This Rulebook shall remain in effect until a subsequent version has been published.

Any amendments to these rules will be published on the USA Climbing website www.usaclimbing.org and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.

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.
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1 Significant Changes

1.1 Significant Changes as of 2019-2020 Rulebook version 3

Rule 1.1 summarizes for convenient review many of the significant changes made to the rules with this version update. Rule 1.1 does not include every rule change nor does it include the complete language of any particular rule change or rule. In addition, in order for rule 1.1 to be an effective summary, not every rule change that could potentially affect a competitor was considered sufficiently significant to be included in rule 1.1.

The summaries provided in rule 1.1 are for convenient reference only; rule 1.1 is not itself a binding rule. Only the rules themselves, beginning with rule 2, shall govern. Accordingly, do not rely on the language of the summaries provided in rule 1.1. You are expected to review the complete rules themselves and comply with the actual rules, not the summaries.

Among other changes, the following significant changes were made:

- **Rules 3.10 and 3.11**: As part of USA Climbing’s effort to elevate the caliber and safety of Speed climbing, several changes were made to the Speed Youth Championship structure. Youth Regionals is Sport-only, Speed Youth Divisionals will be open to all Youth Competitor Members, and the results from Speed Youth Divisionals will be used to determine the invitations to Speed Youth Nationals.

- **Rules 3.12.4 and 3.12.5**: The registration period for Youth Divisionals opens on the Monday immediately after the last Regional Championship, and the registration period for Youth Nationals opens on the Monday immediately after the Divisional Championship.

- **Rule 5.1.10**: A USA Climbing Membership is required for International Competition athletes receiving an invite from USA Climbing.

- **Rules 5.3.4, 5.4.1, and 5.15.1**: The National Ranking points and methods for Speed Climbing in Open, Youth, and Collegiate were updated slightly. Due to the nature of the knock-out format now used in Speed Finals at National Championships, USA Climbing believes it is warranted to determine Team Selection and International Invites for Speed using both the rank from the knock-out Final round as well as a “Time Rank,” a rank based on each competitor’s fastest run at the competition. The National Ranking points for “Time Rank” have been devised in order to interleave the rankings from the two ranking methods.

- **Rules 5.3.3 and 5.3.5**: The rules were updated to clarify that the National Ranking points tables are for Open, Youth, and Collegiate.

- **Rule 5.17**: The qualification standard for Youth International Invitations to Youth Pan American Championships was changed in order to allow more competitors to be eligible for such International Competitions.

- **Rule 5.22**: USA Climbing will enforce a deadline for accepting Invitations to International Competitions that is one week prior to the registration deadline enforced by the competition’s organizer. The rules for filling unused or opened quota were also updated.

- **Rules 6.8.9 and 6.8.10**: The rules regarding legitimate position with respect to a blue-cross were updated.

- **Rule 6.19.5**: The scoring rule for Sport Redpoint “Modified” was removed, as the format is no longer supported in Sport.

- **Rule 6.22.2**: Youth Regionals will no longer use Super Finals to break ties for advancement to Divisionals. Those ties will remain and may result in a greater number of competitors receiving invitations to Divisionals.

- **Rule 8**: The Speed Climbing rules were rewritten to reflect USA Climbing’s adoption of IFSC Speed Climbing Rules – the organization and content of rule 8 is guided by the Speed section in the IFSC Rulebook. Changes include a new format of Speed Climbing competitions, with up to two rounds (Qualification and Final), where the Final round is a...
single elimination knock-out round. A False Start at competitions using an automatic timing system will result in the immediate elimination of a competitor in the Qualification round, and an immediate loss of a race in the Final round. Some Speed rules that were distributed in other rules sections have been consolidated into rule 8.

- **Rule 10**: Rules regarding the Combined Invitational competition have been consolidated into rule 10 and have been updated to more closely align with the IFSC Combined format rules. Further, some rules have been updated to identify the Combined Invitational as equivalent to Open National Championships as far as the role of USA Climbing Officials, announcing those officials, video review, etc.

**1.2 Significant Changes as of 2019-2020 Rulebook version 2**

Rule 1.2 summarizes for convenient review many of the significant changes made to the rules with this version update. Rule 1.2 does not include every rule change nor does it include the complete language of any particular rule change or rule. In addition, in order for rule 1.2 to be an effective summary, not every rule change that could potentially affect a competitor was considered sufficiently significant to be included in rule 1.2.

The summaries provided in rule 1.2 are for convenient reference only; rule 1.2 is not itself a binding rule. Only the rules themselves, beginning with rule 2, shall govern. Accordingly, do not rely on the language of the summaries provided in rule 1.2. You are expected to review the complete rules themselves and comply with the actual rules, not the summaries.

Among other changes, the following significant changes were made:

- **Rules 2.2 and 2.3**: Rules were added to define discretionary authority of the USA Climbing CEO to handle weather events and material competition errors. Rules were added to define USA Climbing Sport Discretion, where the discretion is limited to the rules wherein USA Climbing Sport Discretion is explicitly granted.

- **Rule 3.5.5**: The rules addressing Transgender participation have been expanded to include Gender Non-Binary Participation, as well as adding clarifying language about possible impacts to international competition due to rules or policies beyond USA Climbing’s control.

- **Rules 3.5.6 and 3.10.1(b)**: A host facility may use the results of a Local competition for alternate *additional* categories, though all aspects of the competition, from registration to results, must adhere to the categories outlined in the USA Climbing Rulebook.

- **Rules 3.6.1 and 3.6.2**: Rules outlining Youth “home regions” have been updated to more clearly outline the “home region” change request process and the restrictions to “home region” changes.

- **Rule 3.6.6**: Collegiate “home regions” are more clearly defined, as well as the process for a temporary change in the collegiate “home region” due to an education-related program away from the geographical location of the university/college.

- **Rule 3.7.4**: Missing registration deadlines cannot be appealed.

- **Rule 3.7.6**: A USA Climbing event host facility may require additional documentation or agreements from potential competitors.

- **Rule 3.8.1**: The Bouldering Season Open National Ranking is renamed to Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking.

- **Rules 3.8.3 and 9.1.1**: The Boulder Open National Championship eligibility was updated to include U.S. Olympic National Team and 2019 U.S. Overall National Team members. The qualification round running order at the Boulder Open National Championships has moved to 9.1.1, and has been updated.

- **Rule 3.8.5**: The invitation criteria for the Combined Invitational has been expanded, to include Collegiate Champions (World, Pan American, National) as well as including a further
rank of competitor at two (or more) Open National Championships.

- **Rule 3.9:** The rules for Collegiate Championship events have changed: to require every collegiate region hold a Collegiate Regional Championship; to more evenly distribute the quota of first round invites among the regions; to make the Collegiate National Championship first (1st) round invites per-discipline in addition to per-gender; and to make the second (2nd) round registration per-gender and per-discipline.

- **Rule 3.12.3:** The registration period for Youth Regional Championships has changed to be a three week period that ends the Monday after the last weekend of the Local Competition season.

- **Rule 3.15.2:** Rules have been added to clearly state that only US Citizens are eligible for National Champion status and National Team membership.

- **Rule 3.16:** Rules have been added to clearly state the intended meaning of references in this Rulebook to World Champion(s), Pan American Champion(s), and National Champion(s).

- **Rule 3.17:** Rules have been added to address the situation where a U.S. citizen has represented a National Federation other than the United states at an IFSC competition.

- **Rule 4.1.2:** Updated the Youth Climbing Team rules to remove the requirement that a team must be at least 3 members, and to clarify that Youth Climbing Team’s roster is maintained by the Level 2 Certified Coach. Note: rule 3.2.2 continues to have the text “a minimum of three (3) member competitors who they actively coach,” and so the change to rule 4.1.2 does not alter or relax the requirements to become a USA Climbing Certified Coach.

- **Rule 4.3.2:** Added a rule to outline a Collegiate Team’s requirement to have a Level 2 Collegiate Coach.

- **Rule 5:** Rules for competitor Ranking, Team Selection, and International Competition Invitations have been updated, for Open, Youth, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing competitors. In addition, U.S. Youth National Team-Alternate members no longer enter the season as pre-qualified competitors for their respective Regional Championships.

- **Rule 6.1.11:** Added recommendation of triple-action captive-eye carabiner for pre-tied rope.

- **Rule 6.1.12:** Lead climbing competitors may be required to provide certification of lead climbing ability.

- **Rule 6.4.4(i):** Redpoint judges must be “lane judges” and not “peer judges.”

- **Rule 6.4.6(d):** For Sport, Redpoint “Modified” format competitions are not permitted.

- **Rule 6.8.8:** The rules regarding red tape have been updated to clearly state that the area of red tape is treated the same as the area beyond the red tape. This is consistent with how red tape is treated at National Championships.

- **Rule 6.8.11:** Rules for the heights of Youth C and Youth D boulder problems have been clarified.

- **Rule 6.9.10:** The rules regarding the starting position have been clarified to use consistent language, such that “begin” is used to describe the initiation of the attempt, and “start” is used to describe establishing the starting position.

- **Rules 6.21.2 and 6.21.3:** The rules for ranking competitors in a combined result have been updated, and a rule for the Boulder+Lead combined result has been added.

- **Rule 10.2:** The Combined Invitation qualification round running order has been updated to take into account the final 2019 U.S. Overall Ranking.

- **Rule 11:** The rules have been rewritten based on guidance from the USA Climbing Paraclimbing Committee and the USA Climbing Classification Task Force.

- **Rule 12.2.9:** A Note is added to rule 12.2.9 to provide guidance in the event that a minor
competitor is filing an appeal without their coach.

- **Rule 12.2.13**: The appeal window for results posted with updated results is reduced to 5 minutes.
- **Rule 12.2.14**: The appeal window at certain Open and Collegiate National competitions may be shortened, subject to notice given to competitors on the official schedule and/or the technical meeting.
- **Rules 13.1.3(n) and (o)**: Added to the list of infringements that may result in disqualification and/or revocation of membership are: failure to wear a shirt while competing; violation of listed codes, rules, or policies.
- **Rule 14.2.1**: Updated language around SafeSport rule violations.
- **Rule 14.2.2**: The rule was updated to specify that no administrative fee is required in order to file "reports of athlete safety violations" with the Judicial Committee.
- **Rule 15.1**: The rules outlining the Team Selection Committee composition have been updated to reflect USOPC requirements.

### 1.3 Significant Changes as of 2019-2020 Rulebook version 1

Rule 1.3 summarizes for convenient review many of the significant changes made to the rules with this version update. Rule 1.3 does not include every rule change nor does it include the complete language of any particular rule change or rule. In addition, in order for rule 1.3 to be an effective summary, not every rule change that could potentially affect a competitor was considered sufficiently significant to be included in rule 1.3.

The summaries provided in rule 1.3 are for convenient reference only; rule 1.3 is not itself a binding rule. Only the rules themselves, beginning with rule 2, shall govern. Accordingly, do not rely on the language of the summaries provided in rule 1.3. You are expected to review the complete rules themselves and comply with the actual rules, not the summaries.

Among other changes, the following significant changes were made:

- **General**: The word “Adaptive” has been changed to “Paraclimbing” in this Rulebook.

- **General**: Any rule in the previous Rulebook formerly outlining for document submission to be emailed to documents@usaclimbing.org now instructs to refer to the USA Climbing website. If an individual is required to submit documentation, s/he should refer to the pertinent sections of www.usaclimbing.org and contact USA Climbing if needed.

- **Rule 3**: Rules outlining USA Climbing Membership categories have been added to this section in accordance with USA Climbing’s Bylaws and recent changes or additions to these categories. Additionally, rules outlining certified coach member requirements formerly listed in rule 2.2 have been updated and moved to rule 3.2.

- **Rule 3.6.5**: Rules pertaining to bye status for residents of Alaska and Hawaii have been revised, such that residents of Alaska are pre-qualified for Youth Regionals only, whereas residents of Hawaii are still pre-qualified to Youth Divisionals.

- **Rule 3.8.5**: Rules outlining invitation to the Combined Invitational have been updated. Rule 3.8.5(c)(i) adds current National Champions; 3.8.5(c)(v) adds any individual who participated in the Final round of the previous season’s Combined Invitational.

- **Rule 3.9.1(c)**: Clarifies that an individual who has participated in a competition must have a score entered “even if such score is zero (0).”

- **Rule 3.10**: Rules outlining requirements for participation in Youth Regionals have been updated. The rank requirement outlined in rule 3.10.1 requiring an individual to receive a minimum rank placement in at least one (1) USAC Youth Local still applies but has been revised to top sixteen (16) from the previous season’s top twenty (20). In addition, the
former two (2) Youth Local participation requirement has been eliminated.

- **Rules 3.12.6, 3.12.7 and 3.12.8:** Rules pertaining to Youth Championship acceptance have been updated. First (1st) and second (2nd) registration round invites remain, but the third (3rd) round invitation has been removed.

- **Rules 3.14.5 and 3.14.6:** Rules pertaining to “reissued” invitations have been updated such that an invitation that is unfulfilled or declined shall be re-issued to the next eligible competitor “only within the originating Region,” for the Divisional Championship (3.14.5) or “only within the originating Division” for the National Championship (3.14.6).

- **Rule 5.23.5:** A rule has been added outlining: “For each discipline, the previous season’s Collegiate National Champions will receive a bye to the Collegiate National Championship.”

- **Rule 6.1.10:** The rule regarding belaying has been updated after review by the Belay Working Group: “Competitors shall tie-in with a figure-8 knot plus a “safety knot.””

- **Rules 6.8.9 and 6.8.10:** Rules pertaining to blue crosses have been clarified.

- **Rules 6.9.9 and 6.9.10:** Rules pertaining to tape demarcation of starting positions have changed. Consistent with previous seasons, if there is one (1) marked handhold, the handhold shall be marked with two flashes of tape. However, if there are two (2) separately marked handhold(s), each handhold shall be marked with only one (1) flash of tape. Taped flashes shall generally be used but as outlined in the “Note” in rule 6.9.10, taped boxes may be used in place of taped flashes, if deemed necessary by the Chief Routesetter. Additionally, the ex. image in rule 6.9.9, description in rule 16.1, and ex. image in rule 16.2 have been updated for consistency and clarification.

- **Rule 6.20:** Rules pertaining to advancement between rounds in National Championships have been updated. At National Championship competitions, when an extra quota competitor places within the range of advancement, no additional competitors shall advance. Rule 3.15.2 has also been updated for consistency.

- **Rule 10:** The rule outlining format information for the Combined Invitational is now rule 10.
2 USA Climbing Competition Officials

2.1 Competition Officials

Competition officials, and/or "referees," are appointed to fulfill competition management duties to prepare the fair and impartial implementation of the competition rules outlined in this Rulebook. For the purposes of this Rulebook, the terms "official" and "referee" shall be interchangeable and include any individual appointed by USA Climbing (USAC) to coordinate competition organization and execution and any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions. USA Climbing may formally appoint the following primary officials to each USAC-sanctioned competition, whose roles and responsibilities are outlined below, and the primary officials may appoint or assign secondary officials to assist in fulfilling their duties. All competition officials are expected to exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to all other officials, competitors, staff, volunteers and host facility personnel. For the purposes of rule 2.1, the Combined Invitational is considered to be equivalent to a National Championship.

2.1.1 Event Organizer

At the National Championship, the Event Organizer is USA Climbing in conjunction with the host facility staff. At the Divisional Championship, the Event Organizer is the Divisional Coordinator. In the absence of a Divisional Coordinator, the Regional Coordinators from the included Regions are the Event Organizers. At the Regional Championship and Local competitions, the Event Organizer is the Regional Coordinator in conjunction with the host facility staff. The Event Organizer deals with all USAC-related organizational matters during the running of the competition. S/he has the authority to ensure that the facilities are in accordance with USAC regulations. In the absence of the Chief Judge and before his/her arrival at a competition, the Event Organizer acts on his/her behalf in respect to the organization of the competition within the competition area.

2.1.2 Chief Judge

The Chief Judge oversees all aspects of judging the competition and s/he interprets and applies the rules in a fair and consistent manner. In conjunction with the Event Organizer, the Chief Judge has authority within the competition area, which is defined as the area covering the isolation zone, the transit zone and the competition zone. The latter includes the climbing wall(s), the area immediately in front of and adjacent to the climbing wall(s) and any other area assigned specifically for the safe and fair conduct of a competition. The Chief Judge shall preside over all meetings of USA Climbing Judges and over any technical meetings with coaches and/or competitors. Judges appointed by USA Climbing or the Event Organizer, assist the Chief Judge in his/her role. Prior to the start of a competition, the Judges shall be fully informed of the technical rules and regulations governing USA Climbing sanctioned competitions and shall be instructed in their duties by, and work under the direction of, the Chief Judge. Although the Chief Judge does not normally have a judging role, s/he may at any time choose to carry out any judging task generally assigned to a Judge should s/he deem it necessary. For any route/problem involved in an Appeal, the Chief Judge shall convene an Appeals Jury that should include the Chief Routesetter, Judge, Routesetter and, if necessary, the Belayer. At National Championships, the Chief Judge is appointed by USA Climbing. At Local competitions and at the Regional Championship, the Regional Coordinator is the Chief Judge. At the Divisional Championship, the Chief Judge is appointed by the Divisional Coordinator, or, if there is none, by the Regional Coordinators within the Division. An alternate Chief Judge may be selected for Local competitions, Regional and/or Divisional Championships. The alternate Chief Judge is expected to have a thorough knowledge of the current rules.

2.1.3 Chief Routesetter

The Chief Routesetter consults with the members of the routesetting team, to plan and coordinate all matters concerning the route setting and route maintenance, including the design of each route/problem; the placement of holds and other equipment; repair and cleaning of routes/problems. S/he is responsible for checking technical standards, which are designed, among other things, for safety, advising the Chief Judge on all technical matters within the competition area, assigning “zone” hold placements, assisting in compiling the “route maps” for the routes, and advising the judges on the positioning of video cameras and the maximum time
allotted for each route/problem. At National Championship events, USA Climbing appoints the Chief Routesetter and may appoint additional members of the route setting team. At the Divisional and Regional Championships, the Regional Coordinator (s) and/or the Event Organizer, in consultation with USA Climbing, appoint the Chief Routesetter.

