



Team Selection Procedures

ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | ~~PARACLIMBING~~ PARA CLIMBING

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USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures – ~~20260221~~ 20260504b

USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures

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

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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.

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

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

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Introduction

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

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

Highlighted Changes in 20260430

Elite Series

Updated 2027 NTR rules for ranking when athletes have the same number of NTR points (1.4.2).

Added Competition Start registration of interest and priority for Speed Relay (1.5.8).

Extended a reduced number of 2027 NTR Bonus points to top-10 of CUWR the year prior (2.1.5).

National Team Preselected athletes must compete in the National Championship (NCH) to maintain their Team Preselected status (2.2.1(b)). Note that in the case of an injured Team Preselected athlete, Team Selection Discretion could be executed to waive this requirement.

Elite NCH (National Championship) Eligibility

Added NCH Age-eligibility table (3.1.1).

NCH Eligibility points from WCL World Championships limited to the prior 12 months (3.2.1).

Updates to NCH Eligibility points from prior NCH and NTT due to new formats (3.2.1).

Eligibility via Youth and Collegiate National Team ranking extended to two years prior (3.2.2).

NTT Format

Updated Boulder Seed order to use NTR (4.3.1(b)).

Advancement to 2nd and 3rd rounds of NTT may be limited to NTR top-ranked athletes – subject to review (4.3.2(a)).

Youth and Collegiate Series

National Team limited to 5 – aligning with Elite Series in that the number of athletes selected via NTR may be reduced in the case of Team Preselected. (5.2.1 and 6.2.1).

Para Climbing Series

Paraclimbing updated to Para Climbing throughout document.

2027 National Team limited to 3 – aligning with Elite Series in that the number of athletes selected via NTR may be reduced in the case of Team Preselected. (7.2.1).

Additional criteria for athletes to meet to eligible for 2027 Para Climbing National Team and Para Climbing Competition Starts (7.3.2).

Changes in 20260223

The NTT Starting Order rules in 4.3.2(a) (iv and v) are updated.

Highlighted Changes in 20260206

World Climbing

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

National Team Eligibility

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

Elite Series National Team Selection

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

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

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

Elite Speed Benchmarks

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

Youth Series Speed National Team Selection

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

Effective Date

This Team Selection Procedures document shall be effective upon publication.

Order of Rule Precedence

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

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

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

and otherwise giving precedence to the USA Climbing Rulebook.

Glossary

1. The following acronyms shall apply throughout this document:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist means an athlete who advanced to the Final round¹ at a WCL Series Event or WCL World Championship.

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

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

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

1 General

1.1 General - USA Climbing

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

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

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

1.3 General - Athlete Requirements

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

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

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

1.3.2 All National Team members and National Development Team members:

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

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

1.4 General - Rankings and Ranking Points

1.4.1 Elite Rankings are determined using the corresponding Ranking Points.

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

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

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

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

a) ~~In determining the ranking where any competitors have the same Ranking Points For Lead and Boulder, the relative ranking of the competitors with equal Ranking Points shall be determined by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors at the competitions included in the Ranking Point system (i.e., competitor A shall be ranked higher (better) if competitor A has ranked higher than competitor B in more such competitions than competitor B ranked higher than competitor A, for such competitions where both competitor A and B competed).~~ in the NCH and NTT rankings.²

~~The application of this rule shall be weighted by each competition's first (1st) place points as set forth in the table in Rule 2-1.4, such that a head-to-head win in a competition with greater first (1st) place points shall be considered more significant than a head-to-head win in a competition with fewer (1st) place points.~~

~~Where the test in (a) if that test does not determine a unique rank, the ranking will be determined by the competitor that ranked higher in the best/most recent ranking in any of the competitions included in the Ranking Point system, and the number of competitions where that ranking was achieved. If that both competitor A and B are ranked and ranked differently. Where that test does not determine a unique rank, then the second (2nd) best ranking in any such competition, and the number of competitions with that ranking/ranking, the next most recent ranking will be used, and so on.³~~

b) For Speed, the relative ranking of the competitors with equal Ranking Points shall be determined by comparing best times among NCH and NTT races.⁴

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

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

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

That is, Resolved Time Rank is the same as Time Rank except that any ties in Time Rank are

² i.e., in the case of equal total ranking points, competitor A shall be ranked higher (better) if competitor A has ranked higher than competitor B in more such rankings than competitor B ranked higher than competitor A, among such rankings where both competitor A and B are ranked.

³ Using Elite Series NTR in Boulder, if two competitors have the same number of NTR points after the NTT, the competitor with more points in the 3rd round of the NTT is ranked higher (better) in the NTR. If the competitors have the same number of 3rd round NTT points, the 2nd round NTT points are compared.

