be able to register during Phase 2 if the registration capacity for that Category is met or exceeded. If the number of competitors registered in the Phase 1 period meets or exceeds the Phase 2 capacity for a Category, there will be no Phase 2 availability for that Category.

¹⁰ See registration deadline rules regarding the meanings of EOD, noon, and prior.

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6 Registration Capacity

- 6.1 Registrations may be offered with no capacity limit or may be limited by category and/or overall registration count for the event. There are no waitlists.

7 Event Eligibility

- 7.1 To be eligible for a competition, competitors must meet the Series requirements set forth in the Rulebook and be eligible to compete in a Category in the competition.
- 7.2 The following table sets forth Membership Youth Region eligibility requirements for select Youth competitions.

Competition or Series	Membership Region or Division Requirement
Youth Qualification Series	Competitor's Membership Youth Division must be the same as competition's Youth Division.
Youth Regional Championship	Competitor's Membership Youth Region must be the same as the Youth Regional Championship's Youth Region.
Youth Divisional Championship	Competitor must have achieved eligibility, if required, at a Youth Regional Championship of the same Youth Division; or otherwise, must have a Membership Youth Region that is in the same Youth Division as the Youth Divisional Championship's Youth Division.
All other competitions	none

Table 4 Membership Region or Division Requirement

Note: Competitors are eligible to register for a Qualification Speed Trial competition in any Youth Region or Collegiate Division and any number of Qualification Speed Trial competitions.

8 Event Qualified, Pre-Qualified, and Extra-Qualified

- 8.1 Eligibility for some USA Climbing events is based on:
- a) A competitor being pre-qualified for the event.
 - b) A competitor's rankings in the immediately prior stage in the Championship pathway (series or competition).

These eligibility rules have been moved to the USA Climbing rules and regulations.

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Grievance Process:

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

External References:

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

Terminology:

See the USA Climbing Rulebook Glossary.

Approvals / Dates:

Approved	USA Climbing CEO 2025-09-21
Effective	2025-09-21
Review	yearly

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Revision History:

Date/Version	Changes
20230923	Initial version
20240907	Updated refund schedule in section 5.3 (moved from section 0). Youth Lead/Tope Rope and Boulder Qualification Events refund updated to 50% and deadline updated.
20240921	Updated registration and refund tables in Sections 5.2 and 5.3. Updated refund request method in Section 0.
20250213	Clarified that pre-qualification status as set forth in Section 0 is only available for US Citizen (ICE) competitors. Updated per-Series USA Climbing email addresses
20250317	Updated pre-qualification in Section 0 to reflect the multi-discipline eligibility of Collegiate Nationals.
20250921	Updated the refund section to reflect no refunds at QE events. Some deadlines for events later in the season are under review. Event qualification moved to rules.
20260228	Updated deadline section (including addition of Phase 1 / Phase 2) and added coach event registration section. Membership must remain active through end of competition. Updated format to align with other policies.