2.2 USA Climbing CEO - Competition / Advancement Authority

2.2.1 Notwithstanding other rules in this Rulebook, the USA Climbing CEO, in consultation with the Event Organizer and Chief Judge of the affected competition(s), has the authority and discretion (“Competition Discretion”) to cancel competitions, modify competition formats, and/or to 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:

a) 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

b) The changes are designed in good faith to impact all or substantially all such similarly-situated competitors similarly to the extent practicable; and

c) No bye or waiver is declared for an individual competitor due to weather, injury, illness, personal hardship or other personal circumstances.

2.2.2 The Competition Discretion outlined in rule 2.2.1 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 Chief Judge for the applicable Event(s).

2.2.3 USA Climbing shall ensure that the USA Climbing CEO, or other USA Climbing senior employee with Competition Discretion under rule 2.2.2, maintains on-call availability to USA Climbing Competition Officials during each USA Climbing championship event.

2.2.4 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 Competition Discretion under rule 2.2.

2.3 USA Climbing Sport Discretion

2.3.1 Where so granted in this Rulebook, USA Climbing Sport Discretion grants to the USA Climbing CEO or VP of Sport (or equivalent) the authority to select and/or exercise an option listed in the relevant rule, and/or to waive and/or amend the relevant rule to the extent provided by that rule.

2.3.2 Upon any exercise of USA Climbing Sport Discretion authority, the CEO or such person having exercised the authority shall notify the Board of Directors and the Rules Committee within 30 days or no later than the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

2.3.3 Where USA Climbing Sport Discretion impacts a below-listed class of USA Climbing competitors and/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 USA Climbing Sport Discretion.

a) Where the class is Open, the relevant committee is the USA Climbing Athletes’ Advisory Committee.

b) Where the class is Collegiate, the relevant committee is the Collegiate Committee.

c) Where the class is Paraclimbing, the relevant committee is the Paraclimbing Committee.

d) Where the class is Youth, the relevant persons are the National Coordinators.
3 USA Climbing Membership, Participation and Eligibility

3.1 Membership - General

3.1.1 USA Climbing has multiple membership categories as outlined in Section 5.1 of the USA Climbing Bylaws. Members may register for membership in more than one category, subject to eligibility, and in some cases may be required to register in more than one category; provided that membership in multiple categories is subject to the limitations on Athlete voting rights set forth in the Bylaws. As of the 2019-2020 season, USA Climbing has the following membership categories:

- Competitor Membership
- Collegiate Membership
- Paraclimbing Membership
- Introductory Membership
- Coach Membership
  - Level 1 Coach
  - Level 2 Coach
- Routesetter Membership
  - Level 1 Routesetter
  - Level 2 Routesetter
  - Level 3+ Routesetter
- Certified Judge Membership
- Supporter Membership
- Team Membership
- Gym Membership
- Volunteer Membership
  - Covered
  - Non-Covered
- USAC Staff Membership
- Regional Coordinator Membership

3.1.2 Competitors are required to hold a current Introductory, Competitor, Collegiate or Paraclimbing Membership in order to compete in a USA Climbing sanctioned competition. A competitor must have a membership in the competition season(s) (Bouldering, Sport and Speed, and/or Collegiate) in which s/he is competing.

3.1.3 Basic information regarding Coach, Introductory, and Competitor Memberships can be found in rules 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 below. Other Memberships outlined above may be required based on an individual’s participation with USA Climbing and as dictated by the USA Climbing Bylaws. Any additional information regarding USA Climbing Memberships including purchasing and other information, may be found at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org). Memberships are valid for one season – from September 1st through the following August 31st – and are processed online at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org). In addition to the requirements set forth in this Rulebook and in the USA Climbing Bylaws, Members also must acknowledge and adhere to requirements applicable to their membership(s) set forth in USA Climbing’s other codes, rules and policies, and in the
applicable codes, rules and policies of third parties referenced therein.

3.2 **Coach Membership and Certification**

3.2.1 A coach must meet minimum requirements in order to be considered as a USA Climbing Certified Coach Member. Certification is subject to review and revocation is subject to USA Climbing’s Bylaws.

3.2.2 In order to be considered for Level 1 USA Climbing Coach Certification, a coach must have:

- Obtained a USA Climbing Coach Membership; and
- A minimum of three (3) member competitors who they actively coach; or, if fewer than three (3) member competitors, submitted a letter documenting his/her coaching experience accompanied by references; and
- Authorized USA Climbing to conduct a criminal background check, responded promptly to requests from vendor for additional information, and successfully completed that background screening under USA Climbing’s SafeSport Screening and Background Check Policy; and
- Submitted SafeSport Training Certificate proving successful completion of the SafeSport online training program. (Certificates must be renewed as required under USA Climbing’s SafeSport Policy.)

3.2.3 In order to be considered for Level 2 USA Climbing Coach Certification, a coach must fulfill the above (Level 1) requirements and in addition, must provide documentation proving current First Aid and CPR certification through the season in which their certification is valid. Refer to the Coaches section of www.usaclimbing.org for instructions on submitting the above documentation and any additional information on coach certification requirements and deadlines.

3.2.4 The ability to file an appeal on behalf of a competitor is limited to current USAC Level 1 or Level 2 certified member coaches.

3.2.5 The ability to enter isolation (ISO) is limited to current USAC Level 2 certified member coaches.

3.3 **Introductory Membership**

3.3.1 An Introductory Membership, or "Intro Membership," may be purchased and is for athletes interested in participating in introductory USA-sanctioned climbing competitions. Depending on his/her category as a competitor, an individual with an Intro Membership may participate as follows:

- a) Youth category athletes may participate in Youth Local competitions.
- b) Collegiate category athletes may participate in Collegiate Local competitions;
- c) Open (Adult) category athletes may participate in National Cup Series competitions.

3.3.2 An Intro Membership may be upgraded to a Competitor or Collegiate Membership, based on applicable deadlines for each category and season of competition.

Note: For the Youth Bouldering, Youth Sport & Speed, and Collegiate seasons, a competitor with an Intro Membership has until the close of registration for the respective Regional Championship to purchase a Competitor Membership, or Collegiate Membership for Collegiate Regionals. When upgrading to a Competitor or Collegiate Membership by this deadline, the competition(s) s/he has competed at with the Intro Membership will be applied to the requirement outlined in rules 3.10.1(a) and 3.9.4(a), respectively.

3.4 **Competitor Membership**

3.4.1 A Competitor Membership is a minimum requirement for competitions to be eligible to compete in USAC-sanctioned Championship level competitions. However, a Competitor Membership
does NOT solely constitute eligibility to compete. Competitors wishing to compete at Championship level competitions must meet all other eligibility requirements for the specific competition(s).

3.5 Categories

3.5.1 Youth competitors are divided into the following categories based on gender and on age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year of National Championship</th>
<th>Youth D</th>
<th>Youth C</th>
<th>Youth B</th>
<th>Youth A</th>
<th>Junior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

3.5.2 Collegiate competitors include any undergraduate or graduate students that are enrolled at a university or college during the Collegiate season. Competitors who may be graduating within the Collegiate season, participating in an internship, travel or work-study during a portion of the season, or who otherwise may not be enrolled full-time but can demonstrate they have had or will have student status during all or part of the Collegiate season shall be eligible to compete during the Collegiate season. All Collegiate Members must submit proof of enrollment confirming their student status, and may do so when purchasing a Collegiate Membership but must do so no later than the close of the registration period for the Collegiate Regional Championship. Refer to the Collegiate section of www.usaclimbing.org for instructions on submitting the above documentation.

3.5.3 The Open category is reserved for elite athletes that are sixteen (16) years of age or older, by December 31st, of the year in which the National Championship is held.

3.5.4 The Paraclimbing category is open to competitors with disabilities. Refer to rule 11.

3.5.5 Transgender and Gender Non-Binary Participation. USA Climbing’s registration and scoring systems currently categorize competitors as male or female. A competitor may register for a membership as the gender, male or female, which is more aligned with the competitor’s sincerely held core identity. If that gender is different from the gender reflected on the competitor’s birth certificate or is a different gender from that previously used by the competitor as a USA Climbing member, the competitor must provide to USA Climbing an objective manifestation (documentation or other evidence) that shows the stated gender is more aligned than the birth gender (or than the previous gender, as applicable) with the competitor’s sincerely held core identity. Documentation satisfying this standard generally may include, without limitation, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider or licensed counselor. The health care provider or licensed counselor must not be the athlete’s first or second degree relative.

With respect to US National Team selection and representation, and with respect to international competition, this rule is subject to any superseding rule or policy of any applicable national or international governing body. By way of illustration and due to the possibility of such a superseding rule or policy, a competitor electing to compete within the United States under this Rule 3.5.5 in a gender category that differs from the competitor’s birth certificate gender accepts the risk of not being eligible for selection to a US National Team and/or for participation in international competition.

3.5.6 While all USA Climbing sanctioned competitions must adhere to the categories defined in this Rulebook for all aspects of the competition, from registration to results, a Local competition (including for Youth and Collegiate) 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. By way of example, alternate additional categories could include a gender-inclusive
3.6 Regions and Divisions

3.6.1 All Youth competitors shall select a “home region” when applying for membership in USA Climbing. Home regions are determined by geographic location of either the competitor’s residence or team affiliation. In the event that a competitor is not affiliated with a team, the home region is determined by geographic location of either the competitor’s residence or “home” gym. If a competitor moves to a residence in a different region and/or changes team affiliation, s/he may request a change of his/her home region during the season by submitting a request to info@usaclimbing.org. USA Climbing should respond in a timely manner to either grant or deny such a request. Any update to a competitor’s home region is subject to at least the following:

a) A Youth competitor’s home region shall not be changed during a period that begins two weeks before the registration deadline for a Regional Championship and ends the Monday after the Divisional Championship in that same discipline, in the same season. This rule shall not apply before December 13th, 2019.

b) Unless the home region change request is due to a change in the geographic location of the competitor’s residence, a competitor’s home region shall not be changed to a region that was their home region at any time in the preceding 12 months. This rule shall not apply before June 1st, 2020.

c) In extenuating circumstances, USA Climbing may approve a request regardless of (a) and (b).

Note: the procedure for Youth Competitors changing team affiliation is found in rule 4.2.1(d).

3.6.2 Youth Competitors shall not compete outside their assigned home region for their Youth Regional Championship.

3.6.3 Youth Competitors will be assigned a home Division, based on their home Region.

3.6.4 Youth Competitors may only earn an invitation to attend their home Divisional Championship.

3.6.5 Youth Competitors whose legal residence is within the State of Alaska shall enter the season as pre-qualified competitors for the Regional Championships. Youth Competitors whose legal residence is within the State of Hawaii shall enter the season as pre-qualified competitors for the Divisional Championships. To participate in the Regional or Divisional competition, respectively, they shall:

a) Be required to have a USAC Competitor Membership and register for the competition by the close of the first (1st) round registration deadline for the respective Championships (Alaskan Competitors for Regional Championships; Hawaiian Competitors for Divisional Championships).

b) Be required to follow and meet any and all registration requirements and/or deadlines for any competition they participate in.

c) Be awarded ribbons/medals based upon their placement in any preliminary competition they elect to participate in. Additionally, their placement shall, in no way, reduce the number of competitors who would advance in their absence.

3.6.6 Collegiate competitors shall select a “home region” when applying for a membership in USA Climbing, where the home region is based on the geographic location of their university or college, subject to exceptions granted by rule 3.6.8.

3.6.7 Collegiate competitors shall not compete outside their home region’s Collegiate Regional Championship.

3.6.8 Collegiate competitors may request a change of their home region based on an educational program requiring residency away from their university or college location. USA Climbing may grant the request provided the competitor:

a) Is participating in an educational program related to their studies (such as a co-op, internship, semester abroad or at another college/university) during the time when the
Collegiate Regional Championships will be held; and

b) Has submitted documentation from his/her college/university outlining the location and duration of the educational program along with a request to change his/her home region for said duration, by 11:59 p.m. (MTN) March 1st. Refer to the Collegiate section of www.usaclimbing.org for instructions on submitting the above documentation.

3.7 Registration of Competitors

3.7.1 Registration for a Local competition is typically handled directly with the host facility. Where applicable, please refer to your Regional page at www.usaclimbing.org for specific details or contact your Regional Coordinator or the host facility for registration information.

3.7.2 Registration for all Championship competitions is conducted online at www.usaclimbing.org. All competitors must register directly with USAC as part of the eligibility requirement for all Championship events.

3.7.3 For all categories (Youth, Open, Collegiate and Paraclimbing) registration for Championship level competitions shall have a registration timeline including a regular registration period, and a late registration period of twenty-four (24) hours, during which a $50.00 late fee will be applied.

3.7.4 Competitors must meet all registration requirements and deadlines. Missing the deadline for registration may not be appealed.

3.7.5 Upon registering for all Championship competitions at www.usaclimbing.org, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided. Please contact USA Climbing immediately at info@usaclimbing.org if a confirmation email is not received within (30) thirty minutes.

3.7.6 For any USA Climbing competition, the host facility may require additional agreement(s), certification(s), and/or attestation(s), subject to agreement by USA Climbing and inclusion in the Host Agreement between the host facility and USA Climbing. These additional requirements may include, but are not limited to, liability waiver agreements and certifications or attestations of lead climbing capability (see rule 6.1.12).

3.8 Participation and Eligibility – Open Championship Rankings and Events

3.8.1 Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking

A ranking of Open competitors in the Bouldering discipline will be created each season, for male and female competitors. Open competitors that finish in the top thirty (30) or higher (better) in a National Cup Series competition will accrue points and a current Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking will be maintained on www.usaclimbing.org. Athletes are eligible to accumulate points in the Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking provided:

a) They are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st (refer to rule 3.5.3), and

b) Have purchased a USAC Competitor Membership no later than the Wednesday following the final National Cup Series competition.

Note: The Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking defined in 3.8.1 is different than, and
separate from, the U.S. Bouldering National Ranking defined in rule 5.4.

Competitors will be awarded ranking points as follows:

### National Cup Series Competitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPETITOR RANKING - POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
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#### 3.8.2 Bouldering Open National Cup Series

The Bouldering Open National Cup Series aims to promote Adult amateur and professional participation and to provide a national structure for high level competitors culminating in an annual prize awarded to the top ranked competitors after each season as outlined in rule 3.8.1 above. Athletes are eligible to compete at any Bouldering Open National Cup Series competition provided:

a) They are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st (refer to rule 3.5.3), and

b) Have purchased a USAC membership **no later than** the registration deadline for the specific National Cup Series competition. A competitor may purchase a Competitor Membership or an Intro Membership but a competitor will only accrue National ranking points if s/he has purchased a Competitor Membership, **no later than** the registration deadline for the Open National Championship.

Note: In the interest of developing greater opportunities for Adult competitors and exploring organizational and rules concepts that USA Climbing may study and assess as the sport of competition climbing evolves, the National Cup Series may use trial formats or rules that diverge from those in this Rulebook.

#### 3.8.3 Bouldering Open National Championship

Athletes are eligible to compete at the Bouldering Open National Championship provided:

a) They are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st (refer to rule 3.5.3), and

b) Have purchased a USAC **Competitor** Membership **no later than** the registration deadline for the Bouldering Open National Championship, and

c) At the registration deadline, they meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

   i. Are a member of the U.S. Olympic National Team, or were a member of the U.S. Olympic National Team at any time in the 12 months prior to the Bouldering Open National Championship;

   ii. For the 2020 Bouldering Open National Championship only, are a member of the final 2019 U.S. Overall National Team, as defined in the 2018-2019 Rulebook v3 rule 5.5.3 (aka Phase 2 of Overall National Team Selection);

   iii. Are current World Champion(s), Pan American Champion(s) and/or U.S. Open National Champion(s) in Bouldering, or the “Overall”;

   iv. Are ranked in the top one hundred (100), based on the Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking after the final National Cup Series competition;
v. For **U.S. Citizen competitors only**, competed in the semi-final round of the Bouldering Open National Championship in the previous season;

vi. For the 2020 Bouldering Open National Championship, any Open competitors who competed in a National Cup Series competition but did not receive ranking points (ie. did not finish 30th or higher) shall be eligible to compete. However, in order not to exceed a maximum time for any competitor to be in isolation, of eight (8) hours, USA Climbing shall impose a maximum number of competitors within this category of eligibility, wherein registration shall be first-come, first-served, up to the maximum number per gender based on the maximum isolation time.

Note: The running order for the Bouldering Open National Championships is outlined in rule 9.1.1.

3.8.4 Sport & Speed Open National Championship
Athletes are eligible to compete at the Sport & Speed Open National Championship provided:

a) They are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st (refer to rule 3.5.3), and

b) Have a purchased a USAC membership **no later than** the registration deadline for the Sport & Speed Open National Championship;

3.8.5 Combined Invitational
Athletes are eligible to compete at the Combined Invitational provided:

a) They are U.S. citizens and are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st (refer to rule 3.5.3), and;

b) Have purchased a USAC Competitor membership **no later than** the registration deadline for the Combined Invitational, and;

c) At the registration deadline, they meet at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

i. Are a member of the U.S. Olympic National Team, or were a member of the U.S. Olympic National Team at any time in the 12 months prior to the Combined Invitational.

ii. Currently hold the status of World Champion(s), Pan American Champion(s), and/or National Champion(s) in the Open, Youth, and/or Collegiate categories; in any single discipline and/or the Overall.

iii. Are ranked in the 2019 IFSC World Cup Ranking for one or more of the single disciplines. In order to be ranked, a competitor must finish within the top thirty (30) of a World Cup competition;

iv. Are a current member of one or more of the 2019 single discipline U.S. National Teams and/or U.S. Overall National Teams, in the Open category, and/or U.S. Youth Overall National Team.

v. Competed in the final round of the Combined Invitational in the previous season.

vi. Finished with a rank in the top 30 of two or more Open National Championships, Bouldering, Sport, and Speed, in the previous season.

Note: When determining the top 30 for the purposes of this eligibility requirement, the range of consideration is extended beyond the top 30 by the number of competitors in the top 30 that were considered extra quota at that Open National Championship in that previous season.

Note: The running order for the Combined Invitational is outlined in rule 10.

