



# Rulebook

BOULDER | SPEED | LEAD | TOP ROPE | COMBINED

ELITE | YOUTH | COLLEGIATE | PARACLIMBING | RECREATIONAL

## **USA Climbing Rulebook**

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*This Rulebook 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](http://www.usaclimbing.org) and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.*

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*This Rulebook 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 Rulebook, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control.*

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*Rules Committee: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Rulebook(s) for the organization, as well as keeping current with IFSC standards and practices. The Rules Committee may be reached via e-mail: [rules@usaclimbing.org](mailto:rules@usaclimbing.org).*

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## Significant Changes

*This Significant Changes section is not a binding rule. Only the rules themselves, beginning with the Order of Rule Precedence and Glossary sections, shall govern. USA Climbing strongly recommends that competitors, coaches, volunteers, host facilities, and other interested parties review the actual text of the rules themselves.*

*This section summarizes for convenient review many of the significant changes made to the rules with this version and may not include every rule change (not every rule change that could potentially affect a competitor may be considered sufficiently significant to be included in this section) nor does it include the complete language of any particular rule change or rule.*

USA Climbing is pleased to introduce the 2023-2024 USA Climbing Rulebook, with updates in several areas.

### 2022-2023 Rulebook Addendums

All 2022-2023 Rulebook Addendum A and Addendum B changes are incorporated into this Rulebook.

### USA Climbing Policies

Several areas of the Rulebook are moved to USA Climbing Policies, with each Policy having appropriate review, update, and approval processes independent of those of the Rulebook. As such, a Policy may be updated at a time that is independent of any Rulebook Addendum or update and independent of any other Policy update.

In cases where such content has been removed from the Rulebook, the Rulebook refers to the Policy (or Policies) where the reader may find the content.

The relevant Policies include:

- Transgender Athlete Participation Policy
- National Team Eligibility Policy
- Accommodations Policy
- Event Registration Policy
- Membership Policy
- Climbing Teams Policy

(Please see the [Policies page](#) on the USA Climbing website at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).)

In some cases, the rules/policies have been updated from the prior Rulebook (in addition to being migrated out of the Rulebook) including:

- Changes to International Track participation for athletes to compete in gender categories that differ from the sex they were assigned at birth. (See the Transgender Athlete Participation Policy.)
- Changes to National Team Eligibility for Youth athletes. National Team Eligibility for Elite, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing remain the same. (See the National Team Eligibility Policy.)
- Changes to Memberships that are required to register for certain competitions, including the removal of the Introductory Membership for Youth athletes. (See the Membership Policy.)

### Terminology Updates

Terminology has been updated for clarity, accuracy, and IFSC Alignment.

Isolation format is now used where prior Rulebooks may have referred to a format as Onsight or Isolation/Onsight.

In prior years, the Rulebook used the term “scorecard” to refer to the paper card used for both official scoring and queue management at Redpoint competitions. Now, the Rulebook uses the term “Queue Card” for the paper card used for queue management and reserves the term scorecard exclusively for

official scoring purposes if electronic scoring is not used. Thus, with USA Climbing's move to using electronic scoring, competitions typically no longer use a paper scorecard as the official record. However, in exceptional cases (e.g., network outages), USA Climbing may employ paper scorecards. This may involve designating a Queue Card to take on the role of scorecard as well. (Note, at last year's competitions, a Queue Card was often referred to as a 'route card' or 'competitor card'.)

The Boulder format used at the 2023 Youth National Championship Boulder Qualification Round is now referred to as "Rotation Redpoint" format. This format has been used in the Boulder Qualification Round at the Youth World Championships for a few years and has been used at several North American Cup Series Boulder events this year.

### **Glossary Updates**

Attempt Period – clarifies that the Preparation Period (if any) is first, and Climbing Period is second.

Illegal Aid – uses the term emplacement (not placement) for the hole where the T-nut is or is intended to be.

Illegal Aid – clarifies the situation when an object projects past an open edge of the climbing wall.

Use – clarifies that the term handhold only applies to scored holds in Lead/Top Rope.

### **Collegiate Series**

Last year, USA Climbing introduced multiple Categories for each gender. The Categories are now standardized as Intermediate and Advanced. (e.g., Female Intermediate, Female Advanced, Male Intermediate, Male Advanced.) In addition, Collegiate Series Competitions may use additional Categories (e.g., Non-Binary Intermediate and Non-Binary Advanced at Collegiate Qualification Events).

Qualification for the Collegiate National Championship for Lead/Top Rope and Boulder is now via a new nationwide set of Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events; these Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events (CNQEs) replace the Collegiate Divisional Championships. There will be around ten (10) to fifteen (15) CNQEs across the country, located based on the geographic density of Collegiate competitors, making them accessible to more athletes. Collegiate competitors may compete at a CNQE anywhere in the country and are limited to competing at one single CNQE.

The full details of the qualification process from CNQE to the Collegiate National Championship is being developed by USA Climbing and will be communicated when it is finalized.

Qualification for the Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events is achieved by competing in a Collegiate Qualification Event, as it was last year. USA Climbing is exploring the possibility of also recognizing participation in selected collegiate competitions that are not sanctioned by USA Climbing (e.g. a regional collegiate competition series) as a pathway towards qualification to the Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events. The criteria of this pathway are under review by USA Climbing and will be communicated when they are finalized.

### **Paraclimbing Series**

USA Climbing may now define additional Paraclimbing Categories to be utilized at USA Climbing Paraclimbing events in addition to the IFSC Paraclimbing Categories.

### **Lead/Top Rope**

The required consistencies across Categories (number of routes, max attempts, etc.) at Modified Redpoint is clarified.

In the case of tied competitors from the prior round, the start order is randomized.

The requirements for visibility of a timer system and the expectations of demonstration videos are clarified. Cleaning interval limits are updated.

Competitors may not clip from the ground ("rodeo clip") and may not unclip except in defined situations.

### **Boulder**

The required consistencies across Categories (number of boulders, max attempts, etc.) at Modified Redpoint is clarified.



In the case of tied competitors from the prior round, the start order is randomized.

The Rotation Redpoint format is available for Youth and Collegiate QEs, as well as for select rounds of the Collegiate Series.

Downclimb holds are objects that are not part of the boulder in that lane, and downclimb holds are to be identified and described in the Technical meeting and shown as an example on the wall in Isolation in such rounds, so as to not require being marked with red tape.

### **Speed**

For the Youth Speed National Championship, USA Climbing may determine whether to schedule a Semi-Final round or not; if scheduled, the Semi-Final round will occur regardless of the number of competitors that register for or advance from the Qualification round. (If there is no Semi-Final round scheduled, USA Climbing intends to schedule a practice round prior to the Qualification round at the Youth Speed National Championship.) At Nationals, the Youth C competition may use a Knockout format Final round if the lanes/routes are set identically.

For the Knockout Final round at the Youth and Collegiate National Championships, USA Climbing may expand the Knockout Final to 16 competitors from the previous limit of 8 competitors.

Certain advancement rules have been clarified. If the next round is a non-Knockout round and the quota is exceeded due to tied competitors, all such tied competitors advance. The rules clarify that any competitor (except Youth C) who makes a False Start is ineligible to advance to the next round.

As was the case in the prior Rulebook, National Team Ineligible (NTI) competitors are not eligible to advance to a Knockout Format Final round. Note that due to the new National Team Eligibility Policy, some Youth competitors are now National Team Eligible where they may not have been eligible last year.

Lastly, Time Rank is not used in a Category that uses a non-Knockout Final round at the Youth Speed National Championship (e.g., Youth C if Knockout format is not used).

### **Team Championship Competitions**

The calculation for Team Ranking points now properly accounts for the case where teammates are tied and not all of the tied teammates can contribute Team Ranking points (due to the limit on the number of teammates that contribute to the team's points).

In regard to Team Rankings, if teams have the same number of Team Ranking points, the tie is not broken and the teams are ranked equally.

The appeal deadline for Team Championship Competitions is explicitly noted.

### **Other Changes**

In the case of a Start List published before the final "late" registration deadline, insertions of later competitors into a random start order is defined to not impact the wave, session, or relative start order among or for those competitors already on the Start List.

A Yellow Card may be issued to an individual for unsafe use of a laser pointer in any of the competition areas.

While no USA Climbing competition is planned to use the Boulder & Lead Combined Olympic format in the upcoming season, a rule regarding canceling a boulder has been clarified for that format.

There were fixes to various typographical and capitalization errors.

## Order of Rule Precedence

In the event and to the extent any rules contained in this Rulebook 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 rules shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order:

- a) The safety rules in Part 1.
- b) The safety rules in Part 2.
- c) The Event rules in Part 3.
- d) The Discipline rules in Part 2.
- e) The Glossary.

## Glossary

### 1. The following terms shall apply throughout these Rules:

**Including** shall be understood to mean “including without limitation”, and **for example** (or **e.g.**) shall be similarly understood to be not limited to the example(s) given;

**May** references a discretionary matter;

**Shall**, and the alternative **must**, states a mandatory requirement;

**Shall not**, and the alternative **must not**, states a prohibition;

**Should** and **should not** state recommendations; there may be reasons to ignore a recommendation, but the full implications must be understood and the case carefully weighed before choosing a different course;

**They**, **Them**, and **Their** are personal pronouns used in both singular and plural contexts, a grammatical usage commonly accepted and chosen by USA Climbing toward gender identity inclusion; and

**USAC** is USA Climbing.

### 2. The following definitions shall apply throughout these Rules:

**Applicable Standards** has the meaning given in Rule 3.2 of these Rules;

**Appeal Fee** means the amount published by USA Climbing in relation to making in-competition appeals regarding compliance with an interpretation of these Rules;

**Artificial Hold** means a manufactured climbing hold attached to the Climbing Surface or a Structure by means of screws or bolts;

**Attempt Period** means a period of time allowed for a competitor to make attempts on a route or boulder, which first includes any period allowed for the competitor to prepare for their attempt(s) (**Preparation Period**) either in a Call Zone/Transit Zone for Rotation Format or on the field of

play for Climb Time format, and then any period of time allowed for their attempts (**Climbing Period**); in Rotation Format rounds, the **Rotation Period** is the same as the **Attempt Period**;

**Call Zone** means any designated area to which competitors must report prior to commencing their attempt(s) in any round of competition;

**Category** means a group of competitors within one specific Discipline, gender, and age group as set out in Rule 1.4;

**Championship** refers to the highest tier individual event(s) authorized by USA Climbing in each of the Boulder, Combined, Lead/Top Rope, and Speed Disciplines, open to competitors either:

- a) eligible for the Elite Series, in which case the relevant event will be referred to as “National Championships”; or
- b) eligible for the Youth Series, in which case the relevant events will be referred to as “Youth Regional Championship(s)”, “Youth Divisional Championship(s)”, or “Youth National Championship(s)”; or
- c) eligible for the Collegiate Series, in which case the relevant event will be referred to as “Collegiate National Championship(s)”; or
- d) eligible for the Paraclimbing Series, in which case the relevant event will be referred to as “Paraclimbing National Championship(s)”,

and in each case listed on the calendar of events published by USA Climbing;

**Climbing Period** means the maximum period of time allowed for a competitor’s attempt(s) on any route or boulder;

**Climbing Surface** means the usable surface of a climbing wall:

- a) including any permanent irregularity and textured feature on, and closed edge to, the surface; and
- b) excluding all Artificial Holds and other temporary Structures fixed onto the usable surface;

**Competition Area** means that part of the event venue allocated for sporting activities forming part of a competition, including:

- a) any Isolation Zone or Warm-up Area; and
- b) any Call/Transit Zone; and
- c) any Competition Zone, including:
  - i) the Climbing Surfaces used within any round of a competition; and
  - ii) the areas immediately in front of and next to the climbing wall(s), and
  - iii) any other area assigned specifically for the safe and fair conduct of a competition, for example, additional areas needed for video recording or playback;

**Control** means, for the purposes of judging and scoring, that a competitor has made use of an object/structure to achieve or change a stable body position, and the terms “Controls”, “Controlled”, and “Controlling” shall be interpreted in this context;

**Cup or Cup Series** refers to the highest tier annual competition series authorized by USA Climbing in each of the Boulder, Lead, and Speed Disciplines, open to competitors eligible for

the Elite Series, in which case these events will be referred to as “North American Cups”, and in each case listed on the calendar of events published by USA Climbing;

**Discipline** means a specific format for competition climbing which conforms to specific rules and standards;

**Did Not Start** or **DNS** means:

- a) in respect of any specific boulder, route, or race within any round or stage of a competition, that a competitor failed to attempt that boulder, route or race, recorded alternatively as Not Started; and
- b) in respect of any round or stage of a competition, that a competitor:
  - i) where that round of the competition is conducted under Isolation Conditions, failed to report to the Isolation Zone by, or was not present within the Isolation Zone at, the time set out on the Start List for that round; or
  - ii) failed to report to the Call Zone when called for that round or stage; or
  - iii) was otherwise recorded with a Did Not Start Invalid Results Mark (IRM) pursuant to the relevant provisions of Part 2 of these Rules,

and will be recorded as such on the relevant results. Competitors recorded as Did Not Start in any round or stage will not be eligible to compete in any subsequent round or stage of the same competition;

**Disqualified** or **DSQ** means a disqualification from competition for breach of these rules;

**Disqualified for Behavior** or **DQB** means a disqualification from competition for a violation of the World Anti-Doping Code (or, where applicable, the Olympic Charter) or any other serious breach of an applicable regulation issued by USA Climbing or, where relevant, the IOC or a NOC, including but not limited to:

- a) serious unsporting behavior or other serious disturbance; and
- b) abusive, threatening, or violent behavior to any person;

**Electronic Communication Equipment** means any device or object capable of data, voice or other communication, regardless of the operational state (e.g., airplane mode) of said device or object, including without limitation: telephones, smart watches, pagers, walkie-talkies, cameras, personal fitness devices, wireless headphones, etc. USA Climbing rules prohibit or restrict the possession or use of Electronic Communication Equipment in some areas. For the avoidance of doubt, equipment that is not capable of wireless communication and is not connected for wired communication is exempt;

**Event Organizer** means the individual or party responsible for the organization and preparation of any Sanctioned Event;

**Gloves** means any hand-made or manufactured glove, whether or not designed and sold for the purposes of climbing. For the avoidance of doubt, tape applied to the hands by the athlete themselves is not to be considered to be a Glove.

**Head Judging Officials** means individuals in a Jury President or USAC Judge role;

**Illegal Aid** means Controlling or Using any of the following:

- a) with the hands:
  - i) any “T-Nut” emplacement (whether on the Climbing Surface or a Structure) provided for the fixing of Artificial Holds; or
- b) with any part of the body:
  - i) any part of the Climbing Surface, Artificial Hold, or Structure demarcated as out of bounds by the use of continuous black tape, where the area beyond the black tape is out of bounds, but not the black tape itself; or
  - ii) any Artificial Hold or Structure demarcated as out of bounds by the use of continuous red tape, where all Artificial Holds and Structures beyond the red tape are out of bounds, but not the red tape itself; or
  - iii) any advertising or informational placard fixed to the Climbing Surface; or
  - iv) any open edge to the Climbing Surface, unless specifically designated as part of the route/boulder; or
  - v) any bolt hanger fixed to the Climbing Surface; or
  - vi) any Protection Point or the climbing rope; or
  - vii) any portion of an Artificial Hold or Structure that is accessible only due to being mounted past an open edge to the Climbing Surface and/or Structure;

**Invalid Results Mark or IRM** means a non-scoring result, for example: Did Not Start, Disqualified, or Disqualified for Behavior. Competitors assigned an Invalid Results Mark applicable to:

- a) any individual race, boulder, or route within a stage/round (where the relevant stage/round comprises more than one race, boulder, or route) will have no result for that race, boulder, or route; or
- b) any stage/round of competition will be unranked within the applicable stage/round (and, where relevant, the competition);

**Isolation Conditions** means that competitors within any given round of a competition are to make their attempts on any route/boulder in that round with knowledge of the relevant route/boulder, limited to such information:

- a) obtained during any collective observation period for the relevant route/boulder, from the area designated for such collective observation, including such information as may be shared between competitors participating in that collective observation period (and only where such competitors have not yet made their attempts); or
- b) obtained during the competitor’s attempt(s) on the relevant route/boulders;

**Isolation Zone** means a Warm-up Area to which access is controlled and limited as set forth in Rule 3.16;

**Kneepad** means any hand-made or manufactured covering for the knee made from or incorporating rubber or other similar materials, the purpose or effect of which is to provide increased friction or otherwise facilitate the use of kneebars while climbing;

**Legitimate Position** means, for the purposes of Lead/Top Rope competitions, that a competitor in the course of their attempt on a route:

- a) has not used any Illegal Aid; and

- b) has clipped each preceding Protection Point in sequence; and
- c) where the next Protection Point has not yet been clipped, the competitor has not yet reached, or has not made any climbing movement to pass beyond, any Safety Hold designated by the Chief Routesetter;

**National Competition** refers to all National Championship competitions, in any Series, and all Elite Series competitions;

**Official Results** means the results published by USA Climbing at the conclusion of a competition (or any round of that competition), which must be marked as “Official”;

**Original Decision** has the meaning given in Rule 6.3.4 of these Rules;

**Preparation Period** (previously known in Boulder as “transition time”) means a defined period of time during which a competitor may make final preparations ahead of starting their attempt(s) on any route/boulder, though in Boulder Isolation format rounds, the boulder should not be visible to the competitor;

**Provisional Results** (alternatively referred to as Unofficial Results) means any results published or circulated by USA Climbing prior to the publication of the Official Results for any competition, or any route/round within that competition;

**Protection Point** means an assembly comprising:

- a) a Quick-Link connector, connected to a bolt fixed to the load-bearing structure of the Climbing Surface; and
- b) a Carabiner into which a competitor can clip the rope when climbing. The orientation of this carabiner shall minimize the possibility of cross loading; and
- c) a single continuous machine-sewn or cable sling of appropriate length (as determined by the Chief Routesetter) connecting (a) and (b);

**Qualification Event** has the meaning given in Rules 1.6.3 and 1.6.4 and:

- a) YQE refers to a Youth Qualification Event; and
- b) CQE refers to a Collegiate Qualification Event; and
- c) QE refers to both YQE and CQE; and
- d) CNQE refers to a Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event;

**Ranking** means the relationship between a set of results such that, for any two items, the first is either 'ranked higher than', 'ranked lower than' or 'ranked equal to' the second. For the purposes of this Rulebook, 'ranking higher than' means better than and 'ranking lower than' means worse than. All Rankings referred to in these rules are calculated using the *standard ranking* scheme unless stated to the contrary:

- a) Standard ranking means that competitors who compare equally receive the same ranking number, and a gap is left in the ranking numbers. An example is a result that has 1<sup>st</sup> place, then a three-way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, then 5<sup>th</sup> place, then 6<sup>th</sup> place, etc.
- b) Fractional ranking means that competitors who compare equally receive the same ranking number, where that ranking number is the average of the competitors' ordinal ranks, which in turn are distinct sequential ordinal numbers. For example: an untied competitor in 2<sup>nd</sup> has a Fractional ranking of two (2); the competitors in a two-way tie for 5<sup>th</sup> each have a Fractional

ranking of 5.5 (i.e.,  $(5+6)/2$ ); the competitors in a five-way tie for 10<sup>th</sup> each have a Fractional ranking of 12 (i.e.,  $(10+11+12+13+14)/5$ );

**Reaction Time** means the difference between the time at which a competitor leaves the Starting Pad and the commencement of the Starting Signal, measured to at least 1/100s, and may be zero, positive or negative;

**Route Map** (see Topo);

**Safety Hold** has the meaning given in Rule 7.3.1;

**Sanctioned Event** means a U.S. domestic climbing event including competitions in one or more of the Disciplines recognized by USA Climbing and governed by the USA Climbing Rulebook, planned and executed under a Host Agreement between USA Climbing and the host facility, and listed on the calendar on the USA Climbing website at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org);

**Seeding** means the preliminary ranking of a competitor used for the purpose of fixing their position in the initial Start List for a competition;

**Single Rope** means a climbing rope meeting the EN-892 standard;

**Starting Group** means a subdivision of the competitors within a given Category and round of competition, who all compete on the same routes/boulders;

**Start List** means a list of all competitors eligible to start a competition round or subdivision of that round, at the time noted on the document. Each Start List will show:

- a) the relevant Category and round; and
- b) the starting order; and
- c) the name of each competitor; and
- d) if not shown on the published schedule, the time:
  - i) at which the Isolation Zone or any Warm-up Area will be opened and closed; and
  - ii) of any observation or demonstration; and
  - iii) for the start of the round;

**Starting Signal** means a unique tone produced by the automated timing system to indicate the start of a measured climbing time;

**Structure** means any hollow or solid object providing either a single hold or multiple holds for hands or feet and which is attached to the Climbing Surface for the duration of at least one round;

**Technical Incident** means any event or circumstance that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor and which is not the result of that competitor's action(s);

**Tick Mark (Tick)** means a line or other shape of chalk or similar demarcation that is placed to gain a visual advantage regarding the location of a hold or ideal position. Tick Marks placed by a competitor are treated as set out in Rule 8.13.1. Note that Tick Marks placed by a Routesetter are treated differently than Tick Marks placed by a competitor;

**Top Hold** has the meaning given in Rule 8.2.1 of these Rules;

**Topo or Route Map** means a symbolic map of a route, marking the scoring value for each handhold on a route;

**Transit Zone** means a specific area(s) within the Competition Area arranged to permit competitors to prepare for (or recover from) their attempts on a boulder/route. This may be an area behind or next to the climbing wall, or may be a cordoned off area with chairs facing away from any unclimbed route/boulder;

**US Olympic Team** means those U.S. citizens who have qualified for the Sport Climbing event at the next upcoming, or current, Olympic Games, where the athlete qualified for said Olympic Games representing the U.S. U.S. Olympic Team members shall remain members of said Team until the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games.

**USA Climbing's Bylaws** means the current governing bylaws of USA Climbing, including any policy document or other document incorporated therein by reference. Such documents may include the USA Climbing Grievance Policy, USA Climbing Code of Ethics / Conflicts of Interest Policy, and other policies and documents, and are published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website;

**USA Climbing Official** means any official listed in Rule 1.8, appointed by USA Climbing at a relevant Sanctioned Event;

**Use** means, for the purposes of judging and scoring, that a competitor has made use of some object/structure to make both:

- a) a progressive movement of their center of mass or hips; and
- b) a movement of either or both hands toward:
  - i) the next sequential handhold along the line of progression; or
  - ii) any other handhold further along the line of progression that is successfully Controlled by another competitor in the Category from the same handhold during that round,  
(note that the definition of **Topo** restricts the term handhold to only apply to scored holds in Lead/Top Rope)

and the terms "Used", "Uses" and "Using" will be interpreted in this context;

**Valid Appeal** has the meaning given in Rule 6.3.1 of these Rules;

**Valid Results Mark or VRM** means a scoring result;

**Valid Time** has the meaning given in Section 9.16 of these Rules;

**Warm-up Area** means any part of the Competition Area designated and equipped for the purpose of athletic preparation;

**Z-Clip** means a situation where the climbing rope is connected through two Protection Points in reverse sequence.



## Part 1 – General

# 1 USA Climbing

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 USA Climbing is recognized by the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) as the National Governing Body (NGB) for competition climbing in the United States, and is recognized by the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) as the National Federation (NF) for competition climbing in the United States.
- 1.1.2 In carrying out its authority and responsibility, USA Climbing is subject to the applicable requirements of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (as amended) and any applicable requirements of the USOPC.
- 1.1.3 USA Climbing's Bylaws (see Glossary) and other documents that govern the organization's activities are available on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- 1.1.4 USA Climbing hereby incorporates by reference:
  - a) the United States Center for SafeSport policies (<http://www.safesport.org/>); and
  - b) the United States Anti-Doping Agency policies (<https://www.usada.org/>); and
  - c) USA Climbing's Codes of Conduct and other policies provided on the [www.usaclimbing.org](https://usaclimbing.org/about/resources/policies/) website (<https://usaclimbing.org/about/resources/policies/>),  
in their entireties as if the same were reproduced here in this Rulebook.

## 1.2 Executive Tasks

- 1.2.1 For matters concerning the organization of Sanctioned Events, the tasks of USA Climbing include:
  - a) receiving all applications to organize a Sanctioned Event; and
  - b) dealing with all enquiries, both of a general nature and with respect to approved competitions; and
  - c) issuing all official information regarding any Sanctioned Event; and
  - d) issuing all official information to coaches and competitors concerning each Sanctioned Event; and
  - e) managing the registration of memberships, coaching certifications, and competitors; and
  - f) issuing USA Climbing rules, regulations and other notices. Amendments may be published to these documents, which shall be read in conjunction with, and shall take precedence over, the original document. Each amendment shall incorporate a date of entry into force; and
  - g) publishing all official competition results and USA Climbing Rankings; and
  - h) appointing USA Climbing Officials for any Sanctioned Event.
- 1.2.2 For matters concerning the organization of international (IFSC) climbing competitions held within the United States, USA Climbing shall serve as the Event Organizer for the IFSC competition. (Refer to the IFSC Rulebook and IFSC website for more information.)

## 1.3 Competition Series

- 1.3.1 National climbing competitions under these rules include:
- Elite Series; and
  - Youth Series; and
  - Collegiate Series; and
  - Paraclimbing Series; and
  - Recreational Series.
- 1.3.2 All Elite Series competitors shall:
- be sixteen (16) years of age or older on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the National Championship for the relevant Discipline; and
  - compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
  - have an active Competitor Membership.
- 1.3.3 All Youth Series competitors shall:
- be nineteen (19) years of age or younger on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of the Youth National Championship for the relevant Discipline; and
  - compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
  - have an active Competitor Membership.
- 1.3.4 All Collegiate Series competitors shall:
- meet the requirements of a Collegiate Membership as set out in Rule 2.4; and
  - compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
  - have an active Collegiate or Collegiate Recreational Membership.
- 1.3.5 All Paraclimbing Series competitors shall:
- meet the qualifications of at least one Paraclimbing Category defined by way of the Paraclimbing Classification System in Rule 1.4.4; and
  - compete in one of the Categories defined in Rule 1.4; and
  - have an active Paraclimbing Membership.
- 1.3.6 The Recreational Series is open to all competitors with an active Recreational Membership, of any age, although at the discretion of the Event Organizer each competition may provide for categories and/or registration restrictions based on age or other criteria, subject to USA Climbing's Bylaws and Rulebook of USA Climbing.

## 1.4 Categories

1.4.1 Gender category participation in USA Climbing competitions follows the USA Climbing Transgender Athlete Participation Policy, as published on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

1.4.2 Youth competitors are further classified based on year of birth, and compete in male and female age-based Categories:

USA Climbing Youth Categories for Sep 2023 through Aug 2024			
Birth Year	Age Category	(Competition) Category	
		Female	Male
2013 or later	Youth D	Female Youth D (FYD)	Male Youth D (MYD)
2011 or 2012	Youth C	Female Youth C (FYC)	Male Youth C (MYC)
2009 or 2010	Youth B	Female Youth B (FYB)	Male Youth B (MYB)
2007 or 2008	Youth A	Female Youth A (FYA)	Male Youth A (MYA)
2005 or 2006	Junior	Female Junior (FJR)	Male Junior (MJR)

Table 1-1 USA Climbing Youth Categories

1.4.3 Collegiate Series competitions may use alternative Categories as follows:

- Female Intermediate
- Female Advanced
- Male Intermediate
- Male Advanced

Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), Collegiate Series Competitions may use additional Categories (e.g., Non-Binary Intermediate and Non-Binary Advanced at Collegiate Qualification Events).

1.4.4 Paraclimbing Categories are defined by way of a Paraclimbing Classification System set forth as follows:

- a) All athletes must meet the qualifications of at least one classification in the Paraclimbing Classification System unless competing in the Open Category.
- b) USA Climbing will utilize the IFSC Paraclimbing Categories and their classification as set out in the IFSC Paraclimbing Classification Rules.
  - i) The IFSC Paraclimbing Classification Rules used shall be those in force as of the publication of this USA Climbing Rulebook.
  - ii) The IFSC Classification Rules shall be interpreted in the context of USA Climbing competitions (e.g., NF (National Federation) is replaced by Coach/Athlete).
- c) An athlete's need to classify for IFSC Paraclimbing Categories at USA Climbing Paraclimbing events will be determined based on their classification status from the IFSC:
  - i) A Confirmed (C) status means the athlete does not need to classify at Paraclimbing Nationals.
  - ii) A Future Review Date (FRD) means the athlete only needs to be reclassified in the year of their FRD.
- d) In addition to the IFSC Paraclimbing Categories, USA Climbing may establish an additional set of Paraclimbing Categories for which USA Climbing publishes classification rules and which are:
  - i) open to athletes with a physical impairment who meet such classification rules; and
  - ii) subject to the classification and protest processes as defined in such classification rules.

- e) There shall be two (2) classification panels and athletes will be assigned to one of the panels (at the discretion of the Event Organizer) for classification.
  - i) Athletes given a Non-Eligible (NE) designation by the first panel that classifies the athlete will be seen by the other classification panel.
  - ii) If both panels give an NE designation, the athlete is not able to protest.
- f) Protests of classification must be filed within 30 minutes of the end of the athlete's classification appointment concluding.
- g) The Paraclimbing Open Category is open to athletes with a physical impairment who:
  - i) do not request classification; or
  - ii) do not qualify for allocation into a Paraclimbing Category set forth in Rule 1.4.4(b) or Rule 1.4.4(d).

For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete who has a NE designation after the protest process is complete shall be allowed to compete in the Open Category.