⁴ i.e., comparing best times, then if those are the same, 2nd best times, and so on.

broken using General Rank in the competition.

1.5 General - Registration of Interest and Acceptance of Competition Start

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

In general:

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

The rules in this section include:

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

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

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

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

- iv) who deregisters their interest, is no longer designated an NDT Registered Interest Athlete.
- c) USA Climbing will publish the method(s) for registering interest, though the method for National Team members may be different than the method for National Development Team members.
- d) Athletes who have registered their interest in a Competition, but later become unavailable, ineligible, or otherwise unable to accept a Competition Start to the Competition must contact USA Climbing via info@usacimbing.org immediately in order to deregister their interest. (See 1.5.5)

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

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

For the avoidance of doubt:

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

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

1.5.4 Regarding the allocation procedure for Competition Starts, when allocating available USA Climbing quota for an International Competition:

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

- ii) for the Elite Series, any National Team member reregisters their interest; or
- iii) any provisional Competition Start is found to be erroneous (including without limitation those published due to clerical errors),

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~1.5.8~~ [removed – redundant with 1.6]

1.5.8 For Speed Relay, the Registration of Interest and Acceptance of Competition Start process is the same as for individuals, except that:

- a) Athletes register interest as a team.
- b) All members of the team must be members of either the Speed National Team or the Speed National Development Team.
- c) The team may be either: (a) two (2) named athletes; or (b) three (3) named athletes where one (1) of those athletes is listed as "alternate"
- d) Competition Start priority order is determined by ranking the teams by the total Speed NTR points for the two (2) non-alternate team members.

1.6 General - USA Climbing Team Selection Discretion

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

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

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

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

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

2 Elite: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

2.1 Elite: National Team Ranking Points for 2027⁵

- 2.1.1 National Team Ranking Points, for each Discipline, are the sum of:
- the National Championship (NCH) competition National Team Ranking points; and
 - the National Team Trials (NTT) competition National Team Ranking points; and
 - National Team Ranking Bonus points.
- 2.1.2 National Team Ranking points expire at the start of the following National Championship.
- 2.1.3 The rankings used to determine National Team Ranking points are among only age-eligible National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.
- For Lead and Boulder, the National Team Ranking Points awarded an age-eligible NTE athlete is the sum of ranking points across each round of the NCH and NTT⁶, with the Bonus Points as set out in section 2.1.5 which are the 2025 Bonus points scaled by a factor of $6000/2200=2.727$ rounded down.

Lead and Boulder Team Ranking points (maximum 7000 points)		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Qualification Round	General Rank ⁷	Table 2-3 Table 2-3
+ NCH Semi-Final Round		
+ NCH Final Round		
+ NTT Qualification Round		
+ NTT Semi-Final Round		
+ NTT Final Round		
+ Bonus points * 2.727	CUWR	Table 2-4 Table 2-4

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

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

Speed National Team Ranking points (maximum 3000 points)		
Event / Bonus	Ranking Used	Points Table
NCH Speed competition	Time Rank ⁸	Table 2-3 Table 2-3
+ NTT Speed competition		
+ Bonus points * 0.909	CUWR	Table 2-5 Table 2-5

Table 2-2 National Team Ranking Points – Speed

⁵ For 2026, the 20260223 TSP rules were used to form the NT and NDT teams.

⁶ For NTT Lead and Boulder, a competitor is not awarded NTR Points for rounds in which they are DNS.

⁷ In the Semi-Final and Final rounds, the General Rank includes all competitors (it is an “overall” rank). For example, a competitor ranking 30th in Quals will typically be ranked 30th in the General Rank for Semis and Finals as well.

⁸ For Speed, a competitor that has no valid times is not ranked in Time Rank for the competition and is not awarded NTR Points for the competition.

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

National Team Ranking Points – From NCH and NTT							
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 2-3 National Team Ranking Points – Rank Points

2.1.5 National Team Ranking Bonus points are as follows:

a) At the conclusion of the calendar year, WCL CUWR Top-40 National Team Ranking Bonus points are awarded in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, where their points are determined from their CUWR top-40 rank in the Discipline using the greater of the bonus points either from the CUWR at the end of the that calendar year or the CUWR at the end of the calendar year immediately prior:⁹

CUWR ranks 11th through 40th at the end of that calendar year are awarded at least the points using the tables below: with the CUWR that is NOT in parenthesis.¹⁰

CUWR ranks 1st through 10th at the end of the calendar year immediately prior are awarded at least the points using the tables below with the CUWR that is (IN) parenthesis.¹¹

a)