3.9 Participation and Eligibility – Collegiate Championship Events

3.9.1 Every Collegiate region must have a Collegiate Regional Championship.

3.9.2 In the event USA Climbing does not enter into a Collegiate Regional Championship host
agreement with a host facility in a given Collegiate region, USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion subject to rule 2.3 to have the Collegiate Regional Championship hosted at a facility outside of that region.

3.9.3 Each Collegiate region’s Collegiate Regional Championship shall be scored separately, such that each competitor is only ranked against his/her home region’s competitors, even in the event that a Collegiate Regional Championship host facility hosts multiple Collegiate Regional Championships.

3.9.4 Collegiate members are eligible to compete at a Collegiate Regional Championship provided they have:
   a) Purchased a USAC Collegiate Membership no later than the registration deadline for the Collegiate Regionals Championship;
   b) Provided proof of enrollment as outlined in 3.5.2;
   c) Received a rank in at least one (1) USAC Collegiate Local competition. In order to receive a rank in a competition, an individual must actually compete/participate in the event, and her/his score must be entered in the scoring system, even if such score is zero (0). It is the responsibility of all competitors to verify, by the close of their Regional Championship registration deadline, that they have received credit for Local competitions that they have participated in. Competitors may verify their results by going to the Collegiate - Results on the USA Climbing webpage. In the event a competitor discovers that s/he has not received credit for a competition, they should immediately contact USA Climbing at: info@usaclimbing.org
   d) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.9.5 Collegiate members are eligible to compete at the Collegiate National Championships provided they have:
   a) Competed at his/her home region’s Collegiate Regional Championship.
   b) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.9.6 A “quota” for first-round invitations to the Collegiate National Championships shall be determined from the Collegiate Membership count from the prior season and the Collegiate Regionals participation from the prior season. Refer to the Collegiate section of www.usaclimbing.org for quotas for each Collegiate Region, based on the following:
   a) If a given Collegiate Region held no Collegiate Regional Championship in the prior season, the Regionals participation shall be estimated by: calculating the national average Collegiate Regionals participation as a percentage of Collegiate Membership, for all Regions that held a Regional Championship the prior season; and applying that average participation percentage to the given Collegiate Region’s Membership count from the prior season, resulting in an estimated Collegiate Regionals participation.
   b) USA Climbing shall establish a National quota target for Collegiate Nationals (e.g. 140), such that the National quota (total of all Collegiate Regions’ quota) adds up to approximately the National quota target.
   c) A minimum Region quota is calculated as 50% of the National quota target divided by the number of regions. This number is rounded down to a whole number.
   d) A maximum Region quota is calculated as 200% of the National quota target divided by the number of regions. This number is rounded down to a whole number.
   e) Each Collegiate Region’s quota is allocated as a pro-rata from the National quota target based on the Region’s Regionals participation as a percentage of all Regions’ Regionals participation, rounded to the nearest whole number (fraction of 0.5 rounded up), where a Region’s quota is no less than the minimum Region quota and no more than the maximum Region quota.

3.9.7 A first-round invitation to register for the Collegiate National Championships shall be extended to the highest ranked competitors from Collegiate Regional Championships up to the quota for
the first-round invitations, for each gender and in each discipline, as outlined in rule 3.9.6.

a) Invitations to the Collegiate National Championship are on a per-gender, per-discipline basis, and a competitor can receive an invitation to one or more disciplines based on their Collegiate Regional Championship final rank in each discipline.

b) First-round registrations are limited to the disciplines for which the invitation was received. For the avoidance of doubt, an invitation for one discipline does not provide for first-round registration in a different discipline.

3.9.8 First-round registration for the Collegiate National Championships will open the Wednesday immediately following the last Collegiate Regional Championships hosted. Competitors with a first-round invitation based on Rule 3.9.6 shall have until the following Sunday at 11:59pm MST to accept his/her first-round invitation by registering for the Collegiate National Championships. Registration for the event is the sole means of acceptance.

3.9.9 After this first-round regular registration period, USA Climbing will post a registration chart of currently registered competitors, and open a late registration period as outlined in rule 3.7.3.

3.9.10 Following the close of the Collegiate National Championships first-round registration period, USA Climbing will post a registration chart of currently registered competitors and open a second (2nd) round registration period to all eligible competitors on a first-come, first-served basis, up to the maximum registrant capacities set by USA Climbing, for each gender and for each discipline.

a) Competitors are eligible to register for a discipline only if they competed in that discipline at their Collegiate Regionals and her/his score was be entered in the scoring system, even if such score is zero (0).

b) Second (2nd) round registration is on a per-gender and per-discipline basis.

3.9.11 Following the close of the Collegiate National Championships second (2nd) round registration period, USA Climbing will post a registration chart of currently registered competitors and open a third (3rd) round registration period to all eligible competitors on a first-come, first-served basis, up to the maximum registrant capacities set by USA Climbing, for each discipline.

a) USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion subject to rule 2.3 to not open a third (3rd) registration period.

b) Third (3rd) round registration is on a per-discipline basis.

3.9.12 During the first-come, first-served registrations as outlined in 3.9.10 and 3.9.11, no preference is given to competitors already registered for the Collegiate National Championships, and no preference is given to competitors not already so registered.

3.10 Participation and Eligibility – Youth Championship Events

3.10.1 The Boulder and Sport Regional Championships are open only to USAC Youth members who have met the following requirements:

a) Must have purchased a USAC Competitor Membership no later than the registration deadline for the Youth Regional Championship.

b) Boulder and Sport competitors must have ranked in the top sixteen (16) in at least one (1) USAC Youth Local competition in the applicable Youth age and gender category, where any extra quota competitors (competitors with a bye to Youth Regionals, Divisionals or Nationals, or non-U.S. citizen competitors) shall not be included in the top sixteen (16).

c) Boulder and Sport competitors must meet all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.10.2 It is the responsibility of all competitors to verify, by the close of their Regional Championship registration deadline, that they have fulfilled the top sixteen (16) rank requirement. This requirement must be met by achieving a top sixteen (16) rank in any USAC-sanctioned Youth Local competition in any state or USAC Region within that particular category and/or series. For example, Boulder and Sport competitions do not count toward fulfilling the requirement for the Sport season, and as Open competitions, the National Cup Series and Open National Championships do not count toward fulfilling the requirement. Competitors may verify their results by going to
the results section of www.usaclimbing.org. In the event a competitor discovers that s/he has not received credit for a competition, they should immediately contact USA Climbing at: info@usaclimbing.org.

3.10.3 The Bouldering and Sport Divisional Championships are only open to USAC Youth members who have met the following requirements:
   a) Competed at their “home” Regional Championship.
   b) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.10.4 The Speed Divisional Championships are only open to USAC Youth members who have met the following requirements:
   a) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.11 Invitations – Youth Championship Events

3.11.1 In determining invitations to the Championship events, rules relating to Byes, Intro Memberships, and Non-U.S. citizens shall apply.

3.11.2 All competitors who have met the requirements outlined in rule 3.10.1 above are invited to register for the Regional Championship.

3.11.3 Invitations to the Divisional Championship for the Bouldering and Sport disciplines will be announced at the conclusion of the Regional Championship. Eligible competitors as outlined in rule 3.10.1, above, who, at the conclusion of the Regional Championship, are ranked first (1st) through tenth (10th) will be invited to the Divisional Championship.

3.11.4 All competitors who have met the requirements outlined in rule 3.10.4 above are invited to register for the Speed Divisional Championship.

3.11.5 Invitations to the National Championship for the Bouldering and Sport disciplines will be announced at the conclusion of the Divisional Championship. At the conclusion of the Divisional Championship, eligible competitors who are ranked first (1st) through sixth (6th) will be invited to the National Championship.

3.11.6 Invitations to the National Championship for the Speed disciplines will be announced at the conclusion of the Divisional Championship. At the conclusion of the Divisional Championship, eligible competitors who are ranked first (1st) through sixth (6th), or have the first (1st) or second (2nd) fastest time in the “Time Rank” (see 8.19.4), will be invited to the National Championship. For the avoidance of doubt, if the 1st and 2nd fastest in the “Time Rank” are also ranked in the top six (6) in the general ranking, then only six (6) invites will be extended.

3.11.7 Due to the volume of competitors and invitees, there will be no telephone or e-mail notification of an invitation from the USA Climbing office.

3.12 Invitation Acceptance – Youth Championship Events

3.12.1 Registration for the event is the sole means of acceptance. Each competition shall have a first (1st) round registration which shall include a regular registration period and late registration period. For first round invitees, the close of the late registration period shall be the deadline to register. Missing the deadline for registration may not be appealed.

3.12.2 When registering for Championship competitions, a competitor who has received a “Bye” to the National Championship must register by the first (1st) round registration deadline for each competition.

3.12.3 The registration period for the Regional Championships shall be a period of three (3) weeks, where the end of the registration period shall be the Monday following the last weekend of the Youth Local season for the same discipline. For the avoidance of doubt, the registration period shall start on the Monday three weeks prior to the end of the registration period. During this period, all eligible competitors (refer to rule 3.10 above) are encouraged to register. After this registration period, USAC will post a registration chart of currently registered competitors. All other eligible competitors who have not yet registered may register during a twenty-four (24) hour late registration period but shall incur a late fee of $50.00 during this additional period.

3.12.4 The registration period for the Divisional Championships shall be seventy-two (72) hours and
shall open the Monday immediately after the last Regional Championship. All first (1st) round Divisional Championship invitees may register within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of registration. After this registration period, USAC will post a registration chart listing all invitees who have registered and invitees who have not yet registered. Invitees who have not yet registered may register during have a twenty-four (24) hour late registration period but shall incur a late fee of $50.00 during this period.

3.12.5 The registration period for the National Championships shall be seventy-two (72) hours and shall open the Monday immediately after the Divisional Championships. All first (1st) round National Championship invitees may register within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of registration. After this registration period, USAC will post a registration chart listing all invitees who have registered and invitees who have not yet registered. Invitees who have not yet registered may register during have a twenty-four (24) hour late registration period but shall incur a late fee of $50.00 during this period.

3.12.6 Following the close of the first (1st) round registration for Youth Divisional and National Championships, an updated registration chart will be posted on www.usaclimbing.org. If first round invitee(s) have declined to register, their invitation(s) are extended to the next qualified competitor(s) in a second (2nd) round registration. Note that any invitation to the Speed Youth National Championship extended solely by way of “Time Rank” and not accepted shall not be extended to the next ranked competitor in the “Time Rank.”

3.12.7 The only notification for these second (2nd) round invitees is via the updated registration chart and these competitors shall have forty-eight (48) hours, from the posting of the updated registration chart, to register for the event. There is no late registration period for second (2nd) round invitees. Missing the deadline for registration may not be appealed.

3.12.8 There will be no more than two (2) rounds of invitations issued and invitations will not be issued with less than twelve (12) days prior to the start of the event.

3.13 Additional Invitations – Youth Championship Events

3.13.1 In addition to any current U.S. National Champion(s), Pan American Champion(s), and/or World Champion(s) the top ten (10) eligible competitors will receive an invitation to the Divisional Championship, for that discipline, and the top six (6) eligible competitors will receive an invitation to the National Championship, for that discipline.

3.13.2 Categories at the Divisional and/or National Championship that contain a Non-U.S. citizen, shall receive an additional invitation, for that discipline, providing the following requirement is met:

a) The Non-U.S. citizen must finish within first (1st) through tenth (10th) at their Regional Championship for an additional invitation to be offered to the Divisional Championship or within first (1st) through sixth (6th) at their Divisional Championship for an additional invitation to be offered to the National Championship. For example:

i. If the Non-U.S. citizen places tenth (10th) or higher (better) at their Regional Championship, eleven (11) competitors will advance.

ii. If the Non-U.S. citizen places eleventh (11th) or higher (better) at their Regional Championship, only ten (10) competitors will advance.

Note: If, in the event of an additional invitation being offered, the next highest ranked competitor, (as in rule 3.13.2(a)(i)), the eleventh (11th)) is also a Non-U.S. citizen, s/he shall advance and then create a further additional invitation for the twelfth (12th) ranked competitor, such that ten (10) U.S. citizen competitors shall advance.

3.14 Invitations Declined or Unfilled – Youth Championship Events

3.14.1 USAC may elect to award declined or unfilled Championship invitations to the next competitor in line based upon Championship event enrollment constraints.

3.14.2 A reissued invitation must stay within the original gender and category.

3.14.3 If a current National Champion, World Champion or Pan American Champion declines or does
not accept their invitation, the invitation will not be re-issued.

3.14.4 If a non-U.S. citizen competitor who qualifies for and receives an allocated invitation to a Championship event declines or does not accept the invitation, the invitation will not be re-issued. Additionally, a non-U.S. citizen competitor that does not qualify for nor receives an allocated invitation to a Championship event may not receive a reissued invitation. A reissued invitation may only be awarded to the next eligible U.S. citizen competitor.

3.14.5 For the Divisional Championship, an invitation that is unfilled or declined shall be re-issued to the next eligible competitor only within the originating Region.

3.14.6 For the National Championship, an invitation that is unfilled or declined shall be re-issued to the next eligible competitor only within the originating Division.

3.14.7 In the event an invitation remains unfilled after having been extended to all eligible competitors within the gender and age category, the invitation, at the discretion of USA Climbing’s Chief Executive Officer, or their designee, may be re-issued to an eligible competitor that had previously declined the invitation and has, subsequently, requested in writing that the invitation be reissued to them. Invitations that are re-issued in this manner must be extended to eligible competitors in the order of their ranking - highest to lowest.

3.15 Effects on Invitations and Rankings

3.15.1 Intro Membership Competitors
For Youth competitions, any and all Intro Membership Competitors are welcome and encouraged to participate and compete at Local level competitions. However, an Intro Membership Competitor shall not be entitled to nor shall they be eligible to compete at or receive an invitation to a Regional, Divisional or National Championship competition. Refer to Rule 3.3.2.

3.15.2 Non-U.S. Citizen Competitors
Only U.S. citizens or legal residents, with valid U.S. passports, are eligible to be selected for a U.S. National Climbing Team, Youth or Adult, in any discipline. That said, USAC welcomes and encourages non-U.S. citizen competitors to compete at any and all levels of competition during the season. In order to encourage non-U.S. citizen competitor participation while still maintaining an equitable system for U.S. competitors to qualify for Regional, Divisional, National Championships and the U.S. National Team, the following guidelines have been adopted:

a) Non-U.S. citizen competitors are not eligible for USA Climbing National Champion status nor eligible to be members of a USA Climbing National Team.

b) Non-U.S. citizen competitors must be current USAC members.

c) All non-U.S. citizen competitors are subject to the qualification criteria for each level of competition as explained in this Rulebook.

d) In the Divisional Championship, for each non-U.S. citizen competitor that places within the range of advancement to the next round, an additional competitor may be advanced. Refer to rule 6.20.

e) For each non-U.S. citizen competitor that places within the range of receiving an allocated invitation to the Divisional and/or National Championship, an additional, eligible competitor will receive an invitation.

3.16 Champion Status

3.16.1 All references in this Rulebook to competitors with Champion status are to be read as follows: World Champions and/or Pan American Champions are those who achieved said status representing the U.S.; National Champions are those that achieved said status at a USA Climbing National Championship and otherwise satisfy the requirements of this Rulebook.

3.16.2 Rule 3.16.1 applies to all sections of this Rulebook, including but not limited to: byes, invitations, eligibility; running order; etc.

3.16.3 A World Champion, Pan American Champion, and/or National Champion that does not meet
the definition in rule 3.16.1 is considered as a non-Champion competitor within the scope of this Rulebook.

3.17 U.S. Citizen Status

3.17.1 A U.S. Citizen who has competed at an IFSC event representing a National Federation other than the U.S. is subject to IFSC Rules (including IFSC Rule 2.13 in 2019 version 1.9.2) and may not be eligible to represent the U.S. at IFSC events. In the event a competitor is so ineligible, that competitor shall not be eligible to be awarded U.S. National Champion status, named to a U.S. National Team, or awarded U.S. quota invitations to IFSC events. For the purposes of this Rulebook the term U.S. Citizen shall be interpreted to exclude such ineligible competitors, including without limitation Rules relating to ranking points, ranking, advancement, “extra quota,” National Teams, Invitations, etc. For the avoidance of doubt, such ineligible competitors shall be treated by these Rules as if they are not U.S. Citizens.

3.18 Anti-Doping Tests

3.18.1 USA Climbing supports the IOC Medical Commission and IFSC regulations regarding drug use and testing. It shall be the responsibility of all USA Climbing members to comply with the rules and regulations of USA Climbing and the rules and regulations of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), as well as to avoid acting in any manner, which 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, USA Climbing is obligated to adhere to the anti-doping rules of the USOPC and IFSC, as well as 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 USOPC, IFSC and USADA are available at the offices of USA Climbing or online at the following websites:

- International Federation of Sport Climbing: www.ifsc-climbing.org, or
- United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee: www.usoc.org, or

3.18.2 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.
4 Youth Teams, Collegiate Teams and Team Championships

4.1 Youth Climbing Team – Definition
4.1.1 A Youth Climbing Team consists of members who compete and train together under the guidance and direction of a coach or coaches. At Championship events eligible team members may have their results counted towards Team Championships.

4.1.2 Basic requirements for a USA Climbing Youth Climbing Team include:
   a) A team must have a USA Climbing Level 2 certified coach.
   b) Team members must be in good standing with their coach, team policies, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing.
   c) A team's USA Climbing Level 2 certified coach shall compile the roster of team members and shall submit said roster to USA Climbing as outlined in the Coaches section of www.usaclimbing.org.