- 1.4.5 While all USA Climbing Sanctioned Events must adhere to the categories defined in this Rulebook for all aspects of the competition, from registration to results, a Youth or Collegiate Qualification Series or Recreational Series competition is allowed to also utilize the results in alternate additional categories, provided such categories are not contrary to the rules or policies of USA Climbing. Such alternate categories shall not, in any way, replace the categories defined and used in this Rulebook.

## 1.5 Disciplines

1.5.1 USA Climbing competitions under these rules include the following competition Disciplines:

- a) Lead/Top Rope, in which competitors are ranked based on their progression on one or more routes, where competitors may be secured by clipping into protection points or by a 'top rope', subject to the specific competition rules; and
- b) Boulder, in which competitors are ranked based on the number of boulders completed and their progression on boulders not completed; and
- c) Speed, in which competitors are ranked based on the time needed to climb a standard route, with the exception of Youth-C competitors who climb on a non-standard route; and
- d) Combined, in which competitors are ranked based on a combination of their performances in multiple Disciplines, for example:
  - i) All-around Combined using Lead/Top Rope, Speed, and Boulder; and
  - ii) Boulder & Lead Combined, using Lead/Top Rope and Boulder.

## 1.6 Competitions

- 1.6.1 The dates for USA Climbing Sanctioned Events shall be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- 1.6.2 The Elite Series includes:
- Lead, Boulder, and Speed National Championships; and
  - Lead, Boulder, and Speed National Team Trials; and
  - Select All-Around Combined and Boulder & Lead Combined competitions.
- 1.6.3 The Youth Series includes:
- Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Youth Qualification Series competitions (Youth Qualification Events); and
  - Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Youth Regional Championships; and
  - Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Youth Divisional Championships; and
  - Youth Qualification Speed Trial competitions; and
  - Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed Youth National Championships.
- 1.6.4 The Collegiate Series includes:
- Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Collegiate Qualification Series competitions (Collegiate Qualification Events); and
  - Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events; and
  - Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed Collegiate National Championships.
- 1.6.5 The Paraclimbing Series includes:
- Paraclimbing National Championships.
- 1.6.6 The Recreational Series includes:
- Recreational Series competitions.
- 1.6.7 Each competition shall have equivalent categories for both Male and Female. Category merging in the Paraclimbing series may result in categories merged differently between Male and Female.
- 1.6.8 Subject to Event Organizer discretion and USA Climbing approval, multiple competitions may occur at the same host facility at the same time, in which case competitors in each competition will be scored and ranked separately from competitors in the other competitions.
- 1.6.9 Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), competitions that may be hosted outside the relevant Youth Region, Youth Division, or Collegiate Division include:
- Youth Qualification Series competitions; and
  - Youth Regional Championships; and
  - Youth Divisional Championships.
- 1.6.10 A set of competitions that share a single registration (which may include options for multiple Disciplines) may be considered a single “event”. Typical examples include:
- National Championships, Youth National Championships, Collegiate National Championships, and Paraclimbing National Championships.
  - National Team Trials.
- 1.6.11 The North American Cup Series is a joint venture comprising multiple National Federations and its events are governed by the North American Cup Series Event Manual (“NACS Event Manual”) available in the Elite Series section of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website. Where the NACS Event Manual delegates authority to USA Climbing’s policies and regulations (i.e., events hosted in the United States), this Rulebook shall apply. Where there is a conflict between the NACS Event Manual and this Rulebook, the NACS Event Manual shall take precedence.

## 1.7 International Competition Eligible, National Team, and National Champion

- 1.7.1 The USA Climbing National Team Eligibility Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website sets forth the athlete designations:

- a) International Competition Eligible
- b) National Team Eligible
- c) National Team Ineligible

Note: an athlete may be designated National Team Eligible in the Youth Series and designated National Team Ineligible in the Elite Series. See the National Team Eligibility Policy for details.

- 1.7.2 Within each Series, International Competition Eligible and National Team Eligible athletes are eligible for National Champion status and eligible to set a National Record in Speed.
  - a) The National Champion in each of Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed is the highest ranked competitor at a USA Climbing National Championship that is eligible for that status.
  - b) National Champion status is separate from any National Ranking, and the National Champion in Speed is determined without consideration of Time Rank.
- 1.7.3 USA Climbing welcomes and encourages National Team Ineligible competitors to compete at any and all levels of competition during the season, and such competitors are subject to all USA Climbing Membership and eligibility requirements.
- 1.7.4 In order to encourage competitor participation while still maintaining an equitable system for U.S. competitors to qualify for Regional, Divisional, National Championships and the U.S. National Teams, as set forth in Rule 12.12.1 for the Elite, Youth, and Paraclimbing Series:
  - a) the number of International Competition Eligible competitors who advance to any next competition round and to any next Championship competition is independent of other competitors in the Category; and
  - b) the number of National Team Ineligible competitors eligible to advance between rounds at a competition may be limited.
- 1.7.5 All references in this Rulebook to competitors with Champion status are to be read as follows:
  - a) World Champions and Pan American Champions are those who achieved such status representing the U.S at the most recent relevant World Championship or Pan American Championship (for the avoidance of doubt, a World Champion who achieved such status representing a country other than the U.S. is considered a non-Champion competitor within the scope of this Rulebook); and
  - b) National Champions are those who achieved such status at a USA Climbing National Championship and otherwise satisfy the requirements of this Rulebook and the USA Climbing National Team Eligibility Policy.

Starting with the 2023-2024 Season, no All-Around Combined National Champion or Boulder & Lead National Champion shall be recognized and all “current” such Combined National Champions shall lose the “current” status.

For the avoidance of doubt, where a particular National Championship type was not awarded at the most recent relevant National Championship competition or event, that National Championship type shall no longer be recognized in these Rules, and any individual holding such a title shall no longer be considered a ‘current’ National Champion.



## 1.8 Competition Officials

1.8.1 USA Climbing Competition Officials (Officials) are appointed to fulfill competition management duties to oversee the fair and impartial implementation of the competition rules outlined in this Rulebook. For the purposes of this Rulebook, the term Official shall include any individual appointed by USA Climbing to coordinate competition organization or execution and any individual with discretion to make field-of-play decisions (Rule 1.10.5). USA Climbing may formally appoint primary Officials to each USA Climbing Sanctioned Event, whose roles and responsibilities are outlined below. The primary Officials may appoint or assign secondary Officials to assist in fulfilling their duties.

USA Climbing, via Sport Discretion, reserves the right to replace an Official for cause, including due to unbecoming conduct, impermissible bias, or violations of USA Climbing Bylaws, Rulebook, or Codes of Conduct.

1.8.2 All USA Climbing Competition Officials shall exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to all other Officials, competitors, coaches, staff, volunteers and host facility personnel.

1.8.3 USA Climbing, with the assistance of its staff, Committees, and Working Groups, may develop and maintain Certification and/or endorsement programs for individuals who serve as Competition Officials at USA Climbing competitions.

- a) USA Climbing has developed a training, evaluation, and certification system that provides for Certified Judge levels, and details are found in the Judges section on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- b) USA Climbing has developed a training, evaluation, and certification system that provides Routesetter Certification Levels (i.e., Level 1 through Level 5), with appropriate Lead/Top Rope and Boulder endorsements, and details are found in the Routesetters section on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- c) USA Climbing is developing a competition belaying endorsement system that includes training, supervision, and evaluation along with a competition belaying endorsement system that provides for multiple levels of competition belaying endorsement, and details will be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website when complete.

1.8.4 An individual may serve as more than one Official at any given Competition.

1.8.5 As appropriate, each competition in USA Climbing Sanctioned Event shall have the following Competition Officials:

- a) Event Organizer.
  - i) The Event Organizer is responsible for all USA Climbing-related organizational matters during the running of the competition. They have the authority to oversee that the facilities are in accordance with USA Climbing rules and regulations. In the absence of the Jury President and before the Jury President's arrival at a competition, the Event Organizer acts on the Jury President's behalf in respect of the organization of the competition within the Competition Area.
  - ii) At a National Championship, the Event Organizer is comprised of the USA Climbing staff working in conjunction with the host facility staff.
  - iii) At a Youth Divisional Championship and at a Collegiate competition (with the exception of the Collegiate National Championship), the Event Organizer shall be the Divisional Coordinator (or appointed designee(s)) working in conjunction with the host facility staff. In the absence of a Divisional Coordinator, USA Climbing shall appoint the Event Organizer(s) to work in conjunction with the host facility staff.
  - iv) At a Regional Championship and at a Youth Qualification competition, the Event Organizer is comprised of one or more of the Regional Coordinators working in conjunction with the host facility staff.
- b) Jury President

- i) The Jury President has overall authority within the Competition Area and designated spectator areas. The overall authority of the Jury President covers all aspects of the running of a competition. This authority extends to covering the activities of the media and all persons assigned to the competition by the Event Organizer. The Jury President presides over all meetings of USA Climbing Officials and over organizational and technical meetings with the Event Organizer and competitors and Certified Coaches. The Jury President oversees all aspects of judging the competition and interprets and applies the rules in a fair and consistent manner.
  - ii) Although the Jury President does not normally have a judging role, they may at any time choose to carry out any judging task generally assigned to other judges should they deem that necessary. The Jury President is responsible for briefing all officiating Judges on the application of the USA Climbing Rules before the start of a competition. The Jury President is one of the Head Judging Officials.
  - iii) The Jury President shall preside over any field-of-play Appeals (Rule 1.10.5) by convening an Appeals Jury as set forth in in Rule 6.1.2.
  - iv) At National Competitions, USA Climbing shall appoint the Jury President.  
 At the Divisional and Regional Championships, the Event Organizer shall recommend a Jury President and such recommendation is subject to any relevant certification requirements set by USA Climbing and approval by an individual with Sport Discretion.  
 At Qualification competitions, the Event Organizer shall recommend a Jury President and such recommendation is subject to any relevant certification requirements set by USA Climbing and approval by the Events Management staff.  
 In each instance, approval of a recommendation shall be presumed if the recommendation is not disapproved within fourteen (14) days following receipt of the recommendation.
- c) USAC Judge.
- i) The USAC Judge is appointed by USA Climbing to assist the Jury President in undertaking all aspects of judging a competition. Additional USAC Judges may be appointed for a given competition. USA Climbing may also appoint Aspirant USAC Judges who undergo the final, practical phase of their training program by assisting the USAC Judge in their judging duties.
  - ii) The USAC Judge is responsible for announcing the publication of starting and result lists, appeals, and any important changes to the competition program, and any other duties assigned by the Jury President. The USAC Judge should be a member of the Appeals Jury with the Jury President. The USAC Judge is one of the Head Judging Officials.
  - iii) The USAC Judge is assisted in their judging by Climbing Judges appointed by the Event Organizer.
  - iv) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the USAC Judge. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer and USA Climbing, appoints the USAC Judge, though a USAC Judge might not be appointed for Qualification Competitions.
  - v) If no USAC Judge is appointed, the Jury President shall assume the role of USAC Judge. (Refer to Rule 6.1.2 regarding the Appeals Jury.)
- d) USAC Speed Judge.
- i) The USAC Speed Judge is appointed by USA Climbing to assist the Head Judging Officials in undertaking all aspects of organizing and judging a Speed competition. USA Climbing may also appoint Aspirant USAC Speed Judges who undergo the final, practical phase of their training program by assisting the USAC Speed Judge in their duties.

- ii) The USAC Speed Judge is responsible for announcing the publication of Start Lists and Official Results, appeals, and any important changes to the Speed competition program, and any other duties assigned by the Jury President.
  - iii) The USAC Speed Judge should be a member of the Speed Discipline Appeals Jury with the Jury President.
  - iv) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the USAC Speed Judge. At Qualification Competitions, the Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer and USA Climbing, appoints the USAC Speed Judge.
- e) Climbing Judge (aka Route Judge or Boulder Judge).
  - i) The main role of a Climbing Judge is to judge the performance of the competitors on routes or boulders. The Climbing Judges shall be fully informed of the technical rules and regulations governing competitions, and shall be instructed in their duties by, and work under the direction of, the USAC Judge.
  - ii) Climbing Judges may be Certified Judges. Certified Judges shall be persons holding a USA Climbing Judge Certification with the Discipline-specific endorsement, where the list of Certified Judges (including their levels/endorsements), the certification process, and the certification-level requirements are found on the Judges section on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
  - iii) At National Competitions, USA Climbing recruits and selects the Climbing Judges. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Event Organizer, in consultation with the Jury President and USA Climbing, recruits and selects the Climbing Judges.
- f) Chief Routesetter.
  - i) The Chief Routesetter consults with the members of the routesetting team to plan and coordinate all matters concerning the routesetting and route maintenance, including the design of each route or boulder, the placement of holds and other equipment, and the repair and cleaning of routes or boulders. They are responsible for checking technical standards, which are designed, among other things, for safety, advising the Jury President on all technical matters within the Competition Area, assigning “zone” hold placements, assisting in compiling the Topos for the routes, and advising the judges on the positioning of video cameras and the maximum time allotted for each route or boulder.
  - ii) At National Competitions, USA Climbing appoints the Chief Routesetter and may appoint additional members of the routesetting team. At the Divisional and Regional Championships and at Qualification Competitions, the Regional Coordinator(s) and/or the Event Organizer, in consultation with USA Climbing and subject to the Host Agreement, appoints the Chief Routesetter.
- g) Head Belayer.
  - i) Each USA Climbing National Competition or USA Climbing-hosted international event with a Lead/Top Rope competition shall have a designated Head Belayer who is appointed by USA Climbing; other USA Climbing events shall each have a Head Belayer designated by the Event Organizer and host facility, in consultation with the Jury President and USA Climbing, subject to the Host Agreement. The event may also have a designated Assistant Head Belayer appointed by the Head Belayer.
  - ii) The Head Belayer and Assistant Head Belayer shall be responsible for working with the host facility, Jury President and other competition officials to create an event belay plan that includes assembling an experienced belay team, supervising the belay team, and conducting belaying practices in accordance with the USA Climbing Competition Belaying Handbook found on the USA Climbing [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

- iii) The Head Belayer works with the Head Judging Officials to oversee field-of-play flow, briefing the belaying and judging teams in regards to traffic flow plans for the period that competitors and other individuals are present in the field-of-play as well as safety concerns that may arise during the competition period.
- iv) The Head Belayer is responsible for belayer evaluations and incident reports as warranted.

## 1.9 USA Climbing Staff Official Authority & Discretion

### 1.9.1 USA Climbing CEO Authority & Discretion.

- a) Notwithstanding other rules within this Rulebook, the USA Climbing CEO, in consultation with the Event Organizer and Jury President of the affected competition, has the authority and discretion (“CEO Discretion”) to cancel competitions, modify competition formats, or advance a category or categories of competitors (e.g., either between rounds or to a championship event), in unavoidable circumstances such as in the case of a major weather event impacting a significant number of competitors or in circumstances where an error has occurred that, without the exercise of such discretion, would materially undermine the integrity of a round or the competition, so long as:
  - i) all material changes are communicated in as timely a manner as practicable under the circumstances via means reasonably designed to reach all or substantially all of the affected individuals; and
  - ii) the changes are designed in good faith to impact all or substantially all such similarly-situated competitors similarly to the extent practicable; and
  - iii) no bye or waiver is declared for an individual competitor due to weather, injury, illness, personal hardship or other personal circumstances.
- b) CEO Discretion also rests with any senior employee of USA Climbing so designated by the USA Climbing CEO in a written notification to the Event Organizer and Jury President for the applicable Event.
- c) USA Climbing shall designate that the USA Climbing CEO, or other USA Climbing senior employee designated by the CEO to have CEO Discretion, maintains on-call availability to USA Climbing Competition Officials during each USA Climbing Championship event or Collegiate Nationals Qualification event.
- d) The USA Climbing Rules Committee chair (or designee) shall be consulted in advance if time allows or shall be notified in a timely manner after exercise of CEO Discretion.
- e) The USA Climbing CEO or the CEO’s delegate shall notify the Board of Directors no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting of any exercise of CEO Discretion.
- f) A summary of each exercise of CEO Discretion shall be published in a timely manner on the rules page the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 1.9.2 USA Climbing VP of Sport Authority & Discretion.

- a) Where so granted in this Rulebook, USA Climbing Sport Authority & Discretion (“Sport Discretion”) grants to the USA Climbing CEO or VP of Sport (or equivalent) the authority to select or exercise an option listed in the relevant rule, or to waive or amend the relevant rule to the extent provided by that rule.
- b) The USA Climbing Rules Committee chair (or designee) shall be consulted in advance if time allows or shall be notified in a timely manner after exercise of Sport Discretion.
- c) Where Sport Discretion impacts a below-listed Series of USA Climbing competitors or events, the relevant USA Climbing committee or persons shall be consulted in advance if time allows or shall be notified in a timely manner after exercise of Sport Discretion.
  - i) Where the Series is Elite, the relevant committee is the USA Climbing Athletes’ Advisory Committee.
  - ii) Where the Series is Collegiate, the relevant committee is the Collegiate Committee.
  - iii) Where the Series is Paraclimbing, the relevant committee is the Paraclimbing Committee.
  - iv) Where the Series is Youth, the relevant persons are the National Coordinators.
- d) Upon any exercise of Sport Discretion, the CEO or such person having exercised the authority shall notify the Board of Directors and the Rules Committee within thirty (30) days or no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, whichever occurs first.

- e) A summary of each exercise of Sport Discretion shall be published in a timely manner on the rules page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 1.9.3 USA Climbing IFSC Rules Discretion.

- a) In the event of an IFSC Rulebook or policy change, the USA Climbing CEO has the authority and discretion to enact corresponding Rulebook updates (“IFSC Rules Discretion”), by way of an Addendum or otherwise, in order that USA Climbing competitions may follow such rule or policy changes, either for all competitions or Series, or for select competitions or Series, provided:
  - i) The updates can be shown to be in the interest of USA Climbing; and
  - ii) The updates are agreed to by:
    - A) the USA Climbing CEO; and
    - B) the USA Climbing VP of Sport; and
    - C) the USA Climbing Rules Committee.
- b) The relevant USA Climbing committee and persons to be consulted regarding IFSC Rules Discretion, based on the impacted competitors, are the same as for Sport Discretion.
- c) The USA Climbing CEO or the CEO’s delegate shall notify the Board of Directors no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting of any exercise of IFSC Rules Discretion.
- d) A summary of each exercise of IFSC Rules Discretion shall be published in a timely manner on the rules page of the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## 1.10 Disputes, Grievances, and Other Complaints

- 1.10.1 The procedures set forth under USA Climbing's Bylaws and this Rulebook govern the processing of all disputes, grievances and other complaints. These procedures are intended to facilitate the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of USA Climbing's members and are intended, among other things, to avoid inappropriate direct confrontation between members. Failure to abide by these procedures may constitute intimidation or harassment.
- 1.10.2 The primary processes for resolving disputes occurring on the field of play are set forth in Section 6 (Appeals) and in the Technical Incidents and Appeals section for each discipline in Part 2 – Discipline Rules.
- 1.10.3 Disputes, grievances and other complaints that are not resolved by the procedures outlined in Section 6 (Appeals) or in the Technical Incidents and Appeals section for each Discipline in Part 2 – Discipline Rules may be reviewed by USA Climbing's Judicial Committee. These include, but are not limited to, administrative grievances, right-to-participate complaints, and disciplinary proceedings. Certain matters are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport or the United States Anti-Doping Agency and are not reviewable by the Judicial Committee. For information refer to USA Climbing's Bylaws (which may refer to a USA Climbing Grievance Policy) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- 1.10.4 The Judicial Committee protocol, as set forth under USA Climbing's Bylaws and this Rulebook, provides a process whereby complaints may be submitted to the USA Climbing Judicial Committee.
- a) Complaints shall be submitted via email to [judicial@usaclimbing.org](mailto:judicial@usaclimbing.org), with a copy to [info@usaclimbing.org](mailto:info@usaclimbing.org).
  - b) Complaints shall be written in English.
  - c) There shall be no charge to report a violation of USA Climbing's SafeSport policies or reports of athlete safety violations, and USA Climbing itself shall not incur any complaint fee for bringing its own complaint of any kind before the Judicial Committee.  
All other complaints submitted to the Judicial Committee shall be accompanied by a non-refundable administrative fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), though as set forth in USA Climbing's Bylaws, the complainant may request that the filing fee be reduced or waived for reasons of significant financial hardship.
  - d) All submissions should grant USA Climbing permission to charge the administrative fee to the complainant's credit card on file.
  - e) The administrative fee must be paid or waived prior to the Judicial Committee making a ruling on the matter.
  - f) Complaints pertaining to registration deadlines or issues shall not be heard or considered within ninety-six (96) hours of the start of a Championship competition.
  - g) Complaints that do not follow the Judicial Committee protocol shall be dismissed.



- 1.10.5 Under USAC Climbing's Bylaws the final decision of a referee regarding a "field of play" decision that is within their authority to make is not reviewable by the USA Climbing Judicial Committee unless the decision is the product of fraud, corruption, partiality, or other misconduct of the referee.
- a) For purposes of Rule 1.10.5, the term "referee" shall include any individual with discretion to make "field of play" decisions, including any and all competition judges and officials as set forth in Rules 1.8 and 1.9.
  - b) For purposes of Rule 1.10.5, the term "field of play" shall be defined as any area or areas of the competition venue used by competitors in preparation for, and execution of, the climbing procedures. This includes all climbing walls used for the competition and other areas of a competition venue such as the Isolation and Transit Zones. Any ruling or decision that a competitor or coach wishes to formally challenge, relating to a matter outlined in this Rulebook as within the discretion of a competition referee (refer to Rules 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10.5) shall be considered a "field of play" appeal. This includes, for example, any challenge relating to the physical area(s) prepared for and utilized during the competition (i.e., the venue and climbing walls), the competition format and schedule, the routesetting or specific design of the routes/boulders, judging or scoring of competitors during the competition, and any rulings otherwise made at the discretion of a referee, or in the exercise of CEO Authority & Discretion under Rule 1.9.1 or Sport Authority & Discretion under Rule 1.9.2 if in preparation of or during a competition.
  - c) For the purposes of this Rulebook, the terms "field of play", field of play, and field-of-play shall each be defined as set forth in (b) when the term is used in relation to discretion or authority.
- 1.10.6 A decision concerning a SafeSport rule violation decided by the United States Center for SafeSport shall not be reviewable through, or the subject of, the procedures in this Rulebook. USA Climbing and the United States Center for SafeSport may update policies at any time and the changes are effective when published. Up to date information about the Center and its policies can be found at <http://www.safesport.org>. USA Climbing's Athlete Safety Policies can be found at <https://usacimbing.org/safesport/>.



## **1.11 Team Selection Committee**

1.11.1 The Team Selection Committee roles and responsibilities are set out in the charter and policies for that committee.

## 2 Memberships, Regions, Divisions, and Teams

### 2.1 Membership – General

See the USA Climbing Membership Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.2 Coach Membership and Certification

See the USA Climbing Membership Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.3 Athlete Membership Types

See the USA Climbing Membership Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.4 Collegiate Membership Eligibility

See the USA Climbing Membership Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.5 Competition Eligibility

See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

2.5.1 As outlined in relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), competitors may be subject to eligibility requirements at select competitions.

2.5.2 [removed]

2.5.3 USA Climbing shall grant eligibility status only as outlined in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules) in this Rulebook. Except for CEO Discretion, eligibility shall not be awarded for any other reason, including but not limited to medical injuries/conditions or academic graduation ceremonies.

### 2.6 Competition Registration

See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.7 Youth Membership Regions and Divisions

See the USA Climbing Membership Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.8 Youth Climbing Teams

See the USA Climbing Teams Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.9 Collegiate Membership Divisions

See the USA Climbing Membership Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 2.10 Collegiate Climbing Teams

See the USA Climbing Teams Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## 3 General Rules

### 3.1 Safety

- 3.1.1 Climbing poses the risk of serious injury or death. Competitors, officials, coaches and others participate in climbing competitions at their own risk.
- 3.1.2 The Event Organizer shall be responsible for overseeing safety within the Competition Area and in the public section of the arena, and in relation to all activities connected to the running of any event or competition.
- 3.1.3 A Head Judging Official (Jury President or USAC Judge), in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, shall have the authority to make decisions in respect of any issue of safety within the Competition Area, including declining to give permission to start or continue any part of the competition. Any official or other person deemed by a Head Judging Official to have infringed, admittedly intending to infringe, or being imminently likely to infringe, any safety guideline, rule, or procedure shall be subject to removal from their duties, dismissal from the Competition Area, or both.
- 3.1.4 The Jury President and Chief Routesetter shall perform an inspection to check each route/boulder prior to the start of each round of a competition, for the maintenance of technical standards.
- 3.1.5 Appropriate floor padding, for protection, must be used.
- 3.1.6 Each route/boulder shall be designed so as to avoid the likelihood of a competitor's fall injuring the competitor or injuring or obstructing another competitor or third party.
- 3.1.7 For safety reasons, only competitors, judges, belayers, and other individuals approved by a Head Judging Official are permitted to be in the Competition Area. A Head Judging Official shall instruct all other individuals to leave.
- 3.1.8 A Head Judging Official or Event Organizer will replace Competition officials, including without limitation belayers, exhibiting unsafe or improper practices. A Head Belayer will replace belayers exhibiting unsafe or improper practices.
- 3.1.9 Competition Officials, including without limitation Belayers, may not have any physical contact with a competitor during an attempt.
- 3.1.10 The Climbing Judge may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated (and the highest scored handhold recorded), if the Climbing Judge decides that to proceed further would contravene the regulations regarding the safety of the competitor, another competitor, or another individual in the Competition Area, and may declare a Technical Incident if no other rule addresses the termination of the attempt in the particular circumstance.  
For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, Rule 3.1.10 shall not require a Technical Incident to be declared if Rule 7.7.4(a)(i) applies.
- 3.1.11 All equipment used by a competitor shall comply with equipment manufacturers' guidelines. Use of non-approved equipment or non-approved modification of equipment, including but not limited to harnesses, ropes, etc., may subject the competitor to disciplinary action, in accordance with Section 4.
- 3.1.12 All climbing equipment used, including the tie-in knots in rope climbing competitions shall be inspected and approved by the appropriate Competition Official(s), subject to Rule 3.1.3, for safety and compliance with other USA Climbing regulations before the competitor shall be permitted to proceed with their attempt on the route/boulder.
- 3.1.13 Each competitor shall be entirely and solely responsible for the equipment and clothing they use and wear when competing and at all other times during any competition. The competitor's responsibility extends not only to the existence and use of all articles of clothing and equipment, but also to all aspects of the clothing and equipment's performance and safety, including but not limited to its condition, fit, and suitability.
- 3.1.14 Competitors shall tie in with a figure-8 knot plus a "safety knot."

- 3.1.15 USA Climbing recognizes that some host facilities utilize a pre-tied rope as a method for tying-in. In such a case, it is recommended that a captive-eye, triple-action auto-locking carabiner be used at the tie-in point, or alternatively two opposite-facing auto-locking carabiners be used at the tie-in point, subject to full compliance with both host facility policies and manufacturer specifications.

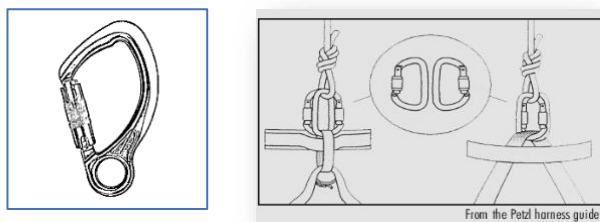


Figure 3-1 Recommended Pre-tied Rope Methods (when using Pre-tied Rope)

- 3.1.16 Lead climbing competitors shall be capable of lead climbing safely and shall, upon request of the host facility, provide documentation or attestation, as outlined by the host facility, of the competitor's lead climbing certification.
- 3.1.17 All competitors shall adhere to the host facility's policies.
- 3.1.18 A competitor is permitted to down-climb at any point during their attempt on a route/boulder as long as they do not violate any rule – safety or otherwise.

## 3.2 Equipment

- 3.2.1 Any technical equipment used in any Sanctioned Event must meet the relevant EN Standard or comparable international equivalent (the "Applicable Standard") unless otherwise specified by USA Climbing. The provider of such equipment is responsible to review that the equipment meets all appropriate Applicable Standards.

## 3.3 Medical

- 3.3.1 The Jury President shall verify that a medical professional is on-site to attend to any accident or injury to a competitor, coach, or Official, if such a medical professional is required in the Host Agreement. Any such medical professional shall be present from the scheduled opening of the Isolation Zone/Warm-up Area until the end of the final attempt of the last competitor in any round of competition.

- 3.3.2 If the Jury President reasonably believes, before or during a competition, a competitor is unfit to compete for any reason, such as injury or illness, or does not meet the conditions contained within any injury or illness attestation agreed to at the time of registration, the Jury President shall stop the competitor from competing. Should there later be evidence that the competitor has recovered and the Jury President believes the competitor is fit to compete, the Jury President shall allow the competitor to compete.

If a medical professional is required by the Host Agreement and is on site at the competition, decisions regarding a competitor's fitness to compete should be delegated to the medical professional, though the Jury President may, in extraordinary circumstances, stop the competitor from competing if the Jury President believes the competitor is unfit to compete, even if such a belief is contrary to the medical professional's opinion.

For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor shall not receive extra time for the period of time in which they were declared unfit to compete.

- 3.3.3 If a competitor is bleeding, they shall not be allowed to compete so long as a white cloth (e.g., handkerchief) or gauze applied to the wound (after having put tape on it) shows any sign of blood, so as to reduce the probability of the competitor leaving blood on the holds or wall.

The Event Organizer, in conjunction with the Jury President, shall have plans to provide assistance to a Youth D or Youth C competitor to stop the bleeding.