Lead and Boulder National Team Ranking Bonus – CUWR Top-40							
CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts
1	2727	11 (1)	1068	21	627	31	373
2	2247	12	1008	22	591	32 (8)	362
3	1966	13	959	23 (5)	567	33	351
4	1769	14 (2)	910	24	529	34	346
5	1608	15	861	25	504	35 (9)	338
6	1486	16	812	26 (6)	477	36	329
7	1388	17 (3)	774	27	449	37	321
8	1289	18	725	28	425	38 (10)	319
9	1205	19	689	29 (7)	409	39	313
10	1134	20 (4)	651	30	389	40	308

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

Speed National Team Ranking Bonus – CUWR Top-40							
CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts	CUWR	Bonus Pts
1	909	11 (1)	356	21	209	31	124
2	749	12	336	22	197	32 (8)	120
3	655	13	319	23 (5)	189	33	117
4	589	14 (2)	303	24	176	34	115
5	536	15	287	25	168	35 (9)	112

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⁹ e.g., a Lead athlete who is 33rd in CUWR at the end of the calendar year and was 7th in CUWR the prior year would be awarded 409 Bonus points (the greater of 351 and 409).

¹⁰ CUWR 1st through 10th at the end of that calendar year are Team Preselected and therefore Bonus points are not of significance.

¹¹ e.g., CUWR 3rd the prior calendar year will be awarded at least 774 Bonus points in Lead and Boulder and at least 258 Bonus points in Speed.

6	495	16	270	26 (6)	159	36	109
7	462	17 (3)	258	27	149	37	107
8	429	18	241	28	141	38 (10)	106
9	404	19	229	29 (7)	136	39	104
10	377	20 (4)	217	30	129	40	102

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

2.2 Elite: National Team & National Development Team Selection

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

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

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

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

	Type	Criterion
National Team	Preselected	2024 Olympic Team members in the Discipline. (Boulder & Lead Olympic Team members are Preselected in both Lead and Boulder.)
National Team	Preselected	Athletes in the top ten (10) rank of the CUWR in the Discipline at the conclusion of the prior year.
	NTR Selected¹²	Athletes ranked in the top two (2) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected.
		Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected, ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).
National Development Team	NTR Selected	Athletes not on the National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline National Team Ranking.

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

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

	Type	Criterion
National Team	Preselected	Athletes in the top ten (10) rank of the CUWR in the Discipline at the conclusion of the prior year.
	NTR Selected ¹³	Athletes ranked in the top two (2) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected.
		Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline National Team Ranking, among those not Preselected, ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).
National Development Team	NTR Selected	Athletes not on the National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline National Team Ranking.

Table 2-6 2026 National Team and National Development Team – Lead, Boulder, and Speed

b) National Team Preselected athletes must compete in the National Championship (NCH) in order to maintain their Team Preselected status.

¹² ~~NTR Selected athletes must meet the NT benchmark to be on the National Team.~~

¹³ NTR Selected athletes must meet the NT benchmark to be on the National Team.

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

2.3 Elite: Competition Starts

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

2.4 Elite: Speed Benchmarks

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

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

The Speed Benchmark times are published on the National Team page of the www.usaclimbing.org website.

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

- a) The 2027 National Team Benchmark (NT Benchmark) for each Category is determined at the conclusion of the 2026 World Climbing season by:
 - i) first determining the season's World Climbing Series (or World Championship, if relevant) event¹⁴ that has the greatest number of competitors with a Qualification round valid time, and
 - ii) then determining the median value of the per-competitor fastest times.¹⁵
- b) The 2026 National Team Benchmark (NT Benchmark) for each Category is determined at the conclusion of the 2025 WCL season by:
 - i) first determining the set of valid fastest Qualification round times for each competitor ranked in that round at each WCL Series Event (and where relevant, the World Championship) in that calendar year; and
 - ii) then determining the median time of that set.

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

- c) The Competition Start Benchmark (CS Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.07 (an increase of 7%).
- d) The NTT Eligibility Benchmark (NTT Benchmark) is determined by multiplying the National Team Benchmark by 1.40 (an increase of 40%).¹⁶
- e) Each Speed Benchmark calculation (median of Qualification times, NT benchmark, CS benchmark, NTT benchmark) is rounded *up* to two (2) decimal digits ($1/100^{\text{th}}$ of a second) before being presented or used further. (e.g., 8.251 rounds up to 8.26)
- f) A race time is rounded *down* to two (2) decimal digit before comparison to a benchmark time. (e.g., a race time of 6.209 is rounded down to 6.20 and *does* meet a 6.20 benchmark time.)¹⁷

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

¹⁴ Including Speed-2 and Speed-4 format events (separately), not including Speed-Relay

¹⁵ Effectively, the time of the qualification round middle-of-the-pack competitor of the event with the largest competitor field – a method intended to provide a benchmark easier to determine with little calculation, though still likely to produce similar results to earlier methods. Subject to change.