4.2 Youth Climbing Team – Team Affiliation
4.2.1 Eligibility requirements for Youth Climbing Team members results to be counted towards Team Championships:
   a) The Youth Climbing Team coach must organize/facilitate, and eligible members must attend and participate in, one practice per week, on average from November 1st to the Bouldering Youth National Championship, in the Bouldering season, and from April 1st to the Youth Sport & Speed National Championship, in the Sport & Speed season.
   b) The coach must submit an official roster including the full names of competitors planning to compete in Championship events as eligible Youth Climbing Team members. In order to have a roster of competitors whose results may count towards Team Championships, a coach must submit his/her team roster, including First Name, Last Name, and Team Affiliation, following the instructions on the Coaches section of www.usaclimbing.org.
   c) At all Championship competitions, eligible Youth Climbing Team members must wear a team jersey. The jersey must include a prominently visible Team name and/or logo, and Team members must wear jerseys of the same basic type when competing. Teams may have more than one jersey design and variable colors or types (t-shirt or tank tops, for example) are acceptable but the same color and type for each gender is preferred.
   d) In the event a competitor wishes to change team affiliation or joins a team during the Bouldering or Sport & Speed season, USA Climbing must be notified in order to review, approve, and make the appropriate adjustment(s). Any and all team designations or affiliations must be submitted and approved, following the instructions on the Coaches section of www.usaclimbing.org.

Note: the procedure for Youth Competitors changing home region is found in rule 3.6.1.

4.3 Collegiate Climbing Team - Definition
4.3.1 A collegiate climbing team shall consist of undergraduate, or graduate, students that are currently enrolled at a university or college. All members of a team must be enrolled at the same university or college. Additionally, their university or college must recognize the team.

4.3.2 A collegiate climbing team must have a USA Climbing Level 2 certified coach as outlined in rule 3.2. See the Collegiate section of www.usaclimbing.org for Level 2 Collegiate Coach Membership information.

4.4 Team Competitions – Championship Events
4.4.1 Team Championship awards shall be awarded at Youth and Collegiate Championship competitions, for each single discipline (Boulder, Sport, and Speed) and an Overall Team
Championship shall also be awarded.

4.4.2 Teams are ranked in descending order; the team with the highest overall score shall be ranked in first (1st) place.

4.4.3 At all Youth and Collegiate Championship competitions, team members will accrue points based on their final ranking. Competitors, in each category, are awarded points according to the table below. The points gained by tied competitors in a competition will be the average of the points for the tied rank positions. The points will be rounded off to whole numbers.

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4.4.4 For single discipline Team Championships, team rankings shall be calculated for each discipline by adding the ranking points of the highest ranked individual team member(s) participating in each discipline and category of the competition.

4.4.5 For Overall Team Championships, team rankings shall be calculated by adding the ranking points of the single discipline Team Championships.

4.4.6 Tie(s) amongst the top three (3) ranked teams shall be broken.

4.4.7 For single discipline Team Championships, in the event of a tie(s) amongst the top three (3) ranked teams, for each tied team(s), their next highest scoring team member’s points shall be added to their team’s score. If the tie(s) remains, an additional team member shall be added until the tie(s) is/are broken.

4.4.8 For Overall Team Championships, in the event of a tie(s) amongst the top three (3) ranked teams, the team with the best ranking in the single discipline Team Championships shall be ranked higher (better). For example, if team A and team B have the same ranking points for the Overall Team Championships, where team A finished first (1st) in a single discipline Team Championship and team B did not have a first (1st) placed rank, team A shall be ranked higher (better). If the tie(s) remains, the next single discipline Team Championship ranking shall be considered until the tie(s) is/are broken.

4.5 Youth Team Championships – Eligibility

4.5.1 To be eligible for the Team Championships at the Youth Regional, Divisional and National Championships, each Youth competitor must be a USA Climbing member and at least one team coach must be Level 2 certified as outlined in rule 3.2. Additionally, all team members must have represented their team at Local competitions during the Bouldering and/or Sport & Speed season and are required to compete at their assigned “home” Regional and Divisional Championship, unless having a bye as outlined below.

a) Competitors that have a bye to the Regional Championship are exempt from the Local competition requirement and are eligible for the team competition at the Regional Championship.

b) Competitors that have a bye to the Divisional Championship are exempt from the Local and Regional competition requirement and are eligible for the team competition at the Divisional Championship.

c) Competitors that have a bye to the National Championship are exempt from the Local, Regional and Divisional competition requirement; and are eligible for the team competition,
at the National Championship.

4.5.2 At the Youth Championship competitions, the number of competitors whose points shall be used for calculating the single discipline team rankings shall be one (1) competitor for each gender and each category.

4.5.3 Ranking points are not carried over from one Championship event to another; i.e., from the Regional Championship to the Divisional Championship or from the Divisional Championship to the National Championship.

4.5.4 At the Youth National Championship, the Overall Team Championship shall be calculated by adding the ranking points of the single discipline team rankings. Refer to Rule 4.4.5 above.

4.6 Collegiate Team Championships – Eligibility

4.6.1 To be eligible for the Team Competition at Collegiate Championship competitions, each competitor must be a USA Climbing Collegiate member and all team members must have represented his/her team at one or more Local competitions during the Collegiate season. The Collegiate Climbing Team must meet the team definition requirements of rule 4.3.

4.6.2 At Collegiate Championship competitions, the number of competitors whose points shall be used for calculating the single discipline team rankings shall be three (3) competitors for each gender.

4.6.3 At Collegiate Championship competitions, the Overall Team Championships shall be calculated by adding the ranking points of the single discipline team rankings. Refer to Rule 4.4.5 above.
5 U.S. National Rankings, Teams, and International Competitions

5.1 U.S National Rankings, Teams, and Invitations - General

5.1.1 U.S. National Teams are selected to represent the United States in sanctioned international competitions. The three primary single disciplines of competition are Bouldering, Sport and Speed.

5.1.2 In anticipation of an expected IFSC format that combines the Bouldering and Lead disciplines, the term Boulder+Lead is generally used in this Rulebook to refer to formats, competitions, and/or results that involve the combination of the Bouldering and Lead (Sport) disciplines. Although an IFSC Boulder+Lead Combined Ranking and an IFSC Boulder+Lead Combined format have not been defined in the IFSC Rulebook, USA Climbing shall create a U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined Ranking, for each category, and a Boulder+Lead Combined format. For the purposes of this Rulebook, the term “Boulder+Lead” and/or “Boulder+Lead Combined” shall generally refer to where athletes are ranked when competing in the Bouldering and Lead (Sport) single disciplines, regardless of the specific name the IFSC may use for this format, and the term Boulder+Lead shall be considered to refer to any such term that the IFSC uses for such a combination.

5.1.3 As per IFSC rules version 1.9.2, the term “Combined” (when not preceded by Boulder+Lead) generally refers to where athletes are ranked when competing in all three single disciplines: Bouldering, Sport and Speed. For example, across a season of competitions, a “Combined World Cup Ranking” is created, or, where there is an event with all three single disciplines combined as one competition, e.g. the “Combined World Championship.” For the purposes of this Rulebook, the terms “All-Around” and “Combined” (when not preceded by Boulder+Lead) are used interchangeably, and are used to refer to where all three single disciplines are combined in a format for one competitive event, and where all competitors register to compete in all disciplines. In the 2019 – 2020 season, the only USA Climbing competition scheduled as such is the “Combined Invitational” (refer to rules 6.3.2(f) and rule 10). The terms “All-Around” and “Overall” are used interchangeably, and are used variously throughout this Rulebook: to denote where rankings are formed by accumulated results across all three individual disciplines (e.g. “All-Around Ranking” or “Overall rank total”); to refer to U.S. National Teams based on results in all three individual disciplines (e.g. “U.S. All-Around Combined National Team”); or for competitions where all three individual disciplines may be held but the event is not specifically structured as a Combined format event (e.g. the Collegiate National Championship, where all disciplines are held and there are “All-Around” Champions, but not resulting from the specific format of a “Combined” competition.)

Note: In future versions of this Rulebook, the terms “All-Around”, “Overall”. and/or “Combined” (when not preceded by a Boulder+Lead) may be consolidated. (e.g. to “All-Around.”)

5.1.4 USA Climbing shall maintain Open National Rankings as generally outlined in rule 5.2.
   a) The National Rankings typically are based upon ranking points outlined in 5.3.
   b) The National Rankings are each defined in rules 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6.
   c) The relevant U.S. National Teams are typically formed using the National Rankings, as defined in rule 5.7, 5.8, and 5.9.
   d) The U.S. World Cup Elite Teams are defined in rules 5.10, 5.11, and 5.12, where members achieved an elite World Cup Rank the prior year.
   e) The U.S. Olympic Team is defined in rule 5.13.
   f) The process for Invitations to International Competitions is defined in rule 5.14, using the National Rankings and National Teams.

5.1.5 This Rulebook defines the following U.S. National Teams:
   a) For Open (Adult) athletes, for each category, there is a U.S. Olympic National Team.
   b) For Open (Adult) athletes, for each category, there is a U.S. World Cup Elite Team for each single discipline, for the Boulder+Lead Combined, and for the All-Around Combined.
c) For Open (Adult) athletes, for each category, there is a U.S. National Team for each single discipline, for the Boulder+Lead Combined, and for the All-Around Combined.

d) For Youth, for each category, there is a U.S. Youth National Team for each single discipline, for the Boulder+Lead Combined, and for the All-Around Combined.

e) For Collegiate, for each category, there is a U.S. Collegiate National Team for each single discipline, for the Boulder+Lead Combined, and for the All-Around Combined.

f) For Paraclimbing, there is a U.S. Paraclimbing National Team.

In this Rulebook, the title “U.S. National Team” shall generally refer to the Open category National Team(s). Rules referring to Youth category National Team(s) shall use the title “U.S. Youth National Team,” and the same shall be applied to Collegiate and Paraclimbing categories, i.e. “U.S. Collegiate National Team” and “U.S. Paraclimbing National Team.”

5.1.6 An athlete may be a member of more than one of the National Teams at any given time.

5.1.7 Invitations to IFSC international competitions are extended to U.S. citizen athletes based on multiple factors, including whether the competition is related to qualification for the Olympic Games, the quota of U.S. citizen athletes for the competition, whether byes are allocated for the competition by the IFSC, and when the competition is held during the international season.

5.1.8 While members of U.S. National Teams are typically the first to be extended invitations to IFSC international competitions, invitations are extended based on quotas which may be different depending on the competition. Being a member of a U.S. National Team does not guarantee invitation to an international competition. As quotas are variable, there may be instances where not all members of a U.S Team are extended invitations for a competition, or, where all members of a U.S. National Team are extended invitations and additional U.S. citizen athletes also receive invitations. Any individual who has been invited to compete in an IFSC international competition who is not already a current member of the relevant U.S. National Team shall be considered a U.S. National Team “Alternate.”

5.1.9 A member of a USA Climbing National Team and/or an athlete considered a U.S. National Team “Alternate” (see 5.1.8) may be required to submit a signed Athlete Agreement in order to obtain support from USA Climbing with respect to an Open, Youth, Collegiate, and/or Paraclimbing international competition and/or event, provided that the form of Athlete Agreement is on reasonable terms and has been reviewed by the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, USA Climbing’s athlete representative on the USOPC Athletes’ Advisory Council, and the USA Climbing Athletes’ Advisory Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, an Athlete Agreement term or condition may be reasonable even if other terms or conditions that could have been used would have likewise been reasonable. The Athlete Agreement must be signed by the athlete and must also be signed by a parent/guardian if the athlete is under the age of 18 years. The current Athlete Agreement document is located on the National Team page of www.usaclimbing.org.

5.1.10 An athlete shall be required to have a current USA Climbing Competitor Membership (or in the case of a Collegiate athlete, a Collegiate Membership) in order to be extended an invitation to an international competition, and shall agree to have a valid such Membership at the time of the international competition.

5.2 U.S. National Rankings

5.2.1 USA Climbing shall maintain a U.S. National Ranking corresponding to each Open, Youth, and Collegiate National Team in rules 5.1.5 (c), (d), and (e).

5.2.2 The set of objective metrics used to order each U.S. National Ranking is defined in the relevant rule for each U.S. National Ranking. As defined by the relevant rule, these metrics may include without limitation IFSC Rankings and USA Climbing Rankings, IFSC and/or USA Climbing competition results from the prior year, and IFSC and/or USA Climbing competition results from the current year.

5.2.3 Where a U.S. National Ranking uses ranking points from rule 5.3 to determine relative rank between competitors, the following shall apply to competitors with an equal number of ranking
points:

a) In determining the ranking where any competitors have the same ranking points, the relative ranking of the competitors with equal ranking points shall be determined by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors at the competitions included in the ranking point system. i.e. Competitor A shall be ranked higher (better) if competitor A has ranked higher than competitor B in more such competitions than competitor B ranked higher than competitor A, for such competitions where both competitor A and B competed.

b) Where rule a) does not determine a unique rank, the ranking will be determined by the best ranking in any of the competitions included in the ranking point system, and the number of competitions where that ranking was achieved. If that does not determine a unique rank, then the second (2nd) best ranking in any such competition, and the number of competitions with that ranking, and so on.

5.2.4 For each U.S. National Ranking, USA Climbing shall publish the current U.S. National Ranking on the National Team page of www.usaclimbing.org.

5.3 U.S. National Ranking Points

5.3.1 Subject to rules for each U.S. National Ranking (rules 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6), eligible competitors achieving a final rank in the top 30 for select competitions are awarded U.S. National Ranking points corresponding with their ranking at that competition. Eligible competitors achieving a final rank outside the top 30 are awarded zero (0) points.

5.3.2 When accruing ranking points, the points awarded to tied competitors will be the average of the points for the tied rank positions, rounded down to whole numbers. (e.g. if three competitors are tied for second (2nd) place upon the completion of an Open National Championship, the three competitors would divide the ranking points of second (2nd), third (3rd), and 4th place (160 + 130 + 110) and each would be awarded 133 points.)

5.3.3 The ranking point schedule for each of the three (3) National Championships, in Open, Youth, and Collegiate, shall be:

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5.3.4 The ranking point schedule for “Time Rank” (rule 8.19.4) points for the Speed National Championship, in Open, Youth, and Collegiate, shall be for each rank in the “Time Rank”:

- 1st rank 190pts;
- 2nd rank 180pts;
- 3rd rank 150pts;
- 4th rank 120pts;
- 5th rank 105pts;
- 6th and higher rank 0pts.

The number of ranks that can receive non-zero rank points may be further limited in the referencing rule, including without limitation 5.15.1 restricting the Time Rank points to only 1st place in the Time Rank.
5.3.5 The ranking point schedule for combined results from the National Championships, in Open, Youth, and Collegiate, and combined results from the qualification rounds of the Combined Invitational Competition shall be:

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5.4 U.S. National Ranking – Bouldering, Sport, and Speed

5.4.1 U.S. National Ranking points, for each category and discipline, are based on performance at the respective U.S. Open National Championships: Bouldering Open National Championships, Sport Open National Championships, and Speed Open National Championships. For each of these competitions, each U.S. citizen achieving a final rank in the top 30 in the competition shall be awarded the respective discipline's U.S. National Ranking points based on the ranking point schedules in rule 5.3.3. (e.g. the top 30 ranked competitors in the Bouldering Open National Championships are awarded U.S. Bouldering National Ranking points.)

a) For the Speed discipline, for each category, and only if the Speed Open National Championship Final Round format is a knock-out format, all competitors at the Speed Open National Championship shall also be ranked by fastest time (Time Rank), where each competitor's fastest time from any race in any round at the competition shall be used to determine such rank, and each U.S. citizen achieving a Time Rank in the top 5 in that competition shall alternatively be awarded points based on the ranking point schedules in rule 5.3.4 if and only if a competitor's Time Rank points are higher (better) than that competitor's final rank points at the competition. A competitor shall not be awarded ranking points for both final rank and Time Rank.

5.4.2 The U.S. National Ranking, for each category and discipline, is in order of the respective U.S. National Ranking points.

5.5 U.S. National Ranking – Boulder+Lead Combined

5.5.1 In order to be an eligible competitor for U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking points, a competitor must be a U.S. citizen.

5.5.2 Each eligible competitor (rule 5.5.1) shall be awarded ranking points in the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking where the number of ranking points is equal to the greater number of either:

a) If the eligible competitor is ranked in the Bouldering and Sport Open National Championships, then the ranking points awarded (rule 5.3.5) using the Boulder+Lead Rank (rule 6.21.2) determined using the relative rank (among all such eligible competitors) at each of the Bouldering and Sport Open National Championships competitions; or

b) If the eligible competitor is ranked in the Bouldering and Sport qualification rounds of the Combined Invitational Competition, then the ranking points awarded (rule 5.3.5) using the Boulder+Lead Rank (rule 6.21.2) determined using the relative rank (among all such eligible competitors) in each of the Bouldering and Sport qualification rounds of the Combined Invitational Competition.

If a competitor is eligible to be awarded an equal number of points from both (a) and (b), they shall be awarded points from (b).
For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor shall not be awarded points from both (a) and (b).

5.5.3 The U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking, for each category, is in order of the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking points. In the event two competitors have the equal number of Ranking points, a competitor with Ranking points from 5.5.2(b) shall be ranked higher (better) than a competitor with Ranking points from 5.5.2(a).

5.6 U.S. National Ranking – All-Around Combined

5.6.1 In order to be an eligible competitor for U.S. All-Around Combined National Ranking points, a competitor must be a U.S. citizen.

5.6.2 Each eligible competitor (rule 5.6.1) shall be awarded ranking points in the U.S. All-Around Combined National Ranking where the number of ranking points is equal to the greater number of either:

a) If the eligible competitor is ranked in the Bouldering, Sport, and Speed Open National Championships, then the ranking points awarded (rule 5.3.5) using the All-Around Rank (rule 6.21.3) determined using the relative rank (among all such eligible competitors) at each of the Open National Championships competitions; or

b) If the eligible competitor is ranked in the Bouldering, Sport, and Speed qualification rounds of the Combined Invitational Competition, then the ranking points awarded (rule 5.3.5) using the All-Around Rank (rule 6.21.3) determined using the relative rank (among all such eligible competitors) in each of the qualification rounds of the Combined Invitational Competition.

If a competitor is eligible to be awarded an equal number of points from both (a) and (b), they shall be awarded points from (b).

For the avoidance of doubt, a competitor shall not be awarded points from both (a) and (b).

5.6.3 The U.S. All-Around Combined National Ranking, for each category, is in order of the U.S. All-Around Combined National Ranking points. In the event two competitors have an equal number of Ranking points, a competitor with Ranking points from 5.6.2 (b) shall be ranked higher (better) than a competitor with Ranking points from 5.6.2 (a).