- 3.3.4 Under no circumstances shall special provisions be granted prior to an attempt at the request of any competitor, e.g., descent to the ground from the top of a boulder by a ladder because of an injury, except those accommodations requested and granted using the protocol set forth in Rule 3.12.
- 3.3.5 In the event that USA Climbing publishes a set of policy and practice rules related to injury, sickness, or disease, for application at Sanctioned Events, the Jury President, USAC Judge, and Event Organizer shall have the authority to enforce such rules, including without limitation: denying entrance, denying eligibility to compete, and ordering the removal of any individual from the host facility.

### 3.4 The Competition Area

- 3.4.1 The Competition Area must be demarcated from any area open to the public.
- 3.4.2 In an Isolation competition round, no competitor or Certified Coach is permitted to carry or use any Electronic Communication Equipment (see Glossary) while in the Competition Area unless the Jury President has permitted such equipment in advance in writing.

### 3.5 Access to the Competition Area

- 3.5.1 Only the persons specified below shall be permitted to enter the Competition Area:
- USA Climbing Officials; and
  - Event Organizer's officials; and
  - competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition; and
  - USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coaches (the Isolation Zone/Warm-Up area only); and
  - other persons specifically authorized by a Head Judging Official. Such persons shall, throughout their stay in the Competition Area, be escorted and supervised by an approved official to oversee the maintenance of security of the Competition Area and prevent any undue distraction of, or interference with, any competitor.
- 3.5.2 Animals are not allowed in the Competition Area. Exceptions from this rule can be authorized in advance in writing by the Jury President.

### 3.6 Clothing and Equipment

- 3.6.1 All technical equipment used by a competitor shall comply with the relevant rules in Section 3.1 and all relevant Applicable Standards.
- 3.6.2 A competitor must wear a top, bottoms, climbing shoes and (where relevant) a harness during their attempts. If competing in the B1 Paraclimbing category (i.e., equivalent to an IFSC category that requires a blindfold), a competitor must wear a blindfold provided by the Event Organizers or, where not provided by the Event Organizers, as required individual equipment.
- Note if the relevant officials (e.g., Jury President) are unable to sufficiently inspect a harness (e.g., a harness that is integrated into clothing) a Head Judging Official may determine that they are unable to evaluate the harness's level of safety and therefore disallow the harness under the Safety rules in Rule 3.1 and Rule 7.3.3.
- 3.6.3 Subject to Rule 3.1.17, a competitor may use:
- a chalk bag and commercially available dry or liquid climbing chalk for their hands. No other performance enhancing agents may be used (e.g., resin/rosin); or
  - elasticated compression bandages/wraps (for arms/legs); or
  - kinesiology and similar tape where necessary for the prevention or management of injury; or
  - a climbing helmet.
- 3.6.4 A competitor must not wear, use, or carry audio equipment when climbing, unless authorized in advance in writing by the Jury President (e.g., a Visually Impaired competitor in a Paraclimbing Competition).

- 3.6.5 A competitor must not wear or use Gloves or Kneepads other than specifically permitted by these rules, e.g., Rule 9.6.1.
- 3.6.6 If provided by the Event Organizer, an alphanumeric bib shall be displayed prominently on the back of the competitor's top. The Event Organizer may provide additional bibs to be placed on competitors' trouser leg.

### 3.7 Team Uniforms

- 3.7.1 Competitors representing a Climbing Team shall, when climbing, wear a distinctive team uniform:
  - a) which shall include a uniform top (which may be long sleeved, short sleeved or a tank) in the Climbing Team sporting colors or of similarly distinct design/colors. Such tops may also bear the logo of the Climbing Team; and
  - b) the colors and designs of the team uniform should be the same for all Team Members within each round of a competition; however, the apparel styles may be different; and
  - c) verification of team uniform rule adherence is at the discretion of the Jury President, any such verification must check all athletes similarly (e.g., when the athlete transits from Isolation to the Competition Area), and such checking shall not be subject to appeal.

### 3.8 Advertising

- 3.8.1 In USA Climbing Championship and National competitions except for North American Cup Series competitions (which are governed by separate rules), all equipment and clothing shall be in compliance with the following advertising rules:
  - a) Headwear: The manufacturers and/or sponsors' label in the total size limit of eighteen (18) square centimeters (~2.8 square inches);
  - b) Team Tops/Legwear: Sponsors' labels – no larger than three-hundred (300) square centimeters (~46.5 square inches) in total. A graphic or figurative logo of the manufacturer (not including name or any text) may also be used as a decorative "design mark" once or repeatedly as a strip not exceeding five (5) cm (~2 inches) in width. Design marks may be displayed in one of the following positions, provided such use does not dominate or unduly detract from the appearance of the garment:
    - i) across the bottom of the sleeves; or
    - ii) on the outer seam of the sleeves; or
    - iii) down the outer seams of the garment.
  - c) Chalk bag: The manufacturer's name and/or logo and sponsors' labels – no larger than one-hundred (100) square centimeters (~15.5 square inches) in total;
  - d) Shoes and socks: Only the manufacturer's name and/or logo.
  - e) Any advertising name or logo placed directly on a competitor's body, e.g., a visible tattoo, shall be counted within the size limits specified for the respective part of the body above.

Note: Youth Climbing Team names and Collegiate Climbing Team names are not subject to advertising size rules.

### 3.9 Rankings and Records

- 3.9.1 USA Climbing maintains and publishes all of the following:
  - a) Youth Qualification Series Rankings (and Ranking Points) for each Category, relevant Discipline, and Youth Region, calculated in accordance with the relevant section of these Rules.
  - b) Youth Qualification Speed Trial results and resultant Speed Youth National Championship eligibility lists.
  - c) National Records for the Speed Discipline as set out in Rule 9.5.

### 3.10 Wall maintenance

- 3.10.1 The Chief Routesetter shall verify that an experienced maintenance team is available throughout each round of competition in order to perform any maintenance or repairs ordered by a Head Judging Official in an efficient and safe manner. Safety procedures shall be strictly enforced.
- 3.10.2 On the instruction of a Head Judging Official, the Chief Routesetter shall immediately arrange for any repair work. On completion of a repair, it shall be inspected by the Chief Routesetter who shall advise the Jury President whether the repair results in any unfair advantage or disadvantage to subsequent competitors. The decision of the Jury President to continue, or to stop and re-start, that round of the competition shall be final, and no appeal shall be accepted in respect of this decision.

### 3.11 Team Competitions

- 3.11.1 At Youth and Collegiate Championship competitions, Team Championship awards shall be awarded for each individual Discipline (Boulder, Lead/Top Rope, and Speed).
- 3.11.2 At the Collegiate National Championship and at the Youth National Championship, an Overall Team Championship shall be awarded.
- 3.11.3 To be eligible for the Team Championships, a team must meet the requirements of a Climbing Team and all team members must meet the requirements of an eligible member of the team in order to be considered eligible for team ranking points for that team, where:
- a) the rules for a Youth Climbing Team and its eligible members are set out in USA Climbing's Climbing Team Policy; and
  - b) the rules for a Collegiate Climbing Team and its eligible members are set out in USA Climbing's Climbing Team Policy.
- 3.11.4 For each individual Discipline Team Championship, team ranking points shall be calculated for the Discipline for each team by summing the team ranking points awarded to select team member competitors, where:
- a) at a Youth Championship competition, only the team's one (1) highest ranked eligible team member competitor in the Discipline in each category shall be awarded team ranking points; and
  - b) at a Collegiate Championship competition, the team's three (3) highest ranked eligible team member competitors in the Discipline in each Category shall be awarded team ranking points; and
  - c) such highest ranked eligible team members are awarded team ranking points based on their General rank, using the table in Rule 13.1.1.
- 3.11.5 For Overall Team Championships, team ranking points shall be calculated for each team by summing the team's team ranking points in all individual Disciplines for the relevant season.
- 3.11.6 Team ranking points are *not* carried over from one Championship event to the next; i.e., from the Regional Championship to the Divisional Championship or from the Divisional Championship to the National Championship.
- 3.11.7 Team Championships rankings are calculated for each individual Discipline Team Championships and the Overall Team Championships as follows:
- a) In the case of a tie that includes competitors who are members of same team where:
    - i) one (1) or more such members are eligible to be awarded team ranking points; and
    - ii) one (1) or more such members are not eligible to be awarded team ranking points,the team ranking points awarded to such members who are so eligible is determined as if the tie was smaller by the number of competitors who cannot contribute to team points.  
For the avoidance of doubt:
    - when calculating the points for a given team X, remove from ties all members of that team X who are not eligible to be awarded team ranking points;
    - when calculating points for other teams, do not remove from ties any members of

that team X.

- b) Teams are ranked in descending order of team ranking points:
  - i) where the team with the greatest number of team ranking points shall be ranked in first (1<sup>st</sup>) place; and
  - ii) where teams that have the same number of team ranking points shall be ranked equally.

3.11.8 The appeal deadline for the Team Championship rankings is at the same time as the final appeal deadline for scoring and ranking of competitors.

### 3.12 Accommodations

3.12.1 USA Climbing encourages the participation of competitors with disabilities.

- a) The Paraclimbing Series is open to eligible competitors with a disability that results in physical impairment.

The eligibility requirements for competitors in the Paraclimbing Series are set forth in Rule 1.3.5, and Rule 1.4.4 sets forth further information regarding the Paraclimbing Series, the Paraclimbing Classification system and requirements, and Paraclimbing competitions.

- b) The Elite, Youth, Collegiate, and Recreational Series competitions are open to competitors regardless of ability, and competitors with disabilities may request accommodations as set out in Rule 3.12.2.

3.12.2 Any individual desiring an accommodation (due to, for example, color-blindness, Type-1 Diabetes, serious allergies, neurodivergence, physical disorders or disabilities that require a Competitor Aide, etc.) must submit a request as directed in the USA Climbing Accommodations Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website. If USA Climbing grants (an) accommodation(s), the Jury President shall have the authority to implement such accommodations, including where such accommodations are in conflict with the rules.



### 3.13 Host Facility Preparation and Routesetting

3.13.1 Host facilities shall set new routes/boulders for a competition, though, subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), a Collegiate Qualification Event may include routes/boulders that are not newly set for the competition(s). Such an exception must be published on the event's Info Sheet.

Any person (e.g., competitor, coach, spectator, host facility staff) aware that the competition includes routes/boulders that are not newly set for the competition shall notify the Jury President immediately upon discovery unless the reuse of routes/boulders was published in the event's Info Sheet. The Jury President will contact USA Climbing and USA Climbing, via Sport Discretion, shall eliminate those routes/boulders from the competition, disqualify all competitors who had prior knowledge of the routes/boulders but failed to inform USA Climbing, or adjust scores.

If the Jury President is not made aware of such a situation prior to the completion of the competition, the results will not be adjusted.

3.13.2 The Routesetting Period shall include boulder/route discussions among or between routesetters and the Jury President as well as the period that starts with holds being adhered to the wall and ends with the start of the competition.

Note: while the Routesetting Period does not include wall/hold preparation ("wall stripping" / "hold washing"), the Event Organizer should recognize any advantage to potential competitors who may witness which walls are likely to be used for a competition, and should consider publishing such information unless it is reasonable to believe that the walls to be used are obvious.

3.13.3 For a competition with multiple sessions, the schedule should indicate the allowed entrance time for competitors if not otherwise defined in the General or Discipline rules. For example, the allowed entrance for a competitor in the second session of a Modified Redpoint format competition may be in the first session check-in or may be in the second session check-in; whichever is in force should be published.

3.13.4 During the Routesetting Period, and until the allowed entry of the individual, the following entrance rules shall be in force:

a) The following rules shall apply to the indicated competitions:

Competition	Rule(s)
National Competitions	No potential competitor or representative of a potential competitor shall enter or view into the competition's host facility, except as explicitly allowed by USA Climbing.
Non-National Championship Competitions Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events	No potential competitor or representative of a potential competitor shall enter or view into the competition's host facility.
QEs – Isolation	No potential competitor shall enter or view into the competition's Competition Area
QEs – Flash	No potential competitor shall touch/contact any climbing surface or hold designated for competition use.  The host facility should make efforts to prevent potential competitors from viewing the competition's routes/boulders.
QEs – Redpoint (Modified or Classic)	No potential competitor shall touch/contact any climbing surface or hold designated for competition use.  The host facility should make efforts to prevent potential competitors from viewing the competition's routes/boulders, or the

	Jury President must publish photos of the routes/boulders no later than midnight (local time) prior to the competition start.
All others	No potential competitor shall touch/contact any climbing surface or hold designated for competition use.

Table 3-1 Host Facility Entrance Rules during Routesetting Period

- b) In cases where potential competitors may view the routes/boulders:
  - i) Setting and forerunning should be performed at times when potential competitors are not present or cannot view the routes/boulders; and
  - ii) the climbing surface and holds to be used in the competition must be visibly designated as for use in the competition; and
  - iii) route/boulder identification (e.g., wall placards) must not be visible until the allowed entry of the competitors.
- c) Failure to comply with these rules may result in competitor and/or coach disqualification from the competition, disciplinary action including revocation of membership for individuals involved, and/or the loss of USA Climbing Sanctioning for the event.
- d) Exceptions may be granted by USA Climbing in response to a written proposal by the host facility that should be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the event, detailing the nature, extent, and justification for relevant alternative Rule 3.13.2 entrance policies and procedure.
- e) The Jury President has the discretion to grant an entrance waiver for any USAC Judge or Regional/Divisional Coordinator who is a member of the competition organizing team; the Jury President must inform USA Climbing of all such granted waivers. The waiver may be limited by time and location.
- f) A “representative” of a potential competitor includes: coach, parent, sibling, teammate, etc.

- 3.13.5 At all levels of competitions, a Routesetter or forerunner:
- a) must have an active USA Climbing Routesetter Membership; and
  - b) prior to the competition start, must not discuss any aspect of the routes/boulders or the routesetting process with anyone other than the routesetting team or the Head Judging Officials (e.g., with coaches, competitors, or others), so as not to provide an advantage to a competitor or create an objective appearance of impropriety; and
  - c) at the competition, may discuss details of a route/boulder with, as relevant, belayers and Climbing Judges assigned to that route/boulder; and
  - d) must not compete in the competitions for which they are working as a Routesetter or forerunner.
- 3.13.6 A Coach working as a Routesetter or forerunner shall be subject to the following:

Restriction(s)	National Competition or Youth Divisional Championship	Youth Regional Championship or Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event	(All other competitions)
A Chief Routesetter shall not engage in any coaching activities during the routesetting period for that competition or during the competition itself; or	Y	Y	Y
A Routesetter or forerunner shall not be allowed to enter the competition's Isolation Zone, regardless of Certified Coach status	Y	Y	N
A Routesetter or forerunner shall not engage in any coaching activities during the routesetting period for that competition or during the competition itself	Y	N	N

Table 3-2 Coach / Routesetter Role Restrictions

Note: in the table above, "Y" indicates that the restriction applies to the event type.

- 3.13.7 The above rules in Section 3.13 shall not apply to the standard Speed route.
- 3.13.8 At National Competitions, the use of red tape to demarcate an out of bounds area shall not be allowed.

### 3.14 **Section Removed (was Conduct)**

This section contained conduct and disciplinary rules. Those rules are now contained in Section 4 and the Discipline rules, as relevant.

### 3.15 Technical Meeting

3.15.1 A technical meeting shall be held prior to the start of the competition, and is open to all registered competitors and USA Climbing Certified Coaches, to the extent possible based on the host facility accommodations. The purpose of the technical meeting is to:

- a) confirm the competition schedule and any changes from the information published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website; and
  - b) identify any specific information related to the application of these Rules in the competition, e.g.:
    - i) alternative procedures for notifying a Head Judging Official of a Technical Incident (e.g., notifying a Climbing Judge who will then notify a Head Judging Official); and
    - ii) allowed contact with a Climbing Judge for coaches and/or spectators (in spite of Rule 4.5.2(n)); and
    - iii) for competitions with non-Isolation format rounds, select boulder/route markings (e.g., down-climb holds);
- and
- c) communicate any logistics information not available on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

3.15.2 The Jury President shall conduct the Technical Meeting, and at their discretion may conduct it as:

- a) an in-person meeting to include only Certified Coaches, that is to be recorded and published; or
- b) an online meeting via a virtual “town hall” service that is to be recorded and published, and where the Event Organizer may arrange for all Certified Coaches to be able to attend in-person; or
- c) an in-person meeting:
  - i) for an Isolation format round, in isolation, after competitor check-in has closed; or
  - ii) otherwise, in an area accessible to all relevant competitors (and coaches) and at a published time prior to the start of the session,

where any Technical Meeting recording is to be published on a relevant page on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website immediately after the meeting.

### 3.16 Isolation

3.16.1 Access to the Isolation Zone is limited to:

- a) USA Climbing officials and specifically authorized volunteers; and
- b) Event Organizer officials; and
- c) competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition; and
- d) USA Climbing Level 2 Certified Coaches (The Jury President may, at their discretion, limit the number of team coaches for each team allowed to enter isolation); and
- e) other persons specifically authorized by a Head Judging Official. Such persons shall, throughout their stay in the Isolation Zone, be escorted and supervised by an approved official to oversee the maintenance of security of the Isolation Zone and prevent any undue distraction of, or interference with, any competitor.

3.16.2 Competitors eligible to compete in an Isolation Format round of a competition must report to the Isolation Zone by the time stated on the Official Start List for that round. Competitors who have not reported to the Isolation Zone or who are not present in the Isolation Zone at such time will not be eligible to start the round, though in exceptional circumstances the required report time may be delayed at the discretion of the Jury President after consultation with any individual with Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2).

3.16.3 Competitors, coaches, and other individuals permitted to enter the Isolation Zone shall remain under isolation conditions throughout their stay in the Competition Area, including the Call Zones

and Competition Zones, and are not allowed to communicate with persons outside the Competition Area, unless specifically authorized to do so by a Head Judging Official. Failure to observe this Rule by any competitor shall result in the disqualification of the competitor, unless a Head Judging Official determines the offense to be incidental, in which case an unofficial warning or Yellow Card may be issued.

- 3.16.4 Competitors and coaches may not re-enter the Isolation Zone once they have left it, except when:
- a) with the authorization of a Head Judging Official, they have been escorted out of and back into the Isolation Zone by an official escort who will oversee that no communication occurs with individuals outside of the Isolation Zone; or
  - b) in the case of coaches re-entering the Isolation Zone, the Jury President deems the routes/boulders have been sufficiently altered, via routesetting not viewable by the coaches, that any knowledge of the previous routes/boulders would provide no reasonable advantage to a competitor.
- 3.16.5 Coaches in isolation and while in attendance at the event are subject to the same rules and regulations as competitors.
- 3.16.6 Electronic Communication Equipment (see Glossary) is not allowed in the Isolation Zone.
- 3.16.7 An official clock should be displayed at the isolation check-in area.
- 3.16.8 Isolation check in times must be scheduled so that competitors checking in to isolation for a later session or round are not able to interact with competitors already in isolation for a prior session or round.
- For the avoidance of doubt, if a later session/round isolation check in time must, for scheduling purposes, be prior to all competitors in a prior session/round exiting isolation, then separate areas must be established within the Isolation Area so that competitors with different check in times do not interact.
- Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), this rule may be waived due to particular circumstances with event scheduling or host facility capabilities.
- 3.16.9 After having received an official instruction to leave the Isolation Zone and proceed to the Call Zone, competitors shall not be accompanied by any person other than authorized officials, subject to pre-approved accommodations provided for elsewhere in this Rulebook.
- 3.16.10 Animals shall not be allowed in the Isolation Zone.

### 3.17 Start Lists

- 3.17.1 For the Qualification Round, the Start Lists shall be published no later than sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the Qualification Round.
- 3.17.2 For each subsequent round, the Start Lists should be published when the Official Results of the prior round have been published and are no longer subject to an Appeal, and shall be published no later than sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the respective round of competition.
- 3.17.3 Start Lists should be published:
- a) for National Competitions, Championship competitions, and Qualification competitions, on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website; and
  - b) for all other competitions, either:
    - i) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website; or
    - ii) on an event website, where a link to the event website is on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.
- 3.17.4 If a competitor does not start a competition round due to failing to report to the Isolation Zone by the published closing time or to the Call Zone when called and is disqualified as set forth in Rule 3.16.2, the competitor will be marked on the Official Startling List for the relevant competition round as “DNS”.

3.17.5 A provisional Start List may be published after a registration deadline for the competition, even if rules and/or policies may allow later registrants. Competitors not on the published provisional Start List who register later should be randomly inserted into the Start Order in such a way that their insertion does not change the wave assignment, session assignment, or the relative start order on any boulder/route for competitors listed on that provisional Start List.

### 3.18 Results

3.18.1 For each Category at a competition:

a) for each round:

- i) Provisional Results should be displayed during the course of each round; and
- ii) Official Results approved by a Head Judging Official will be published as soon as possible following completion of the round; and

b) following the completion of all rounds of the relevant competition, a General Result will be published showing the final ranking and results within each round for all competitors.

3.18.2 Results should be published as set forth for Start Lists in Rule 3.17.3.

### 3.19 Super-Final Rounds

- 3.19.1 A Super-Final Round shall only be used for competitions that explicitly allow the use of a Super-Final Round in the relevant Section of Part 3 - Event Rules.
- 3.19.2 Where a competition's Event Rules require a Super-Final Round among a selected set of competitors, the Super-Final Round shall be organized as follows:
- The Final Round Format and Procedures shall be used. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes, as relevant, the ranking procedures set forth in Rule 7.12.3(c)(ii) or Rule 8.14.3(a)(ii).
  - The starting order between such competitors shall be their relative starting order from the Final Round.
  - If the discipline is Boulder, there shall be between one (1) and four (4) boulders, inclusive, in the Super-Final Round, at the discretion of the Jury President in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and Event Organizer.
  - If the discipline is Lead/Top Rope, there shall be one (1) route in the Super-Final Round.
  - The Jury President and the Chief Routesetter shall determine (and route set as appropriate) the Super-Final Round route/boulder(s).
  - The result of the Super-Final Round shall be used to order such competitors in the General Ranking.
- 3.19.3 Where a competition's Event Rules require a Super-Final Round among more than one set of tied competitors, each set of tied competitors will have an independent Super-Final Round. For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, if the Event Rules require a Super-Final for a two-way tie for first (1<sup>st</sup>) and a two-way tie for third (3<sup>rd</sup>), there will be two independent Super-Final Rounds, one for each tie.

### 3.20 Climbing Judges

- 3.20.1 A Head Judging Official, prior to the start of a round of competition, may instruct the Climbing Judge to provide rules and instructions regarding a route/boulder to all competitors, prior to their first attempt, on that particular route/boulder.
- 3.20.2 Once a competitor has been given any final instructions by the Climbing Judge and has acknowledged their readiness to start, no further instructions or information may be given to the competitor, except a competitor:
- may request and receive clarification from the Climbing Judge concerning usability of a hold or Climbing Surface; and
  - may request and receive information concerning how the Climbing Judge scored the competitor; and
  - should be informed by the Climbing Judge of which rule resulted in the Climbing Judge terminating the competitor's attempt.
- 3.20.3 Each attempt of a route/boulder shall be recorded in the official electronic scoring module, or if electronic scoring is not used, noted on the competitor's scorecard.
- 3.20.4 A competitor shall not be judged solely by their parent, sibling, significant other, or spouse. If a parent, sibling, significant other, or spouse is judging a route that their child, sibling, significant other, or spouse is climbing, another judge must also observe the attempt and sign off on the scorecard or approve the electronic score entry, as relevant.

### 3.21 All-Around and Boulder & Lead Combined Ranking

- 3.21.1 Where an All-Around Combined Ranking uses the competition's General Ranking from the Boulder, Lead/Top Rope, and Speed Disciplines, or a Boulder & Lead Combined Ranking uses the competition's General Ranking from the Boulder and Lead/Top Rope Disciplines:
- only competitors that are in the General Rankings in all relevant Disciplines are eligible to be ranked in the combined ranking; and



- b) for each of the relevant Disciplines, each eligible competitor from (a) shall be awarded Discipline ranking values equal to their Fractional ranking among only eligible competitors in the Discipline; and
- c) each eligible competitor shall be awarded a combined ranking value equal to the result of multiplying the Discipline ranking values for the relevant Disciplines; and
- d) each eligible competitor shall be ranked by combined ranking value, ordered lowest combined ranking value first, where for any competitors with an equal combined ranking value:
  - i) the competitor with a better head-to-head performance shall be ranked higher (better), e.g., if competitor A is ranked ahead of competitor B in two of three Disciplines, competitor A will be ranked better; and
  - ii) should the test in (i) not result in a unique ranking for the competitors, the ranking will first be determined by the best ranking in any Discipline, and the number of Disciplines with that ranking, then the second (2nd) best ranking in any Discipline, and the number of Disciplines with that ranking, and so on.

For the avoidance of doubt, all competitors in a Discipline's competition are in the General Ranking for that Discipline's competition, unless their result is marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

## 4 Disciplinary Procedures

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Disciplinary procedures, including but not limited to those involving possible disqualification, are subject to and shall be in accordance with USA Climbing's SafeSport Policies and shall be subject to the due process protections afforded under USA Climbing's Bylaws.
- 4.1.2 The Jury President has the overall authority over all activities and decisions affecting competition activities within the Competition Area and areas designated for spectators.
- 4.1.3 A Head Judging Official (i.e., both the Jury President and the USAC Judge) shall be authorized to take the following actions in respect of infringements of these rules and with regard to matters of discipline by a competitor or coach at a competition:
- a) an informal, verbal warning;
  - b) an official warning accompanied by the issuance of a Yellow Card.
- An individual may be issued an official warning for the same or similar infraction for which they were earlier issued an informal warning.
- 4.1.4 The Jury President shall be authorized to take the following actions in respect of infringements of these rules and with regard to matters of discipline by a competitor or coach:
- a) Disqualification of a competitor or coach from the event, accompanied by the issuance of a Red Card; and/or
  - b) dismissal from the host facility for the remaining duration of the event.
- 4.1.5 At the earliest convenient time after issuing a Yellow or Red Card, or the determination of dismissal, the Jury President shall:
- a) provide to the person(s) concerned a witnessed verbal statement with:
    - i) a description and circumstances of the offense; and
    - ii) notice that the Jury President will inform USA Climbing of the Yellow or Red Card or dismissal; and
  - b) submit to USA Climbing a written statement together with a report of the offense against the rules, any evidence, and any recommendations regarding consideration of additional sanctions.
- For the avoidance of doubt, the Yellow or Red Card shall be considered issued at the time when the relevant Head Judging Official decides to issue the card; the competitor is typically notified after such issuance, though the notification should be made in a timely manner.
- 4.1.6 Persons other than competitors and coaches (e.g., spectators, family members, staff, and others) shall be held, as relevant, to the same discipline and conduct standards as competitors and coaches for any infringement and subject to the appropriate sanctions (including the reporting to USA Climbing as set out in Rule 4.1.5) with the difference that:
- a) an official warning is issued in lieu of a Yellow Card; and
  - b) dismissal from the facility is in lieu of a Red Card; and
  - c) the sanctions may be issued by a Head Judging Official, the Event Organizer, or USA Climbing.
- 4.1.7 USA Climbing, via Sport Discretion, shall be authorized to discipline a USA Climbing member for infractions both inside and outside the authority of the Jury President, where such discipline includes, without limitation:
- a) the Disqualification of a competitor or coach; and/or
  - b) dismissal from the host facility of any individual; and/or
  - c) revocation of USA Climbing membership,
- and such discipline may apply to:
- d) the current competition; and/or
  - e) one or more future competitions,

all subject to the due process protections afforded under USA Climbing's Bylaws.

- 4.1.8 The Chief Executive Officer and/or the Board of Directors of USA Climbing shall review all Red Card and Yellow Card violations, all official warnings, and all dismissals of individuals from a host facility, where such review may, subject to the due process protections afforded under USA Climbing's Bylaws, result in sanctions that include, without limitation, the revocation of the relevant individuals' memberships in USA Climbing for however long as deemed appropriate. In this instance, no membership or entry fee refunds are given.

## 4.2 Codes of Conduct

- 4.2.1 All USA Climbing Members are subject to discipline for violations of the Code of Ethics (Section 18.1 of USA Climbing's Bylaws) or infractions relative to one of the relevant Codes of Conduct, including but not limited to:
- a) the Athletes Code of Conduct, for Athlete Members; and
  - b) the Coaches Code of Conduct, for Coach Members; and
  - c) the Routesetters Code of Conduct, for Routesetting Members; and
  - d) the Judges Code of Conduct, for Judge Members.
- 4.2.2 All individuals at a USA Climbing competition shall exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to other individuals and shall not engage in harassment or discrimination towards other individuals, where such individuals include, without limitation, competitors, coaches, event officials, volunteers, staff, host facility personnel, and spectators.
- Such respectful and appropriate behavior shall be exhibited in all public settings, physical and virtual, including but not limited to the host facility and social media, whether before, during, or after the competition. Note that USA Climbing's authority (Rule 4.1.7) includes areas that are outside the areas of Jury President's authority (Rule 4.1.2).
- 4.2.3 In the interest of fairness and good sportsmanship:
- a) any competitor who knowingly receives a higher score than they are entitled to must immediately notify USA Climbing officials of the scoring discrepancy; and
  - b) a competitor or coach must immediately report to an Isolation monitor or a Head Judging Official any Isolation violation of any kind that they witness, including but not limited to cheating, inappropriate language, threatening behavior, or unsafe conduct.
- 4.2.4 A USA Climbing Member violating the Code of Ethics (Section 18.1 of USA Climbing's Bylaws) or any of the rules agreed to in their relevant Code(s) of Conduct, even where such a violation occurs outside of the Competition Area but in connection with activities related to USA Climbing (e.g., practice, team building, recruiting, competition planning), is subject to discipline by USA Climbing as set forth in Rule 4.1.7.