¹⁶ USA Climbing has the discretion to maintain the same NTT benchmark as the prior year.

¹⁷ For the purposes of this rule, benchmark times are rounded *up*, and race times are rounded *down*.

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

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

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

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

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

3.1 Elite: NCH Age Requirement

3.1.1 To be age-eligible for the National Championship, a competitor must be sixteen (16) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the first WCL event immediately following the National Championship.¹⁸

<u>NCH (National Championship) Date</u>	<u>NCH Eligible Birth Year</u>
<u>Sept 2025 through March 2026</u>	<u>2010 or earlier</u>
<u>Sept 2026 through March 2027</u>	<u>2011 or earlier</u>
<u>Sept 2027 through March 2028</u>	<u>2012 or earlier</u>

3.1.1.2 Competitors who are not seventeen (17) years of age or older on December 31st of the year of the first WCL event immediately following the National Championship, are not eligible for the Elite National Team (and National Development Team) and so are designated NTI for the purposes of the National Championship.

if the National Championship is late in the calendar year before the WCL Series season immediately following, a competitor who is sixteen (16) years of age on December 31st of the year of the National Championship will not have been eligible for other

¹⁸ e.g., if the National Championship is late in the calendar year before the WCL Series season immediately following, a competitor who is fifteen (15) years of age on December 31st of the year of the National Championship may not have been eligible for other Elite Series events that year (e.g., North American Cup Series), though is age-eligible and may still achieve eligibility for the National Championship via exceptional performance at the Youth National Championship that year.

- ~~Elite Series~~ events that year (e.g., North American Cup Series), though is age-eligible and may still achieve eligibility for the National Championship via exceptional performance at the Youth National Championship that year.
- If the National Championship is early in the same calendar year as the WCL Series season immediately following, the age-eligibility for the NCH is the same as that WCL Series season.

3.2 Elite: NCH Eligibility

3.2.1 NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (in each Category and for each Discipline) for an NCH age-eligible competitor shall be the sum of the points from the best two (2) eligible competitions (by points) since the day before the preceding National Championship.

- eligible competitions are listed in the table below, indicating which citizens are eligible for ranking points and the method used to rank the competitors in the Discipline for purposes of determining their NCH Eligibility Ranking points using the table in Rule [d\)3.2.2d\)](#)
- National Team Ineligible (NTI) competitors are awarded NCH Eligibility Ranking points only where they achieve a General Rank in the top-20 at a North American ~~Cup Series~~[PACC](#) or [NACS](#) competition.

Competition	Citizen	Rank used for Determination of Ranking Points Determined using Rank relative to:
USA Climbing National Championship (prior year)	US only	all competitors
USA Climbing National Team Trials (prior year)	US only	all competitors
WCL Series Event	US only	all competitors
WCL World Championship ¹⁹	US only	all competitors
Pan-American Championships	US only	all competitors
Pan-American Continental Cup North American Cup Series	Any - see (b)	all competitors ²⁰

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

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

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

c) NTE athletes are eligible for NCH Eligibility Ranking Points based on their NTR points at the immediately prior NCH and NTT.

For each of the prior NCH and NTT, the NCH Eligibility Ranking Points available are:

- for Speed, their NTR points from that event.
- for Lead and Boulder, 1/3rd of the sum of their NTR points for each round of the event, rounded down to whole numbers.

¹⁹ Only for a WCL World Championship held during the 12 months prior to the NCH for which eligibility is being determined.

²⁰ NCH Eligibility Ranking points are not granted to NACS competitors who do not meet WCL Series age requirements in the same calendar year as the NACS event.

3.2.2d) The following table used to determine NCH Eligibility Ranking points using the following Elite competitions for the WCL Series Events, World Championships, NACS Events, Pan-American Continental Cups, and Pan-American Championships; the table is NOT used for National Team Ranking points. For the National Team Ranking points table, see Rule 2.1.4.

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

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²¹ WCL Series Event (formerly World Cup)

NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)							
Rank	NCH	NTT	WCLSE ²¹	WCH	NACS PACC	PACH	Rank
30	48	48	120	168	24	24	30
31	42	42	105	147	21	21	31
32	37	37	92	129	18	18	32
33	33	33	82	115	16	16	33
34	30	30	75	105	15	15	34
35	27	27	67	94	13	13	35
36	24	24	60	84	12	12	36
37	24	24	52	73	10	10	37
38	19	19	47	66	9	9	38
39	17	17	42	59	8	8	39
40	15	15	37	52	7	7	40
41	14	14	35	49	7	7	41
42	13	13	32	45	6	6	42
43	12	12	30	42	6	6	43
44	11	11	27	38	5	5	44
45	11	11	27	38	5	5	45
46	10	10	25	35	5	5	46
47	9	9	22	31	4	4	47
48	9	9	22	31	4	4	48
49	8	8	20	28	4	4	49
50	8	8	20	28	4	4	50
51	7	7	17	24	3	3	51
52	7	7	17	24	3	3	52
53	7	7	17	24	3	3	53
54	6	6	15	21	3	3	54
55	6	6	15	21	3	3	55
56	6	6	15	21	3	3	56
57	5	5	12	17	2	2	57
58	5	5	12	17	2	2	58
59	5	5	12	17	2	2	59
60	4	4	10	14	2	2	60
61	4	4	10	14	2	2	61
62	4	4	10	14	2	2	62

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NCH Eligibility Ranking Points (not for National Team Ranking use)								
Rank	NCH	NTF	WCLSE ²¹	WCH	NACS	PACH	Rank	
63	4	4	10	14	2	2	63	
64	3	3	7	10	1	1	64	
65	3	3	7	10	1	1	65	
66	3	3	7	10	1	1	66	
67	3	3	7	10	1	1	67	
68	3	3	7	10	1	1	68	
69	2	2	5	7	1	1	69	
70	2	2	5	7	1	1	70	
71	2	2	5	7	1	1	71	
72	2	2	5	7	1	1	72	
73	2	2	5	7	1	1	73	
74	2	2	5	7	1	1	74	
75			42	43	2	3	75	
76			42	43	2	3	76	
77			42	43	2	3	77	
78			42	43	2	3	78	
79			42	43	2	3	79	
80			42	43	2	3	80	

Table 3-2 NCH Eligibility – Ranking Points

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

- first, as a Discipline criterion only to that Discipline’s NCH eligibility; and
 - then, as a Boulder & Lead criterion to both Lead NCH and Boulder NCH eligibility,
- and the Seeding Order (i.e., used for starting lists in Boulder Qualification Round) is by the order of the criteria below:

Set of Eligible Athletes (Order Within the Set)	NCH Discipline Eligible	NCH B&L Cross Eligible	Notes
Team Preselected (Rank within Team)	All	All	(a)
Past Olympian	All	none (e)	(a) (e)
Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist	All	none (e)	(a) (e)
NCH Eligibility Ranking (NCH Eligibility Rank)	Top-100	Top-25	(b)(c)
Recent National Team Member (Prior National Team Rank)	All	All	(a)
Youth National Team Ranking (Youth National Team Rank)	Top- 68	Top- 34	(a) (d)
Collegiate National Team Ranking (Collegiate National Team Rank)	Top-6	Top-3	(a) (d)

Table 3-3 NCH Eligibility – Criteria

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

Notes, where listed above:

- Does not apply to National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes.
- USA Climbing has the discretion to increase (relax) the required eligibility rank within the NCH Eligibility Ranking (to include more than what is specified in the above table) by publishing that new requirement at least ten (10) days prior to the National Championship competition.
- An athlete who qualified for the National Team or National Development Team the prior year will have enough NCH Eligibility Ranking points to qualify for the next year’s NCH even if they do not accumulate any additional points between the NTT and the following season’s NCH.
- Eligibility is based on Youth ~~(or as relevant, /Collegiate)~~ National Team Ranking points solely from the Youth ~~(or as relevant, /Collegiate)~~ National Championships in the ~~last 15 prior~~ twenty-four (24) months, based on ranking among *all* National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors, and NTE competitors in Youth, in the category.

Note: if a top-N competitor is otherwise qualified for NCH or not age-eligible for the upcoming NCH, their top-N eligibility does not pass to any other competitor.

- e) Past Olympian and Past WCL Series Event or World Championship Finalist eligibility is granted only for the Discipline(s) from that past competition. Note, however, that an Olympian from an Olympics that combined three Disciplines is eligible for the NCH in all three Disciplines.²²

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

3.2.53.2.4 For the National Championship, any competitor:

- a) granted NCH B&L Cross Eligibility for Lead by Rule 3.2.23-2.32 and not granted eligibility for Boulder that Rule is nonetheless granted eligibility for Boulder and such a competitor is seeded last in Boulder; and
- b) granted NCH B&L Cross Eligibility for Boulder by Rule 3.2.23-2.32 and not granted eligibility for Lead by that Rule is nonetheless granted eligibility for Lead and such a competitor is seeded last in Lead.

3.3 Elite: NCH Competition Format

3.3.1 Where the USA Climbing Rulebook uses competition seeding for the Qualification round Start Order, the seeding is by way of Section 3.2 above.