5.7 U.S. National Teams Selection – Bouldering, Sport and Speed

5.7.1 The U.S. National Teams, for each category and discipline, shall be composed of the top three (3) U.S. citizen competitors in the respective U.S. National Ranking.

5.8 U.S. National Teams Selection – Boulder+Lead Combined

5.8.1 Following the completion of the Sport & Speed Open National Championships, the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined National Team, for each category, shall be composed of the top three (3) U.S. citizen competitors in the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined National ranking.

5.9 U.S. National Teams Selection – All-Around Combined

5.9.1 Following the completion of the Sport & Speed Open National Championships, the U.S. All-Around Combined National Team, for each category, shall be composed of the top three (3) U.S. citizen competitors in the U.S. All-Around Combined National ranking.

5.10 U.S. World Cup Elite Team Selection – Bouldering, Sport and Speed

5.10.1 For each category and discipline, the U.S. World Cup Elite Team shall be composed of any U.S. citizen competing in their capacity as a member of a U.S. National Team that ranked in the top-10 of that discipline’s final IFSC World Cup Ranking the previous season. The U.S. World Cup Elite Team members shall be ranked within the Team by said IFSC World Cup Ranking.

a) For the 2020 U.S. single-discipline World Cup Elite Teams, the 2019 IFSC World Cup Ranking top-10 standard shall instead be top-20.
5.11 U.S. World Cup Elite Team Selection – Boulder+Lead Combined

5.11.1 In any year when the IFSC does not publish an IFSC Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Ranking (or similar), USA Climbing shall calculate and maintain the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Ranking and use said ranking in rule 5.11.2.

a) The U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Ranking shall be calculated similarly to the IFSC Combined World Cup ranking outlined in rule 12.18 in IFSC Rules version 1.9.2, except that only Bouldering and Lead (Sport) discipline World Cups are considered, and only for and among international competitors, from any National Federation, who have competed in at least two World Cups in each of Bouldering and Lead (Sport).

b) The U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Ranking shall rank all such international competitors in a manner analogous to that outlined in IFSC rule 12.18.

5.11.2 For each category, the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Elite Team shall be composed of any U.S. citizen competing in their capacity as a member of a U.S. National Team that ranked in the top-10 of the final IFSC Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Ranking (or if the IFSC does not publish that ranking, the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Ranking as outlined in rule 5.11.1) the previous season. The U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Elite Team members shall be ranked within the Team by said World Cup Ranking.

a) For the 2020 U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Elite Team, the 2019 World Cup Ranking top-10 standard shall instead be top-20.

5.12 U.S. World Cup Elite Team Selection – All-Around Combined

5.12.1 For each category, the U.S. All-Around Combined World Cup Elite Team shall be composed of any U.S. citizen competing in their capacity as a member of a U.S. National Team that ranked in the top-10 of the final IFSC Combined World Cup Ranking the previous season. The U.S. All-Around Combined World Cup Elite Team members shall be ranked within the Team by said World Cup Ranking.

b) For the 2020 U.S. All-Around Combined World Cup Elite Team, the 2019 World Cup Ranking top-10 standard shall instead be top-20.

5.13 U.S. National Teams Selection – U.S. Olympic National Team

5.13.1 The U.S. Olympic National Team shall be composed of U.S. citizen athletes that have qualified for the Climbing event at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, where the athlete qualified for said Olympic games is representing the U.S. and is counted in the U.S. Olympic quota.

5.13.2 U.S. Olympic National Team members shall remain members of said Team until the Closing Ceremony of the 2020 Summer Olympic Games.

5.14 Invitations to Open International Competitions

5.14.1 Invitations for the 2020 Pan American Pre-Qualifying Event, the qualification event for the 2020 Pan American Olympic Qualifying Event, shall be extended as outlined in the USA Climbing Athlete Selection Procedures for the Olympic Games document which can be found on the National Teams page at http://usaclimbing.org.

5.14.2 For each gender and each discipline, for World Cups, World Championships, and/or Pan American Championships that do not include a combined competition with the discipline and do not include a combined result with the discipline, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least five (5), invitations to this competition shall be extended as outlined in subsections (a) through (e) below:

a) Invitations shall first be extended to any U.S. citizen competitor with a bye granted by the IFSC in the discipline for that competition, provided the competitor is qualified to compete as a member of the USA Climbing National Federation.

b) For competitions scheduled to occur prior to the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, invitations shall next be extended to members of the U.S. Olympic National Team not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s). In the event that such an invitation is declined,
the invitation shall be extended according to subsection (d).

c) An invitation shall next be extended to one (1) member of the U.S. World Cup Elite Team for the discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s), in order of rank within said Elite Team.

In the event there are no members of the U.S. Olympic National Team and/or the U.S. quota is more than six (6), then the quantity limit for this subsection shall be two (2) Elite Team members instead of one (1).

In the event that an invitation extended by way of this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked member of said Elite Team, if any, and extended as outlined in subsection (d) if there are no more members of said Elite Team.

d) The remaining invitations, up to the competition’s U.S. quota, shall be extended to the top ranked competitors in the top 10 in the U.S. National Ranking for that discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event such a competitor declines their invitation, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked such competitor in top 10 in the U.S. National Ranking for that discipline, if any.

For invitations to IFSC competitions in the 2020 season, the U.S. National Ranking requirement in this subsection shall be the top 16 for the Speed discipline and shall be the top 20 for the Bouldering and Sport disciplines.

In the event an invitation granted by this subsection is declined and there is no remaining competitor eligible under this subsection, the invitation shall be extended as outlined in subsection (c) notwithstanding the quantity limit outlined in that subsection.

e) For the avoidance of doubt, some portion of the competition’s U.S. quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive invitations under this rule.

5.14.3 For each gender and each of the Bouldering and Sport (Lead) disciplines, for World Cups and/or Pan American Championships that include a Boulder+Lead Combined result, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least five (5), invitations for Bouldering and Lead to this competition shall be extended as outlined in subsections (a) through (f) below:

a) Invitations shall first be extended to any U.S. citizen competitor with a bye granted by the IFSC in the discipline for that competition, provided the competitor is qualified to compete as a member of the USA Climbing National Federation.

b) For competitions scheduled to occur prior to the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, invitations shall next be extended to members of the U.S. Olympic National Team not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s). In the event that such an invitation is declined, the invitation shall be extended according to subsection (e).

c) An invitation shall next be extended to one (1) member of the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Elite Team not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s), in order of rank within said Elite Team.

In the event that an invitation extended by way of this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked member of said Elite Team, if any, then next to the highest ranking member in the top 5 of the U.S. Boulder+Lead National Ranking, and then extended as outlined in subsection (e) if there are no additional competitors eligible by way of this subsection. Note: the top 5 requirement applies to all seasons.

d) An invitation shall next be extended to one (1) member of the U.S. World Cup Elite Team for the discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s), in order of rank within said Elite Team.

In the event that an invitation extended by way of this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked member of said Elite Team, if any, and
extended as outlined in subsection (e) if there are no more members of said Elite Team.

e) The remaining invitations, up to the competition’s U.S. quota, shall be extended to the top ranked competitors in the top 10 in the U.S. National Ranking for that discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event such a competitor declines his/her invitation, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked such competitor in top 10 in the U.S. National Ranking for that discipline, if any.

For invitations to IFSC competitions in the 2020 season, the U.S. National Ranking requirement in this subsection shall be the top 16 for the Speed discipline and shall be the top 20 for the Bouldering and Sport disciplines.

In the event an invitation granted by this subsection is declined and there is no remaining competitor eligible under this subsection, the invitation shall be extended as outlined in subsection (c) or (d), in that order, notwithstanding the quantity limit outlined in those subsections.

f) For the avoidance of doubt, some portion of the competition’s U.S. quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive (declined) invitations under this rule 5.14.3.

5.14.4 For each gender and each of the Bouldering and Sport (Lead) disciplines, for World Cups and/or Pan American Championships that include an (All-Around) Combined result, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least five (5), invitations to this competition shall be extended as outlined in rule 5.14.3 except that the U.S. All-Around World Cup Elite Team shall be utilized instead of the U.S. Boulder+Lead World Cup Elite Team and the U.S. All-Around National Ranking shall be utilized instead of the U.S. Boulder+Lead National Ranking.

5.14.5 For each gender and each of the Bouldering and Sport (Lead) disciplines, for World Cups and/or Pan American Championships that include a Boulder+Lead Combined competition, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least five (5), invitations for Bouldering and Lead to this competition shall be extended as outlined in subsections (a) through (g) below:

a) Invitations shall first be extended to any U.S. citizen competitor with a bye granted by the IFSC in the discipline for that competition, provided the competitor is qualified to compete as a member of the USA Climbing National Federation.

b) For competitions scheduled to occur prior to the 2020 Summer Olympic Games, invitations shall next be extended to members of the U.S. Olympic National Team not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s). In the event that such an invitation is declined, the invitation shall be extended according to subsection (e).

c) An invitation shall next be extended to one (1) member of the U.S. Boulder+Lead Combined World Cup Elite Team not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s), in order of rank within said Elite Team.

In the event there are no members of the U.S. Olympic National Team and/or the U.S. quota is more than six (6), then the quantity limit for this subsection shall be two (2) Elite Team members instead of one (1).

In the event that an invitation extended by way of this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked member of said Elite Team, if any, and extended as outlined in subsection (e) if there are no more members of said Elite Team.

d) An invitation shall next be extended to one (1) member of the U.S. World Cup Elite Team for the discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s), in order of rank within said Elite Team.

In the event that an invitation extended by way of this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked member of said Elite Team, if any, and extended as outlined in subsection (f) if there are no more members of said Elite Team.

e) The remaining invitations, up to the competition’s U.S. quota, shall be extended to the top
ranked competitors in the top 10 in the U.S. Boulder+Lead National Ranking not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event such a competitor declines their invitation, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked such competitor in top 10 in the U.S. Boulder+Lead National Ranking, if any.

For invitations to IFSC competitions in the 2020 season, the U.S. National Ranking requirement in this subsection shall be the top 20.

In the event an invitation granted by this subsection is declined and there is no remaining competitor eligible under this subsection, the invitation shall be extended as outlined in subsection (c) or (d), in that order, notwithstanding the quantity limit outlined in those subsections.

f) Any invitations passed down from subsection (d) or invitations from unfilled U.S. quota due to no additional competitors being eligible to receive invites via the subsections above, shall be extended to the top ranked competitor in the top 10 in the U.S. National Ranking for that discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event such a competitor declines their invitation, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked such competitor in top 10 in the U.S. National Ranking for that discipline, if any.

For invitations to IFSC competitions in the 2020 season, the U.S. National Ranking requirement in this subsection shall be the top 16 for the Speed discipline and shall be the top 20 for the Boulder+Lead disciplines.

g) For the avoidance of doubt, some portion of the competition’s U.S. quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive (declined) invitations under this rule 5.14.5.

5.14.6 For each gender and each of the Boulder and Sport (Lead) disciplines, for World Cups and/or Pan American Championships that include an (All-Around) Combined competition, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least five (5), invitations to this competition shall be extended as outlined in rule 5.14.5 except that the U.S. All-Around World Cup Elite Team shall be utilized instead of the U.S. Boulder+Lead World Cup Elite Team and the U.S. All-Around National Ranking shall be utilized instead of the U.S. Boulder+Lead National Ranking.

5.15 U.S. Youth National Rankings

5.15.1 The U.S. Youth National Ranking, for each category and discipline, shall follow the same procedures as outlined for Open in rule 5.4 (including 5.4.1(a)), except that: the results of the Youth National Championships are utilized instead of the Open National Championships; and the “Time Rank” points are only for the U.S. citizen achieving first place in the Time Rank.

5.15.2 The U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking, for each category and discipline, shall follow the same procedures as outlined for Open in rule 5.5, except that the results of the Youth National Championships are utilized instead of the Open National Championships and no other competition results are utilized. For the avoidance of doubt, the U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking utilizes only the results of the Youth National Championships.

5.15.3 The U.S. Youth All-Around Combined National Ranking, for each category and discipline, shall follow the same procedures as outlined for Open in rule 5.6, except that the results of the Youth National Championships are utilized instead of the Open National Championships and no other competition results are utilized. For the avoidance of doubt, the U.S. Youth All-Around Combined National Ranking utilizes only the results of the Youth National Championships.

5.16 U.S. Youth National Teams Selection

5.16.1 The U.S. Youth National Teams, for each category and discipline, shall be composed of the top three (3) ranked competitors in the respective discipline’s U.S. Youth National Ranking.

5.16.2 The U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead Combined National Team, for each category, shall be composed
of the top three (3) ranked competitors in the U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead Combined Ranking.

5.16.3 The U.S. Youth All-Around Combined National Team, for each category, shall be composed of the top three (3) ranked competitors in the U.S. Youth All-Around Combined Ranking.

5.17 Invitations to Youth International Competitions

5.17.1 For each gender and each discipline, for IFSC Youth World Championships, and/or Youth Pan American Championships that do not include a combined competition with the discipline and do not include a combined result with the discipline, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least three (3), invitations to the competition shall be extended as outlined in subsections (a) through (c) below:

a) Invitations shall first be extended to any U.S. citizen competitor with a bye granted by the IFSC for that competition, provided the competitor is qualified to compete as a member of the USA Climbing National Federation.

b) The remaining invitations, up to the competition’s U.S. quota, shall be extended to the top ranked competitors in the top 10 in the U.S. Youth National Ranking for that discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event an invitation granted by this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked such competitor in top 10 in the U.S. Youth National Ranking for that discipline, if any.

In the case of the Youth Pan American Championships, the criteria for National Ranking shall be top 20 instead of top 10.

c) For the avoidance of doubt, some portion of the competition’s U.S. quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive (declined) invitations under this rule 5.17.1.

5.17.2 For each gender and each of the Bouldering and Sport (Lead) disciplines, for IFSC Youth World Championships, and/or Youth Pan American Championships that include a Boulder+Lead Combined result, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least three (3), invitations for Bouldering and Lead to this competition shall be extended as outlined in subsections (a) through (d) below:

a) Invitations shall first be extended to any U.S. citizen competitor with a bye granted by the IFSC for that competition, provided the competitor is qualified to compete as a member of the USA Climbing National Federation.

b) An invitation shall next be extended to the highest ranked competitor in the top 5 in the U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead National Ranking in the discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

If the U.S. quota to the competition is five (5) or greater, then an invitation shall next be extended to the 2nd highest competitor in the top 5 in the U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead National Ranking in the discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event an invitation granted by this subsection is declined, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked competitor in the top 5 in the U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead National Ranking, if any.

c) The remaining invitations, up to the competition’s U.S. quota, shall be extended to the top ranked competitors in the top 10 in the U.S. Youth National Ranking for that discipline not extended an invitation by any preceding subsection(s).

In the event such a competitor declines their invitation, the invitation shall be extended to the next highest ranked such competitor in top 10 in the U.S. Youth National Ranking for that discipline, if any.

In the event an invitation granted by this subsection is declined and there is no remaining competitor eligible under this subsection, the invitation shall be extended as outlined in subsection (b) notwithstanding the quantity limit outlined in that subsection.
In the case of the Youth Pan American Championships, the criteria for single discipline National Ranking shall be top 20 instead of top 10.

d) For the avoidance of doubt, some portion of the competition’s U.S. quota may not be used in the event there are not sufficient competitors eligible to receive (declined) invitations under this rule 5.17.2.

5.17.3 For each gender and each discipline, for IFSC Youth World Championships, and/or Youth Pan American Championships that include an (All-Around) Combined result, and where the U.S. quota to the competition is at least three (3), invitations to this competition shall be extended as outlined in rule 5.17.2 except that the U.S. Youth All-Around National Ranking shall be utilized instead of the U.S. Youth Boulder+Lead National Ranking.

5.17.4 In the event Youth C and/or Youth D categories are eligible to compete in a Youth Pan American Championship, invitations are extended based on rules 5.17.1 through 5.17.3.

Note: The IFSC currently recognizes athletes that attained Youth Pan American Champion status while competing as either a: Junior, Youth A or Youth B competitor. Athletes that achieve this status as a Youth C or Youth D and, subsequently, “age-up” to the Junior, Youth A or Youth B category are not eligible to receive a bye to the World Youth Championships.

5.18 U.S. Collegiate National Rankings

5.18.1 The U.S. Collegiate National Ranking, for each category and discipline, shall follow the same procedures as outlined for Open in rule 5.4 (including 5.4.1(a)), except that the results of the Collegiate National Championships are utilized instead of the Open National Championships.

5.18.2 The U.S. Collegiate Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking, for each category and discipline, shall follow the same procedures as outlined for Open in rule 5.5, except that the results of the Collegiate National Championships are utilized instead of the Open National Championships and no other competition results are utilized. For the avoidance of doubt, the U.S. Collegiate Boulder+Lead Combined National Ranking utilizes only the results of the Collegiate National Championships.

5.18.3 The U.S. Collegiate All-Around Combined National Ranking, for each category and discipline, shall follow the same procedures as outlined for Open in rule 5.6, except that the results of the Collegiate National Championships are utilized instead of the Open National Championships and no other competition results are utilized. For the avoidance of doubt, the U.S. Collegiate All-Around Combined National Ranking utilizes only the results of the Collegiate National Championships.

5.19 U.S. Collegiate National Team Selection

5.19.1 The U.S. Collegiate National Teams, for each category and discipline, shall be composed of the top three (3) ranked competitors in the respective discipline’s U.S. Collegiate National Ranking.

5.19.2 The U.S. Collegiate Boulder+Lead Combined National Team, for each category, shall be composed of the top three (3) ranked competitors in the U.S. Collegiate Boulder+Lead Combined Ranking.

5.19.3 The U.S. Collegiate All-Around Combined National Team, for each category, shall be composed of the top three (3) ranked competitors in the U.S. Collegiate All-Around Combined Ranking.

5.20 Invitations to Collegiate International Competitions

5.20.1 For each gender and each discipline, for the World University Championship, invitations to the competition shall be extended as outlined for Youth in rule 5.17, with the following exception(s):

a) The Collegiate National Rankings shall be used instead of the Youth National Rankings.

