

USA Climbing Principles Related to Athlete and Federation Participation

The purpose of USA Climbing is to foster amateur national and international sports competition in the sport of competition climbing. As stated in our strategic plan, our mission is to support the well-being, development, and competitive excellence of our athletes as we advance the accessibility and growth of the climbing community nationwide.

In furthering that mission, USA Climbing is also committed to the following core values:

Athlete First. Support the well-being and development of climbers at all levels, abilities, and ages – from beginner to elite, including youth, collegiate, adult, and paraclimbing.

Diversity & Inclusiveness. Promote diversity and inclusion as critical to our success, continuously champion these principles throughout the climbing community, and do not tolerate discrimination in any form.

Integrity & Teamwork. Promote climbing's culture and ethos of camaraderie and sportsmanship to enrich lives and maximize the full potential of all participants.

Environmental Stewardship. Encourage responsible use and the protection and preservation of the natural environment.

On matters relating to the participation of athletes, national federations, and other organizations in internationally-sanctioned climbing competitions, programs, events, and other activities, the following principles shall guide USA Climbing.

- 1. Inclusive Sport Values**

USA Climbing recognizes sport as a means to promote healthy human development, fairness, respect, inclusion, and international understanding.

- 2. Participation as the Default**

USA Climbing supports participation by eligible athletes and National Federations, regardless of nationality.

3. **Athletes Are Individuals**

As a general rule, athletes should not be excluded solely on the basis of the actions of their governments or national bodies.

4. **Respect for Human Rights, Human Dignity, and Accountability**

USA Climbing acknowledges the vital importance of civil rights, human rights, and humanitarian law, and efforts to protect human dignity and promote accountability.

5. **Political Neutrality**

USA Climbing shall not independently adjudicate or otherwise seek to influence geopolitical and foreign policy matters, except as required by law or under the direction of the United States government.

6. **Deference to Sport Governing Bodies**

USA Climbing shall follow applicable directives from relevant governing bodies, including the USOPC, World Climbing, and the IOC, absent extraordinary circumstances.

7. **Compliance with U.S. Foreign Relations Laws**

USA Climbing shall comply with all applicable U.S. laws, including those relating to sanctions, travel restrictions, immigration, customs and trade, and other federal requirements. If U.S. law conflicts with guidance or directives from sport governing bodies, U.S. law shall control.