3.3.2 For the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, the NCH competition adheres to USA Climbing rules, with the following exceptions:

- a) Advancement relative to National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes is as follows:²³
 - i) In the Speed Discipline, National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes are not eligible to advance to the Final round.
 - ii) In the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, National Team Ineligible (NTI) athletes advancement is outlined in the USA Climbing Rulebook.
- b) In the Boulder Discipline:
 - i) The Jury President has the discretion to set the scheduled interval after each rotation, (i.e., to be longer or shorter than 15 seconds.)
- c) In the Speed Discipline:
 - i) For the purposes of ranking competitors, the updated WCL Speed Ranking rules (Annex B Speed, section 8) will be used.

²² Eligibility by way of past WCL Series event or World Championship may not be included in NCH eligibility lists published by USA Climbing. Contact to eligibility@usacimbing.org for more info.

²³ A competitor not eligible for the relevant Elite National Team is considered NTI for the purposes of advancement in the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.

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

4.1 Elite: NTT Age Requirement

4.1.1 To be age-eligible for the National Team Trials, a competitor must ~~have been~~ be seventeen (17) years of age-eligible for or older on December 31st of the year of the first WCL event immediately prior National Championship following the NTT.²⁴

4.2 Elite: NTT Eligibility

4.2.1 To be eligible for the National Team Trials in the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, a competitor must be a National Team Eligible (NTE) athlete and:

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

Summary:

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

Table 4-1 NTT Eligibility – Lead and Boulder

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

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

Summary:

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

Table 4-2 NTT Eligibility – Speed Summary

²⁴ i.e. competitors who were designated as NTI at the NCH due to age are not eligible for the NTT.

4.3 Elite: NTT Competition Format

4.3.1 The competitor seeding order for the Boulder National Team Trials competition shall be:

- a) first seeded are Boulder Team Preselected in order of rank in the team; and
- b) next seeded are all others in order of Boulder ~~ranking at the NTR~~ (National Championship Team Ranking).²⁵

4.3.2 For the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines, the NTT competition adheres to USA Climbing rules, with the following exceptions:

a) For the Lead and Boulder Disciplines:

i) The three rounds are named 1st, 2nd, and 3rd round:

- A) 1st round: using Qualification round format,
- B) 2nd round: using Semi-Final round format, and
- C) 3rd round using Final round format,

where format exceptions are further detailed in this section.

~~ii) The advancement quota is unlimited Eligibility for all rounds. (i.e., all and Starting Order in the 2nd and 3rd rounds use the NTR.~~²⁶

~~iii) Eligibility for the 2nd and 3rd rounds is limited to Team Preselected and competitors who are top ranked in the NTR as follows:~~

~~ii) A) 2nd round: number of athletes eligible to advance, even if DNS for a prior round, is subject to review.~~

~~B) 3rd round: number of athletes eligible is subject to review.~~

~~iv) The Starting Order for the rounds is as follows:~~

~~iii) A) 1st round is: Random, Offset for Lead; and Rank Ascending using NTR for Boulder.~~²⁷

~~iv) The Starting Order for each of the 2nd and 3rd rounds uses the NTR (National Team Ranking) at the start of that round.~~²⁸

~~A) The Starting Order for the 2nd round is first the NTR top 15 in and 3rd round: Rank Descending using NTR, with Team Preselected (in random order, and then the remaining competitors in NTR Rank Ascending order.~~²⁹

~~B) The Starting Order for the 3rd round is first the NTR top 10 in Rank Descending order, and then the remaining competitors in ordered between 5th and 6th NTR Rank Ascending order.~~³⁰

v) ~~The there There~~ shall be a time gap of least 90 minutes between the end of climbing of one round to the start of the next round.

b) In addition, for the Boulder Discipline:

i) The Jury President has the discretion to set the scheduled interval after each rotation, (i.e., to be longer or shorter than 15 seconds.)

²⁵ ~~The NTR for 1st round seeding includes NCH and Bonus NTR points.~~

²⁶ ~~The NTR for 2nd and 3rd round eligibility and start orders includes Bonus Points.~~

~~For 2nd round use, NTR includes 1st round points. For 3rd round use, NTR includes 2nd round points.~~

~~Note that a competitor may be eligible for the NTT 2nd or 3rd round if ranked high enough in the NTR even if they did not compete in an earlier NTT round.~~

²⁷ ~~These are the standard Qualification round Starting Orders.~~

²⁸ ~~The NTR at this point includes Bonus Points~~

²⁹ ~~i.e., 2nd round Starting Order is NTR 15th, NTR 14th, ... NTR 1st, NTR 16th, NTR 17th, ...~~

³⁰ ~~i.e., 2nd round Starting Order is NTR 15th, NTR 14th, ... NTR 6th, Preselected in random order, NTR 5th, NTR 4th, NTR 3rd, NTR 2nd, NTR 1st.~~

- ii) The 2nd round has five (5) boulders.
- iii) The 3rd round has the same format as the 2nd round with the following differences:
 - A) A collective observation period is held prior to the start of the round and may allow athletes to observe any boulder at will during that period.³¹
 - B) The round has four (4) boulders.
 - C) The Rotation time is four (4) minutes.
 - D) Competitors have two (2) “rest” Rotation slots between boulders.³²
- iv) During the 2nd and 3rd round, the boulders are cleaned at regular intervals not to exceed 12 competitors.³³

³¹ The collective observation period should be a total of 8 minutes.