5.21 U.S. Paraclimbing National Teams Selection and Invitations to International Competitions

5.21.1 The U.S. Paraclimbing National Team, in each category, shall be composed of the top three (3)
U.S. citizen competitors from the Paraclimbing National Championships.

5.21.2 While categories for Paraclimbing athletes in USA Climbing competitions may be different from IFSC categories (refer to rule 11 for information on USA Climbing Paraclimbing categories), the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team composition and invitations to international competitions shall be based on the IFSC categories.

5.21.3 Invitations to compete at IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships may be extended to:
   a) Members of the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team, up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota.
   b) In addition to (a), where the IFSC grants byes to Champion status competitors to compete in the Paraclimbing World Championships, U.S. citizens that hold such status may also be extended an invitation.

5.21.4 All categories of visually impaired (B1/B2/B3) competitors are allowed to have a caller, who may call out the route for them in accordance to IFSC Rules. For IFSC World Cup or World Championship competitions, each U.S. Paraclimbing National Team visually impaired competitor is required to provide his/her own personal caller who is not competitor, is not shared with another competitor, and is not a team official. The competitor's caller must be identified as such in the visually impaired competitor's signed Athlete Agreement with USA Climbing, and the caller must also submit a signed Athlete Agreement. Such a competitor's caller shall then be considered a member of the U.S. Paraclimbing National Team and shall then have access to all competitor-only areas, subject to the rules and/or policies of the competition. In the event either a visually impaired competitor does not provide a named caller or a visually impaired competitor's named caller is not at an IFSC competition, USA Climbing has Sport Discretion subject to rule 2.3 to make a reasonable attempt to provide a caller, or to not provide a caller.

5.22 **Acceptances, Deadlines, Accepted Invitations Later Declined, Athlete Withdrawal**

5.22.1 Registration through USA Climbing is the sole means of acceptance of an International Competition Invitation from USA Climbing. *Missing the deadline for registration may not be appealed.*

5.22.2 The USA Climbing normal registration period for each international competition shall be a period that ends one week prior to the competition’s own registration deadline. The USA Climbing normal registration period shall be noted in the invitation sent to the competitor.

5.22.3 In the event a U.S. competitor has accepted an invitation and is already registered for the competition, but later declines to compete (either in the case of injury or other circumstances), where the **USA Climbing normal registration period** for the competition is still open, the invitation is retracted from the declining competitor and an additional invitation is extended as outlined in the rules under which the invitation was first extended.

5.22.4 In the event that USA Climbing has unfilled quota at the time that the USA Climbing normal registration period for the competition closes, USA Climbing shall open an extended registration period until 48hrs prior to the competition’s own registration period close, during which time invitations shall only be extended in a manner and order as outlined in rule 5.22.5 to competitors already registered for the competition in other disciplines.

5.22.5 In the event a U.S. competitor has accepted an invitation and is already registered for the competition, but later declines to compete (either in the case of injury or other circumstances), where the **USA Climbing normal registration period** for the competition has closed, and where one or more additional competitor(s) is(are) already registered for the competition in one or more, but not all, single discipline(s), an additional competitor meeting the requirements of the original invitation will be invited to compete in the discipline(s) s/he is not already registered for, subject to the following:
   a) In the event there are no competitors eligible to receive such invitations, the “meeting the requirements of the original invitation” rule shall be relaxed such that: any top 5 requirement shall be relaxed to top 7; any top 10 requirement shall be relaxed to top 15; and any top 20 requirement shall be relaxed to top 30.
b) Where there is more than one competitor eligible to fulfill the additional invitation, it will be extended based on the order of invitation as outlined in the rules under which the invitation was first extended.

5.23 **Byes for National Team Members, National and International Champions**

5.23.1 Byes are only offered to U.S. citizens. A non-U.S. citizen is not eligible to receive a bye.

5.23.2 For each discipline, and the “Overall,” the current National, World and/or Pan American Champions, in each Youth category, shall be offered a “bye” and shall enter the season as pre-qualified competitors for the respective Youth National Championship(s). Additionally, Youth competitors shall:
   a) Be required to have their USAC membership by the close of the first (1st) round registration deadline for the Championship event that they wish to attend. They are not required to attend any Local competitions or the Regional or Divisional Championships. If they elect to participate in a Regional or Divisional Championship event, they must register by the first (1st) round invitation deadline for the event.
   b) Receive a first (1st) round invitation to the National Championship and must follow any and all registration requirements and/or deadlines for first (1st) round invitees. Failure to do so shall result in the forfeiture of their invitation.
   c) Be required to follow and meet any and all registration requirements and/or deadlines for any competition they participate in.

5.23.3 For each single discipline, and the Overall, the current U.S. Youth National Team members will enter the season as pre-qualified competitors for their respective Regional Championships. They shall:
   a) Be required to have their USAC membership by the close of the first (1st) round registration deadline for the Regional Championships. They are not, however, required to attend any Local competitions.

5.23.4 For each discipline, the previous season’s Open National Champions, if they are age-eligible as Youth competitors, will receive a bye to their respective Youth National Championship. Additionally:
   a) For Bouldering and Sport climbing, the second, third and fourth place finishers at the Open National Championships, if they also qualify as a Youth, will receive a bye to their respective Youth Regional Championships.
   b) For Speed climbing, the second, third and fourth place finishers at the Open National Championships, if they also qualify as a Youth, will receive a bye to their respective Youth Divisional Championships.
   c) Each competitor who receives a bye must be a current member of USA Climbing.

5.23.5 For each discipline, the previous season’s Collegiate National Champions will receive a bye to the Collegiate National Championship. Additionally, they shall:
   a) Be required to have their USAC membership by the close of the first (1st) round registration deadline for the Collegiate Regional Championship. They are not required to attend any Collegiate Local competitions or the Collegiate Regional Championships. If they elect to participate in a Collegiate Regional Championship event, they must register by the first (1st) round invitation deadline for the event.
   b) Be required to follow and meet any and all registration requirements and/or deadlines for any competition they participate in.
   c) Their placement shall, in no way, reduce the number of competitors who would advance in their absence.

5.23.6 Byes, for any Championship event, other than those outlined in rule 5.23 will not be awarded or
granted, for any reason, including but not limited to medical injuries/conditions or academic graduation ceremonies, but see rule 2.2.1 for group advancement discretion.
6 General Rules

6.1 Safety

6.1.1 Climbing poses the risk of injury. Competitors, officials, coaches and others participate in climbing competitions at their own risk. The Event Organizer shall be responsible for maintaining safety within the competition area and in the public section of the arena, and with respect to all activities connected to the running of the competition.

6.1.2 The Chief Judge, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter shall have the authority to make decisions with respect to any question of safety within the competition area. Any official or other person deemed by the Chief Judge to not be following safety procedures shall be subjected to removal from his/her duties and/or dismissal from the competition.

6.1.3 The Chief Judge and/or Chief Routesetter shall inspect to check each route/problem, prior to the start of each round of a competition, for the maintenance of technical standards.

6.1.4 For safety reasons, only competitors, spotters, judges, and other individuals approved by the Chief Judge, are permitted to be in the competition area(s). The Chief Judge shall instruct all other individuals to leave.

6.1.5 The Judge may not serve as both spotter and judge, unless warranted by safety considerations.

6.1.6 Belayers and spotters are required to fulfill their duties in a proper, safe and competent manner. Either the Chief Judge or Event Organizer will replace belayers and spotters exhibiting unsafe practices.

6.1.7 Belayers and spotters may not have any physical contact with the competitor during an attempt.

6.1.8 Adequate floor padding, for protection, must be used.

6.1.9 Each route/problem 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.

6.1.10 Competitors shall tie-in with a figure-8 knot plus a “safety knot.”

6.1.11 USAC recognizes that some host facilities utilize a pre-tied rope as a method to tying-in. In this 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.

6.1.12 Lead climbing competitors shall be able to lead climb 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. See rule 3.7.6.

6.1.13 All competitors shall adhere to the host facility’s policies. See rule 3.7.6.

6.1.14 The wearing of a harness is compulsory in Sport and Speed competitions. Competitors are free to use a climbing helmet if they so choose.

6.1.15 All equipment used by a competitor shall comply with equipment manufacturer’s guidelines. Use of non-approved or non-approved modification of equipment, including but not limited to harnesses, ropes, quickdraws, belay devices, et cetera, shall make the competitor liable for disciplinary action in accordance with rule 13.

6.1.16 The use of headphones, of any kind, while a competitor is climbing shall not be permitted.

6.1.17 If there are reasons to believe that a competitor is unfit to compete for any reason, such as injury or illness, the Chief Judge has the authority to exclude that competitor from the competition. If
there is a medical professional present, and is assisting in the competition, this authority should be deferred to said individual.

6.2 Disciplines

6.2.1 Competition climbing includes the following disciplines:

a) Bouldering: A number of individual, short routes or “problems,” are attempted without a climbing rope but with landing mats for protection.

b) Sport: Routes are climbed on lead or top-rope, with the competitor belayed from below. For lead, each quickdraw is clipped sequentially.

c) Speed: Routes are attempted on top-rope or with an auto-belay. Refer to rule 8.

d) “Overall:” The Overall is considered its own discipline, which includes Bouldering, Sport and Speed. Overall may be calculated for individual and/or team competitions and may be based on results from competitions held in the single disciplines at different times, or where all disciplines are held as part of one competition (i.e. “Combined”).

6.3 Competitions

6.3.1 Only event organizers, specifically recognized by USAC, shall be eligible to apply to organize a competition approved by USAC.

6.3.2 The Bouldering, Sport & Speed, Collegiate, and Paraclimbing seasons are composed of:

a) Local competitions in various categories (Youth, Collegiate, Paraclimbing).

b) Youth Regional, Divisional and National Championships – Bouldering and Sport & Speed.

c) Collegiate Regional and National Championships

b) A Boulder Open National Cup Series, for members sixteen (16) years of age or older.

e) An Open National Championship, for members sixteen (16) years of age and older – Bouldering and Sport & Speed.

f) A Combined Invitational, for U.S. Citizen members sixteen (16) years of age or older

g) A Paraclimbing National Championship.

6.3.3 The Bouldering season may only be comprised of Bouldering competitions and the Sport season may only consist of Sport climbing competitions of which Speed climbing may be a component.

6.3.4 Speed climbing is a component of the Sport & Speed and Collegiate seasons and is offered at all Collegiate, Sport & Speed Open National, Combined Invitational, Sport & Speed Youth Divisional, and Sport & Speed Youth National Championship events. Speed climbing may be offered at Sport and Collegiate Local competitions.

6.3.5 The dates for the above competitions shall be published at www.usaclimbing.org.

6.4 Competition Formats - General

Competitions include one or more rounds, where a round of competition creates a ranking of competitors. Routes/problems are attempted in a specific format in each round of competition. Multiple round competitions may use different formats for different rounds of competition. Format requirements according to the type and level of competition are outlined in rules 6.5, 6.6, and 6.7.

6.4.1 Onsight – General Rules

Competitors attempt the route(s)/problem(s) without having watched any other competitors’ attempt(s) of the route(s)/problem(s).

a) Competitors enter an isolation area, refer to rule 6.12, prior to the event and are brought out one at a time to climb.

b) For each onsight round, start lists must be posted and made available to athletes and coaches per rule 6.11.
c) Receipt of any information concerning a route prior to or during the attempt on the route is ground for disqualification. Competitors are free, however, to discuss a route with other competitors in isolation who have not previously climbed/attempted the route/problem.

d) A separate rest period may be given between routes/problems.

e) Each route/problem shall be allocated a predetermined time in which a competitor may attempt the route. If a lead route, a one-minute tie-in period may be added in addition to the allocated route time. Additionally, a maximum one-minute transition period may be added to allow the competitor to make his/her way to the next route/problem. Transition times are at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

f) There may be an official observation period of route(s)/problem(s) independent of competitors’ route/problem time period. Refer to rule 6.13.

g) The route/problem time period is started when the competitor is instructed to turn and climb when ready, either by a judge or an official/automated timing announcement. A competitor may preview the route/problem during this time period, prior to beginning his/her attempt. In Sport Climbing, in consideration of event organization and at the discretion of the Chief Judge, a competitor must begin climbing on a route within a reasonable amount of time. Refer to rule 7.5.2.

h) Competitors are scored based on the highest hold reached as defined by the path of the route/problem in the route map. Refer to rule 6.19.

i) Local Sport onsight competition rounds may include a combination of top rope and lead climbing.

j) Routesetting rules, as outlined in rule 6.8, shall be followed.

k) Multiple categories may compete on some of the same routes/problems. For example, Youth D’s and Youth C’s may compete on the same routes/problems.

l) For Sport competitions, only one attempt per route shall be permitted.

m) For Bouldering competitions, multiple attempts shall be permitted.

6.4.2 Onsight – Quantity of Route(s)/Problem(s)

Onsight competitions are either single round or multiple rounds, with the number of routes/problems as follows:

a) For single round Sport competitions, there shall be three (3) routes.

b) For multiple round Sport competitions, the number of routes in any onsight round shall be as follows:
   i. Qualification round – there shall be a minimum of two (2) routes but no more than three (3).
   ii. Semi-final round – there may only be one (1) route.
   iii. Final round – there may only be one (1) route.

c) The routes/problems are climbed in sequence. For single round Bouldering competitions, six (6) problems.

d) For multiple round Bouldering competitions, the number of problems in any onsight round shall be a minimum of three (3) problems but no more than five (5).

6.4.3 Onsight – Flash Demonstration

Flash demonstration may be used only in Sport competitions, where “flash” refers to when a competitor completes a route in his/her first attempt, after having prior information about the route. Prior to the start of the round, a demonstration (forerunning) of each “flash” route shall be done, before the attempt of the first competitor, demonstrating the proper sequence and
technique to be used. The demonstration should either be “live” or it may be video recordings of all flash routes. If video recordings display the demonstration, it should be continuously played back in the warm-up area. If possible, men should forerun routes for male competitors and women should forerun routes for females. Once climbing has begun, competitors are allowed to view other competitors’ attempts.

Local Sport onsight competitions may utilize flash demonstration, however, at Championship events, flash demonstration may only be used for the qualification round of a multiple round event.

6.4.4 Redpoint – General Rules
a) Competitors shall be permitted a minimum of three (3) hours to climb. At the discretion of the Chief Judge, this time may be extended, but not shortened. Competitors are allowed the opportunity to watch other competitors climb on the route/problem prior to their own attempt.

b) “Beta,” (advice) may not be given to a competitor while the competitor is attempting the route/problem (i.e. running beta). Beta may be given, however, to a competitor between attempts of a route/problem.

c) Competitors choose which routes/problems to attempt and may attempt as many different routes/problems as they wish, within the rules of the specific redpoint format, as time allows.

d) Competitors declare their intention to attempt a route/problem by handing their scorecard to the Judge who will call competitors in order of the scorecards received.

e) After each failed attempt, the competitor may ask that their card be returned to the back of the queue or elect to move on to another route/problem.

f) Upon successful completion of a route/problem, the judge will award the appropriate number of points and note this on the scorecard.

g) If the competitor flashes the route/problem the scorecard shall be marked with a one (1) in the attempts column.

h) Competitors should be given a “five-minute warning” near the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes any competitors still on the wall, on an official attempt, will be allowed to continue. The Chief Judge may choose to allow competitors with their scorecards in a queue, to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, competitors must turn in their scorecard. The Chief Judge, prior to the start of the competition, will announce this information.

i) A judge (or team of judges) shall be assigned by the Chief Judge to perform as judge for a “lane” (a set of spatially adjacent problems/routes on the climbing wall surface) for the session. Where necessary, replacement judges and/or rotating judges shall be allowed, provided that a considerable effort is made to maintain judging consistency in each lane. Any such assigned, replacement, or rotating judge shall not include anyone competing in that session. Note: USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion subject to rule 2.3 to waive this rule for Collegiate and/or Paraclimbing competitions, at the request of the Event Organizer.

6.4.5 Redpoint “Classic” Format

General Routesetting rules for redpoint format competitions shall be followed.

a) The event organizer shall prepare a total quantity of routes/problems wherein all competitors may be scored for any routes/problems in the competition. At least twenty (20) total routes for Sport competitions, and or, at least forty (40) problems in total for Bouldering competitions. For either competition series, the event organizer is not expected to set more than sixty (60) routes/problems.

b) In the “Classic” format, competitors shall follow redpoint general rules as outlined in rule 6.4.4 with the goal of completing the highest value routes/problems, where each
route/problem has a unique value and a limited number of scores for routes/problems completed are counted. A competitor’s final score shall be the cumulative value of his/her top completed route/problems:

i. For Sport climbing, each competitor’s top three (3) completed-scored routes will be added together for a final score.

ii. For Bouldering, each competitor’s top five (5) completed-scored problems will be added together for a final score.

c) Each route/problem 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 a successful completion of the route. Note: If the competition has more than 40 routes/problems, 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 50 routes/problems, route/problem 1 shall be worth 100 points, route/problem 40 shall be worth 4000 points, as outlined below, and problem 41 shall be worth 4100 points, problem 42 worth 4200 points, and so on, with route/problem 50 worth the maximum of 5000 points.

d) There is no limit on the number of attempts a competitor may make on any given route/problem. Each attempt, however, shall be recorded.

6.4.6 Redpoint “Modified” Format

General Routesetting rules for redpoint format competitions shall be followed.

a) Eight (8) to twelve (12) routes/problems are assigned for each category.

b) In the “modified” format, competitors shall follow redpoint general rules as outlined in rule 6.4.4, with the goal of completing the highest quantity of routes/problems, where each route/problem has the same value and scores on all route/problems are counted. A competitor’s final score shall be the cumulative value of points recorded on each route/problem.

c) For Bouldering, a competitor shall be scored:

i. Where points are awarded only for completion of a problem, with a value of 25 points per problem, for completion of each problem.

ii. Where points are awarded for completion of, or progress on, a problem, with the values outlined in rule 6.19.7(c) (“multi-zone” scoring). Also refer to rule 15.2, Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring – Bouldering.

d) For Sport, Redpoint “Modified” format competitions are not permitted.

e) The event organizer may apply a limit on the total number of attempts a competitor may
6.5 Formats – Open
6.5.1 There are no Local competitions organized for the Open category.
6.5.2 The Bouldering Open National Cup Series competitions shall be two round competitions. The qualification round shall be a redpoint format as per rule 6.4.6. The final round shall be an onsight format as per rule 6.4.1, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems.
6.5.3 The Bouldering Open National Championship shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 6.4.2, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems per round.
6.5.4 The Sport Open National Championship event shall be a three (3) round, onsight competition, as per rule 6.4.2, and shall consist of two (2) qualification routes, one (1) semi-final route and one (1) final route. At the discretion of the Event Organizer, the qualification round may utilize a flash format.
6.5.5 The Combined Invitational event formats are outlined in rule 10.