## 4.3 Procedures for Review of Field of Play Infringements

- 4.3.1 Any and all suspected competition-related infringements must first be reported to a Head Judging Official. Only the Jury President may approach a competitor under disqualification proceedings.
- 4.3.2 Upon receiving a report of an infringement, either in writing or by verbal testimony, a Head Judging Official must investigate the situation to determine the nature of the infringement, including whether the infringement was: intentional, accidental, put anyone in danger, blatantly violated any rules, gave the competitor a distinct advantage, etc.
- 4.3.3 The investigation process may include, but is not limited to, interviewing judges, belayers, isolation monitors, spectators, other competitors, etc.
- 4.3.4 If at any time during this process it is necessary to interview competitors, every effort should be made for the interview to take place after said competitor is done competing.
- 4.3.5 All such proceedings should be kept confidential to the extent possible.

- 4.3.6 Any time a person under the age of eighteen (18) is interviewed, an adult representative for that minor must be present at all times. The adult representative is chosen by the minor and can include adults such as a coach, parent, friend, or sibling. Regional Coordinators, if present at the event, may, at the discretion of a Head Judging Official, be included in any discussions and deliberations regarding any disqualification.
- 4.3.7 If the infringement is found to be unsubstantiated, the Jury President will reject the complaint with no consequences to the accused competitor.

#### 4.4 Yellow Card Warnings

- 4.4.1 A Yellow Card warning may be issued to a competitor or coach, and an official warning may be issued to other persons, for any of the following infringements of the rules:
- a) infringements committed in, or into, the Competition Area:
    - i) unsporting behavior of a relatively minor nature; or
    - ii) use of obscene or abusive language or behavior of a relatively mild nature; or
    - iii) declaring a perceived rules violations directly to the accused violator, except:
      - A) to prevent injury due to a serious safety hazard; or
      - B) in their capacity as an official or judge; or
      - C) a coach to a competitor on their team or a legal guardian to their child, except where and when otherwise disallowed by the rules. (e.g., a coach can address a perceived rules violation to their competitor, but not while such communication is restricted by the format rules.)
  - b) regarding instructions from any USA Climbing Official appointed to the competition, including but not limited to:
    - i) undue delay in returning to the Isolation Zone/Warm-up Area following the instruction of a Head Judging Official; or
    - ii) undue delay in leaving the Call Zone and entering the Competition Zone when instructed to do so; or
    - iii) failure to start in accordance with a Head Judging Official's instruction; or
  - c) regarding equipment and clothing:
    - i) non-compliance with the rules and regulations governing equipment and clothing; or
    - ii) non-compliance with the requirement to wear the bib provided by the Event Organizer; or
  - d) regarding safety:
    - i) non-compliance with safety rules or safety instructions.
    - ii) the use of a laser pointer in the Competition Area or unsafe use of a laser pointer anywhere. (Laser pointers with an output power less than 5mW and a non-locking momentary contact on/off switch may be used in the Isolation/Warm-Up Zones if used in a safe manner.)

## 4.5 Disqualification (DSQ)

4.5.1 The Jury President is authorized to Disqualify any coach or competitor as set forth in 4.1.4. A Disqualification by the Jury President shall be accompanied by the issuance of a Red Card.

4.5.2 A Red Card may be issued to a competitor or coach (and, if so, they are Disqualified from the event), and a dismissal from the facility may be issued to other persons, for any of the following infringements of the rules by the person, where the infringement shall otherwise result in the person being issued a Yellow Card or official warning, as relevant:

- a) using any knot other than those allowed in this Rulebook;
- b) untying from the rope while climbing;
- c) distracting or interfering with any official while they are carrying out their duties;
- d) receiving beta by a competitor in a manner contrary to the rules, though receipt of beta by a competitor during an attempt at a Redpoint competition may result in a score of zero (0) for that route/boulder instead of a Red Card or Yellow Card, at the discretion of the Jury President;
- e) smoking or using other tobacco products, by minors, in the Isolation Zone, Competition Area, or spectator area;
- f) using alcohol by an underaged person or using prohibited drugs, at any point, during the event, including but not limited to, registration, check-in and any hotel stay specifically for the event;
- g) using abusive, insulting or violent words or behavior, harassment, or discrimination towards anyone in the Competition Area or the Isolation/Transit Zones while under the regulations governing the Competition Area and Isolation/Transit Zones;
- h) unsporting behavior, abusive, insulting or violent words or behavior, harassment, or discrimination to the Event Organizer or their officials or coaches or other competitors or members of the public;
- i) violating applicable codes, rules or policies, including without limitation USA Climbing's Bylaws, Rules or Policies, or the applicable rules or policies of the USOPC, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, the IFSC, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), or the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA);
- j) in an Isolation competition round, using Electronic Communication Equipment in Isolation, the Competition Area, or Transit Zones;
- k) failing to report properly equipped at the start of a route;
- l) entering the host facility or Competition Area contrary to the relevant rule(s);
- m) in respect of any round conducted under Isolation Conditions:
  - i) entering, leaving, or re-entering the Isolation Zone contrary to Rule 3.16;
  - ii) observing the routes from outside the permitted observation zone;
  - iii) failing to return to the Isolation Zone after the route observation period has ended;
- n) coaches, spectators, and parents having a discussion or contact with a Climbing Judge;
- o) using earphones, headsets or similar devices while climbing, unless authorized by the Jury President (e.g., in the case of a Visually Impaired competitor in a Paraclimbing Competition).

4.5.3 A Red Card shall be issued to a competitor or coach (and, if so, they are Disqualified from the event), and a dismissal from the facility shall be issued to other persons, for any of the following infringements of the rules by the person:

- a) cheating in any form, including without limitation falsifying a scorecard or electronic score entry;
- b) knowingly falsely accusing a competitor of an infringement;
- c) approaching a competitor and accusing them of an infringement, unless so authorized in this Section 4;
- d) committing an infraction as set out in Rule 4.5.2 that caused or could have caused harm to any person;

- e) gathering information about the routes/boulders other than as considered by the definition of Isolation Conditions (when such conditions are in force);
- f) gathering and communicating information about the routes/boulders to other competitors other than as considered by the definition of Isolation Conditions (when such conditions are in force);
- g) using non-approved equipment;
- h) in respect of any round conducted under Isolation Conditions, gathering or providing information other than as contemplated by the definition of Isolation Conditions, including but not limited to:
  - i) from any person outside the Competition Area;
  - ii) from any person who has already attempted a relevant route/boulder.

For the avoidance of doubt, in competition rounds where Isolation Conditions do not apply, competitors may receive information from persons prior to their attempts.

## 4.6 Disqualification for Behavior (DQB)

- 4.6.1 The Jury President is authorized to Disqualify for Behavior any competitor or any coach at a competition. Any Disqualification for Behavior will be accompanied by the issuance of a Red Card and referral to USA Climbing; and will have effect for all competitions at the relevant Sanctioned Event.
- 4.6.2 Any of the following matters will result in immediate Disqualification for Behavior:
  - a) not complying with the instructions of the judges, Event Organizer, or USA Climbing officials when in the Competition Area;
  - b) distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for or is attempting a route;
  - c) refusing to conform with the advertising regulations governing clothing and equipment;
  - d) being issued two (2) Yellow Cards in one Sanctioned Event.

## 4.7 Consequences of Disciplinary Actions

- 4.7.1 A competitor who is either Disqualified or Disqualified for Behavior in respect of any competition will be unranked in all competitions forming part of the relevant Sanctioned Event.
- 4.7.2 In the event that a coach or someone affiliated with a Climbing Team is found to have committed a Disqualifying infringement:
  - a) the Jury President has the discretion to disqualify their entire team; and
  - b) the coach's USA Climbing Coach Certification, if any, may be revoked, subject to the due process protections afforded under USA Climbing's Bylaws.
- 4.7.3 In the event that a USA Climbing member is Disqualified, their USA Climbing membership may be revoked, subject to the due process protections afforded under USA Climbing's Bylaws.

## 4.8 Other persons

- 4.8.1 The Jury President is authorized to demand the immediate dismissal from the Competition Area of any person in contravention of the rules and, if necessary, suspend any competition activities until compliance with this demand has been achieved.

## 5 Anti-Doping

### 5.1 Anti-Doping Compliance

- 5.1.1 USA Climbing supports the IOC Medical Commission and IFSC regulations regarding drug use and testing. It shall be the responsibility of each USA Climbing member to comply with the rules and regulations of USA Climbing and the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), and to avoid acting in any manner that brings disrepute upon USA Climbing or upon the sport of climbing. As a member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and as a member National Federation of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), USA Climbing is obligated to adhere to the anti-doping rules of the USOPC and IFSC, as well as those of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In addition, USOPC Bylaw Chapter XXIII, Section 2(G) provides that, as a condition of membership in the USOPC, each National Governing body shall comply with the procedures pertaining to drug testing and adjudication of related doping offenses of the independent anti-doping organization designated by the USOPC to conduct drug testing. The USOPC has designated the United States Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”) as that organization. The current anti-doping rules of the IFSC, USOPC, and USADA are available at the offices of USA Climbing or online at the following websites, respectively:
- a) International Federation of Sport Climbing: [www.ifsc-climbing.org](http://www.ifsc-climbing.org), and
  - b) United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee: [www.usoc.org](http://www.usoc.org), and
  - c) United States Anti-Doping Agency: [www.usantidoping.org](http://www.usantidoping.org).
- 5.1.2 As a condition of membership in USA Climbing, it is the responsibility of each athlete member of USA Climbing to comply with the anti-doping rules of the IFSC, USOPC, WADA, and USADA, including the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing, the USOPC National Anti-Doping Policy, and all other policies and rules adopted by the IFSC, the USOPC, and USADA. Each member shall submit, without reservation or condition, to in-competition and out-of-competition doping controls conducted by either the IFSC or USADA. (Out-of-competition doping controls by USADA may take place at USA Climbing elite-level camps, training sessions, or with no advance notice any time for athletes designated by USA Climbing and USADA for inclusion in USA Climbing’s no advance notice testing pool.) An athlete shall cease to be eligible to compete in events conducted by USA Climbing or by any IFSC Federation, while under suspension or if expelled by USA Climbing for violations of the anti-doping rules. If it is determined that a member may have committed a doping violation, the member agrees to submit to the results management authority and processes of USADA, including arbitration under the USADA Protocol, or to the results management authority of the IFSC and/or USA Climbing, if applicable or referred by USADA.



## 6 Appeals

### 6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The procedures for appeals shall be subject to Rule 1.10 and shall be subject to USA Climbing SafeSport policies, USA Climbing Bylaws, Judicial Committee protocol, and Field of Play rules.
- 6.1.2 The Jury President shall appoint an Appeals Jury for each Sanctioned Event, which should be comprised of the Jury President and a USAC Judge at the event. Subject to published guidance from the USA Climbing Judges Committee, an Appeals Jury shall be comprised of two (2) individuals. If the two (2) person Appeals Jury cannot be formed with Head Judging Officials (e.g., an event without a USAC Judge), the Jury President should select a suitably qualified (e.g., Level 3) USA Climbing Certified Judge for the Appeals Jury.
- 6.1.3 All Appeals, and all responses to Appeals, must be made in English.
- 6.1.4 All Appeals must be presented to either:
  - a) the Jury President; or
  - b) the USAC Judge, who shall refer the matter to the Jury President.
- 6.1.5 The Head Judging Officials (Jury President and USAC Judge) shall be made available at the climbing venue for at least the amount of time allowed to file an appeal after Official Results have been published.
- 6.1.6 Official appeals shall be differentiated from a regular course discussion that might take place between a competitor and a Climbing Judge immediately after an attempt. No written appeal would be required where a question is raised to the Climbing Judge and is discussed at that time.
- 6.1.7 For an appeal to be considered made by a deadline, including an appeal that must be made in writing, the appeal must be initiated before the relevant deadline by verbal notification of, and acknowledgment by, a Head Judging Official (Jury President or USAC Judge), and the written appeal must also be submitted in a timely manner thereafter (typically within five (5) minutes or as determined by the relevant Head Judging Official).
- 6.1.8 The Appeal Fees are set forth in Section 12.13.
- 6.1.9 Appeals made outside the appeals process shall not be accepted.
- 6.1.10 All appeals must be made by a competitor's USA Climbing Certified Coach or by the competitor.
  - a) Appeals may not be made by the competitor's parent/guardian. See Rule 3.12.2 and/or the USA Climbing Accommodations Policy for exceptions.
  - b) In the event a minor competitor (under the age of eighteen (18) years old) is making an appeal without their coach, an adult representative for that minor must be present at all times. The adult representative should be a USA Climbing Certified Coach, if possible. In the event the adult representative is not a USA Climbing Certified Coach (e.g., a parent/guardian), that representative's involvement is limited to assisting the minor competitor with the written appeal.
- 6.1.11 In the event updated results are published (e.g., following a change as a result of an appeal), any new appeal must be made:
  - a) if the appeal deadline for the original results was immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result, immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's updated Provisional Result; or
  - b) otherwise, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the updated results, or within five (5) minutes of the appeal deadline for the most recent prior publication of results, whichever is later.

### 6.2 Safety Appeals

- 6.2.1 Regardless of any other provision in these Rules, an appeal may be submitted by a competitor or Certified Coach to a Head Judging Official (Jury President or USAC Judge) where a serious safety issue exists (a "**Safety Appeal**").



No Appeal Fee will be required and the Appeals Jury must without delay determine and implement a course of action to remedy the identified issue.

### 6.3 Management of Appeals

- 6.3.1 On receipt of an Appeal, the Appeals Jury shall assess whether the relevant Appeal is:
- a) “**Invalid**”, in which case any Appeal Form will be returned and no Appeal Fee invoiced, with the Appeal Form marked as such; or
  - b) “**Valid**”, in which case the Appeals Jury shall proceed to determine the Appeal.
- 6.3.2 To be considered Valid, an Appeal must, unless specifically stated to the contrary in these Rules:
- a) be made in writing using the form available on the USA Climbing website (or on a sheet comprising the same information), signed by either:
    - i) the relevant USA Climbing Certified Coach, or
    - ii) the relevant competitor; and
  - b) be accompanied by the relevant Appeal Fee, either:
    - i) by making the payment within the competitor or coach’s USA Climbing’s membership account; or
    - ii) by paying cash to a Head Judging Official; and
  - c) state:
    - i) the specific Rule on which the Appeal is based; and
    - ii) the competitor or class of competitors affected by the Appeal.
- 6.3.3 Notwithstanding Rule 6.3.2, the Appeals Jury may rule as Invalid any Appeal that:
- a) is made outside any relevant time limit specified in these Rules; or
  - b) proposes a matter not relevant to any Rule; or
  - c) the Appeals Jury agrees is otherwise invalid.
- 6.3.4 In respect of any Valid Appeal concerning some non-compliance with these rules, or some decision in relation to a competition (the “**Original Decision**”):
- a) if the Appeal concerns the Official Results, the Jury President shall:
    - i) mark the published results as ‘Protested’ or ‘Under Appeal’, noting which results are the subject of the Appeal; and
    - ii) have the Event Organizer broadcast an announcement to the public that the results are ‘Protested’ or ‘Under Appeal’.
  - b) The Appeals Jury shall determine the Appeal:
    - i) as soon as is practical with regard to the timetable of the competition; and
    - ii) using personnel as deemed appropriate by the Appeals Jury, such as the relevant Climbing Judge, the Chief Routesetter, or the Head Belay; and
    - iii) using facilities as appropriate,
- provided that, in using video evidence to determine the Appeal, the Appeals Jury shall consider only:
- A) the Official Video Recordings; and
  - B) any official broadcast video recording, and
  - C) where no Official Video Recording exists, unofficial video solicited or used at the sole discretion of the Jury President in such a way as to not risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors. For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, it is possible that a ruling on appeal based on an incomplete video that does not show every competitor in the relevant session on the route or boulder subject to the appeal may unfairly affect the ranking

of other competitors.

- c) If the available evidence:
  - i) is inconclusive, or if the Appeals Jury is unable to reach a unanimous verdict, then the Appeal shall be “**Undetermined**”, the Original Decision shall stand, and no Appeal Fee will be invoiced.
  - ii) is conclusive and the Appeals Jury reaches a unanimous verdict, then the Appeal will be determined as either:
    - A) “**Successful**”, in which case no Appeal Fee will be invoiced and the Original Decision changed; or
    - B) “**Unsuccessful**”, in which case an Appeal Fee will be invoiced to the relevant competitor and the Original Decision will stand.
- d) The determination of the Appeal shall be made in writing and handed by a member of the Appeals Jury to the person who officially lodged the Appeal.

## 6.4 Consequences of Appeals

- 6.4.1 Any formal determination of the Appeals Jury shall be final and not subject to further Appeal.

# Part 2 - Discipline Rules

## 7 Lead/Top Rope

Part 3 - Event Rules may define alterations to general discipline rules for a particular competition. See the Order of Rule Precedence section at the beginning of this Rulebook.

### 7.1 Removed (was Lead/Top Rope Competition Types)

(content moved to Section 12.8.)

### 7.2 General

7.2.1 Lead/Top Rope competitions shall take place on purpose-designed, artificial climbing walls.

7.2.2 Subject to host facility walls and Event Organizer discretion, in consultation with the Jury President and Chief Routesetter, Lead/Top Rope competitions should take place on walls having a minimum height of twelve (12) meters (approx. forty (40) feet), with routes having a minimum length of fifteen (15) meters (approx. fifty (50) feet) and a minimum width of three (3) meters (approx. ten (10) feet).

For the avoidance of doubt, the above sizes are recommendations (using the term “should”) and not requirements for USA Climbing Lead/Top Rope competitions.

7.2.3 Lead routes shall be climbed with the competitor belayed from below using a Single Rope and secured by clipping the rope to a series of Protection Points. For the avoidance of doubt, Protection Points shall not be clipped by the competitor before the attempt has started.

7.2.4 Top Rope routes shall be climbed with the competitor either:

- a) belayed from below using a Single Rope; or
- b) exclusively for non-Championship competitions, at the discretion of the Event Organizer, in consultation with the Jury President and Chief Routesetter, secured from above using a belay system and belay devices determined by the host facility to be designed or suitable for such Top Rope climbing, used in a manner approved by the manufacturer, with all belay devices in good working order to the best knowledge of the host facility after reasonable diligence and regularly scheduled maintenance, as applicable, and subject to the limitations and notifications in the Host Agreement.

7.2.5 Lead climbing is only permitted for competitors in the Elite, Collegiate, Youth Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Categories. For Youth C and Youth D competitors, the routes shall be climbed on Top Rope.

7.2.6 The following Lead/Top Rope competition rounds shall have only Lead routes:

- a) All Elite series competition rounds; and
- b) All Youth series Championship competition rounds in the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B categories; and
- c) For Advanced Categories, the Collegiate National Championships Semi-Final and Final Rounds.

7.2.7 In a Classic Redpoint Format competition, a route may be offered as both Lead and Top Rope, in which case:

- a) the competitor must declare which way they are going to attempt the route prior to the attempt; and
- b) once a competitor has made a Top Rope attempt, whether successful or not, the competitor may not attempt the route on Lead; and
- c) the competitor may first attempt the route on Lead, and if unsuccessful, may then attempt the route on Top Rope, in which case all the attempts on Lead are added to the attempts on Top Rope; and
- d) the route should be given two distinct route numbers, with a higher score given to Lead climbing the route.

- 7.2.8 In the instance of two Lead routes being close enough in proximity that a competitor mistakenly clips a Protection Point on the wrong route, the Climbing Judge shall immediately instruct the competitor to correct the clip. Once the incorrect clip is un-clipped, the competitor may continue their attempt on their route. Clipping a Protection Point that is not part of the competitor's route shall have no effect on their score.
- 7.2.9 Competitors in Lead/Top Rope competition rounds shall be permitted:
- a) in Isolation and Flash Format rounds, one (1) single attempt; or
  - b) in Redpoint Format rounds, multiple attempts, where the number of attempts may be limited at the discretion of the Event Organizer.
- 7.2.10 Isolation Format rounds are conducted under Isolation conditions.
- 7.2.11 Flash Format rounds are those conducted without Isolation conditions; and the routes are attempted after each route is demonstrated as set forth in Rule 7.6.1.
- 7.2.12 Classic Redpoint and Modified Redpoint Lead/Top Rope competitions shall be organized as outlined in Rules 7.8, 7.9, and 7.10.
- 7.2.13 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), Lead/Top Rope competitions shall be organized with:
- a) a Qualification Round consisting of two (2) non-identical routes ("A" and "B") for each Starting Group; and
  - b) Semi-Final and Final Rounds, each consisting of a single route for each Category, attempted without demonstration.
- 7.2.14 Design of routes:
- a) Each route shall be designed:
    - i) to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor; and
    - ii) without any downward jumps.
  - b) The markings used on each route shall indicate:
    - i) for Lead routes, the final Protection Point in a color and a "TOP" placard; and
    - ii) for Top Rope routes, the highest scored hold in a color and a "TOP" placard; and
    - iii) which Artificial Holds and Structures are part of the route (e.g., by hold color), though when a route's holds need to be demarcated by tape in order to sufficiently differentiate the route from other nearby routes, a base layer of tape, using a different color from the final Protection Point or highest scored hold, shall be used on each of the route's holds, where the markings of Rules 7.2.14(b)(i) and (ii) shall be on top of the base layer of tape, such that the base layer remains evident; and
    - iv) the Category and other route-identification information (e.g., the round),  
in each case using a color different from all other demarcations on the Climbing Surface. An example of these markings shall be installed within the Isolation Zone, which should be the same for the entire duration of a competition round for a given category.  
For the avoidance of doubt, no "start" placard shall be placed at the beginning of the route.
  - c) The Jury President may authorize the climbing rope to be pre-fixed to one or more Protection Points; but, wherever possible, the design of the route should make such a precaution unnecessary.
- 7.2.15 For Rotation Format Lead/Top Rope rounds, a timing system shall be used to display the time remaining within each Preparation Period and Climbing Period. The timing system should:
- a) be visible to all competitors on the field of play; and shall:
  - b) be visible to all competitors on the ground of the field of play and in each Transit Zone; and

- c) show the time remaining within the relevant period, rounded up to whole seconds; and
- d) provide audio signals to announce:
  - i) the beginning and the end of each Climbing Period; and
  - ii) when one (1) minute remains within each Climbing Period; and
  - iii) a five (5) second countdown at the end of each period

### 7.3 Safety

- 7.3.1 The Jury President, together with the USAC Judge and the Chief Routesetter and the Head Belayer, shall inspect each route prior to the start of each round.
- a) On a Lead route, the Chief Routesetter may rule that a Protection Point must, for reasons of safety, be clipped from a particular hold (a “**Safety Hold**”) or earlier, in which case such hold(s) and the relevant Protection Point(s) shall be clearly marked with a blue cross and pointed out during the route observation.
  - b) The Jury President shall notify competitors in the relevant categories of any “Safety Holds” during the Technical Meeting. If the round does not start with an observation period, the Climbing Judge shall point out the “Safety Hold” to each competitor prior to their attempt on the route.
  - c) If a route is to be offered as both Lead and Top Rope, the Chief Routesetter shall confirm in advance that the route is safe to climb both ways, for example, by checking that there are no unsafe swings on an overhanging route or unsafe clips when the route is to be led.
- 7.3.2 A Head Judging Official or Head Belayer shall decide whether the climbing rope should be replaced at any time during a competition.
- 7.3.3 Each competitor shall wear a harness. Any Competition Official who believes that a competitor’s harness is unsafe shall summon a Head Judging Official, and the relevant Head Judging Official shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor’s harness is unsafe.
- 7.3.4 Where the climber is belayed by a belayer, the climbing rope shall be controlled from the ground by one (1) belayer, preferably monitored by a person designated to observe for safety issues. Each belayer:
- a) shall use a Belay Device as set forth in Rules 3.1 and 3.2; and
  - b) prior to any attempt on a route, and preferably in the Call Zone, shall check that:
    - i) the competitor’s harness is properly fastened; and
    - ii) the climbing rope is connected to the competitor’s harness using a “Figure 8” knot plus a “safety knot” (or alternative as set forth in Rule 3.1.15); and
    - iii) the climbing rope is coiled or arranged in a manner ready for immediate and proper use; and
  - c) during any attempt on a route, shall pay attention to the competitor to check that there is an appropriate amount of slack in the climbing rope at all times, such that:
    - i) the competitor is not hindered in any way by the rope being either too tight or too loose; and
    - ii) any fall is stopped in a dynamic and safe manner; and
    - iii) care is taken to avoid injury of a competitor falling near an overlapping section or another feature of the climbing wall; and
    - iv) the competitor is safely lowered to the ground, taking care to avoid the competitor coming into contact with other persons or objects.

For the avoidance of doubt, the belayer should manage the rope so as to not hinder the competitor from connecting the rope to a Protection Point, and so as to take in excess slack if the competitor’s effort to clip the rope to the Protection Point is unsuccessful.

- 7.3.5 Where the competitor is secured using a belay system as set out in Rule 7.2.4(b), an official, prior to any attempt on a route, shall check that:
- a) the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and
  - b) the climbing system is properly connected to the competitor's harness; and
  - c) the climbing rope or tether is arranged in a manner ready for immediate and proper use.

- 7.3.6 If it is apparent to the Climbing Judge or Belayer that the competitor is about to skip, or has skipped, a Protection Point (clip) and the safety of a competitor is compromised, the Climbing Judge or Belayer should notify the competitor to clip the rope to the Protection Point by saying "(competitor's name), make your clip," in a loud, clear voice. If one competitor is so notified, then all competitors in a similar situation must be notified.

For the avoidance of doubt, a notified competitor may be subject to their attempt being terminated. See Rule 7.7.4(a)(i).

- 7.3.7 After a competitor's attempt has terminated, including without limitation due to the competitor no longer being in a Legitimate Position, the competitor may connect (clip) their rope to additional Protection Points as warranted for safety purposes.

- 7.3.8 While USA Climbing encourages all competitors to practice safe Lead climbing techniques, "back-clipping" is not a violation of USA Climbing (or IFSC) rules and will not be grounds for termination of an attempt on a route, nor will a competitor be warned, during a competition, to correct a back-clipped Protection Point.

- 7.3.9 Competitors are not allowed to continue climbing if they have made a Z-Clip. (See Glossary and Rule 7.7.3(a)(ii)(B))

- a) If the competitor Z-Clips, the Judge or Belayer shall notify the competitor as soon as the Z-Clip is observed.
- b) A competitor in a Legitimate Position shall be allowed to correct the Z-Clip and continue climbing. They are permitted to un-clip and re-clip, if necessary, by down-climbing to any of the carabiners involved. After correction, all the Protection Points shall be clipped in.

See Rule 7.11.2 regarding scoring when there is a Z-Clip.

- 7.3.10 A competitor shall not un-clip any Protection Point, except as specifically allowed by rule.

For the avoidance of doubt, rule allowances include:

To correct a Z-clip (Rule 7.3.9).

To un-clip and re-clip the last clipped Protection Point (Rule 7.7.3(a)(ii)(A)).

To un-clip a Protection point on a different route (Rule 7.2.8).

## 7.4 Isolation and Flash Format Starting Orders and Quotas

- 7.4.1 The Qualification Round may be organized with one (1) or two (2) Starting Groups for each Category.

- a) The number of Starting Groups shall be determined as follows:

Registered competitors	Number of Starting Groups
< 80	1
> 79	1 or 2 (*)

Table 7-1 Lead/Top Rope Number of Starting Groups

(\*) at the discretion of the Event Organizer following consultation with the Jury President.

- b) Where two (2) Starting Groups are used:
  - i) the routes for each group should have similar overall difficulty and similar character (profile and style); and
  - ii) competitors shall be allocated to the groups as follows:
    - A) any competitors having a Seeding for the competition shall be assigned to a Starting Group in the manner and order shown in the following example, where the order for competitors with equal seeding shall be at random:

Starting Group A	Starting Group B
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>

Table 7-2 Lead/Top Rope Starting Group Distribution

B) unseeded competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups at random, such that an equal or near equal number of competitors are allocated to each Starting Group.

7.4.2 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall be twenty-six (26) and eight (8), respectively.

7.4.3 The quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall each be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the immediately prior completed round as at the point in time when the results for that round have been made official and any appeals sentenced.

- a) If there are two Starting Groups in any Category, the quota for the following round shall be equally divided and applied to both groups.
- b) If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors will qualify for the next round.

7.4.4 The starting order within each Starting Group in the Qualification Round shall be determined as follows:

- a) for route A, by random selection; and
- b) for route B, in the same order as route A:
  - i) if there are two routes, with a stagger of 50%. For example, where the Start List includes twenty (20) or twenty-one (21) competitors, the competitor starting 11th on route A will start 1st on route B; and
  - ii) if there are three routes, with a stagger of 33%; and
- c) for any route C, in the same order as route A with a stagger of 66%.
- d) Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), competitors may be allocated to similarly sized, non-overlapping Starting Waves, where the competitors in each Starting Wave shall have a starting order as set forth in Rules 7.4.4(a) to (c).

7.4.5 The starting order for each round after the Qualification Round shall be the reverse of the ranking from the relevant preceding round, i.e., the best ranked starts last. Where competitors are tied, their starting order shall be by random selection.

## 7.5 Isolation and Flash Format Competition Procedure

7.5.1 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 7.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the Semi-Final and Final Rounds of Lead/Top Rope competitions shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions, subject to the Isolation rules in Rule 3.16.

7.5.2 There shall be a minimum time gap:

- a) for Climb Time Format rounds with more than one route, of not less than fifty (50) minutes for Championship or National events and not less than twenty (20) minutes for other events, between the completion of a competitor's attempt on one route and commencing their next route; and
- b) where consecutive rounds of the competition take place on the same day, of not less than two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round, except for a Super-Final Round.