³² i.e., climb, rest, rest, climb, rest, rest, ...

³³ e.g., using a “brush slot” or equivalent.

c) Speed:

- i) The Speed competition is a series of 6 timed races where the competitors are ranked solely by Time Rank across those races. All competitors are eligible for all races even if DNS for a prior round/race.
- ii) The 6 timed races are organized in 3 rounds, each of which has the format of a Speed Qualification round. (i.e., two races per competitor in each round).³⁴
- iii) There is an organized practice period using the same Starting Order as the first round. Practice period times do not count towards Time Rank.
- iv) The routes should be cleaned before each round.
- v) There must be at least 30 minutes between each round.
- vi) The Starting Order for each round is as follows:
 - A) ~~for the~~ 1st round: Random, Offset Order (the standard Qual round Starting Order)
 - B) ~~for the~~ 2nd and 3rd rounds: Paired Rank Descending Order based on Time Rank from all prior rounds.³⁵
 - C) Paired Rank Descending Order means the two best ranked (Time Rank) competitors in the competition so far are the last among all competitors to start their first race and are the last to start their second race (swapping lanes). In the case of Time Rank ties, the order of tied competitors is random. If the number of competitors is odd, the lowest ranked (Time Rank) competitor races alone. See below for an example with 7 competitors, ranked 1st to 7th.

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

- vii) For the purposes of breaking Time Rank ties, the ~~updated~~ WCL Speed Ranking rules (Annex B Speed, section 8) will be used.³⁶

³⁴ There is no knockout round at NTT.

³⁵ Time Rank for 2nd round Starting Order uses 1st round times.

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

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

³⁶ i.e., if competitors have all the same best race times, the Fall / False Start / Not Started order is used to resolve Time Rank ties.

5 Youth: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

5.1 Youth: National Team Ranking Points

- 5.1.1 For each Youth National Team in the Lead and Boulder Disciplines, that Youth National Team Ranking (YNTR) is the Youth National Championship General competition ranking in the Discipline among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected in the Discipline.
- 5.1.2 For each Youth National Team in the Speed Discipline, that Youth National Team Ranking (YNTR) is comprised from the Youth National Championship 1st Time Rank and then General ranking, both among only National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors not Team Preselected, in the following order:³⁷
- 1st in Time Rank, then
 - 1st in General Rank, then
 - 2nd in General Rank, then
 - 3rd (and on) in General Rank.

5.2 Youth: National Teams & National Development Team Selection

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

	Type	Criterion
Youth National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are WCL Name-Eligible (i.e., typically Youth World Champion) in the Discipline.
	YNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship. <u>ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).</u>
Youth National Development Team	YNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Youth National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline's Youth National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Youth National Championship.

Table 5-1 Youth National Team and National Development Team

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

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

³⁷ The Youth Speed NTR is ordered as: fastest athlete in Time Rank, followed by the General ranking.

6 Collegiate: Rankings, Teams, and Competition Starts

6.1 Collegiate: National Team Ranking Points

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

6.2 Collegiate: National Teams & National Development Team Selection

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

	Type	Criterion
Collegiate National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are WCL Name-Eligible (i.e., typically Collegiate World Champion) in the Discipline.
	CNTR Selected	Athletes ranked in the top five (5) in the Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship; <u>ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than five (5).</u>
Collegiate National Development Team	CNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Collegiate National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) in the Discipline's Collegiate National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Collegiate National Championship.

Table 6-1 Collegiate National Team and National Development Team

6.3 Collegiate: Competition Starts: World University Championships

6.3.1 For World University Championships, Competition Starts in each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines shall be extended, up to the US quota, to those not WCL Name-Eligible in the Discipline as follows:

- a) first, to the relevant Collegiate National Team, in order of their team rank; then
- b) to the extent that any quota remains, to the relevant Collegiate National Development Team, in order of their National Development Team rank.