6.6 Formats – Youth
6.6.1 Youth Local competitions may be organized in any of the formats outlined in rule 6.4.
6.6.2 The Bouldering Youth Regional Championship shall be a single round, onsight competition (refer to rule 6.4.2 for the number of problems per round).
6.6.3 The Bouldering Youth Divisional Championship shall be a dual round onsight competition, as per rule 6.4.2, and shall consist of between three (3) to five (5) problems for each round.
6.6.4 The Bouldering Youth National Championship event shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 6.4.2, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems per round.
6.6.5 The Sport Youth Regional Championship shall be a single round onsight competition, as per rule 6.4.2.
6.6.6 The Sport Youth Divisional Championship shall be a two round, onsight competition and shall consist of two (2) qualification routes and one (1) final route. At the discretion of the Chief Judge and/or Event Organizer, the qualification round may be flash format.
6.6.7 The Sport Youth National Championship event shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 6.4.2, and shall consist of two (2) qualification routes, one (1) semi-final route and one (1) final route. At the discretion of the Chief Judge and/or the Event Organizer, the qualification round may be a flash format.

6.7 Formats – Collegiate
6.7.1 Collegiate Local competitions may be organized in any of the formats outlined in rule 6.4.
6.7.2 The Collegiate Regional Championship shall be a single round redpoint format competition comprised of all three disciplines as follows:
   a) The best scores in Bouldering and Sport Climbing, with both disciplines run in either Redpoint “Classic” or Redpoint “Modified” format as outlined in rules 6.4.5 and 6.4.6.
   b) Speed as outlined in rule 8.

Competitors may compete in all three (3) disciplines and shall have a minimum of 3 hours.
6.7.3 The Collegiate National Championship shall be either:
   a) A two-round competition consisting of a redpoint qualification round and an onsight final round, where each round shall include the Sport, Speed and Bouldering disciplines; or
   b) A three-round competition consisting of a redpoint qualification round, an onsight semi-final round, and an onsight final round, where each round shall include the Sport, Speed and Bouldering disciplines.

6.8 Routesetting
6.8.1 Host facilities are expected to set new routes/problems for a competition. If this is not the case,
any person/competitor shall inform the Chief Judge of this immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken by the Chief Judge to eliminate those routes/problems from the competition or disqualify all competitors who had prior knowledge of the routes/problems, or, adjust scores. If the Chief Judge has not been made aware of this prior to the completion of the competition, the results will not be adjusted.

6.8.2 At all levels of competitions, route setters may only discuss details of the routes/problems and the routesetting process with members of the routesetting team, judges, or members of the event organizing team. Route setters may not discuss any aspect of the routes/problems or the routesetting process that may provide an advantage to a competitor or create an objective appearance of impropriety.

6.8.3 Coaches may engage in routesetting for Local, Regional and Divisional competitions but may not communicate with competitors or other individuals about the routesetting for the competition. Coaches working as route setters for a National competition may not engage in any coaching activities during the routesetting for that competition or during the competition itself. Coaches working as route setters at any USAC-sanctioned competition may not discuss any aspect of the routes/problems or the routesetting process that may provide an advantage to a competitor or create an objective appearance of impropriety.

6.8.4 Competitors may not work as route setters for a competition they are competing in.

6.8.5 Unless otherwise approved by the Chief Judge, routes/problems may not be designated solely by hold color, unless, the route/problem is completely isolated on the wall from other routes/problems.

6.8.6 If a route is to be used as both a lead route and a top-rope route, care should be taken to ensure that the route is safe to climb both ways. The Chief Routesetter, for example, should ensure that there are no unsafe swings on an overhanging route or unsafe clips when the route is to be led.

6.8.7 If a route is used as both a top-rope route and a lead route, it is recommended that the route be given two distinct route numbers, with a higher score given for the lead route. Competitors in the Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories may choose whether to lead-climb or top-rope the route. If a competitor attempts to lead-climb the route, but does not complete the route, they may choose to top rope the route, with the lead attempt marked as an attempt. Once a competitor attempts/climbs a route on top-rope, s/he may not attempt the same route as a lead climb.

6.8.8 The entire surface of the climbing wall shall be permitted to be used for climbing, with the following exceptions:

a) If there is a need to demarcate an area on the wall, handholds or features which are out of bounds, the demarcation shall be made using a continuous and clearly identifiable marking of the following colors:

i. Demarcation of any area of the climbing wall, including the climbing wall surface and any modular holds or volumes, that is out of bounds and shall not be touched by the competitor, shall be identified with black tape. In addition to the area on the other side of the black tape being off limits, the black tape itself shall not be touched.

ii. Demarcation of climbing wall surfaces that may not be used by a competitor with their hands but may be used by the feet or other points of contact shall be identified with red tape. In addition to the area on the other side of the red tape being off limits to use with hands, the climbing surface at/under the red tape itself shall not be used by a competitor with their hands. Note: A competitor may, with their feet and/or other points of contact, use climbing wall surfaces only but may not use any modular holds or volumes.

b) Any demarcation, other than the above, shall be announced to all competitors.

6.8.9 The Chief Routesetter, at their discretion, may establish a handhold along the route from which a quickdraw must be clipped.

a) This handhold and its associated quickdraw shall each be delineated by a “blue cross” or “blue box.” An attempt shall be terminated when the competitor simultaneously:
i. Has not clipped the associated quickdraw; and
ii. Makes any climbing movement to pass beyond the associated handhold.

b) If there is a Technical Meeting, the Chief Judge shall notify competitors about such quickdraw(s) and associated hold(s). If there is an official route observation period, the associated hold and quickdraw shall be pointed out by the Chief Judge to all competitors at that time. Only in the event there is no official route observation period, the judge shall point out the associated hold and quickdraw.

6.8.10 For overhanging routes set for Youth C and Youth D categories the Chief Routesetter may apply use of an open hook which holds the rope close to the wall, the intent of which is to minimize swing during a fall while climbing on top rope. For routes where a hook is used, a handhold shall be established along the route from which the rope must be unhooked, such that the climber may progress.

a) This handhold and the associated hook shall each be delineated by a “blue cross” or “blue box.” An attempt shall be terminated when the competitor simultaneously:
   i. Has not unhooked the rope from the associated hook; and
   ii. Makes any climbing movement to pass beyond the associated handhold.

b) If there is a Technical Meeting, the Chief Judge shall notify competitors about such open hook(s) and associated hold(s). If there is an official route observation period, the associated hold and open hook shall be pointed out by the Chief Judge to all competitors at that time. Only in the event there is no official route observation period, the judge shall point out the associated hold and open hook.

6.8.11 Boulder problems for competitors in the Youth C and Youth D categories shall be set in such a way that the lowest part of the body of the competitor shall never be higher than 3 meters (approximately 10 feet) above the landing mat. This height limitation shall not apply to Redpoint “Classic” format competitions, though the height limitation should be considered for boulder problems that a Youth C or Youth D category competitor may attempt at a Redpoint “Classic” format competition.

6.8.12 Speed climbing route routesetting is outlined in rule 8.

6.9 Competitions Rules – All Formats

6.9.1 For Bouldering and Sport climbing competitions, routes/problems must not be made available to competitors to climb or view prior to the event. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the loss of sanctioning for the event.

a) At Local, Regional and Divisional competitions, competitors may be allowed to enter the host facility, but if doing so, must be isolated completely from the competition area.

b) At National competitions, competitors shall not enter the host facility after routesetting for the competition has commenced. A competitor who enters the host facility once route setting has commenced or otherwise gains knowledge of the routes/problems prior to the event, may be disqualified from the event and may be subject to disciplinary action including revocation of membership.

6.9.2 A competition may only be deemed to have “officially” begun when the Chief Judge gives said instruction.

6.9.3 As outlined in the American Disabilities Act (ADA), a person with a disability is a person who has a permanent physical or cognitive disability that substantially limits one or more major life activities. USA Climbing encourages the participation of competitors with disabilities.

a) The Paraclimbing category is open to competitors with disabilities. Refer to rule 3.5.4 and rule 11 for detailed information regarding the Paraclimbing category and participating in Paraclimbing competitions.

b) Competitors with disabilities may also participate in USA Climbing competitions based on existing categories other than the Paraclimbing category and may request accommodation.
See rule 6.9.4.

6.9.4 For any competitor meeting the ADA definition in rule 6.9.3, or any competitor otherwise requesting accommodation (e.g. color-blindness, Type-1 Diabetes, serious allergies, etc), it is the responsibility of the competitor to notify, in writing and at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of each competition, USA Climbing (info@usaclimbing.org), the host facility and the USA Climbing Regional or Divisional Coordinator(s) that the competitor requests an accommodation. To the extent reasonable, the Chief Judge for the competition, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, will endeavor to make an accommodation. It should be noted that:

a) In the case of color-blindness, physical separation of a route/problem from adjacent routes/problems will be considered a full and reasonable accommodation.

b) An accommodation will not give an unfair advantage to any competitor.

c) An accommodation is not reasonable if it involves unreasonable expense or unreasonable interference with competition preparation and operations, including but not limited to routesetting, management of the field of play, or presentation quality.

d) For the avoidance of doubt, an accommodation may be reasonable and sufficient even if it is not the accommodation favored by the competitor and even if it is not the accommodation used for other competitions.

6.9.5 Only designated holds and features are permitted for climbing each route/problem.

6.9.6 For the purposes of competition climbing, a “hold” may be defined as any object or area of the climbing wall that may be used for climbing. For the purposes of scoring, a “handhold” shall be defined as any object, portion of an object or area of the climbing wall that is both used for climbing and defined as a scored hold in a route/problem.

6.9.7 Each route/problem shall have a clearly marked starting position, which shall consist of either one (1) or two (2) marked handhold(s). At the discretion of the Chief Routesetter, the marked starting hold(s) may be labeled “left” and/or “right” to denote a specific required starting position for the hands.

6.9.8 Each route/problem shall have a clearly marked finish which shall be either:

a) In the case of Boulder problems, either one (1) finish handhold or a standing position on top of the Boulder.

b) In the case of Sport routes, one (1) handhold.
6.9.9 The demarcations used to mark the starting and finishing position shall generally be taped “flashes” placed on the wall touching a handhold. Note: If taped “flashes” are not suitable (i.e. tape does not adhere), plastic tags or other demarcations may be used. Refer to Appendix 16.1.

Examples:

- A single marked hold with two (2) taped flashes.
- Two separately marked holds each with one (1) taped flash.

6.9.10 A competitor establishes the starting position by controlling the marked starting position handhold(s) with the hands, accordingly:

a) If there is one (1) marked handhold:
   i. The handhold shall be marked with two flashes of tape.
   ii. In bouldering the competitor shall establish the starting position with both hands controlling that handhold.
   iii. In sport climbing the competitor shall establish the starting position with at least one hand controlling that handhold.

b) If there are two (2) separately marked handhold(s):
   i. Each handhold shall be marked with one flash of tape.
   ii. In bouldering and sport climbing, the competitor shall establish the starting position with each hand controlling each marked handhold simultaneously.

Note: Taped “boxes” placed around one or more holds may be used in place of taped flashes, if deemed necessary by the Chief Routesetter (refer to Appendix 16.1). A single taped box shall define one marked handhold, whether it is placed around one or more holds. Any object(s) (ex. modular hold, screw-on hold, or volume) or climbing wall surface within the taped box (including the tape) shall be considered the handhold.

6.9.11 An attempt has begun when every part of the competitor’s body has left the ground in an effort to establish the starting position on the climbing wall. A competitor must first establish control of the starting position handhold(s) before using his/her hands for climbing on any other holds.

6.9.12 Prior to beginning an attempt, a competitor may not use his/her hands to physically inspect holds (including the climbing wall) other than the starting position handhold(s).

Note: While incidental contact with the hands is permitted, if a competitor uses his/her hands to physically inspect any holds other than the starting position handhold(s), s/he shall be charged with an attempt.

6.9.13 While beginning an attempt and to assist in establishing control of the starting position handhold(s), a competitor may not use his/her hands on holds (including the climbing wall) other than the starting handhold(s).

6.9.14 The Judge, prior to a competitor’s attempt, may give rules and instructions regarding a route/problem. These rules and instructions shall be given in full to all competitors climbing on that particular route/problem.

6.9.15 Once a competitor has been given final instructions by the Judge and has acknowledged his/her readiness to start, no further instructions or information shall be given to the competitor. A
competitor may, however, request and receive clarification from the Judge concerning usability of a hold or climbing surface.

6.9.16 Each attempt of a route/problem shall be noted on the competitor’s scorecard.

6.9.17 The Timing Judge, or Route Judge, will be responsible for and shall announce the “one minute” and the last “ten seconds” of the competitor’s allotted time on the route. They will also announce the time remaining, at any point, at the competitor’s request.

6.9.18 A competitor’s attempt on a route/problem shall be stopped and the highest controlled handhold determined by the Judge, shall be scored (for scoring information refer to rules 6.19.5 for Sport Climbing and for 6.19.7 Bouldering) if s/he:
   a) Exceeds the permitted time or the route/problem;
   b) Touches any part of the wall surface beyond the marked boundaries of the route/problem;
   c) Touches the ground with any part of his/her body;
   d) Uses any artificial aid, or,
   e) Compromises either his/her own or another competitor’s safety.

6.9.19 A competitor is permitted to down-climb at any point during his/her attempt on a route/problem as long as s/he does not violate any rules – safety or otherwise.

6.9.20 The Judge may order that the attempt be terminated and the greatest height (or greatest distance) measured, if he or she decides that to proceed further would contravene the regulations regarding safety of the competitor.

6.9.21 The refusal by a competitor to obey the instruction of a Judge to terminate their attempt on a route shall result in the disqualification of the competitor.

6.9.22 In the interest of fairness and good sportsmanship, any competitor who knowingly receives a higher score than s/he is entitled to must immediately notify USA Climbing officials of the scoring discrepancy.

6.9.23 Competitors may not receive coaching or “beta” (advice) from any individual while attempting a route/problem. Encouragement and cheering are acceptable but coaching is not. At redpoint or flash format competitions, a competitor may not receive beta during an attempt on a route/problem. At onsight format competitions, a competitor may not receive beta either prior to or during an attempt on the route/problem. Receipt of beta by a competitor may result in disqualification of that attempt or disqualification of the competitor from the competition at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

6.9.24 Coaches, spectators or parents are not permitted to have a discussion or contact with the judge. Any such action may be grounds for disqualification of the competitor.

6.9.25 A competitor shall not be judged solely by his/her parent, significant other or spouse. If a parent, significant other or spouse is judging a route that his/her child, significant other, or spouse is climbing, another judge must also observe the attempt and sign off on the scorecard.

6.9.26 Laser pointers are prohibited from use at all times in the competition field of play but may be used in the isolation warm-up area(s).

6.9.27 Competitors and/or judges may brush holds that can be reached from the ground. If available, pole brushes may be used.

6.9.28 A “tick” may be defined as a line of chalk or similar demarcation that is placed to gain a visual advantage regarding the location of a hold or ideal position. In an onsight competition, if a competitor ticks the wall or holds, s/he shall sacrifice the current attempt on that route/problem and shall not be permitted another. His/her score on the route/problem shall be the highest point achieved prior to marking the tick. In a redpoint competition, if a competitor ticks the wall or holds, his/her attempt shall be terminated but s/he is permitted additional attempts.

Any tick that is applied to the wall by a competitor should immediately be cleaned from the wall by the Chief Routesetter or other USA Climbing official, in coordination with the Chief Judge, to
minimize any advantage that could be gained by any other competitors.

6.9.29 Bolt hangers and/or quickdraws may not be used as handholds or footholds, at any time.

6.9.30 The entire surface of the climbing wall shall be permitted to be used for climbing with the following exceptions:

a) The t-nut holes created in the climbing wall, including those in a “modular volume,” for the placement of bolt-on holds, shall **not** be used for climbing by a competitor’s hands/fingers.

b) Neither the side edges nor the bottom or top edge of the wall shall be used for climbing unless specifically designated as part of the route/problem.

c) Additionally, the Chief Routesetter may find a need to demarcate an area on the wall, hold(s) and/or features, which are out of bounds. The demarcation shall be made using a continuous and clearly identifiable marking. Refer to rule 6.8.8.

6.9.31 Competitors may not use earphones, headsets or similar devices while climbing.

6.9.32 At the discretion of the Event Organizer and/or the Chief Judge, competitors may be allowed a (30) thirty-minute rest period between the Sport and Speed Climbing competitions.

6.10 **Technical Meeting**

6.10.1 A technical meeting shall be held prior to the competition and is open to all registered athletes and USAC 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 at [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org);

b) Identify any specific information related to the application of these rules in the competition;

c) Communicate any logistics information not available from [www.usaclimbing.org](http://www.usaclimbing.org).

Note: In the event the technical meeting space cannot accommodate all coaches and/or athletes, the Chief Judge may limit the technical meeting only to include certified coaches but must otherwise present any information from the technical meeting deemed essential to all registered athletes, in a clear and timely manner, prior to the start of the competition.

6.11 **Starting Lists**

6.11.1 For each gender and age category, a list of competitors participating in a qualification round competition shall be published at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the round. For subsequent rounds, the starting list shall be posted after the publication of official results and following the conclusion of any appeals procedures for the previous round.

6.11.2 The start list shall be posted in the isolation area and on the official competition notice board.

6.11.3 The method of preparing the starting lists of each discipline may be found under rule 7.2 for Sport competitions, rule 8 for Speed competitions and rule 9.1 for Bouldering competitions.