7.5.3 Each competitor shall start their attempt on a route in the order set out on the relevant Official Start List. If a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time, no rescheduling shall be permitted without the authorization of the Jury President.

7.5.4 In any round of a Championship Competition, National Competition, or Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event where the number of competitors is greater than the maximum cleaning interval in this rule:



- a) the holds on each route shall be cleaned at intervals evenly distributed during the round; and
- b) the cleaning interval:
  - i) for Elite Series competitions, should not exceed twenty (20) competitors and shall not exceed twenty-two (22) competitors; and
  - ii) for Youth Series, Collegiate Series, and Paraclimbing Series competitions, should not exceed twenty-eight (28) competitors; and
- c) the cleaning schedule shall be marked on the Start List, and routes shared among Categories shall be cleaned between those Categories

#### 7.5.5 The Final Round:

- a) of a National Competition, may be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round; and
- b) should have a duration not exceeding ninety (90) minutes for any one Category.

7.5.6 At Lead/Top Rope Flash Format competitions, “beta” (coaching, advice) shall not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the route (including without limitation “running beta”); however, beta may be given to a competitor before their attempt of a route.

## 7.6 Isolation and Flash Format Observation Procedure

7.6.1 In a Flash Format round, each route shall be demonstrated by a forerunner:

- a) on a video recording:
  - i) continuously played in the Warm-Up Area, starting not later than sixty (60) minutes before the scheduled start of the round; or
  - ii) published on a public, subscription-free website linked from the competition info on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website, starting not later than two (2) hours before (and should be available twelve (12) hours before) the scheduled start of the round, where such a recording should show all climbing movement (including clipping protection points) for the route; or
- b) where video recordings are not possible, during a live demonstration not fewer than thirty (30) minutes before the attempt of the first competitor.

7.6.2 An Isolation Format round shall be preceded by a collective observation period for competitors.

- a) The collective observation period shall be four (4) to six (6) minutes, inclusive, per route, subject to the discretion of the Jury President.
- b) For Lead routes, a lead rope should be present through all relevant Protection Points.
- c) During this period, competitors may:
  - i) touch only the Climbing Surface and first holds on the route, without leaving the ground; and
  - ii) use binoculars to observe the route; and
  - iii) make hand-drawn sketches and notes, but shall not use any recording or laser pointing equipment.
- d) At the end of this period, competitors shall return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by a USA Climbing Official.

## 7.7 Isolation and Flash Format Climbing Procedure

7.7.1 For Climb Time Format competition rounds, the following rules shall be in force:

- a) Unless specified otherwise in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), Attempt Periods within each round shall allow a Preparation Period of 40 seconds during which a competitor may prepare for their attempt after entering the field of play and a Climbing Period as specified in the Event Rules. Each competitor may make one (1) attempt on any route, other than where supplementary attempts are permitted following an Appeal or Technical Incident.
- b) If a competitor has not started climbing by the end of the forty (40) second Preparation Period, the competitor shall be instructed by the Climbing Judge to begin climbing; if a Head Judging Official concludes that the competitor has not begun their attempt in a timely manner after this instruction, it shall be considered a failure to follow the Official's instruction and may result in the issuance of a Yellow Card as set out in Rule 4.4.

7.7.2 For Rotation Format competition rounds, each competitor participating in the round:

- a) will start their attempt on each route in the order set out on the Official Start List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the designated time; and
- b) will attempt each route of the round in the prescribed order; and
- c) will have a resting period equal to two (2) Rotation Periods between their attempts on each pair of successive routes.
- d) At the end of each Attempt Period, the competitors:
  - i) who were climbing shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone for two (2) Rotation Periods. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any route not yet attempted; and
  - ii) that were resting for their second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Rotation Period shall commence their attempt on the next route in succession, though in the case of a Preparation Period, shall commence at the end of the Preparation Period,

and a Head Judging Official should oversee that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the Attempt Period.

7.7.3 A competitor's attempt shall be deemed to have:

- a) started, and, in Climb Time Format competition rounds, measurement of the climbing time (and the Climbing Period) shall start, when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground. For the avoidance of doubt, the Climbing Judge has discretion to determine whether a competitor is starting or adjusting their position prior to starting. During their attempt, competitors:
  - i) are not permitted to clean holds; and
  - ii) must clip the Protection Points in sequence, provided that:
    - A) the competitor may un-clip and re-clip the last clipped Protection Point at any time; and
    - B) the competitor must correct any Z-Clip and to do so may un-clip and re-clip any of the Protection Points involved, provided that after correction all Protection Points must be clipped; and
- b) finished, and measurement of the climbing time shall stop, when:
  - i) for Lead, they have clipped the final Protection Point on the route; or for Top Rope, they have Controlled the highest scored hold; or
  - ii) they have fallen; or
  - iii) the attempt has been terminated by the Climbing Judge.

7.7.4 The Climbing Judge:

- a) shall order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if:
  - i) they reasonably believe that further progress on the route would be dangerous; or
  - ii) the competitor has:

- A) a climbing time that has exceeded the Climbing Period allowed for the route; or
- B) returned to the ground after starting the route; or
- b) may order that a competitor's attempt be terminated if:
  - i) the competitor is no longer in a Legitimate Position; or
  - ii) a Technical Incident has occurred.

## 7.8 Redpoint Formats

7.8.1 Redpoint Format Lead/Top Rope competitions may be either Classic Redpoint Format competitions or Modified Redpoint Format competitions.

7.8.2 Classic Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:

- a) The Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare a set of routes wherein every competitor may be scored for any route in the competition. A minimum of twenty (20) routes in total should be set, though this minimum may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) based on a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) In the Classic Redpoint Format, competitors have the goal of completing the highest value routes, where each route has a unique value.
- c) A competitor's final score shall be the cumulative value of their top three (3) completed routes, and competitors shall be ranked in descending order of such cumulative value, where two competitors with the same cumulative value shall be ranked by:
  - i) ascending order of total number of attempts on such top three (3) completed routes; then
  - ii) descending order of the value of the competitors' fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) highest completed route; then
  - iii) ascending order of number of attempts on such fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) highest completed route; and so on.
- d) Each route will be worth a specific number of points based on that route's anticipated rating/difficulty. The following chart lists the point values that must be awarded to a competitor upon successful completion of the route. Note: If the competition has more than forty (40) routes, then the point values shall remain consistent with the chart below, extrapolating from the 100-point increments outlined.

For example, if there are a total of fifty (50) routes, route #1 shall be worth 100 points, route #40 shall be worth 4000 points, as outlined below, and route #41 shall be worth 4100 points, route #42 worth 4200 points, and so on, with route #50 worth the maximum of 5000 points.

Example Classic Redpoint Scoring Chart									
Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points
1	100	11	1100	21	2100	31	3100	41	4100
2	200	12	1200	22	2200	32	3200	42	4200
3	300	13	1300	23	2300	33	3300	43	4300
4	400	14	1400	24	2400	34	3400	44	4400
5	500	15	1500	25	2500	35	3500	45	4500
6	600	16	1600	26	2600	36	3600	46	4600
7	700	17	1700	27	2700	37	3700	47	4700
8	800	18	1800	28	2800	38	3800	48	4800
9	900	19	1900	29	2900	39	3900	49	4900

10	1000	20	2000	30	3000	40	4000	50	5000
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Table 7-3 Lead/Top Rope Classic Redpoint Scoring Chart

- e) There should be no limit on the number of attempts a competitor may make on any given route. Each attempt, however, shall be recorded.

7.8.3 Modified Redpoint Lead/Top Rope Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:

- a) The number of routes, climbing period, and maximum number of attempts shall be determined by the Jury President, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and the Event Organizer, shall be consistent between Categories, and shall include:
  - i) a limit of three (3) to five (5) routes assigned to each category; and
  - ii) a fixed climbing period of four (4), five (5), or six (6) minutes, at which time a competitor's attempt shall be terminated; and
  - iii) a limit of two (2) or three (3) attempts a competitor may make on a given route, where that limit applies to all routes.

The number of routes, any sharing of routes between different Categories in a session, the fixed climbing period, the number of allowed attempts, and the session duration (Rule 7.9.1) shall be determined based on the event goal of allowing each competitor the opportunity to make at least two attempts on each route assigned to their Category.

Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), up to seven (7) routes may be assigned to each Category, provided the Jury President and Event Organizer demonstrate how providing more routes can still achieve the above goal.

Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), Categories may be assigned a different number of routes.

- b) Each route must:
  - i) in a given session, be offered as only Lead or only Top Rope; and
  - ii) if a Top Rope route, have a scored TOP (final) hold; and
  - iii) if a Lead route, have a scored TOP (final) Protection point; and
  - iv) have six (6) to twelve (12) numbered scored holds in addition to the TOP (final) scored hold or Protection point; and
  - v) have a clearly discernible order to the scored holds.

Note: routes are not required to all have the same number of numbered scored holds.

- c) The marking of the route shall be as follows:
  - i) The numbered scored holds on a route shall be marked with a flash of tape, and the tape should be connected to a numbered placard indicating the scoring number of the hold. The markings shall be done in such a way as to indicate, without the need for a Topo, which holds are scored holds and their order.
  - ii) The TOP (final) hold of a Top Rope route shall be marked with a flash of tape that shall be connected to a "TOP" placard.
  - iii) The TOP (final) Protection Point of a Lead route shall be marked with a "TOP" placard placed in proximity to that Protection Point.
- d) The competitors shall be scored on each route as set forth in Rule 7.11.2, except that:
  - i) Each attempt shall be recorded; and
  - ii) If their score is not a TOP, it shall be the scoring value of the highest controlled numbered scored hold, where such holds are numbered from 1 to the number of such scored holds; and
  - iii) Use shall not be scored on the numbered scored holds (i.e., only Control of the numbered hold is awarded points and no postfix "+" designation shall be used).

- e) The competitors shall be ranked as follows:
  - i) For each route assigned to a competitor's Category, that competitor shall be ranked among competitors in their category in the following order:
    - A) all competitors scored as TOP; then
    - B) all other competitors in descending order of the score awarded to that competitor, where competitors not attempting the route shall be awarded a score of zero (0), where competitors having the same score in (A) or (B) shall be ranked by number of attempts to get such score, where fewer attempts is ranked higher/better.
  - ii) Each competitor shall be awarded Ranking Points for each route equal to their Fractional ranking on the relevant route as set forth in Rule 7.12.2(b).
  - iii) The ranking of competitors shall be calculated as set forth in Rule 7.12.2(c) and presented as set forth in 7.12.2(d).

7.8.4 At Redpoint Format competitions, a judge (or team of judges) shall be assigned by a Head Judging Official to perform as judge for a "lane" (a set of spatially adjacent routes on the climbing wall surface) for the session. Where necessary, replacement judges or rotating judges shall be allowed, provided that a considerable effort is made to maintain judging consistency in each lane during the session.

Any such assigned, replacement, or rotating judge shall not include anyone competing in that session, though USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) to waive this restriction for Collegiate or Paraclimbing competitions, at the request of the Event Organizer.

7.8.5 In a Classic or Modified Redpoint competition, the Event Organizer may provide competitors with "Queue Cards" for competitors to hand to an official in order to declare their desire to climb a route.

If the competition is using electronic scoring, the Queue Card has no official scorekeeping role.

In extraordinary cases, such as network or computer system issues, the Jury President may utilize paper-based scorekeeping, which may involve designating Queue Cards to serve as scorecards.

## 7.9 Redpoint Formats Competition Procedures

7.9.1 At Redpoint Format competitions, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb, subject to the following:

- a) This minimum time requirement may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) in response to a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) At the discretion of the Jury President, the minimum time may be extended, but not shortened.
- c) Competitors should be given a "five-minute warning" before the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes every competitor still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their Queue Cards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). A Head Judging Official, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.
- d) The deadline for a competitor to check in and not be marked as DNS shall be ninety (90) minutes after the start of the relevant competition session, though the Jury President has discretion to allow later check in if contacted prior to the deadline.

7.9.2 Redpoint Format competitors are allowed to watch other competitors climb on a route prior to their own attempt.

7.9.3 At Redpoint Format competitions, "beta" (coaching, advice) shall not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the route (including without limitation "running beta"); however, beta may be given to a competitor before or between attempts of a route.

## 7.10 Redpoint Formats Climbing Procedures

7.10.1 All Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following:

- a) Competitors choose which routes to attempt and may attempt as many different routes as they wish, within the rules of the specific Redpoint Format, as time allows.
- b) Competitors declare their intention to attempt a route by either:
  - i) handing their Queue Card to the Climbing Judge who will call competitors in order of the Queue Cards received; or
  - ii) registering their next desired route in an online system, if such a system is used at the competition.
- c) After each failed attempt, the Climbing Judge shall record the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate, and the competitor may return to the back of the queue or elect to attempt another route.
- d) Upon successful completion of a route, the Climbing Judge shall record such success and the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate.
- e) If the competitor flashes the route, the scorecard or the online system, as appropriate, shall be marked as the competitor having made one (1) attempt.

## 7.11 Judging and Scoring

7.11.1 A Topo shall be prepared for each route by the Chief Routesetter in consultation with a Head Judging Official before the start of each round of a non-Redpoint competition. Scoring values will be annotated on the Topo and these values will be fixed for the duration of the round.

For a National competition, each Topo should be published (with annotated scoring value):

- a) for an Isolation format round, directly following any collective observation period; and
- b) for a Flash format round, soon after the demonstration video recordings are published and prior to the commencement of the relevant round.

Note that a Topo may not be published or made available in an Isolation round while the route is to be significantly re-used in a later session.

7.11.2 Each route shall be judged by at least one (1) Climbing Judge, who shall record for each competitor:

- a) for Climb Time Format competition rounds (and other rounds at the discretion of the Jury President), assisted by a Time-Keeper, the competitor's climbing time to the nearest (lower) second; and
- b) their achieved score, which shall be either:
  - i) where the competitor has remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt:
    - A) "TOP", where the competitor has either:
      - 1 clipped the final Protection Point on the route when climbing on Lead; or
      - 2 Controlled the hold marked as "TOP" when climbing on Top Rope,in both instances within the allowed Climbing Period; or
    - B) the scoring value on the Topo for the highest scored hold Controlled or Used by the competitor prior to their:
      - 1 falling; or
      - 2 attempt being terminated; or
  - ii) where the competitor has not remained in a Legitimate Position throughout their attempt, the scoring value on the Topo for the highest scored hold Controlled by the competitor while in a Legitimate Position,

and in each case:

- iii) only holds used by either hand will be considered for scoring purposes, where the scoring value for Using a hold (designated by the postfix "+") will be better than that for Controlling the same hold; and
- iv) scoring of a competitor's attempt will be paused at the last hold marked on the Topo from which the Chief Routesetter deems it possible to clip any unclipped Protection Point or unhook the rope from an open hook, as relevant, when the competitor Controls (or passes) this hold, unless or until the relevant Protection Point has been clipped or rope has been unhooked from the relevant open hook; and
- v) scoring of a competitor's attempt will be paused when the competitor makes a Z-Clip, until the Z-Clip has been corrected.

For the avoidance of doubt:

a competitor climbing on Top Rope is not required to "match hands" on the hold marked as "TOP" in order to receive the score of "TOP";

a competitor climbing on Lead must clip the final Protection Point, but is not required to Control the highest scored hold, in order to receive the score of "TOP";

a climber will receive no scoring for moves made during the period that scoring of their attempt is paused; and

a Climbing Judge's consultation with a Head Judging Official and the Chief Routesetter about a competitor's ability to reach a Protection Point or open hook may occur after the attempt.

### 7.11.3 [not used]

## 7.12 Ranking

7.12.1 For Isolation, Flash, and Modified Redpoint Format competition rounds, each competitor attempting a route will be ranked on that route in the following order:

- a) all competitors scored as TOP; then
- b) all other competitors in descending order of the score awarded to that competitor.

7.12.2 For Isolation, Flash, and Modified Redpoint Format competition rounds with more than one (1) route, the Ranking will be determined as follows:

- a) Any competitor who does not start at least one route in their Starting Group they are eligible to start in the round will be unranked in the round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.
- b) Each competitor starting at least one route in the round (and eligible to start that route) shall be awarded Ranking Points for each route equal to their *fractional ranking* on the relevant route. For the avoidance of doubt, if a competitor starting at least one route does not start another route (other routes), the competitor shall be ranked last (i.e., equivalent to a score of zero (0)) on the route(s) they did not start, and awarded the appropriate Ranking Points.

Note: in this case the competitor may be marked as DNS for one or more routes, but not marked DNS for the round.

- c) The ranking of competitors within their Starting Group will be calculated in ascending order of the Geometric Points awarded to each competitor (i.e., lower Geometric Points is better), where the Geometric Points awarded are determined by calculating the geometric mean of the Ranking points for each route, as shown in the following formulas:

$GP = \sqrt{P1 * P2}$  if there are two (2) routes.

(square root of the product of Ranking points.)

$GP = \sqrt[3]{P1 * P2 * P3}$  if there are three (3) routes.

(cube root of the product of the Ranking points.)

Where:

GP = Geometric Points, rounded to three (3) decimal places.

P1 = Ranking Points on first (1<sup>st</sup>) route.



P2 = Ranking Points on second (2<sup>nd</sup>) route.

P3 = Ranking Points on third (3<sup>rd</sup>) route (if applicable).

For the avoidance of doubt, the Ranking in round with more than three (3) routes must be calculated using the geometric mean, consistent with the preceding formulas.

- d) Geometric Points data presented on the Official Results shall be presented rounded to two (2) decimal places.

#### 7.12.3 Semi-Final & Final rankings.

- a) Any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the route will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM
- b) In relation to the Semi-Final Round, if any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Rule 7.12.1, their relative ranking shall be determined by count-back to their Qualification Ranking (unless the Qualification Round was held with two Starting Groups).
- c) In relation to the Final Round, if any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Rule 7.12.1, their relative ranking shall be determined:
  - i) by count-back to their rankings from the preceding round; and
  - ii) if following count-back, any competitors are tied in a Championship or National competition Final round with a single route, these places shall be determined by the climbing time for each competitor (lower times are better).

#### 7.12.4 General Ranking

The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:

- a) competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; then
- b) where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking, in that order; then
- c) competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order, provided that where the Qualification Round takes place with two Starting Groups, their General Ranking shall be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied.

### 7.13 Technical Incidents and Appeals

7.13.1 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official USA Climbing broadcast video recordings, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must at a minimum record:

- a) all holds marked on the Topo; and
- b) all Protection Points on the route (including the Top); and
- c) any demarcations marked on the Climbing Surface; and
- d) where relevant, the timer display showing the time remaining within the Climbing Period.

7.13.2 Notwithstanding Rule 7.13.1, where no Official Video Recordings exist, the Jury President has the discretion to solicit or consider other video recordings in such a way as to not materially risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors. (See, e.g., Rule 7.13.6 regarding consistency in scoring across competitors for a particular hold.)

7.13.3 If a competitor, Certified Coach, belayer, or Climbing Judge considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify a Head Judging Official immediately. The relevant Head Judging Official, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, if necessary, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. If the relevant Head Judging Official determines that a Technical Incident has occurred:

- a) which afforded the competitor an unfair advantage, the relevant Head Judging Official may either:
  - i) terminate the attempt; or
  - ii) allow the competitor to continue climbing with the result subject to review (in this case no further attempt shall be permitted if the Technical Incident is subsequently confirmed); or



- b) which afforded the competitor a disadvantage, and the competitor:
  - i) is not in a Legitimate Position, the relevant Head Judging Official shall terminate the attempt; or
  - ii) is in a Legitimate Position, the relevant Head Judging Official shall offer the competitor the opportunity to continue with their attempt or to have the attempt terminated. If the competitor elects to continue their attempt, the Technical Incident shall be deemed remedied and no subsequent claim may be made for a Technical Incident.

7.13.4 Where a competitor has fallen or an attempt has been terminated as the direct result of an agreed Technical Incident,

- a) they shall be escorted to a separate Transit Zone with access to warm-up facilities to await the determination of the Technical Incident and for the duration of any subsequent recuperation period. The competitor shall not be permitted to communicate with any person other than USA Climbing Officials and the Event Organizer's staff during this period; and
- b) a Head Judging Official should:
  - i) agree on a recuperation period with the competitor, nominally calculated as:
    - A) for Climb Time format, one (1) minute for each handhold used prior to the Technical Incident, with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes; and
    - B) for Rotation Format, equal to the Rotation Period(s) between their attempt on each pair of successive routes; and
  - ii) schedule the repeat attempt following the agreed recuperation period. All competitors yet to climb shall be informed about this decision,  
  
provided that, if the affected competitor is ranked first at the end of the round, they shall not be allowed a new attempt on the route.

7.13.5 Where, following the occurrence of a Technical Incident, the relevant competitor:

- a) chooses to continue their attempt in the circumstances described in Rule 7.13.3(b)(ii), the result of this attempt shall stand; or
- b) is afforded a further attempt on the route pursuant to Rule 7.13.4(b), the competitor's result shall be the best result from their attempts on the route.

7.13.6 An Appeal:

- a) relating to the termination of a competitor's attempt:
  - i) if made by the relevant competitor, may be initiated verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable; or
  - ii) if made by a Certified Coach, must be made in writing,  
  
and must be made prior to the next competitor starting their attempt. The affected competitor shall be treated as though the subject of a Technical Incident until the Appeal is determined.
- b) relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor, must be made in writing and before the deadline set forth in Rule 12.13.1,  
  
and where an Appeal is made concerning the scoring of any competitor in relation to a particular hold, the Appeals Jury should review the result for that competitor only.

Note: the rules in Part 3 - Event Rules may specify modifications to these Technical Incidents and Appeals rules.

## 8 Boulder

Part 3 - Event Rules may define alterations to general discipline rules for a particular competition. See the Order of Rule Precedence section at the beginning of this Rulebook.

### 8.1 Removed (was Boulder Competition Types)

(content moved to Section 12.9.)

### 8.2 Field of Play

8.2.1 Boulder competitions shall take place on short routes (“boulders”) constructed on purpose-designed artificial climbing walls and climbed without ropes.

8.2.2 Design of boulders:

- a) Each boulder shall be designed:
  - i) to limit the risk that a fall may injure the competitor or any third party, or obstruct any other competitor; and
  - ii) without any downward jumps; and
  - iii) for Youth C and Youth D categories, so that the lowest part of the body shall never be higher than two-and-a-half (2.5) meters (approx. eight (8) feet) above the safety matting. This height limitation shall not apply to Classic Redpoint Format competitions, though the height limitation should be considered for boulders that a Youth C or Youth D Category competitor may attempt at a Classic Redpoint Format competition.
- b) The maximum number of handholds on one boulder:
  - i) Where a round is limited to only one (1) zone hold per boulder, the maximum number of handholds on any single boulder should be twelve (12) and the average number of handholds per boulder in the round should be between four (4) and eight (8), inclusive; or
  - ii) Where a round permits either one (1) or two (2) zone holds per boulder, the maximum number of handholds on any single boulder should be sixteen (16) and the average number of handholds per boulder in any round should be between four (4) and ten (10), inclusive.
- c) Each boulder shall be clearly marked to identify:
  - i) “Starting Holds” for both hands and both feet which shall not include blank or unbounded parts of the Climbing Surface. The Starting Holds should not be marked with specific positions for the hands. For the avoidance of doubt, marking the “Starting Holds” involves four (4) markings; and
  - ii) where a round is limited to only one (1) zone hold per boulder, a “Zone Hold”, which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance; and
  - iii) where a round permits either one (1) or two (2) zone holds per boulder, a “Zone Hold”, which shall be positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance and at the discretion of the Chief Routesetter, a “LowZone Hold”, which shall be positioned between the “Starting Holds” and the “Zone Hold” to further aid in the separation of competitors where perceived necessary; and
  - iv) a “Top”, which shall be either:
    - A) a marked finishing hold (the “Top Hold”); or
    - B) a standing position on top of the boulder.
- d) The markings used on each boulder shall indicate:
  - i) the Starting Holds and Top in one color; and

- ii) the Zone Holds and LowZone Holds (where present on the boulder) in a second color (different from the Starting Holds and Top); and
- iii) which Artificial Holds and Structures are part of the boulder (e.g., by hold color), though when a boulder's holds need to be demarcated by tape in order to sufficiently differentiate the boulder from other nearby boulders, a base layer of tape, using a different color from the Starting Holds, Top, and Zone(s), shall be used on each of the boulder's holds, where the markings of Rules 8.2.2(d)(i) and (ii) shall be on top of the base layer of tape, such that the base layer remains evident,

in each case using a color different from all other demarcations on the Climbing Surface. An example of these markings (including examples of Artificial Holds demarcated as down-climb holds, and therefore not part of any boulder) shall be installed within the Isolation Zone, which should be the same for the entire duration of a competition round for a given category.

- 8.2.3 Multiple Categories may compete on some of the same boulders. For example, Youth D's and Youth C's may compete on the same boulders.
- 8.2.4 For Isolation Format or Rotation Redpoint Format Boulder rounds, a timing system shall be used to display the time remaining within each Preparation Period and Climbing Period. The timing system shall:
  - a) be visible to all competitors on the field of play and in each Transit Zone; and
  - b) show the time remaining within the relevant period, rounded up to whole seconds; and
  - c) provide audio signals to announce:
    - i) the beginning and the end of each Climbing Period; and
    - ii) when one (1) minute remains within each Climbing Period; and
    - iii) a five (5) second countdown at the end of each period.

### 8.3 Format

- 8.3.1 Isolation Format Boulder competitions shall be organized with:
  - a) for some competitions, a Qualification Round consisting of a course of four (4) to five (5) boulders for each Starting Group; and
  - b) a Final and/or Semi-Final Round each consisting of a single course of four (4) boulders for each Category.
- 8.3.2 Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), up to one (1) boulder in any round may be cancelled in exceptional circumstances, including without limitation cases where the fairness of the round is significantly compromised and cannot be rectified through video review or other means such as a boulder substantially damaged or changed in the middle of a round or a substantial judging inconsistency.
- 8.3.3 In Isolation Format Boulder competitions:
  - a) competitors attempt each boulder without having watched any other competitor attempt the boulder; and
  - b) competitors enter the Isolation Zone prior to the competition and are brought out of the Isolation Zone to climb; and
  - c) receipt of any information concerning a boulder prior to or during the attempt on the boulder is grounds for disqualification, though competitors who have not yet climbed/attempted a boulder are free to discuss a boulder with other competitors in isolation who have not previously climbed/attempted that boulder.
- 8.3.4 Classic Redpoint and Modified Redpoint Boulder competitions shall be organized as outlined in Rules 8.9, 8.10.4, and 8.11.3.

### 8.4 Safety

See Section 3 for safety rules.

- 8.4.1 Safety matting shall be used to protect the competitors attempting each boulder:
- a) The Chief Routesetter shall adjust the number and character of the boulders to the safety matting available. If mats are joined, gaps shall be covered to avoid competitors falling or stepping between them.
  - b) The Head Judging Officials and the Chief Routesetter shall inspect each boulder and the safety matting prior to the start of each round to identify and address any safety risks.

## 8.5 Isolation Format Starting Order and Quotas

8.5.1 The Qualification Round may be organized with one (1) or two (2) Starting Groups for each Category:

- a) The number of Starting Groups in each Category shall be determined as follows:

Registered competitors	Number of Starting Groups
≤ 40	1
> 40	1 or 2 (*)

Table 8-1 Boulder Number of Starting Groups

(\*) at the discretion of the Event Organizer following consultation with the Jury President.

- b) Where two (2) Starting Groups are used:
  - i) each course of boulders should be designed to have similar overall difficulty, and the boulders in each set should be constructed with similar characteristics (e.g., profile and style); and
  - ii) competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups as follows:
    - A) any competitors having a Seeding for the competition shall be assigned to a Starting Group in the manner and order shown in the following example, where the order for competitors with equal seeding shall be at random:

Starting Group A	Starting Group B
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>

Table 8-2 Boulder Starting Group Distribution

- B) unranked competitors shall be allocated to Starting Groups at random, such that a near equal number of competitors is allocated to each Starting Group.

8.5.2 Unless specified otherwise in Rule 8.1 or the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 3 (Event Rules), the quotas for the Semi-Final and Final Round shall be twenty (20) and six (6).

8.5.3 The quota for the Semi-Final and Final Rounds shall each be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the immediately previous completed round as at the point in time when the results for that round have been made official and any appeals sentenced.

- a) If there are two Starting Groups in any Category, the quota for the following round shall be divided equally and applied to both groups.
- b) If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall qualify.

8.5.4 The starting order:

- a) within each Starting Group in Qualification, shall be determined as follows:
  - i) first, any competitor having a Seeding for the competition, in ascending order of this seeding (i.e., the highest seeded competitor starts first), competitors having equal Seeding in random order; and
  - ii) second, all unseeded competitors in random order;

- b) for each subsequent round, will be the reverse of the ranking from the preceding round (i.e., the highest ranked starts last). Where competitors are tied, their starting order will be by random selection,  
and in each case will be published in an Official Start List.

## 8.6 Isolation Format Competition Procedure

- 8.6.1 All rounds of Isolation Format Boulder competitions shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions, subject to the Isolation rules in Rule 3.16.
- 8.6.2 Where consecutive rounds of a competition take place on the same day, there should be a minimum duration of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first round and the closing of the Isolation Zone for the following round.
- 8.6.3 The Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds shall be conducted in Continuous Rotation Format, organized as a series of rotations each equal in duration to the Attempt Period for the round.
- 8.6.4 In Continuous Rotation Format, each competitor participating in the round:
  - a) will start their attempts on each boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the designated time; and
  - b) will attempt each boulder of the round in the prescribed order; and
  - c) will have a resting period equal to the Attempt Period between their attempts on each successive boulder.
  - d) At the end of each Climbing Period, the competitors:
    - i) who were climbing, shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any boulder not yet attempted; and
    - ii) who were resting, shall commence their attempts on the next boulder in succession, though in the case of a Preparation Period, shall commence at the end of the Preparation Period, or having finished the course, leave the Competition Area,  
and a Head Judging Official should oversee that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the rotation following their completion of the course.
- 8.6.5 A Final Round using Single Rotation Format:
  - a) may be preceded by a presentation of the competitors participating in the round; and
  - b) for each Category:
    - i) each boulder will be attempted by all competitors in the order set out on the Official Start List; and
    - ii) once a competitor has finished their attempts, they will return to a separate Transit Zone and the next competitor will start; and
    - iii) once all competitors have completed their attempts on a boulder, the competitors will move on to the next boulder as a group.

