

USA Climbing Para Climbing Series National Team and Competition Start Benchmarks



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The Para Climbing Series National Team and Competition Start Benchmarks are subject to approval by the USA Climbing Chief Executive Officer and USA Climbing Chief of Sport, and are authored by the USA Climbing Team Selection Committee. Questions regarding the Para Climbing Benchmarks may be directed to the USA Climbing Team Selection Committee at teamselection@usaclimbing.org.

Beginning in 2027, **to be eligible for Para Climbing National Team selection and Competition Starts**, an athlete must either be Team Preselected or meet a benchmark standard established by USA Climbing under this section.

The Benchmark standards are under development, and are intended to represent a level of performance that indicates readiness for participation in World Climbing (WCL) Competition Starts and for Para Climbing National Team selection.

Benchmark standards may take various forms, including but not limited to performance at the USA Climbing Para Climbing National Championship, performance at World Climbing (WCL) events, or other demonstrated competition results. The specific form and application of benchmark standards (e.g., designated holds, scores, ranks, or other performance measures) remain under review.

In establishing benchmark standards, USA Climbing may consider factors including, but not limited to:

- International competition results and trends;
- Depth and progression of the domestic field;
- Routesetting intent and observed performance at the USA Climbing Para Climbing National Championship;
- Input from USA Climbing High Performance staff and Level 5 (L5) Para Climbing Routesetters.

USA Climbing may also grant eligibility under this section through a Team Selection Discretion decision supported by performance-based evidence, including input from USA Climbing High Performance staff and Level 5 (L5) Para Climbing Routesetters.

To further foster development at World Climbing (WCL) Para Climbing events hosted by USA Climbing, USA Climbing may apply a modified or relaxed eligibility standard for Competition Starts.

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