

## **2026.06 Team Selection Discretion Execution Ben Hanna Boulder WCL Series Innsbruck Start (via athlete)**

### **PROPOSAL/REQUEST**

- Athlete has requested a discretionary start at Innsbruck Boulder
- Request was also sent to AC

### **DECISION**

- The TSC voted to apply discretion
- Decision by TSC on 2026.06.10

### **BACKGROUND**

- See request submitted (below) by Ben Hanna
- The request was evaluated against the priorities previously established by the TSC for evaluating Team Selection Discretion (TSD)
- The request was evaluated against the USAC commitments to registered athletes for Innsbruck
- The requested was evaluated against the previous discretion proposal submitted by this athlete

### **DISCUSSION**

- The TSC reviewed the previously established priorities for TSD consideration, including maximizing CUWR Top 40 season finishes to earn NF quota
- The WCL Series 2026 performance and results of the proposal athlete (Ben Hanna) and athletes with confirmed starts for Innsbruck Boulder were reviewed
- NCH and NTT 2026 performance and results of the proposal athlete (Ben Hanna) and athletes with confirmed starts for Innsbruck Boulder were reviewed
- Input from the AC and the High Performance staff was requested, received, and reviewed

- CUWR for all USAC male Boulder athletes was reviewed
- Current ranking points of each athlete and potential points still available were reviewed
- Timelines were considered, including
  - Remaining 2026 point earning WCL events
  - Olympic quad
  - Innsbruck registration deadlines
- Financial obligations of USAC were considered
- Extensive consideration was given to the impact of rescinding an athlete's confirmed start, both to the individual and the team
- The TSC determined that the most likely opportunity to place an additional athlete in the CUWR Top 40 would be to register Ben Hanna for Innsbruck Boulder. This will require a confirmed start to be rescinded from an athlete.
- The TSC voted to apply discretion (the proposal was approved).
- This decision was made with the expectation that the proposal athlete (Ben Hanna) will compete in boulder at both the WCL Pan America Series event (Salt Lake City) and the WCL Series event (Salt Lake City), in addition to the start at WCL Series event (Innsbruck Boulder) that is granted in this discretion.
- An addendum to this TSD covers the confirmed start rescission necessitated by this decision.

## **SUBMISSION**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ben Hanna,

I am currently 5th on the men's bouldering team, and I am reaching out to request a discretionary start in the upcoming European world climbing Bouldering cup Innsbruck.

USAC has made it clear that our first priority is getting as many quota spots for the 2027 season as possible, and I am in the best position to do this. I have placed in the top 40 world rank multiple times, and I have made the semifinal in the last two world cups I've attended: (Seoul -2025, Keqiao-2026)

Over the last two seasons, I have exhibited a 42.8% progression rate to semifinals. With only two world cups left in the season, only athletes placing in the semifinals have a chance at the top 40 ranking. Of the USAC men eligible, I am strategically positioned, and have the best chance at getting us another top 40 spot.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,  
I look forward to representing our team in the future,