## 8.7 Isolation Format Observation Procedure

- 8.7.1 There will be no separate observation period for the Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds.
- 8.7.2 At the discretion of the Event Organizer for National Competitions only, the Final Round may be preceded by a collective observation for a period of two (2) minutes per boulder.
  - a) During this period, competitors may:
    - i) touch (only) the Climbing Surface and marked Starting Holds; and
    - ii) ask questions of USA Climbing Officials.
  - b) During this period, competitors shall not:
    - i) use or carry any recording equipment; or
    - ii) leave the designated observation area; or

- iii) climb on the climbing wall; or
- iv) communicate in any way with any person other than USA Climbing Officials or other competitors in their category who are part of the same collective observation.
- c) At the end of this period, competitors will return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by USA Climbing Officials.

## 8.8 Isolation Format Climbing Procedure

- 8.8.1 The Attempt Period within a Continuous Rotation Format round shall be comprised of:
- a) a fixed Preparation Period, of up to 60 seconds, during which a competitor may prepare for their attempts on their next boulder (without viewing that boulder), and a fixed Climbing Period; or
  - b) a fixed Climbing Period with no separate Preparation Period, and the Climbing Period shall be as specified in the Event Rules.
- 8.8.2 The Attempt Period within a Single Rotation Format round shall allow a Climbing Period as specified in the Event Rules with no separate Preparation Period.
- 8.8.3 If the Event Organizer has arranged for one or more persons to brush each boulder, each boulder should be cleaned before each competitor begins their first attempt and competitors may at any time request that any part of the boulder be cleaned.
- 8.8.4 Competitors may at any time clean any part of the boulder that they can reach without making use of any hold or structure.
- 8.8.5 If the Host Facility has provided one or more brushes for cleaning a given boulder, only those brushes provided may be used to clean the boulder.
- a) At National Competitions, competitors using their own brushes shall be charged with one attempt each time they use their own brush.
  - b) At non-National Competitions, competitors using their own brushes shall be told each time to not use their own brush, but will not be charged with an attempt.
- If such brushes are not provided by the Event Organizer, competitors may clean the boulder with their own brushes.
- 8.8.6 A competitor's attempt will be deemed to have:
- a) started when every part of the competitor's body has left the ground; and
  - b) finished when:
    - i) Successful (Rule 8.13.2); or
    - ii) they have fallen or touched the ground after starting; or
    - iii) the attempt has been terminated by the Climbing Judge or a USA Climbing Official as:
      - A) Unsuccessful (Rule 8.13.2); or
      - B) if a Technical Incident has occurred.

For the avoidance of doubt, an attempt will be recorded when the competitor's body has left the ground in an effort to begin the boulder; a repositioning step/hop will not result in an attempt being recorded.

## 8.9 Rotation Redpoint Format

- 8.9.1 The Rotation Redpoint format round shall follow the rules for an Isolation format round, except that:
- a) The round shall consist of one or more courses ("A", "B", etc.) each of the same number of boulders for each Category, as set forth in Rule 12.9.1.
  - b) For courses of more than one boulder, each round course for a given Category should be of similar overall difficulty and character.
  - c) The starting order for the round shall be determined as follows:

- i) For a single course, competitors randomized; and
- ii) For two courses:
  - A) for course A, competitors randomized; and
  - B) for course B, in the same order as for course A with a stagger of fifty percent (50%) rounded down, and
- iii) for more than two courses, nearly evenly staggered in such a manner as to be analogous to the two course case.

Where the stagger does not split the starting list exactly, the Jury President may introduce a delay to ensure competitors starting on each course remain paired.

- d) The round shall not be conducted under Isolation Conditions.
- e) In the round, for each course, the competitor will attempt the boulders in the course as set forth in Rule 8.6.4 for the Continuous Rotation Format.
- f) In the round, there shall be a minimum time gap of not less than:
  - i) for National competitions, fifty (50) minutes; and
  - ii) for other competitions, twenty (20) minutesbetween the completion of a competitor's attempt on their first qualification course and commencing their second qualification course.
- g) Each boulder within the round shall be demonstrated by forerunners on a video recording in the same manner as set forth in Rule 7.6.1(a).

8.9.2 At Rotation Redpoint Format round, "beta" (coaching, advice) shall not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the boulder (including without limitation "running beta"); however, beta may be given to a competitor before or between attempts of a boulder.

8.9.3 Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), the rules for Rotation Redpoint Format may be updated.



## 8.10 Redpoint Formats

8.10.1 Redpoint Format Boulder competitions may be either Classic Redpoint Format competitions or Modified Redpoint Format competitions.

8.10.2 Classic Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:

- a) The Jury President, in consultation with the Event Organizer shall have the Chief Routesetter prepare a set of boulders wherein every competitor may be scored for any boulder in the competition. A minimum of forty (40) boulders in total should be set, though this minimum may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) based on a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) In the Classic Redpoint Format, competitors have the goal of completing the highest value boulders, where each boulder has a unique value.
- c) A competitor's final score shall be the cumulative value of their top five (5) completed boulders, and competitors shall be ranked in descending order of such cumulative value, where two competitors with the same cumulative value shall be ranked by:
  - i) ascending order of total number of attempts on such top five (5) completed boulders; then
  - ii) descending order of the value of the competitors' sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) highest completed boulder; then
  - iii) ascending order of number of attempts on such sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) highest completed boulder; and so on.
- d) Each boulder will be worth a specific number of points based on that boulder's anticipated rating/difficulty. The following chart lists the point values that must be awarded to a competitor upon successful completion of the boulder. Note: If the competition has more than forty (40) boulders, then the point values shall remain consistent with the chart below, extrapolating from the 100-point increments outlined.

For example, if there are a total of fifty (50) boulders, boulder #1 shall be worth 100 points, boulder #40 shall be worth 4000 points, as outlined below, and boulder #41 shall be worth 4100 points, boulder #42 worth 4200 points, and so on, with boulder #50 worth the maximum of 5000 points.

Example Classic Redpoint Scoring Chart									
Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points	Route / Boulder	Points
1	100	11	1100	21	2100	31	3100	41	4100
2	200	12	1200	22	2200	32	3200	42	4200
3	300	13	1300	23	2300	33	3300	43	4300
4	400	14	1400	24	2400	34	3400	44	4400
5	500	15	1500	25	2500	35	3500	45	4500
6	600	16	1600	26	2600	36	3600	46	4600
7	700	17	1700	27	2700	37	3700	47	4700
8	800	18	1800	28	2800	38	3800	48	4800
9	900	19	1900	29	2900	39	3900	49	4900
10	1000	20	2000	30	3000	40	4000	50	5000

Table 8-3 Boulder Classic Redpoint Scoring Chart

- e) There should be no limit on the number of attempts a competitor may make on any given boulder. Each attempt, however, shall be recorded.

8.10.3 Modified Redpoint Boulder Format competitions shall be subject to the following Rules:



- a) The number of boulders and maximum number of attempts shall be determined by the Jury President, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and the Event Organizer, shall be consistent between Categories, and shall include:
  - i) a limit of six (6) to ten (10) boulders assigned to each Category; and
  - ii) a limit of five (5) to twenty (20) attempts a competitor may make on a given boulder, where that limit applies to all boulders.

The number of boulders, any sharing of boulders between different Categories in a session, the number of allowed attempts, and the session duration (Rule 8.11.1) shall be determined based on the event goal of allowing each competitor the opportunity to make at least three (3) attempts on each boulder assigned to their Category, while competitors have the goal of completing the highest quantity of boulders, where each boulder has the same value and scores on all boulders are counted.

Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), Categories may be assigned a different number of boulders.

- b) A competitor shall be scored as for an Isolation Boulder competition.

8.10.4 At Redpoint Format competitions, a judge (or team of judges) shall be assigned by a Head Judging Official to perform as judge for a “lane” (a set of spatially adjacent boulders on the climbing wall surface) for the session. Where necessary, replacement judges or rotating judges shall be allowed, provided that a considerable effort is made to maintain judging consistency in each lane during the session.

Any such assigned, replacement, or rotating judge shall not include anyone competing in that session, though USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) to waive this restriction for Collegiate or Paraclimbing competitions, at the request of the Event Organizer.

8.10.5 In a Classic or Modified Redpoint competition, the Event Organizer may provide competitors with “Queue Cards” for competitors to hand to an official in order to declare their desire to climb a boulder.

If the competition is using electronic scoring, the Queue Card has no official scorekeeping role.

In extraordinary cases, such as network or computer system issues, the Jury President may utilize paper-based scorekeeping, which may involve designating Queue Cards to serve as scorecards.

## 8.11 Redpoint Formats Competition Procedures

8.11.1 At Redpoint Format competitions, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb, subject to the following:

- a) This minimum time requirement may be waived by Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) in response to a timely request of the Event Organizer.
- b) At the discretion of the Jury President, the minimum time may be extended, but not shortened.
- c) Competitors should be given a “five-minute warning” before the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes every competitor still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Jury President may choose to allow competitors with their Queue Cards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, competitors must turn in their Queue Card. A Head Judging Official, prior to the start of the competition, should announce this information.
- d) The deadline for a competitor to check in and not be marked as DNS shall be ninety (90) minutes after the start of the relevant competition session, though the Jury President has discretion to allow later check in if contacted prior to the deadline.

8.11.2 Redpoint Format competitors are allowed to watch other competitors climb on a boulder prior to their own attempt.

8.11.3 At Redpoint Format competitions, “beta” (coaching, advice) may not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the boulder (including without limitation “running beta”); however, beta may be given to a competitor before or between attempts of a boulder.

## 8.12 Redpoint Formats Climbing Procedures

8.12.1 All Redpoint Format competitions shall be subject to the following:

- a) Competitors choose which boulders to attempt and may attempt as many different boulders as they wish, within the rules of the specific Redpoint Format, as time allows.
- b) Competitors declare their intention to attempt a boulder by either:
  - i) handing their Queue Card to the Climbing Judge who will call competitors in order of the Queue Card received; or
  - ii) registering their next desired boulder in an online system, if such a system is used at the competition.
- c) After each failed attempt, the Climbing Judge shall record the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate and the competitor may return to the back of the queue or elect to attempt another boulder.
- d) Upon successful completion of a boulder, the Climbing Judge shall record such success and the attempt on the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate.
- e) If the competitor flashes the boulder the scorecard or in the online system, as appropriate, shall be marked as having one (1) attempt.

## 8.13 Judging and Scoring

8.13.1 Each boulder shall be judged by at least one (1) Judge who shall record:

- a) the number of attempts made by each competitor. An attempt will be counted each time the competitor:
  - i) makes either a Correct or Incorrect start (Rule 8.13.3); or
  - ii) prior to starting, touches or makes use of any Artificial Hold or Structure other than:
    - A) the Starting Holds, or
    - B) any Artificial Hold or Structure which is fixed or positioned so as to modify the usable part(s) of any Starting Hold (a "Start-Blocker Hold"); or
  - iii) adds any "Tick Marks" (such Tick Marks should be removed immediately and, in any case, must be removed before a climber can make another attempt),  
and in response to violations of Rules 8.13.1(a)(ii) or 8.13.1(a)(iii), a disciplinary sanction may also be applied (e.g., a verbal warning may be given on the first violation, and a Yellow Card on subsequent violations); and
- b) on which attempt the competitor Controls each of the Zone or LowZone, when present; and
- c) on which attempt the competitor Successfully completes the boulder.

8.13.2 A competitor's attempt will be:

- a) judged "**Unsuccessful**" where:
  - i) the competitor has made an Incorrect start; or
  - ii) the competitor has touched the safety matting after leaving the ground; or
  - iii) in Isolation Format, the Climbing Period has expired; or
  - iv) the competitor has made use of any Illegal Aid,  
and, where a competitor makes an Unsuccessful attempt, the Climbing Judge shall order the relevant attempt terminated, and
- b) otherwise judged "**Successful**" where the competitor is in a Controlled position:
  - i) with both hands matched on the Top Hold; or
  - ii) standing on top of the boulder,  
and in each case, the Climbing Judge should raise a hand and/or announce "OK".

8.13.3 A competitor's start will be judged:

- a) **"Correct"** where the competitor achieves a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds without Controlling or Using any other Artificial Holds or Structures. For the avoidance of doubt, when starting a boulder:
  - i) a competitor must simultaneously contact each of the four (4) marked Starting Holds with a hand or foot, in a stable Controlled position; and
  - ii) a competitor may touch, Control or Use any part of the Climbing Surface in order to attain the Starting Holds; and
  - iii) a competitor may touch any Start-Blocker Holds, which are defined in Rule 8.13.1(a)(ii).
- b) **"Incorrect"** where the competitor
  - i) fails to achieve a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds; or
  - ii) Controls or Uses any Artificial Holds or other Structures not marked as Starting Holds before achieving a stable Controlled position with both hands and both feet on the Starting Holds.

## 8.14 Ranking

8.14.1 For Isolation Format and Modified Redpoint Format, in each Round:

- a) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the round will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked with the appropriate IRM; and
- b) each competitor starting the round shall be ranked using the following criteria:
  - i) in descending order, the number of Successfully completed boulders ("Tops"); then
  - ii) in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:
    - A) Controlled (with any hand) the Zone Hold; or
    - B) successfully completed the boulder without having Controlled the Zone Hold, and this number being the "Zone Points" awarded; then
  - iii) in descending order, the number of boulders on which the competitor has either:
    - A) Controlled (with any hand) the LowZone Hold; or
    - B) successfully completed the boulder or Controlled the Zone Hold, either:
      - 1 without having Controlled the LowZone Hold; or
      - 2 on a Boulder without a LowZone Hold in a round that allows a LowZone Hold, and this number being the "LowZone Points" awarded; then
  - iv) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Tops; then
  - v) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these Zone Points; then
  - vi) in ascending order, the total number of attempts to achieve these LowZone Points.

8.14.2 For Classic Redpoint Format, in each Round:

- a) any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start the round will be unranked in the relevant round and their result marked with the appropriate IRM; and
- b) each competitor starting the round shall be ranked in descending order by the final score outlined in Rule 8.10.2.

8.14.3 Ties in Semi-Final & Final rankings:

- a) If any competitors are tied following the ranking procedure of Rule 8.14.1, their relative rankings shall be determined:
  - i) by count-back to their rankings from the previous round (unless the previous round was held with two Starting Groups); then

- ii) if, in respect of the Final Round in a Championship or National competition (or where the Final Round was cancelled, the Semi-Final Round), any competitors are tied following a count-back, the relative rankings of these competitors will be determined by comparing the best results for each such competitor:
  - A) starting with the number of Tops attained on the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, then the number of Tops attained on the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt, and so on; then
  - B) where the comparison in (A) cannot break a tie, by comparing the number of Zones attained on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) attempt, then the number of Zones attained on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) attempt, and so on; then
  - C) Where the comparisons in (A) and (B) cannot break a tie, by comparing the number of LowZones attained on the first (1<sup>st</sup>) attempt, then the number of LowZones attained on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) attempt, and so on,

and where competitors remain tied following (A), (B) and (C), the results of such competitors shall be considered equal.

#### 8.14.4 General Ranking:

- a) The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:
  - i) competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; then
  - ii) where applicable, competitors having a Semi-Final ranking but not a Final ranking, in that order; then
  - iii) competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order, provided that where the Qualification Round takes place with two Starting Groups, their General Ranking shall be determined by merging the rankings from each group, treating competitors having equal rankings between the two groups as tied.

### 8.15 Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 8.15.1 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official USA Climbing broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:
  - a) the Starting Holds for each boulder; and
  - b) the Zone and LowZone Hold(s), as applicable, for each boulder; and
  - c) the Top for each boulder; and
  - d) any demarcations marked on the Climbing Surface; and
  - e) where relevant, the timer display showing the time remaining within the Climbing Period.
- 8.15.2 Notwithstanding Rule 8.15.1, where no Official Video Recordings exist, the Jury President has the discretion to solicit or consider other video recordings in such a way as to not materially risk the creation of inconsistencies that would unfairly affect the ranking of other competitors.
- 8.15.3 If a competitor, Certified Coach, or Climbing Judge believes that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify a Head Judging Official prior to the competitor commencing any further attempts. No Technical Incident shall be considered where notification is made following the start of the next Climbing Period.
- 8.15.4 A Head Judging Official, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, if necessary, shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred. For the avoidance of doubt, the interruption of a competitor's attempts to stop bleeding shall not be considered as a Technical Incident.
- 8.15.5 An Appeal which, if upheld:
  - a) would entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s):
    - i) if made by the relevant competitor, may be initiated verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable; however
    - ii) if made by a Certified Coach, must be made in writing,

and in each case must be made:

- A) in respect of the Qualification or Semi-Final Rounds, or Final Rounds using Continuous Rotation Format, before the finish of the next Climbing Period; or
- B) in respect of the Final Round using Single Rotation Format, prior to the next competitor starting their attempts; or
- b) would not entitle the affected competitor(s) to make further attempts on the relevant boulder(s), must be made in writing and before the deadline set forth in Rule 12.13.1.

8.15.6 Where a confirmed Technical Incident or an Appeal covered by Rule 8.15.5(a):

- a) can be resolved/determined prior to the termination of the current Climbing Period, the competitor shall be offered the opportunity to continue their attempts, in which case:
  - i) if the competitor chooses to continue, the incident will be considered concluded; and
  - ii) if the competitor chooses not to continue, the competitor shall resume their attempts at a time determined by a Head Judging Official, having due regard to:
    - A) any recuperation period appropriate for the affected competitor; and
    - B) minimizing the impact on other competitors; and
    - C) the overall competition schedule.
- b) cannot be resolved/determined prior to the termination of the current Climbing Period:
  - i) in the case of a Technical Incident only, the round shall be suspended for the affected competitor and for all competitors on preceding boulders until the matter is resolved/determined; and
  - ii) the affected competitors shall resume their attempts as directed by a Head Judging Official once the matter is resolved/determined,

and in each case, the affected competitors will act as directed by a Head Judging Official. For the avoidance of doubt, any competitor who leaves the Competition Area prior to the matter being resolved/determined will not be permitted to resume their attempts.

8.15.7 When a competitor who has suffered a Technical Incident or who has been the subject of an Appeal resumes climbing:

- a) they shall be allowed the time remaining when the relevant incident occurred, with a minimum of two (2) minutes; and
- b) their next attempt:
  - i) in the case of a Technical Incident, shall be deemed a continuation of the prior attempt; and
  - ii) in the case of a determined Appeal, may be deemed as either:
    - A) a continuation of the prior attempt; or
    - B) as a new attempt,

in each case as the circumstances dictate.

## 9 Speed

Part 3 - Event Rules may define alterations to general discipline rules for a particular competition. See the Order of Rule Precedence section at the beginning of this Rulebook.

### 9.1 Removed (was Speed Competition Types)

(content moved to Section 12.10.)

### 9.2 Field-of-Play

9.2.1 Standard Speed Field-of-Play competitions shall take place:

- a) on artificial structures that meet the Certification Standards outlined in Rule 9.4; and
- b) using an automatic timing system that meets the Certification Standards outlined in Rule 9.4; and
- c) with the competitor secured from above using a belay system and belay devices determined by the host facility to be designed or suitable for speed climbing, used in a manner approved by the manufacturer, with all belay devices in good working order to the best knowledge of the host facility after reasonable diligence and regularly scheduled maintenance, as applicable, and subject to the limitations and notifications in the Host Agreement and the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document outlined in Rule 9.4.

9.2.2 Alternative Speed Field-of-Play competitions shall take place:

- a) on two (2) parallel routes, of identical length, of the same profile, design, and difficulty, where the routes shall be newly set, and no competitor shall be allowed to practice on them outside of an official Practice Period preceding the Qualification Round; and
- b) using either an automatic timing system that meets the Certification Standards outlined in Rule 9.4 or using:
  - i) recordings or software to produce the official start timing tones to start each race; and
  - ii) approximations to a timing system's starting foot pads and finish pads; and
  - iii) manual timing devices; and
  - iv) a minimum of two (2) timer volunteers per lane, each operating a manual timing device, and the awarded time for a competitor shall be the average of the measured times, after first eliminating obvious timing errors, were a case where an accurate time cannot be determined shall result in a Technical Incident,

where such tones, pad approximations, and timing devices must comply with the standards published in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website; and

- c) with the competitor secured from above using a belay system as outlined in Rule 9.2.1.

9.2.3 The Alternative Speed Field-of-Play routes for Speed competitions for Youth C Category shall not include the Standard Field-of-Play route unaltered, but may include Standard Field-of-Play route general layout and holds (handholds and footholds), provided that the Alternative Speed Field-of-Play route shall be set with:

- a) starting handholds that are lower than the Standard Field-of-Play starting handhold positions; and
- b) additional holds so as to be appropriate for the sizes of competitors in the Youth C Category; and
- c) Standard Field-of-Play handholds altered so that the following are either removed or rotated at least 90 degrees from the standard angle:
  - i) The two first (starting) handholds (panel dx2); and
  - ii) At least one (1) of handholds four (4) through seven (7) (panels dx3,dx4); and
  - iii) At least one (1) of handholds eight (8) through twelve (12) (panels dx5,dx6); and



- iv) On a 15m speed wall, at least one (1) of handholds thirteen (13) and higher (panels dx7,dx8,dx9).

See the certification standards in Rule 0 for the Standard Field-of-Play route handhold and panel arrangements.

- 9.2.4 Each route should be cleaned following the completion of the Practice Period (if any), and following the completion of the Qualification Round and Semi-Final Round (if any).

### 9.3 Format

- 9.3.1 Standard Speed Format two (2) round competitions shall be organized with:

- a) a Qualification Round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and
- b) where the number of competitors recording a valid qualifying time (a Valid Time in the Qualification Round; see Rules 9.16 and 9.12.3) is four (4) or more, a Final Round.

- 9.3.2 Standard Speed Format three (3) round competitions shall be organized with:

- a) a Qualification Round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and
- b) a Semi-Final Round consisting of a single stage, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs; and
- c) where the number of competitors recording a valid qualifying time (a Valid Time in the immediately preceding round (see Rules 9.16 and 9.12.3) is four (4) or more, a Final Round.

- 9.3.3 The Standard Speed Format Final Round shall consist of:

- a) where the Final Round uses the Standard Speed Field-of-Play rules (Rule 9.2.1), between two (2) and four (4) elimination stages in a Knockout Format Final Round as outlined in Rule 9.10.1; and
- b) where the Final Round uses Alternative Speed Field-of-Play rules (Rule 9.2.2), a single stage in a non-Knockout Format Final Round, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs as outlined in Rule 9.10.2,
  - i) unless the two lanes are set identically including Standard Field-of-Play route general layout and holds and additional matched speed handholds and footholds as set forth in Rule 9.2.3, then between two (2) and four (4) elimination stages in a Knockout Format Final Round as outlined in Rule 9.10.1.

- 9.3.4 Standard Speed Format competitions may have a Practice Period preceding the Qualification Round. Where a Practice Period is organized, the time and arrangements for this Practice Period shall be announced at the Technical Meeting.

- 9.3.5 Alternative Speed Format competitions shall be organized with a single round, taking place on two lanes, left "A" and right "B", with competitors climbing in pairs. The single round shall use Qualification Round rules. At the discretion of the Event Organizer or the Jury President, in the event that the host facility does not have available two lanes meeting the Speed Field-of-Play rules, the Alternative Speed Format competition may be organized with a single lane "A" and each competitor shall have two attempts on that lane.

### 9.4 Certifications

- 9.4.1 USA Climbing requires certification standards to be met for the field of play and officials (e.g., USAC Speed Judge) for Standard Speed Field-of-Play competitions.

The certification standards are outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document available on the USA Climbing [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

### 9.5 Records

- 9.5.1 USA Climbing recognizes National Records for a 15m wall (and, historically, for a 10m wall) for International Competition Eligible and National Team Eligible athletes in each of the following:
  - a) USA Climbing, for each of Female and Male.

- b) Youth Junior Category, for each of Female and Male.
- c) Youth A Category, for each of Female and Male.
- d) Youth B Category, for each of Female and Male.
- e) Collegiate Series, for each of Female and Male.

A Series record is recognized only at a competition of that Series, and a Youth Category Record is recognized only at a Youth competition.

9.5.2 A National Record may be set only during scoring races. (i.e., not during any Practice Period or any race which is abandoned or cancelled.)

9.5.3 A National Record may only be set at:

- a) an IFSC Speed Competition meeting the certification requirements for a World Record; or
- b) a USA Climbing hosted or sanctioned Speed Competition where:
  - i) the climbing surface, holds, and timing system all meet the relevant certification standards outlined in Rule 9.4; and
  - ii) the competition uses the Standard Speed Field-of-Play, Format, and Starting Order rules; and
  - iii) the competition is included in the official USA Climbing or IFSC calendar of events; and
  - iv) a Speed Judge has been appointed by USA Climbing or the IFSC.

## 9.6 Safety

9.6.1 Each competitor shall wear a harness. The USAC Speed Judge shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor’s harness is unsafe. Competitors may wear elbow and/or knee pads.

## 9.7 Advancement between Rounds (Quotas)

9.7.1 For a Semi-Final Round or a non-Knockout Format Final Round, if the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall qualify.

9.7.2 For competitions with a Final Round Maximum Quota of sixteen (16), the quota for the Knockout Format Final Round shall be determined as follows:

Competitors with a Valid Qualifying Time	Final Round Quota
4-7	4
8-15	8
> 15	16

Table 9-1 Speed Final Round Quota – Max Quota 16

9.7.3 For competitions with a Final Round Maximum Quota of eight (8), the quota for the Knockout Format Final Round shall be determined as follows:

Competitors with a Valid Qualifying Time	Final Round Quota
4-7	4
> 7	8

Table 9-2 Speed Final Round Quota – Max Quota 8

9.7.4 [removed]

9.7.5 A competitor who fails to record at least one (1) Valid Time in a round shall not qualify for advancement to the next round.

- a) If a competitor made a False Start in a round, their “Valid Time” result in any race in the round shall not be considered for next round advancement quota or next round advancement purposes, unless they are a Youth C competitor or the competition is a Qualification Speed Trial.



## 9.8 Starting Order – Qualification Round

9.8.1 Standard Speed Starting Order competitions shall use the “Staggered” order for the Qualification Round Starting Orders. The “Staggered” order shall be determined as follows:

- a) for Lane A, by random selection; and
- b) for Lane B, in the same order as Lane A with a stagger of 50%, e.g., where the Start List includes twenty (20) or twenty-one (21) competitors, the competitor starting 11th on Lane A will start 1st on Lane B.

9.8.2 Alternative Speed Starting Order competitions shall be organized without starting orders, where competitors present themselves at the speed wall during the designated time, published on the official competition schedule or announced during the Technical Meeting. Competitors shall then be allowed to have up to one (1) race on each route (A and B), racing against another competitor or a “rabbit” (or racing alone if the Event Organizer is not providing a “rabbit”), except in the case where the competition has only one single lane (A), in which case the competitor is allowed up to two (2) races on that route.

## 9.9 Starting Orders – Semi-Final Round

9.9.1 The Semi-Final Round starting order is as follows:

- a) the round Qualifiers (competitors advancing to the Semi-Final Round) are paired and ordered according to their rank from the immediately preceding round as at the point in time when the results for that round have been made official and any appeals sentenced; and
- b) the lowest ranked competitors are ordered first and the highest ranked are ordered last; and
- c) if two or more competitors are tied following the immediately preceding round, their starting order in the Semi-Final Round shall be determined by random selection; and
- d) if there is an odd number of competitors, the first competitor in the starting order (lowest ranked) shall race alone; and
- e) every competitor in the round has their first race; then, after all competitors have had their first race, each eligible competitor has their second race; and
- f) the pairings of competitors remain the same for their first and second races; and
- g) the higher ranked competitor of the pair is assigned to Lane A in the first race, and Lane B in the second race.

For example, and for the avoidance of doubt, a Semi-Final Round that includes a quota of twenty (20) competitors advancing from the Qualification Round would have races as follows:

Race	Lane A	Lane B	Race	Lane A	Lane B
1	Qualifier #19	Qualifier #20	11	Qualifier #20	Qualifier #19
2	Qualifier #17	Qualifier #18	12	Qualifier #18	Qualifier #17
3	Qualifier #15	Qualifier #16	13	Qualifier #16	Qualifier #15
4	Qualifier #13	Qualifier #14	14	Qualifier #14	Qualifier #13
5	Qualifier #11	Qualifier #12	15	Qualifier #12	Qualifier #11
6	Qualifier #9	Qualifier #10	16	Qualifier #10	Qualifier #9
7	Qualifier #7	Qualifier #8	17	Qualifier #8	Qualifier #7
8	Qualifier #5	Qualifier #6	18	Qualifier #6	Qualifier #5
9	Qualifier #3	Qualifier #4	19	Qualifier #4	Qualifier #3
10	Qualifier #1	Qualifier #2	20	Qualifier #2	Qualifier #1

Table 9-3 Speed Example Semi-Final Round Races

## 9.10 Starting Orders – Final Round

9.10.1 Speed Competitions with multiple rounds, where the Final Round uses a Knockout Format Final Round as required by Rule 9.3.3(a), shall use, for each stage of the Final Round, the starting orders as set out below, which also sets out the lane allocation for each race. If two or more competitors are tied following the immediately preceding round, their starting order in the first stage of the Final Round shall be determined by random selection. The starting order and race pairings for the initial stage will be fixed at the point in time when the results for the immediately prior round have been made official and any appeals sentenced.