7 **Paraclimbing**Para Climbing: Teams and Competition Starts

7.1 **Paraclimbing**Para Climbing: National Team Ranking Points

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

7.2 **Paraclimbing**Para Climbing: National Teams & National Development Team

7.2.1 ~~The Starting in 2027³⁸, the US~~ **Paraclimbing**Para Climbing National Team, in each WCL category, shall be composed at the conclusion of the **Paraclimbing**Para Climbing National Championship as set forth by the following tables, in the order of criteria listed. (Within each criterion, athletes are ordered by PNTR.)

	Type	Criterion
Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Team	Preselected	Athletes that are WCL Name-Eligible in the Category that they still qualify for. If WCL does not designate Name-Eligible athletes in Paraclimbing Para Climbing, the highest one (1) ranked competitor in the WCL Paraclimbing Para Climbing World Ranking in the Category (see 7.2.4(b)) among those National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes who were ranked 1 st in a Paraclimbing Para Climbing WCL Series Event or ranked 1 st through 3 rd in the Paraclimbing Para Climbing World Championships ³⁹ , that Category and still qualify in that Category.
	PNTR Selected	Athletes <u>who are Competition Start eligible as set out in 7.3.2 and are</u> ranked in the top three (3) in the Category's Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Championship; <u>ordered by NTR and limited so that these athletes do not expand the number of National Team athletes to be more than three (3).</u>
Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Development Team	PNTR Selected	Athletes not on the Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Team and ranked in the top ten (10) <u>six (6)</u> in the Category's Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Team Ranking among only those not Preselected at the conclusion of the Paraclimbing Para Climbing National Championship.

Table 7-1 **Paraclimbing**Para Climbing National Team and National Development Team

a) In the event of Category changes and/or Category merging, Team Selection Discretion may provide Preselected status based on achievement in a different Category.

~~b) In the event that WCL does not maintain a Paraclimbing World Ranking in the Category, USA Climbing shall rank For each visually impaired (B1/B2/B3) Para Climbing National Team member and National Development Team member, their caller from the Para Climbing National Championships Final round is also a Para Climbing National Team member and National Development Team member, as relevant.~~

³⁸ For 2026, the 20260223 TSP rules were used to form the NT and NDT teams.

³⁹ Only considering Para Climbing WCL Series Events and Para Climbing World Championships from the prior year.

b) ~~Preselected-eligible National Team Eligible (NTE) athletes in the Category in a manner that follows the construction and points of the WCL CUWR for a Discipline, using each athlete's WCL World Championship result and their best one (1) WCL Series Event result.~~

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

7.3 **ParaclimbingPara Climbing: Competition Starts: ParaclimbingPara Climbing WCL Series Events and ParaclimbingPara Climbing World Championships**

7.3.1 While categories for ParaclimbingPara Climbing athletes in USA Climbing competitions may be different from WCL categories (see the USA Climbing Rulebook for information on USA Climbing ParaclimbingPara Climbing categories), the WCL ParaclimbingPara Climbing World Championship Competition Starts shall be based on the WCL categories.

7.3.2 Starting in 2027, in order to be eligible for Para Climbing National Team and Para Climbing Competition Starts, an athlete must either be Team Preselected or meet a benchmark standard as set forth in the USA Climbing Para Climbing National Team and Competition Start Benchmarks document located on the National Team page of the www.usaclimbing.org website.

7.3.2.3.3 Subject to 7.3.2, Competition Starts to compete at the WCL ParaclimbingPara Climbing Series events and WCL Para Climbing World Championships may only be extended to:

- a) members of the US ParaclimbingPara Climbing National Team, then US ParaclimbingPara Climbing National Development Team, up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota; and
- b) in addition to (a), where WCL grants byes to Champion status competitors to compete in the ParaclimbingPara Climbing World Championships, National Team Eligible (NTE) competitors that hold such status may also be extended a Competition Start.

7.3.4 All categories of visually impaired (B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller, who may call out the route for them in accordance with WCL Rules.

- a) For WCL Series Event or World Championship competitions, each US ParaclimbingPara Climbing National Team visually impaired competitor is required to provide their own personal caller who is not competitor, is not competing as an athlete in a different sport class at that event and is not shared with another visually impaired competitor, and is not a team official.
- b) The competitor's caller must be identified as such in the visually impaired competitor's signed Athlete Agreement with USA Climbing, and the caller must also submit a signed Athlete Agreement. Such a
- c) The competitor's caller shall then be considered a member of the US Paraclimbing National Team and shall then have access to all competitor-only areas, subject to the rules and/or policies of the competition.

7.3.3—In the event either a visually impaired competitor does not provide a named caller or a visually impaired competitor's named caller is not at a WCL competition, USA Climbing has Sport Discretion (~~see USA Climbing Rulebook~~) to make a reasonable attempt to provide a caller, ~~or~~ although is not required to ~~not~~ provide a caller.

d)