Note: refer to Rule 9.13.2 regarding the Competition Procedure, including the “Small Final” and the “Big Final”.

### 16 starters

1/8 stage	1/4 stage	1/2 stage	Final stage
1 A Qualifier #1 B Qualifier #16	9 A Winner Race 1 B Winner Race 2	13 A Winner Race 9 B Winner Race 10	15 A Loser Race 13 B Loser Race 14
2 A Qualifier #8 B Qualifier #9	10 A Winner Race 3 B Winner Race 4	14 A Winner Race 11 B Winner Race 12	16 A Winner Race 13 B Winner Race 14
3 A Qualifier #4 B Qualifier #13	11 A Winner Race 5 B Winner Race 6		
4 A Qualifier #5 B Qualifier #12	12 A Winner Race 7 B Winner Race 8		
5 A Qualifier #2 B Qualifier #15			
6 A Qualifier #7 B Qualifier #10			
7 A Qualifier #3 B Qualifier #14			
8 A Qualifier #6 B Qualifier #11			

Figure 9-1 Speed Knockout Round – 16 Starters

## 8 starters

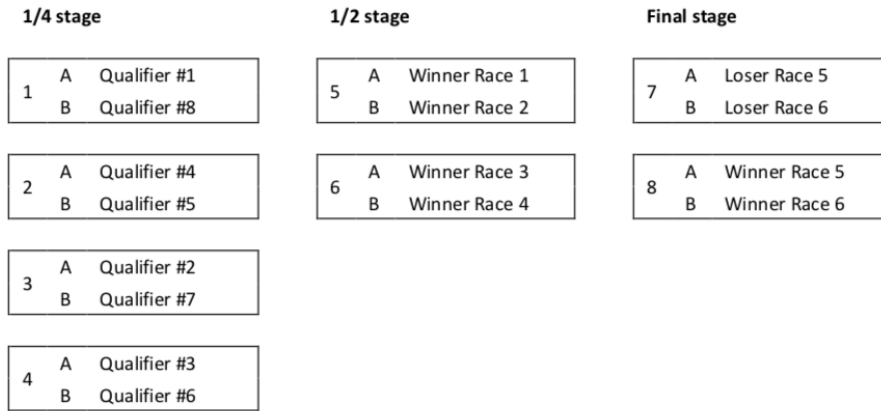


Figure 9-2 Speed Knockout Round – 8 Starters

## 4 starters

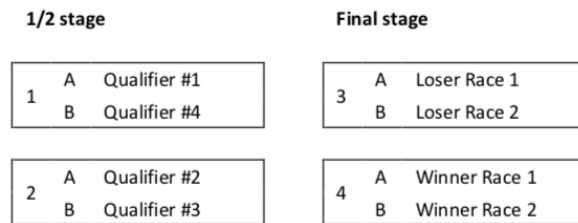


Figure 9-3 Speed Knockout Round – 8 Starters

9.10.2 Speed Competitions with multiple rounds where the Final Round uses a non-Knockout Format Final Round as required by Rule 9.3.3(b), shall use a Final Round where the starting order is as set out in Rule 9.9, but using the immediately preceding round rank for ordering the competitors who advanced to the Final Round.

## 9.11 Competition Procedure – Practice Period

- 9.11.1 Where a Practice Period is held, competitors should be entitled to one practice attempt or run on each route/lane. Competitors will not be stopped in the event of a False Start.
- 9.11.2 The Practice Period should include a demonstration of the false start signal and of the timing equipment.
- 9.11.3 The Practice Period should take the form of a pre-run of the Qualification Round, each competitor eligible to participate in the Qualification Round making their attempts in the starting order published for the Qualification Round. The USAC Speed Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer may vary the timing and format of any Practice Period to reflect circumstances specific to a competition.

## 9.12 Competition Procedure: Qualification and Semi-Final Rounds

- 9.12.1 Each competitor may make one attempt on each lane, except:
  - a) where a re-run is required following a False Start or a Technical Incident, in which case an additional attempt shall be permitted; or

- b) where they fail to report to the Call Zone when called, in which case the relevant race shall proceed without them; or
  - c) where the competition has only a single lane, in which the competitor's second (2<sup>nd</sup>) attempt on that lane shall be considered the competitor's attempt on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) lane.
- 9.12.2 Each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the USAC Speed Judge until they have completed their attempts on both lanes.
- 9.12.3 A competitor making a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) in their first scheduled race will not be eligible to start their second scheduled race. However, such a competitor, only in a round that contributes to Time Rank (as set forth in Rule 9.20.7), will be allowed to start their second race for Time Rank consideration only, and any such second race for said competitor shall not contribute to the competitor's rank in the round. In all cases where a False Start occurs, the competitor who has not made the False Start may re-run without a partner, this re-run taking place before the next scheduled race.

### 9.13 Competition Procedure: Final Round

- 9.13.1 In any race in a Knockout Format Final Round, the winner shall be:
- a) where both competitors record a valid time, the competitor who records the lowest valid time; or
  - b) where one competitor is determined to have made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5), the other competitor; or
  - c) where both competitors record the same time or neither competitor records a valid time (other than where a False Start has occurred):
    - i) the result of a re-run race between the same competitors; or
    - ii) if both competitors remain tied after the re-run race, determined by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times); or
  - d) where any competitor fails to report to the Call Zone when called, the other competitor.
- 9.13.2 A Speed Competition Knockout Final Round shall take place as a series of stages each consisting of a number of "elimination" races (see Rule 9.10.1 for the "bracket(s)"), with only the winner of a race in any stage proceeding to the next stage. The number of stages and races in each stage will be determined by the quota for the Final Round.
- a) Before the first race of the ½ stage (the penultimate stage of the Knockout Format Final Round) a presentation of all ½ stage competitors may be made.
  - b) The losers of the ½ stage races shall compete for 3rd and 4th place in a "Small Final".
  - c) The winners of the ½ stage races shall compete for 1st and 2nd place in a "Big Final", which will follow the completion of the Small Final (or where multiple Categories are competing in parallel, may be following the completion of all Small Final races). If a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) occurs in any Big Final, the winning competitor may elect to race alone. (e.g., for the purpose of setting a National record.)
  - d) Each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the USAC Speed Judge.
- 9.13.3 A Final Round that does not use the Knockout Format shall use a Competition Procedure as follows:
- a) Each competitor may make one attempt on each lane, as outlined in Rules 9.12.1 and 9.12.2.
  - b) A competitor making a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) in any race of the Final Round shall be eliminated from the Final Round (and shall lose any valid Final Round time previously recorded in the round). The other competitor in that race may re-run without a partner, this re-run taking place before the next scheduled race.

## 9.14 Climbing Procedure

- 9.14.1 All races shall be started with a clearly audible signal initiated by an assigned Starter. The Starter shall select a position where they are not visible to the competitors in their starting positions. The source of the starting signal should be positioned as near as possible to equidistant from both competitors.
- 9.14.2 Each race shall use a common starting protocol.
- a) On being called to the start of a route, each competitor:
    - i) should, within 10 seconds of being called, position the starting pad as appropriate for their preferred starting position. During this period competitors may touch only the first holds on the route and must remain on the ground; then
    - ii) will present themselves to the belayer (aka “clipper”), who shall confirm that
      - A) the competitor’s harness is properly fastened; and
      - B) the competitor’s harness is safely connected to the automatic belay system or top-rope, then
    - iii) will take up an assembly position as designated by the Starter, not more than two (2) meters in front of and facing away from the wall.
  - b) At the command ‘At (On) your marks’, from either the Starter or the timing system initiated by the Starter, each competitor will, without delay, take a position with both hands and one foot on their preferred starting holds, and one foot on the starting pad.
  - c) Once all competitors are motionless in their starting positions, the Starter shall either announce ‘Ready’ and, following this, initiate the timing system, or as appropriate, initiate the timing system to announce ‘Ready.’
  - d) If for any reason following the command ‘At (On) your marks’ but prior to the ‘Ready’ command:
    - i) the Starter is not satisfied that the race can proceed; or
    - ii) a competitor raises a hand to indicate that they are not ready to start,then the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position.
  - e) If a competitor fails to comply with (a) or (b), or by any action disturbs other competitors, the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position. The USAC Speed Judge or Jury President may issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.
- 9.14.3 If an automatic timing system is not being used, starting tones must be produced as set forth in Rule 9.2.2(b).
- 9.14.4 All verbal instructions shall be given in a loud and clearly audible voice.

## 9.15 False Starts

- 9.15.1 Where in any race using an automatic timing system, following the Starter declaring ‘Ready!’:
- a) one competitor has a Reaction Time less than 0.100s, that competitor shall be recorded as having made a False Start; or
  - b) both competitors have a Reaction Time less than 0.100s:
    - i) the competitor with the lowest (fastest) reaction time shall be recorded as having made a False Start; and
    - ii) if both competitors have the same Reaction Time, the relevant race shall be re-run and no False Start shall be recorded.
- 9.15.2 Where, in any race not using an automatic timing system, following the Starter declaring ‘Ready!’, a competitor’s foot leaves the ground or hand leaves the starting hold, or, any upward movement is made, prior to the Judge’s instruction to start (audible signal), then:
- a) the competitor shall be called for a False Start; and
  - b) the Judge shall declare ‘False Start’ and instruct both competitors to ‘Stop’.

- 9.15.3 In addition to any recall signal made by the timing system following a False Start, the Starter shall also declare 'Stop!' as soon as possible.
- 9.15.4 No Appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time recorded by an automatic timing system approved by USA Climbing.
- 9.15.5 In each Round not using an automatic timing system, a competitor's first (1<sup>st</sup>) False Start in that round is a Probationary False Start; any other False Start is not a Probationary False Start. For the avoidance of doubt, in any round using an automatic timing system there shall be no Probationary False Starts. For the further avoidance of doubt, the Final Round is considered a single round, though it may consist of multiple stages of races.
- 9.15.6 In the event of a Probationary False Start, the effected race shall be re-run immediately following that False Start.
- 9.15.7 For the Youth C Category only, a competitor who makes a False Start in a race in a Round shall:
- be ineligible to re-run in that race (the other competitor in that race shall be eligible to re-run the race); and
  - if the False Start is made in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) race, be eligible to run in their second (2<sup>nd</sup>) race in the Round and to keep any Valid Time attained in that second (2<sup>nd</sup>) race; and
  - if the False Start is made in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) race, keep any Valid Time in their first (1<sup>st</sup>) race in the Round; and
  - if the competitor finishes the round with a Valid Time (i.e., in the race where they did not make a False Start), be ranked in the round based on that Valid Time.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Youth C Category Speed Discipline competitor who makes a False Start in a race in a round forfeits their eligibility to run in that race only, and a Valid Time in their other race in that round may afford them eligibility to advance to the next round.

- 9.15.8 The following table is an informative (non-binding) summary of certain False Start impacts in a non-Knockout round:

Competitions	Categories	Impact on Advancement	Impact on Time Rank
Qualification Speed Trials	all	No impact on advancement.	n/a
Championship and National events	Youth C	May be eligible to advance to next round. (9.15.7)	n/a
Championship and National events	All except Youth C	Not eligible to advance to next round (9.7.5)	Forfeits ability to run that race, but eligible for other race in that round for Time Rank purposes. (9.12.3, 9.20.7)

Table 9-4 Speed False Start Impact Summary for non-Knockout Rounds

## 9.16 Valid Time

- 9.16.1 A result shall be recorded as:

- a "Valid Time" where the relevant competitor:
  - where an automatic timing system is being used, has struck the top timing pad/switch and stopped the timer; or
  - where an automatic timing system is not being used, has struck inside the finish box, except where a False Start has been made by either competitor in the relevant race; or
- a "Fall" where the relevant competitor, in the course of an attempt:
  - where an automatic timing system is being used, fails to stop the timer; or
  - where an automatic timing system is not being used, fails to strike inside the finish box; or

- iii) arrests any fall/slip other than using the highest hold Controlled/Used prior to the fall/slip; or
- iv) uses the side edge or the top edge of the wall for climbing; or
- v) touches the ground with any part of the body after having started; or
- vi) makes use of an area, hold, or feature demarcated as out of bounds; or
- vii) uses any Illegal Aid.

## 9.17 Resting Time

- 9.17.1 Every competitor shall be afforded a minimum resting time of five (5) minutes between attempts on the route(s), other than:
- a) where a tie-break race is held; or
  - b) following a false start.

## 9.18 Judging and Scoring

- 9.18.1 The climbing time for each competitor shall be defined as the period between the Starting Signal and the completion of the competitor's attempt.
- 9.18.2 Where an automatic timing system is being used, the timing system shall:
- a) record and display the climbing time for each competitor separately; and
  - b) be capable of measuring times to an accuracy of at least 1/100s; and
  - c) if capable of measuring times to an accuracy of at least 1/1000s:
    - i) times shall be recorded to the nearest 1/1000s for the purpose of ranking; and
    - ii) times may be displayed rounded down to the nearest 1/100s.
- 9.18.3 Where an automatic timing system is not being used, the timing system shall consist of two or three timing assistants per route, each operating a stopwatch, where the time recorded is the average of the stopwatches, after first eliminating obvious timing errors.
- 9.18.4 A valid time shall be recorded where the competitor has completed an attempt in accordance with these rules. A competitor shall be allowed to view their recorded time(s).

## 9.19 Qualification and Semi-Final Ranking

- 9.19.1 Any competitor who does not start at least one race they are eligible to start in the round will be unranked in the round and their result marked as Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.
- 9.19.2 Each competitor who has made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5) on either their first or second scheduled race will be ranked equal last in the round.
- 9.19.3 Subject to Rules 9.19.1 and 9.19.2, each competitor who has otherwise failed to record a Valid Time in one or both scheduled races will be ranked equal, ahead of any competitors who have made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in Rule 9.15.5).
- 9.19.4 Subject to Rules 9.19.1 through 9.19.3, each competitor who has recorded a Valid Time in at least one of their scheduled races will be ranked in ascending order of their best (or only) Valid Time, measured to 1/1000s. Where any two competitors have the same best (or only) Valid Time, their relative ranking will be determined as follows:
- a) where both competitors have a second Valid Time, by comparison of these times; and
  - b) where only one athlete has a second Valid Time, they will be ranked ahead of the competitor with no second Valid Time; and
  - c) where neither competitor has a second Valid Time, the two competitors will be ranked equal.
- 9.19.5 If, following the ranking procedures in Rules 9.19.1 through 9.19.4, and for a Semi-Final Round, competitors still tied shall be ranked by their rank in the prior Qualification Round.



- 9.19.6 If, following the ranking procedures in Rules 9.19.1 through 9.19.5, the quota for the Final Round is exceeded as a result of ties, the tied competitors shall re-run on Lane A until all relevant ties are broken. The times recorded in these attempts shall be used only to determine which competitors qualify for the Final Round and for no other purpose.

## 9.20 Final and General Ranking

- 9.20.1 Any competitor who fails to or is ineligible to start their first scheduled race will be unranked in the round and their result marked as Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.
- 9.20.2 Competitors in a Final Round using the Knockout Format shall be ranked in the Final Round based on their finish in the last stage in which they competed and within each stage in the following order:
- a) first, the race winner(s) in that stage, ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times); and
  - b) second, the race loser(s) in that stage, ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times).
- 9.20.3 Competitors in a Final Round not using the Knockout Format shall be ranked in the Final Round in the following order using their Final Round run time(s):
- a) first, all competitors having at least one valid time:
    - i) in reverse order of their lowest (fastest) time; and
    - ii) where two or more competitors have the same lowest time, in reverse order of their second time (competitors having a valid second time being ranked ahead of those having no second time); and
  - b) second, all competitors having no valid time, including without limitation competitors having two falls and competitors with False Starts.
- 9.20.4 Where in a Final Round not using the Knockout Format two or more competitors have an equivalent result in the Final Round as per Rule 9.20.3, the rank within each such set of competitors shall be:
- a) where the competitors have a unique rank in the immediately preceding round, by such rank; or
  - b) where the competitors have the same rank in the immediately preceding round, their rank shall be determined as follows:
    - i) if there are two such competitors, by a Super-Final race between said competitors, using the rules of a Knockout Finals stage race (Rule 9.13.1), where such a race shall be re-run until a unique rank is established; or
    - ii) if there are more than two such competitors, by a new Super-Final set of races among said competitors, using the rules of the Qualification Round. In the event there remain competitors without a unique rank, such competitors shall have their rank determined by reapplication of Rule 9.20.4(b) as necessary.
- 9.20.5 The General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:
- a) first, competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and
  - b) second, competitors not having a Final ranking, in order of their ranking in the immediately preceding round; and
  - c) third, if there are three rounds, competitors not having a Semi-Final ranking, in order of their ranking in the Qualification Round.
- 9.20.6 Where any stage in the Final Round is cancelled, the competition will be considered concluded and the General ranking for the competition will be the General ranking after the last completed stage, the race winners in the last completed stage being ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times).



9.20.7 For purposes other than Final and General Ranking, and only in a competition using a Knockout Format Final round, a "Time Rank" shall be calculated such that the competitors in a category are ranked by their fastest valid time during any round in the competition, including any time that was valid before a False Start. Such "Time Rank" may be used for purposes including without limitation National Records, invitations to subsequent competitions, and Team Selection.

## 9.21 Technical Incidents and Appeals

9.21.1 In the event there is Official Video Recording, only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President in consultation with the USAC Speed Judge any official USA Climbing broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:

- a) the starting position for both lanes; and
- b) the top timing pad/switch for both lanes; and
- c) the attempt of each pair of competitors in each race.

9.21.2 If a competitor or Certified Coach believes that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the USAC Speed Judge before the start of the next race.

9.21.3 A claim for a Technical Incident in relation to the performance of the timing system may be made only in relation to some evident or systematic error.

9.21.4 The USAC Speed Judge shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred.

- a) In order to make this determination, the USAC Speed Judge shall as necessary:
  - i) review the official video recordings; and/or
  - ii) require the system to be tested; and/or
  - iii) require a Routesetter to climb the relevant route and strike the top timing pad/switch.
- b) Where the Technical Incident:
  - i) can be remedied and is considered to have affected a single race, the competitors directly affected by the failure shall re-run their attempts; or
  - ii) cannot be remedied or is considered to have affected all competitors in the relevant stage, the USAC Speed Judge in consultation with the Jury President shall either:
    - A) cancel the affected and all subsequent stages; or
    - B) abandon and restart the stage; or
    - C) abandon and restart the stage using Alternative Speed Field-of-Play rules (Rule 9.2.2) for the timing system.

9.21.5 An Appeal concerning the judgment of:

- a) a competitor's attempt in any race; or
- b) the result of any race in the Final Round,

must be made prior to the start of the next race. The next race shall not commence until the Appeal has been decided. Such appeals may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable.

9.21.6 An Appeal concerning the published result or ranking of a competitor, must be made in writing and:

- a) in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification or Semi-Final Round, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
- b) in respect of the Final Round, upon publication of the relevant result/ranking.

## 10 Unused (was Team Speed)

## 11 Boulder & Lead

Note: USA Climbing Boulder & Lead rules are subject to change if IFSC Boulder & Lead rules change.

### 11.1 General

11.1.1 The rules in this Section 11 (Boulder & Lead) shall be read in conjunction the rules in Section 7 (Lead) and Section 8 (Boulder). In the event of a conflict with the rules in Section 7 (Lead) and Section 8 (Boulder), the rules in this Section 11 (Boulder & Lead) shall take precedence.

11.1.2 Combined Boulder & Lead competitions shall include both Male and Female categories and shall, for each category:

- a) be organized with:
  - i) an optional Qualification round;
  - ii) a Semi-Final round;
  - iii) a Final round, and
- b) combine within each round;
  - i) a Boulder stage consisting of a course of four (4) boulders; preceding
  - ii) a Lead stage consisting of one (1) route.

In exceptional circumstances and subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) up to one (1) boulder in any round may be cancelled. The cancellation of any stage will result in the cancellation of the round in which that stage forms part.

11.1.3 The design of each boulder/route will conform to the requirements set out in Sections 7 and 8 with the following amendments:

- a) Each route shall also be designed with no fewer than forty (40) scoring holds.
- b) Each boulder shall also be clearly marked to identify two (2) "Zone Holds", each positioned to aid the separation of competitors with markedly different performance.

11.1.4 A timing system shall be used in each round to display either the elapsed time or the time remaining (i) for each competitor during their attempt on any route during a Lead stage; and (ii) the time remaining within each Climbing Period and Preparation Period during a Boulder stage. The timing system shall:

- a) be visible to all competitors on the field of play and in each Transit Zone;
- b) show the time remaining within the relevant period, rounded up to whole seconds;
- c) provide audio signals to announce:
  - i) the beginning and the end of the Climbing Period;
  - ii) when one minute remains within each Climbing Period; and
  - iii) a five (5) second countdown at the end of each period.

### 11.2 Starting order and quotas

11.2.1 The quota for each round in a combined Boulder & Lead competition will be:

- a) in respect of the Semi-Final round, twenty (20); and
- b) in respect of the Final round, eight (8).

The quota for the Semi-Final and Final rounds shall, where relevant, be filled with the highest ranked competitors from the previous completed round. If the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall qualify.

11.2.2 The starting order:

- a) in any Qualification Round:

- i) where competitors have qualified for the relevant competition through a qualification system incorporating results from multiple Calendar Events, in descending order of the Seeding List produced by that qualification system. (i.e., the highest ranked starts last); or otherwise
  - ii) in random order.
- b) in the Semi-Final round:
- i) where the competition includes a Qualification round, in descending order of the ranking from that round. i.e., the highest ranked starts last; or otherwise
  - ii) where competitors have qualified for the relevant competition through a qualification system incorporating results from multiple Calendar Events, in descending order of the Seeding List produced by that qualification system. i.e., the highest ranked starts last.
- c) in the Final round, in descending order of the ranking for the Semi-Final round. i.e., the highest ranked starts last.
- and in each case will be the same for each of the Boulder and Lead stages of the relevant round; and published in an Official Start List.

### 11.3 Competition procedure

11.3.1 Each Boulder stage in a competition will be managed in accordance with the following provisions regarding competition procedures:

- a) Rule 11.3.3;
- b) Rule 11.3.4;
- c) Rule 11.3.5;
- d) Rule 11.3.6,

where each of the above-listed rules takes precedence over the relevant Discipline rule.

11.3.2 Each Lead stage in a competition will be managed in accordance with the following provisions regarding competition procedures:

- a) Rule 11.3.3;
- b) Rule 11.3.4;
- c) Rule 11.3.5,

where each of the above-listed rules takes precedence over the relevant Discipline rule.

11.3.3 Each stage of each round in the competition shall be conducted under Isolation Conditions. Competitors eligible to compete:

- a) in any stage of a Qualification or Semi-Final round, must report to the Isolation Zone not later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the relevant stage and remain under Isolation Conditions until the completion of their attempts in the relevant stage (plus any period allowed for or resulting from appeals on their attempts);
- b) in the Final round, must report to the Isolation Zone not later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled start time for the round, and remain under Isolation Conditions until the completion of their attempts in both stages of the round (plus any period allowed for or resulting from appeals on their attempts).

Competitors who are not present in the Isolation Zone at the closing time will not be eligible to start the relevant stage or round and shall be marked as DNS. Competitors and coaches who leave the Isolation Zone following the closing time may not re-enter the Isolation Zone until the current stage/round has finished (and always prior to the start of any following stage).

11.3.4 Where:

- a) in the Qualification or Semi-Final round, consecutive stages take place on the same day, there should be a minimum time gap of two (2) hours between the time when the last competitor finishes the first stage and the scheduled start of the following stage.

- b) in the Final round, there should be a minimum time gap of twenty (20) minutes between the time when the last competitor finishes the first stage and the scheduled start of the observation period for the following stage.
- 11.3.5 A presentation of the competitors participating in the Final round should be made prior to the commencement of the first stage in that round.
- 11.3.6 Each Boulder stage in a competition will be organized as a series of rotations:
- a) Each competitor participating in the stage:
    - i) will start their attempts on each boulder in the order set out on the Official Start List. No rescheduling will be permitted if a competitor is unable to start at the relevant time; and
    - ii) will attempt each boulder of the relevant course in the prescribed order; and
    - iii) will have a resting period equal to either one (1) or three (3) Attempt Periods in between their attempts on each successive boulder. The selection of the resting period will be announced at the Technical Meeting preceding the competition.
  - b) At the end of the Climbing Period, the competitors who were climbing shall stop climbing and enter a designated Transit Zone. This Transit Zone shall be located so that competitors cannot observe any boulder not yet attempted.
  - c) At the start of each Climbing Period, the competitors who were resting may commence their attempts on the next boulder in succession or having finished the course, leave the Competition Area.
  - d) A Head Judging Official should ensure that competitors are not released from the Transit Zone before the end of the rotation following their completion of the course.

#### 11.4 Observation procedure

- 11.4.1 Competitors may observe the boulders and routes in each stage from any area open to the public at any time prior to their reporting to the Isolation Zone, excluding any period of time when routes/boulders are being constructed/tested. Following this:
- a) the Boulder stage for the Final round will be preceded by a collective observation period of two (2) minutes per boulder. There will be no separate observation period for the Boulder stage for any other round; and
  - b) the Lead stage in each round will be preceded by a collective observation for period of six (6) minutes:  
and in each case:
    - c) during any period of collective observation, competitors may:
      - i) touch (only) the Starting Holds on a boulder or the first holds on a route without leaving the ground; and
      - ii) use binoculars to observe the route; and
      - iii) make hand-drawn sketches and notes,
    - d) but shall not use any electronic recording equipment; and
    - e) at the end of any collective observation period, competitors will return to the Isolation Zone or to a Transit Zone as directed by a Head Judging Official.

#### 11.5 Climbing procedure

- 11.5.1 Competitors' attempts on any boulder will be governed according to the following provisions regarding climbing procedures:
- a) Rule 11.5.3,  
where the above-listed rule takes precedence over the relevant Discipline rule.
- 11.5.2 Competitors' attempts on any route will be governed according to the following provisions regarding climbing procedures:
- a) Rule 11.5.4,

where the above-listed rule takes precedence over the relevant Discipline rule.

- 11.5.3 The Attempt Periods within any Boulder stage will comprise:
- a) for the Qualification and Semi-Final rounds, a fixed Preparation Period of fifteen (15) seconds during which a competitor may prepare for their attempts prior to entering the Field or Play, and a fixed Climbing Period of five (5) minutes; or
  - b) for the Final round, a Climbing Period of four (4) minutes with no separate Preparation Period,

and in each case, competitors may make unlimited attempts on any boulder within the relevant Climbing Period, each boulder must be attempted in its entirety, and competitors must not practice or “work” or use Illegal Aid on any part of a boulder.

- 11.5.4 The Attempt Periods within any Lead stage shall allow a Preparation Period of forty (40) seconds during which a competitor may prepare for their attempt after entering the field of play, and a Climbing Period of six (6) minutes. Each competitor may make one (1) attempt on each route, other than where supplementary attempts are permitted following an Appeal or Technical Incident.

## 11.6 Judging and scoring

- 11.6.1 The Judging of each attempt on any boulder will be governed according to the following provisions regarding judging and scoring:

- a) the Judging and scoring rules for Boulder, provided that the relevant Climbing Judge(s) shall record attempts separately for each Zone on any boulder;
- b) Rule 11.6.3,

where each of the above-listed rules takes precedence over the relevant Discipline rule.

- 11.6.2 The Judging of any attempt on any lead route will be governed according to the following provisions regarding judging and scoring:

- a) Rule 11.6.4,

where the above-listed rule takes precedence over the relevant Discipline rule.

- 11.6.3 Each boulder will score a maximum of twenty-five (25) points, with scoring values (the “**Base Score**”) assigned as follow:

- a) Twenty-five (25) points where the competitor has Controlled the Top Hold (regardless of whether the competitor has Controlled any Zone Hold on the boulder);
- b) ten (10) points where the competitor has Controlled the second Zone Hold but not the Top Hold (regardless of whether the first Zone Hold has been Controlled on any attempt);
- c) five (5) points where the competitor has Controlled the first Zone Hold only,

where the score awarded to a competitor will be the relevant Base Score decreased by one-tenth (0.1) for each attempt made prior to the attempt on which the relevant scoring hold was Controlled. For example:

Result	Points	Result	Points	Result	Points
A1 z1 Z1 T1	25.0	A1 z1 Z1 T0	10.0	A1 z1 Z0 T0	5.0
A4 z1 Z1 T4	24.7	A2 z1 Z2 T0	9.9	A2 z1 Z0 T0	5.0
A4 z0 Z0 T4	24.7	A4 z1 Z2 T0	9.9	A2 z2 Z0 T0	4.9
		A4 z2 Z2 T0	9.9		

Table 11-1 Boulder & Lead – Boulder Points Example

where in this table:

“A” denotes the total number of attempts made by the competitor on a boulder.

“z” denotes the first attempt on which the competitor Controlled the first Zone Hold on the boulder.

“Z” denotes the first attempt on which the competitor Controlled the second Zone Hold on the boulder.

“T” denotes the attempt on which the competitor Controlled the Top Hold on the boulder.

11.6.4 Each route will score a maximum of one-hundred (100) points, with scoring values assigned to holds marked on the route Topo in descending order from the last hold marked on the route as set out in Rule 11.6.6 (*Route Scoring Values*), provided always that:

- a) a score of one-hundred (100) points shall be awarded only where a competitor has both (i) Controlled the scoring hold marked as “TOP” and (ii) clipped the final Protection Point on the route. Where the competitor:
  - i) controls the scoring hold marked as “TOP” but fails to clip the final protection point on the route, the competitor shall be scored with 99.9 points;
  - ii) clips the final protection point from a lower scoring hold, the competitor may continue their attempt, but if they do not continue shall not be scored as having achieved “TOP”.
- b) the scoring value for Using a hold (designated by the postfix “+”) will be equal to the scoring value for Controlling the same hold plus a fixed increment of one-tenth (0.1) points.

11.6.5 At any point during a round, a competitor’s score will be the sum of the points awarded to the competitor for each boulder/route on which the competitor has made attempts. Where, pursuant to Rule 11.1.2, a boulder is cancelled during a round, the relevant stage score for each competitor’s boulders will be multiplied by a factor of (4/3).

11.6.6 The route Topo shall assign points as set forth in the following Route Scoring Values table:

Hold relative to Top	Points	Hold relative to Top	Points
0	100	20	30
1	96	21	28
2	92	22	26
3	88	23	24
4	84	24	22
5	80	25	20
6	76	26	18
7	72	27	16
8	68	28	14
9	64	29	12
10	60	30	10
11	57	31	9
12	54	32	8
13	51	33	7
14	48	34	6
15	45	35	5
16	42	36	4
17	39	37	3
18	36	38	2
19	33	39	1

## 11.7 Ranking in each Stage/Round

- 11.7.1 Where any competitor fails or is ineligible to start a round in accordance with the relevant provisions of 8 (*Boulder*), the relevant competitor will be marked with the relevant IRM and unranked in that round.
- 11.7.2 Subject to Rule 11.7.1, each competitor participating in a round will be ranked in descending order of the points awarded to the competitor pursuant to Rule 11.6.5, provided that, where any competitors have the same score, the relative ranking of the tied competitors shall be determined by comparing (in order):
- a) the highest score awarded to the relevant competitors on either stage in the round;
  - b) where applicable, their ranking from the preceding round.

## 11.8 General Ranking

- 11.8.1 Subject always to Rule 4.7.1, the General Ranking shall be determined on the following basis:
- a) first, any competitors having a Final ranking, in that order;
  - b) second, any competitors having a Semi-Final ranking, in that order;
  - c) (if relevant) third, any competitors having only a Qualification ranking, in that order,

## 11.9 Technical Incidents and Appeals

- 11.9.1 Technical Incidents and Appeals in relation to each stage of each round will be managed as set out in Sections 7 (*Lead*) and 8 (*Boulder*) with the following amendments:
- a) in respect to the timing of appeals:
    - i) the Final round provisions of Rule 7.13.6(b) shall apply in respect of the Lead stage in all rounds of competition;
    - ii) the Final round provisions of Rules 8.15.5(a)(ii)(B) and 8.15.5(b) shall apply in respect of the Boulder stage in all rounds of competition;

For the avoidance of doubt:

- b) Once the results for any stage have been made Official and, if relevant, any Appeals determined, the results for that stage will not be capable of subsequent appeal;
- c) Upon the completion of each round, the ranking and Ranking Points calculation for that round will be published as the Official Results for the round. Any appeal on the ranking and Ranking Points calculation must be made in writing and:
  - i) in respect of any Qualification round and/or the Semi-Final round, within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
  - ii) in respect of the Final round, immediately following publication of the Official Results.



## Part 3 - Event Rules

## 12 Event Rules

### 12.1 General and Scheduling

12.1.1 USA Climbing should publish competition information for each competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:

- a) the location and dates for the competition or event; and
- b) the eligibility requirements; and
- c) the registration procedure and deadlines; and
- d) the preliminary schedule.

12.1.2 National Championships

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the National Championship for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.
- b) The competition, including Eligibility, Qualification, Registration, Competition Procedure, Start Lists, and Results/Rankings, is subject to the procedures and rules set forth in the Team Selection Procedures document.

12.1.3 National Team Trials

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the National Team Trials competitions for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines.
- b) The competition, including Eligibility, Qualification, Registration, Competition Procedure, Start Lists, and Results/Rankings, is subject to the procedures and rules set forth in the Team Selection Procedures document.

12.1.4 Qualification Speed Trials

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Qualification Speed Trial competitions in the Speed Discipline.
  - i) Qualification Speed Trial competitions shall include a one or more of the following sets of Categories:
    - A) the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Age Youth Categories.
    - B) the Youth C Age Youth Categories.
    - C) the Collegiate Categories.
    - D) the Elite Categories.

Note that each set above must be fully included if any Category of the set is included.

- b) Each Youth Region:
  - i) shall arrange for at least one (1) (and should arrange for at least two (2)) Qualification Speed Trial competition for the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Age Categories, and
  - ii) may arrange for such competitions to include the Youth C Age Categories.
- c) Each Collegiate Division:
  - i) may arrange for Qualification Speed Trial competitions to include the Collegiate Categories.
- d) Prior to the Qualification Speed Trial season, USA Climbing shall establish Qualification Speed Benchmark times for 15-meter walls and a separate time for 10-meter walls for each of the Junior, Youth A, and Youth B Categories, and such Benchmark times shall be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

Note: subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), USA Climbing may increase, but not decrease, any Qualification Speed Benchmark time up until thirty (30) days to the relevant

Speed National Championships, where such an increase (relaxed benchmark time) shall be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

#### 12.1.5 Youth Qualification Series

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth Qualification Series competitions in each of the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines where:
  - i) each such competition shall include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, Youth C, and Youth D Age Categories.
  - ii) each Youth Region should arrange for at least four (4) such competitions in each Discipline.

#### 12.1.6 Youth Regional Championships

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth Regional Championships for each Youth Region for each of the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines where each such competition shall include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, Youth C, and Youth D Age Categories.

#### 12.1.7 Youth Divisional Championships

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth Divisional Championships for each Youth Division for each of the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines where each such competition shall include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, and Youth C Age Categories.

#### 12.1.8 Youth National Championships

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Youth National Championships for each of the Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed Disciplines where each such competition shall include the Junior, Youth A, Youth B, and Youth C Age Categories.

#### 12.1.9 Youth National C/D Festival

- a) The Event Rules for the Youth National C/D Festival will be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

#### 12.1.10 Collegiate Qualification Series

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Collegiate Qualification Series competitions.
- b) Each USA Climbing Collegiate Division should arrange a minimum of four (4) Collegiate Qualification Series events, where each such event may include a competition in multiple disciplines.

#### 12.1.11 Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of a set of Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events where each event includes the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines.
- b) There should be ten (10) to fifteen (15) Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events.
- c) The Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events are subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2).

#### 12.1.12 Collegiate National Championships

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Collegiate National Championship for each of the Lead, Boulder, and Speed disciplines.

#### 12.1.13 Paraclimbing National Championships

- a) USA Climbing shall be responsible for the organization and execution of the Paraclimbing National Championships.
- b) USA Climbing shall publish competition information for the Paraclimbing National Championship competition not less than thirty (30) days in advance of the first day of the competition or event at which the competition will be hosted, outlining:
  - A) The location and dates for the competition or event; and

- B) The eligibility requirements; and
  - C) The registration procedure and deadlines; and
  - D) The preliminary schedule.
  - E) Any competition rules that have been modified via discretion granted in this Rulebook.
- c) With regards to rules that reference “hands” (e.g., Control, Use, scoring, starts, finishes, etc.), for competitors without a hand on an upper-limb appendage, any portion of that upper-limb appendage should be treated the same as a “hand” for rules purposes.
  - d) All categories of visually impaired (e.g., B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller (subject to the same Isolation Condition requirements as the competitor, as relevant), to have that caller join the competitor for collective observation (e.g., Rule 7.6.2), to possess appropriate communication devices in the Isolation Zone, and to use such communication devices in the Competition Zone. Such communication devices are subject to approval by the Jury President such that their function and use does not introduce any unfair advantage or unfair disadvantage or compromise competition integrity.
  - e) The Jury President, after consultation with a person with Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), has the discretion to modify competition rules as warranted by situations that are unique to the Paraclimbing Series Categories, including without limitation: Boulder starting position rules; rules regarding the use of communication equipment affecting Visually Impaired competitors and their callers; the use of elbow and/or knee pads to reduce the risk of blood injury; etc.

#### 12.1.14 Recreational Series:

- a) USA Climbing shall help arrange for the organization of the Recreational Series competitions in any Disciplines Lead/Top Rope, Boulder, and Speed.
- b) In the interest of providing opportunities for experimental formats and exploring organizational and rules concepts that USA Climbing may study and assess as the sport of competition climbing evolves, a Recreational Series competition may use formats that diverge from those in Part 2 – Discipline Rules, so long as they adhere to the USA Climbing’s Bylaws and all safety-related rules in this Rulebook.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Recreational Series competition may diverge from this Rulebook in areas including: general competition procedures (e.g., starting, observation, climbing); judging, scoring; ranking, registration; etc.

## 12.2 Eligibility

See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## 12.3 Competition Pre-Qualified

See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## 12.4 Youth Regional Championship Extra-Qualification

See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## 12.5 Registration

See the USA Climbing Event Registration Policy on the [policy page](#) on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

## 12.6 Start Lists and Seeding

- 12.6.1 Unless otherwise specified in an event-specific rule, Start Lists shall be published as set out in Rule 3.17.
- 12.6.2 Where the starting order for each competition uses a seeding order, as set out in the relevant rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook:
- a) the seeding order for National Championships (“Elite” series) and National Team Trials, shall be as set forth in the Team Selection Procedures documents; and
  - b) the seeding order for Boulder Youth National Championship shall be as follows:
    - i) all of the following competitors shall be awarded the highest (equal) seeding:
      - A) those pre-qualified for the Discipline's Youth National Championships by way of achievement (e.g., not by way of residence); and
      - B) those who were ranked first (1st) at the Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline; and
    - ii) next seeded are those competitors not included in (i) who were ranked second (2nd) or lower at the Youth Divisional Championships in the Discipline, with those ranked second (2nd) receiving second (2nd) Seeding, those ranked third (3rd) receiving third (3rd) Seeding, and so on; and
    - iii) last seeded are all remaining competitors; and
  - c) for all other competitions, there shall be no seeding order (all competitors equally seeded).
- 12.6.3 Some events may include competitions in more than one Discipline and at the discretion of the Jury President in consultation with the Event Organizer, the Start Lists may be compiled so that competitors are scheduled for a resting period of at least thirty (30) minutes between the competitions.

## 12.7 Technical Meeting

- 12.7.1 Unless otherwise specified in an event-specific rule, a Technical Meeting (Rule 3.15) shall be held prior to commencement of each competition.

## 12.8 Lead/Top Rope Formats

12.8.1 The following table sets forth specified aspects of Lead/Top Rope Competition Rounds:

Competition	Round	Format	Number of Routes	Time Format and Climbing Period (minutes)
National Championships (“Elite” Series)	Qual	Flash	2	Climb 6
	Semi	Isolation	1	Climb 6
	Final	Isolation	1	Climb 6
Youth Qualification Series	Final	Modified Redpoint	[3,4,5] (e)	[Climb 4 or 5 or 6] (e)
	Final	Isolation	2 or 3	Rotation 5 or 6
	Final	Flash	2 or 3	Climb 5 or 6
Youth Regional Championships	Final	Isolation	3	Rotation 5 or 6
Youth Divisional Championships	Qual	Flash	2	Climb 5 or 6
	Final	Isolation	1	Climb 6
Youth National Championships	Qual	Flash	2	Climb 6
	Semi	Isolation	1	Climb 6
	Final	Isolation	1	Climb 6
Collegiate Qualification Series	Final	Modified Redpoint	[3,4,5] (e)	[Climb 4 or 5 or 6] (e)
	Final	Flash	2 or 3	Climb 5 or 6
Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events	Final	Flash	2 or 3	Climb 5 or 6
Collegiate National Championships	Qual	Flash	2 or 3	Climb 5 or 6
	Final	Isolation	1	Climb 6
Paraclimbing National Championships	Qual	Redpoint	[see 7.8]	[see 7.8]
	Final	Isolation	1	Climb 6
Recreational Series	-	[any]	[any]	[any]

Table 12-1 Competition Lead/Top Rope Formats

- a) Where the table provides for discretion, or a competition plus round appears more than once in the table, the format shall be at the discretion of the Jury President after consultation with the Event Organizer and the Chief Routesetter.
- b) Format of the Lead/Top Rope competition: Isolation, Flash, or Modified Redpoint.
- c) All Categories at a given competition shall have the same number of routes.
- d) Subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2), Youth Qualification Series and Collegiate Qualification Series Flash Format competitions may utilize a Climbing Period of 4 minutes.
- e) Modified Redpoint aspects contained within “[ ]” in the above table are subject to Rule 7.8.3.

## 12.9 Boulder Formats

12.9.1 The following table sets forth specified aspects of Boulder Competition Rounds:

Competition	Round	Format	Number of Boulders	Number of Zones	Climbing Period (minutes)
National Championships (“Elite” Series)	Qual	Isolation	5	1	5
	Semi	Isolation	4	1	5
	Final	Isolation	4	1	4
Youth Qualification Series	Final	Modified Redpoint	[6 to 10] (c)	1 or 2	n/a
	Final	Rotation Redpoint	4 to 10 (1 or more courses)	1 or 2	4
	Final	Isolation	4	1 or 2	4
Youth Regional Championships	Final	Isolation	4	1 or 2	4
Youth Divisional Championships	Qual	Isolation	4	1 or 2	4
	Final	Isolation	4	1	4
Youth National Championships	Qual	Isolation	4 or 5	YB/YA/Jr: 1 YC: 1 or 2	4
	Qual	Rotation Redpoint	2 courses of 3	YB/YA/Jr: 1 YC: 1 or 2	4
	Semi	Isolation	4	1	4
	Final	Isolation	4	1	4
Collegiate Qualification Series	Final	Modified Redpoint	[6 to 10] (c)	1 or 2	n/a
	Final	Rotation Redpoint	4 to 10 (1 or more courses)	1 or 2	4
Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events	Final	Modified Redpoint	[6 to 10] (c)	1 or 2	n/a
	Final	Rotation Redpoint	4 to 10 (1 or more courses)	1 or 2	4
Collegiate National Championships	Qual	Modified Redpoint	[6 to 10] (c)	1 or 2	n/a
	Qual	Rotation Redpoint	4 to 10 (1 or more courses)	1 or 2	4
	Final	Isolation	4	1	4
	Final (d)	Rotation Redpoint	4 (1 course)	1	4
Recreational Series	-	(any)	(any)	(any)	(any)

Table 12-2 Competition Boulder Formats



- a) Where the table provides for discretion, or a competition plus round appears more than once in the table, the format shall be at the discretion of the Jury President after consultation with the Event Organizer and the Chief Routesetter, except for the following:
  - i) The number of zones on a boulder, where such discretion is provided in the table, shall be at the discretion of the Chief Routesetter in consultation with the Jury President.
- b) All Categories at a given competition shall have the same number of Boulders.
- c) Modified Redpoint aspects contained within “[ ]” in the above table are subject to Rule 8.10.3.
- d) Rotation Redpoint Format in the Final round of the Collegiate National Championships shall:
  - i) utilize a start list ordered by Qualification round rank (best ranked starting last); and
  - ii) not be allowed for Advanced Categories.

## 12.10 Speed Formats

12.10.1 The following table sets forth specified aspects of Speed Competitions:

Competition	Field-of-Play (Rule 9.2)	Format (Rule 9.3)	Rounds (Rule 9.3)	Starting Order (Rule 9.8)	Final Round Max Quota (Rule 9.7)	Final Round Format (Rule 9.3)
Elite series competitions	Standard	Standard	Qualification & Final	Standard	16	Knockout
Youth National Championships, Youth B, A, Jr	Standard	Standard	Qualification, & Final (may include Semi-Final)	Standard	8 or 16	Knockout
Youth National Championships, Youth C	Alternative	Standard	Qualification, & Final (may include Semi-Final)	Standard	8 or 16	(see Rule 9.3.3(b))
Collegiate National Championships	Standard	Standard	Qualification, & Final	Standard	8 or 16	Knockout
Qualification Speed Trials, except Youth C	Standard	Standard	Qualification (may include Finals)	Standard	8	Knockout
Qualification Speed Trials, Youth C	Alternative	Standard	Qualification (may include Finals)	Standard	8	Non-Knockout
Recreational competitions	Standard or Alternative	Standard or Alternative	Qualification (may include Finals)	Standard or Alternative	(any)	Knockout or Non-Knockout

Table 12-3 Competition Speed Formats

- a) Where the table provides for discretion, the format shall be at the discretion of the Event Organizer after consultation with the Jury President.

## 12.11 Qualification Speed Trial Format and Speed Youth National Championship Eligibility

12.11.1 The format for each Qualification Speed Trial competition shall be as set out in the relevant Sections and Rules of Part 2 (Discipline Rules) in this Rulebook, with the following modifications:

- a) In the event a competitor makes a False start in the Qualification Round:
  - i) Any previous valid time for the competitor is not invalidated; and
  - ii) The competitor shall not re-run in the race where their False Start occurred; and
  - iii) The competitor shall be allowed to run in subsequent races.
- b) The competition:
  - i) shall include at least one (1) Qualification Round; and
  - ii) may include more than one (1) Qualification Round; and
  - iii) should include a Final Round that is seeded based on the results of the most recently held Qualification round, and:
    - A) a two (2) competitor single-race Knockout Final Round may be held between the top two (2) ranked competitors if there are two (2) or three (3) competitors eligible for such a Final Round; and
    - B) the scheduling of a Final Round (or not) is at the discretion of the Event Organizer.
- c) Subject to Sport Discretion, the automated timing system requirement for a Qualification Speed Trial event may be waived by USA Climbing, and such an event is further subject to the following, using information published in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website:
  - i) The event shall comply with the relevant certification standards as outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document, as updated in the Qualification Speed Trial Event Organizers Guide.

For the avoidance of doubt, if an automatic timing system is not used, the Probationary False Start rules in Rule 9.15 shall apply.

12.11.2 Subject to Jury President discretion, competitors from multiple Categories may be combined for the Qualification Round starting orders if deemed significantly helpful for competition organization purposes and where such combining is appropriate for the relevant Categories.

12.11.3 A Junior, Youth A, or Youth B competitor with at least one time that meets or is faster than their Category's Qualification Speed Benchmark time for the Speed wall height where they achieved that time shall be awarded Youth Speed National Championship eligibility if the time was achieved since the immediately prior Speed National Championship and at:

- a) a Qualification Speed Trial; or
  - b) a National level Speed event (e.g., the National Championship, National Team Trials, North American Cup Series, and the Collegiate National Championship); or
  - c) an IFSC or Pan American Council Speed event,
- and for times recorded at a Qualification Speed Trial using manual timing devices, Speed National Championship eligibility is awarded if the time recorded at the Qualification Speed Trial is within one fifth of a second (0.2 seconds) of, or faster than, the Benchmark time.

12.11.4 Timed and recorded races in a Qualification Speed Trial practice round shall be considered when determining a competitor's Speed National Championship eligibility. Note: at the discretion of the Event Organizer, the races in a practice round may not be timed.

12.11.5 The Qualification Speed Trial results and Speed National Championship eligibility lists shall be published on the [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org) website.

12.11.6 All Youth-C competitors (with the necessary active membership) are eligible for the Speed Youth National Championship.

12.11.7 Rules regarding the Qualification Speed Trial competition and Youth Speed National Championship eligibility are subject to subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2).

## 12.12 Competition/Round Advancement

12.12.1 The following table sets forth Super-Final and advancement quota rules for Competitions.

- a) Advancement quota from a Final round (or a single round competition) is to the next progressive competition in the series. (e.g., from Youth Qualification Series to Youth Regional Championship)
- b) Advancement quota from a Qualification or Semi-Final round in a multiple round competition is to the next round in the competition.

The notation (TSP) indicates that the rules are as set forth in the USA Climbing Team Selection Procedures document.

Competition Types & Categories	Round	Super Final (c)	Adv Quota to Next Round/Comp (d)	(EA) Extra Adv Quota (e)	NTI Adv (f)
Lead National Championships ("Elite" Series)	Qual	-	26	-	2
	Semi	-	8	-	1
	Final	Top-6	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Boulder National Championships ("Elite" Series)	Qual	-	20	-	2
	Semi	-	6	-	1
	Final	Top-6	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Speed National Championships ("Elite" Series)	Qual	-	16	-	0
Youth Qualification Series	(series)	-	26	PQ+NTE+NTI	-
Youth Regional Championships	Final	-	13	PQ+NTE+NTI	-
Youth Divisional Championships	Qual	-	13	PQ+NTE+NTI	-
	Final	-	6	PQ+NTE+NTI	-
Youth National Championships Lead/TR and Boulder	Qual	-	20	NTE+NTI	-
	Semi	-	10	NTE+NTI	-
	Final	Top-6	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Youth National Championships Speed	Qual w/ Semi	-	20	NTE+NTI	-
	Qual w/o Semi	-	8 or 16	-	0
	Semi	-	8 or 16	-	0*
	Final	-	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Collegiate Qualification Series	(series)	-	Rule 12.12.2	n/a	-
Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events Lead/TR and Boulder	Final	-	Rule 12.12.6	PQ	-

Competition Types & Categories	Round	Super Final (c)	Adv Quota to Next Round/Comp (d)	(EA) Extra Adv Quota (e)	NTI Adv (f)
Collegiate National Championships Lead/TR and Boulder	Qual	-	20	-	-
	Final	Top-6	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Collegiate National Championships Speed	Qual	-	8 or 16	-	-
	Final	-	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Paraclimbing National Championship	Qual	-	varies(h)	-	-
	Final	-	(TSP)	(TSP)	(TSP)
Recreational Series	-	-	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 12-4 Competition Advancement and Super Finals

- c) A Super-Final round shall only be held for select Final rounds, as set forth in the table; only those competitors having a Final tied rank in the range indicated in that rule (after all ranking procedures for the relevant Final round have been exhausted) shall advance to a Super-Final round, which shall be conducted as set out in Rule 3.19.

For the avoidance of doubt, a Super-Final Round may include a non-U.S. Citizen competitor.

- d) The Adv Quota to Next Round/Comp column in the table (Adv Quota):
- i) for a Qualification or Semi-Final round in a multiple round competition, sets quota for the following round, which shall be filled with the highest ranked competitors from that completed round; and
  - ii) for a Final round (or the only round) of a competition, sets the quota of highest ranked competitors from that completed round that shall be qualified for the next progressive competition in the series; and

if the quota is exceeded as a result of ties, all tied competitors shall advance or be qualified, as relevant.

Where the Adv Quota is "All", all competitors advance.

- e) Where the Extra (EA) Extra Adv column in the table is:
- i) NTE+NTI, the Adv Quota shall also apply when ranking only International Competition Eligible competitors; and
  - ii) PQ+NTE+NTI, the Adv Quota shall also apply when ranking only International Competition Eligible competitors not prequalified for the next progressive competition in the series; and
  - iii) PQ, the Adv Quota shall also apply when ranking only competitors not prequalified for the next progressive competition in the series.

In all cases, a competitor who is prequalified, National Team Eligible, or National Team Ineligible shall advance if tied with or ranked better than an advancing competitor.

For example, a Youth Series Divisional competitor who is prequalified or not International Competition Eligible will advance if they are tied with or ranked better than an International Eligible competitor who is advancing.

Example:

Youth Qualification Series - 26 (PQ+NTE+NTI): Youth Regionals qualification is extended to those in the top-26 in the Youth QE series among only International Competition Eligible competitors not pre-qualified to Youth Regionals, as well as any other competitor (prequalified, National Team Eligible, or National Team Ineligible) who

is tied with or ranked better than one of the aforementioned top-26.

- f) Only where set forth in the table, there shall be a limit on the maximum number of National Team Ineligible who can advance from that round to the next previous round.

For the avoidance of doubt and by way of example, if four (4) National Team Ineligible achieve a (“Elite”) Lead National Championship Qualification round rank in the range of advancement to Semi-Finals, the two (2) lowest ranked of those National Team Ineligible shall not advance to Semi-Finals and the next two (2) highest ranked International Competition Eligible competitors shall advance instead.

At the Speed Youth National Championship, no National Team Ineligible competitors are eligible to advance to a Knockout Final round; the International Competition Eligible or National Team Eligible competitors ranked highest in the immediately prior round shall advance to the Knockout Final.

- g) Where the table provides an option, the selection is at the discretion of the Event Organizer in consultation with the Jury President.
- h) For Paraclimbing National Championship, the quota for the Final round should be a “floating” quota determined as follows:

<b>Number of Competitors in the Qualification Round</b>	<b>Final Round Quota</b>
<b>1 to 6</b>	4
<b>7 to 15</b>	5
<b>16 or more</b>	6

Table 12-5 Competition Paraclimbing “Floating” Final Round Quota

12.12.2 Qualification for the Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events is granted to a competitor who:

- a) competed in a Collegiate Qualification Event, in any Category, in any Collegiate Division, and received any score (even if their score was zero (0)); or
- b) competed in a recognized non-USA Climbing event as set forth in Rule 12.12.3.

12.12.3 USA Climbing is exploring the possibility of select non-USA Climbing collegiate competitions being recognized as pathways towards qualification to the Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events.

*The criteria of this pathway are under review by USA Climbing.*

12.12.4 Collegiate competitors eligible for the Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events:

- a) shall not compete in more than one Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event; and
- b) may compete in any Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event, in any Collegiate Division; and
- c) may compete in any Category that is compatible with their membership gender; and
- d) may compete in one (1) or more Disciplines.

12.12.5 Qualification for the Collegiate National Championship in the Speed Discipline is granted to all Collegiate Competitors.

12.12.6 Qualification for the Collegiate National Championship in the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines is subject to achievement (rank) and participation, in the Category, at a Collegiate Nationals Qualification Event.

*The full details of this qualification process are being developed by USA Climbing.*

## 12.13 Appeals

12.13.1 The following table sets forth appeal fee and select deadlines of USA Climbing Lead/Top Rope and Boulder competition rounds.

Competition Types & Categories	Round	Appeal Fee	Scoring & Ranking Appeal Deadline (a)
National Championships ("Elite" Series)	Qual	\$100	5 minutes
	Semi	\$100	5 minutes
	Final	\$100	Immediate
Youth Qualification Series	Final	\$25	10 minutes
Youth Regional Championships	Final	\$100	10 minutes
Youth Divisional Championships	Qual	\$100	20 minutes
	Final	\$100	10 minutes
Youth National Championships	Qual	\$100	20 minutes
	Semi	\$100	20 minutes
	Final	\$100	10 minutes
Collegiate Qualification Series	Final	\$25	10 minutes
Collegiate Nationals Qualification Events	Final	\$100	10 minutes
Collegiate National Championships	Qual	\$100	20 minutes
	Semi	\$100	20 minutes
	Final	\$100	10 minutes
Paraclimbing National Championship	Qual	\$100	20 minutes
	Final	\$100	10 minutes
Recreational Series	-	none	10 minutes

Table 12-6 Competition Appeal Fees and Certain Appeal Deadlines

- a) The deadline regarding making an appeal relating to the scoring or ranking of any competitor (Rules 7.13.6(b) and 8.15.5(b)) shall be as indicated in the table above, where the relevant entry in the table is either:
- i) "Immediate", meaning immediately following the display of the relevant competitor's Provisional Result (or where no Provisional Result is displayed, the Official Result); or
  - ii) the number of minutes after the publication of the Official Results.



## 12.14 Results

- 12.14.1 It is the responsibility of all competitors to verify their Championship series eligibility by checking the Official Results published on the USA Climbing webpage. In the event a competitor discovers that they are missing from the Official Results or that the results are incorrect, they should immediately contact USA Climbing at: [info@usacimbing.org](mailto:info@usacimbing.org). Updates or alterations to Official Results are subject to Sport Discretion (Rule 1.9.2) and shall not result in a lower ranking for any other competitor.

## 13 Ranking Systems Rules

### 13.1 Ranking Points and Ranking Systems

13.1.1 Where ranking points are awarded based on competition rank referencing this rule:

- a) the following table shall be used; and
- b) competitors with the same rank will be awarded the average of the points allocated for the tied rank positions rounded down to a whole number, where tied ranks award a minimum of one (1) point.

Ranking Points							
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 13-1 Ranking Point Table (1000 points / 80 ranks)

For the avoidance of doubt:

Ranks 81 and beyond are awarded zero (0) points.

A 3-way tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place results in 701 points for each of the three (3) tied competitors. ( $[805+690+610]/3 = 701.67$ , which is 701 when rounded down.)

A 4-way tie for 79<sup>th</sup> place results in the defined minimum of one (1) point for each of the four (4) tied competitors.

### 13.2 Youth Qualification Series Rankings

13.2.1 At the conclusion of each competition within a Youth Qualification Series, all competitors who have an active Competitor membership and rank in the top-80 among all competitors in a Category, shall be awarded Ranking Points for the competition as set out in the table in Rule 13.1.1. The deadline for a competitor to have an active Competitor membership shall be the Monday immediately following the competition, at 11:59pm MT.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- Ranking Points may be awarded to non-US citizens.

13.2.2 USA Climbing shall maintain and regularly publish a Youth Qualification Series Ranking for each Youth Region for each Category for the Lead/Top Rope and Boulder Disciplines, where:

- a) rankings include results from only Youth Qualification Series competitions in the same Discipline, in the same Membership Youth Division, and in the current season; and
- b) each Ranking shall be in descending order of the total number of Ranking Points accumulated, where:
  - i) the maximum number of Youth Qualification Series competition results contributing to the total number of Ranking Points in that Discipline shall be two (2); and
  - ii) competitors with an equal total number of Ranking Points are assigned the same rank.

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