6.12 **Check-in and Isolation**

6.12.1 All competitors that are eligible to compete in a round of competition, and their coaches, shall confirm their presence at the check-in desk no later than the time specified by the Chief Judge and published/announced by the Event Organizer. Failure to do so will result in access to isolation being denied and/or disqualification – subject to the discretion of the Chief Judge.

6.12.2 An official clock will be displayed at the isolation check-in area.

6.12.3 At a single round Championship event, a “rolling isolation” may be utilized. At multiple round Championship on sight events, a “rolling isolation” may only be utilized for the qualification round. With a rolling isolation, each age category is assigned an “isolation check-in time.” Competitors may report into isolation prior to their category’s assigned check-in time, but, no later than their category’s assigned time. Competitors may not enter the competition venue prior to checking-in to isolation. At the discretion of the Chief Judge, failure to report by the assigned check-in time or evidence of the competitor having entered the competition venue before such time,
outside of the isolation zone, may result in the disqualification of the competitor.

6.12.4 Only the persons specified below shall be permitted to enter the isolation zone:
   a) USAC officials and authorized volunteers;
   b) Event Organizers officials;
   c) Competitors eligible to take part in the current round of competition;
   d) USAC Level 2 certified member coaches. The Chief Judge may, at his/her discretion limit the number of team coaches allowed to enter isolation;
   e) Other persons specifically authorized by the Chief Judge. Such persons shall, throughout their stay in the isolation zone, be escorted and supervised by an approved official to ensure the maintenance of security of the isolation zone and prevent any undue distraction of, or interference with, any competitor.

6.12.5 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. This means that they are not allowed to communicate in any way with persons outside the competition area, unless specifically authorized to do so by the Chief Judge. Failure to observe this rule shall result in the disqualification of the competitor.

6.12.6 Competitors and coaches may not re-enter the isolation zone once they have left except in the instance when they have been escorted out of and back into the isolation zone by an official escort who will ensure that no communication occurs with individuals outside of the isolation zone.

6.12.7 All competitors and coaches are expected to exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to other competitors, event officials and staff, volunteers and host facility personnel.

6.12.8 Coaches should immediately report any isolation violation, including but not limited to cheating, of any kind, inappropriate language or roughhousing, to the isolation monitor.

6.12.9 A third-party coach should refrain from directly addressing any violations they witness to a competitor unless in the case of extreme safety hazards.

6.12.10 Coaches should only oversee the coaching of their own athletes unless requested otherwise by a particular competitor.

6.12.11 Coaches in isolation and while in attendance at the event are subject to the same rules and regulations as competitors.

6.12.12 Communication, recording or Internet capable devices, including but not limited to cameras, cellular phones, walkie-talkies, et cetera, are not allowed into the isolation zone.

6.12.13 A competitor is not allowed to carry or use any audio listening equipment during observation and climbing.

6.12.14 Animals shall not be allowed in the isolation zone. The Chief Judge may authorize exceptions from this rule.

6.13 **Observation**

6.13.1 Before the start of an onsight round or attempt, competitors registered to take part in a particular round of a competition may be permitted an official observation period during which they shall be allowed to study the route(s) or problem(s). The specific rules for such observation are defined in the respective sections for Sport, Speed and Bouldering competitions.

6.13.2 While in the observation area, all competitors remain under the rules governing isolation. Team officials (coaches) shall not be permitted to accompany the competitors during the observation period. Competitors shall remain within the designated observation area during the official observation period. They are not permitted to climb on the climbing wall or stand on any equipment or furniture. Competitors shall not communicate in any way with any person outside the observation area. They may seek clarification only from Judges.

6.13.3 During the observation period, competitors may use binoculars to observe the route or problem and make hand-drawn sketches and notes. No other observation or recording equipment shall
be permitted.

6.13.4 Competitors shall have no knowledge of the route/problem other than that obtained during the official observation period or that communicated to them by the Chief Judge or the Route Judge.

6.13.5 It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to fully inform him/herself with respect to all instructions regarding the route/problem.

6.14 Preparation Prior to Climbing

6.14.1 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.

6.14.2 On arrival in the call zone, each competitor shall make all final preparations for his/her attempt, such as putting on his/her climbing shoes, tying on to the rope etc., as relevant to the type of competition.

6.14.3 All climbing equipment used, including the tie-in knots in lead competitions, shall be inspected and approved by an authorized official both for safety and compliance with other USAC regulations before the competitor shall be permitted to proceed to his/her attempt on the route/problems. Each competitor shall be regarded as entirely and solely responsible for the equipment and clothing that he/she intends to wear during his/her attempt(s).

6.14.4 Each competitor shall be ready to leave the call zone and enter the competition zone when instructed to do so. Any undue delay in this regard may result in the issuing of a Yellow Card. Any further delay shall result in disqualification in accordance with rule 13.

6.15 Wall Maintenance

6.15.1 The Chief Routesetter shall verify that an experienced maintenance team is available throughout each round of the competition in order to perform any maintenance and repairs requested by the Chief Judge in an efficient and safe manner. Safety procedures shall be strictly enforced.

6.15.2 On the instruction of the Chief Judge, 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 Chief Judge whether the repair results in any unfair advantage or disadvantage to the following competitors. The decision of the Chief Judge to continue, or to stop and re-start, that round of the competition shall be final and no appeal shall be accepted in respect to this decision.

6.16 Technical Incidents

6.16.1 A technical incident is defined as any occurrence that results in a disadvantage or unfair advantage to a competitor, which is not the result of an action on the part of the competitor. Examples of technical incidents are:
   a) A broken or spinning hold;
   b) Tape stuck to a shoe;
   c) An open wound;
   d) A "short-rope" while lead climbing;
   e) A failure of the timing system;
   f) An excessive amount of rope, which creates a safety concern for the competitor.

6.16.2 It is the competitor’s responsibility to ensure that his/her clothing, chalk bag and any other equipment are properly secured. There shall be no grounds for a technical if any of these items impede the competitor.

6.16.3 There shall be no grounds for a medical technical other than outlined in rule 6.16.1(c).

6.16.4 During a redpoint competition, if a competitor falls and claims that a technical incident precipitated the fall, the competitor shall immediately inform the Judge. If the technical incident is confirmed, the competitor shall be allowed to re-climb the route and the attempt with the confirmed technical will not be marked on the scorecard. If the technical incident is denied, the
competitor's attempt will be marked on the scorecard, accordingly.

6.16.5 During an onsight competition, if a competitor falls and claims that a technical incident precipitated the fall, the competitor shall be immediately escorted to a separate isolation zone to await the outcome of the investigation of the claimed technical incident.

a) If the technical is denied, the competitor shall be scored to their highest point achieved.

b) If the technical is confirmed, the competitor shall be allowed a recuperation period in a separate isolation zone. The competitor must not come into contact with any other person other than USAC officials and/or the Event Organizer officials.

6.16.6 Generally, a technical incident shall be dealt with as follows:

a) Technical incident when the competitor is in a non-legitimate position.
   i. If a competitor is in a non-legitimate position due to a possible technical incident, the competitor's attempt shall be terminated. The Judge shall take an immediate decision on whether to declare a technical incident and permit the competitor a subsequent attempt in accordance with the rules governing technical incidents for that particular discipline.

b) Technical incident when the competitor is in a legitimate position.
   ii. If a competitor is still in a legitimate position following a technical incident indicated by the Judge, s/he may choose either to continue to climb or to accept the technical incident. If the competitor chooses to continue his/her attempt, no further appeal connected with that technical incident shall be accepted.

   iii. If the competitor still in a legitimate position following a possible technical incident indicated by the competitor, s/he shall specify the nature of the technical incident and, with the agreement of the Judge, may continue or cease climbing. If the competitor chooses to continue to climb, no subsequent appeal shall be accepted in respect to that technical incident.

6.16.7 The Judge makes the confirmation or non-confirmation of a technical incident. If necessary, s/he may consult with the Chief Routesetter and/or Chief Judge.

6.16.8 During an onsight competition:

a) The competitor subjected to a confirmed technical incident shall be allowed a recuperation period. The duration of the recuperation period is at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

b) The Chief Judge shall decide when the next attempt of the competitor will be slotted and all concerned competitors shall be informed of the re-slotted.

c) If a new attempt is, or would be, slotted after the last competitor in any round of the competition and the competitor who has suffered the technical incident has already been placed first in the round, the competitor shall not be allowed a new attempt on the route.

6.16.9 Technical incidents during a Speed competition are handled as outlined in rule 8.

6.16.10 On completion of his/her next attempt on the route/problem, the competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of his/her attempts on the route/problem.

6.17 Termination of an attempt on a Route

6.17.1 The attempt of a competitor on a route shall be considered terminated if s/he:

a) Falls;

b) Exceeds the permitted time for the route/problem;

c) Makes use for climbing any part of the wall, handholds or features which have been demarcated against use for climbing;

d) Makes use for climbing, with his/her hands, of holes provided in the climbing wall and/or modular volume for the placement of bolt-on handholds;
e) Makes use of the side edges or top edges of the wall for climbing unless the edge is specifically identified as part of the route/problem;

f) Marks the climbing wall or any hold with a “tick;”

g) Makes use, with either his/her hands or feet, of bolt hangers or quickdraws for climbing;

h) Fails to clip a quickdraw or unhook an open hook (refer to rules 6.8.9 and 6.8.10) in accordance with the rules (Sport Climbing);

i) Returns to the ground with any part of the body after having started the attempt;

j) Uses any artificial aid.

6.17.2 In the case of infractions related to rules 6.17.1 (b) – (j), the Judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing.

6.17.3 The competitor and/or his/her coach may make an immediate appeal against this decision. If such an appeal is made, the competitor shall be taken to a separate isolation zone. The appeal shall follow the procedures outlined in rule 12 and shall be acted upon as early as circumstances allow by the Appeals Jury. If the appeal is upheld, the competitor shall be given a new attempt. The competitor shall be allowed to rest under conditions similar to those specified in rule 6.16 for competitors recuperating after a technical incident. On completion of the new attempt, the competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of his/her attempts on the route.

6.18 Video
6.18.1 National Championships and the Combined Invitational

a) At Youth and Open National Championship events, as well as the Combined Invitational, official video recordings shall be made of competitors’ attempts for the Bouldering and Sport climbing disciplines. The Chief Judge in consultation with the Chief Routesetter shall determine the position of the video camera(s). Particular care shall be taken to ensure that the camera operators are not disturbed in carrying out their duties and that no one is allowed to obscure the camera view.

b) A video playback system shall be provided for review of any incident for judging purposes. The playback monitor shall be placed such that the Judges can observe playback material and discuss any incident without the video re-play being seen by any un-authorized person and without the Judges being overheard or interrupted during their discussions.

c) At the discretion of the Chief Judge, only the official video recordings shall be used for judging purposes. The viewing shall be restricted to the Chief Judge, the Judge(s), the Chief Routesetter, and, if needed, the belayer.

d) At the end of each round of the competition, copies of the video recordings shall be given to the Chief Judge if requested.

6.19 Scoring
6.19.1 Only handholds controlled by the hands shall be scored. Control of a handhold is determined by evaluating the climbing position of the competitor and use of the handhold as outlined in rules 6.19.2 and 6.19.3 below.

6.19.2 For all handholds, other than the finish handhold in Bouldering, control shall be awarded where the competitor has made use of the handhold:

   a) To achieve a stable or controlled position; OR

   b) To control the momentum of a climbing movement; OR

   c) While in a stable or controlled position and where the use is deemed helpful to progress.

   Note: To “make use” of a handhold shall generally mean to apply force to the handhold,
where such force is in the interest of progress on the route/boulder and may be deemed helpful to such progress. In certain instances where such force is not clearly applied (e.g. with very small and/or flat handholds), but where the competitor otherwise makes controlled contact with the handhold (e.g. touching) in a way deemed helpful to progress, this may also constitute making use of the handhold.

6.19.3 In Bouldering, control of the finish handhold shall be awarded where the competitor has made controlled contact with the handhold with both hands while in a stable or controlled position. Refer to rule 9.3.3.

6.19.4 Upon the completion of his/her attempt(s) of a route/problem, the Judge shall inform the competitor as to which point, on the route/problem, s/he was scored. If the competitor does not agree with the score, s/he may file an appeal – refer to rule 12.

6.19.5 Sport Climbing:

a) In all redpoint “Classic” format competition rounds, a competitor shall receive a score for each route completed based on the scoring chart in rule 6.4.5(b).

b) In all onsight format competition rounds (refer to rules 6.4.1, 6.4.2, and 6.4.3, a competitor shall receive a score for each route. Prior to the start of each round, the Chief Routesetter shall prepare a “route map,” for use by the Judge, indicating the scored handhold sequence of the route/problem and which holds on the route/problem are scored. Refer to Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring - Sport, in the Appendix section 16.3 of this Rulebook, for more information regarding route scoring and route maps.

i. On the route map, a single marked starting handhold shall be marked with a (1/2) to demarcate a score for both hands. If there are two marked starting handholds, they shall be marked with a (1) and (2) respectively, with the lower of the two handholds marked as (1).

ii. Each consecutive handhold in route/problem shall be scored with the next highest number in progression, according to what is determined by the Chief Routesetter to be the most likely sequence of climbing the route/problem.

iii. One handhold shall be marked as the finish handhold and only one numbered score marked on the route map. In Sport climbing, a competitor is not required to match the finish handhold.

iv. In lead climbing, each quickdraw to be clipped in the path of the route will also be marked on the route map, beginning with the first as (1) and each consecutive quickdraw as (2), (3), (4) et cetera.

c) In all onsight format competition rounds, a competitor’s score is based on four (4) factors. The score of a competitor shall be:

i. The number of the highest handhold controlled, followed by a decimal score according to the following:

ii. Positive movement: A tenth place decimal score of 0.3 shall be recorded if the competitor has made “positive movement” from the highest controlled handhold. Positive movement is defined as controlled climbing movement that may be “static” or “dynamic” in nature and in general will be evidenced by:

a. A significant change in the competitor’s center of mass; and

b. The movement of at least one hand in order to reach a higher scored handhold.

iii. Usable surface: A tenth place decimal score of 0.5 shall be recorded if the competitor has moved from a controlled handhold and touched the “usable surface” of a higher numbered handhold. Usable surface is defined as a portion of a handhold that can effectively be used by a climber in the progression of a route, as defined by the Chief Routesetter.
iv. Number of quickdraws clipped. In lead climbing, a hundredth-place decimal score of 0.01 shall be recorded for each successfully clipped quickdraw of the route.

Examples:
A competitor who has controlled the handhold scored as (37) and has made positive movement towards a handhold scored (38) or higher, having clipped 6 quickdraws, shall have a score of 37.36.

A competitor who has controlled the handhold scored as (37), and has touched the usable surface of a handhold scored (38) or higher, having clipped 7 quickdraws, will have a score of 37.57.

Additionally, there is no point advantage for skipping a handhold unless the competitor controls a handhold scored higher than the skipped handhold. For example, in the case of a competitor controlling handhold #10, skipping handhold #11 and touching the usable surface of handhold #12 before falling, the competitor would be scored as controlling handhold #10 and touching the usable surface of a higher scored handhold. In other words, the competitor would only receive credit for handhold #12 if s/he controlled handhold #12. Likewise, if a subsequent competitor controlled handhold #10 and touched the usable surface of handhold #11, but did not control it, both competitors would have the same score.

d) At the discretion of the Chief Judge, and in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, in the event a competitor successfully controls a hold that is a non-scored hold, in the “route map,” the hold may be added as a scored handhold to the total route score.

e) A handhold on a Sport climbing route that is marked with a “blue cross” or “blue box”, is the last handhold that may be controlled and scored until a competitor clips the associated quickdraw or unhooks the rope from the associated open hook. Refer to rules 6.8.9 and 6.8.10 for termination of a competitor’s attempt.

f) For competitor ranking information in Sport climbing, refer to rule 7.10.

6.19.6 Speed Climbing scoring and ranking is outlined in rule 8.

6.19.7 Bouldering:

a) A competitor shall be scored on each problem. Upon the completion of their attempt(s) of a problem the Judge shall inform the competitor as to which point, on the problem, they were scored. If the competitor does not agree with the score, s/he may file an appeal with the Chief Judge.

b) In all redpoint “Classic” format competition rounds, a competitor shall receive a score for each problem completed based on the scoring chart in rule 6.4.5(b). A competitor’s final score shall be the cumulative value of his/her top completed problems.

c) In all onsight, or redpoint “modified” format competition rounds (refer to rules 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.3 and 6.4.6), a competitor shall receive a score for each problem, based on primary and secondary factors. Prior to the start of each round, the Chief Routesetter shall identify and demarcate primary points values and the score of a competitor shall be the sum of points values recorded as follows:

i. START: A starting position shall be marked with either one or two handhold(s). Refer to rule 6.9.7. For the purposes of scoring the starting handhold(s) is valued at zero.

ii. TOP: A finishing position shall be marked with a single handhold, valued at twenty-five (25). If a competitor completes a problem, a numbered score of 25 shall be recorded in the competitor’s scorecard.

iii. ZONES: Three (3) ZONE handholds should generally be marked, where the first ZONE handhold in the progression of the problem shall be five (5) points, the second ZONE ten (10) points, and the third ZONE fifteen (15) points. If a competitor
does not complete the problem, a numbered score of five (5), ten (10), or fifteen (15) points shall be recorded for the highest ZONE handhold controlled. If a competitor does not control any ZONE handhold on the problem, a numbered score of zero (0) shall be recorded. Refer to Rule 16.2 for more information regarding routesetting and scoring.

iv. FALLS: A tenth place decimal score deduction of 0.1 shall be recorded for every fall a competitor records to achieve his/her highest score in each problem.

Additionally, the following secondary factors shall be recorded. The values of these secondary factors shall be displayed where two or more competitors have the same score based on the above primary factors. Refer to the further description and example scoring displays in Rule 16.2 for more information.

i. Number of Tops: 0.01 points shall be recorded for each completed problem.

ii. Flashes: 0.001 points shall be recorded for each flashed problem.

iii. Falls to Tops: 0.00001 points shall be deducted for every fall recorded to achieve each completed problem.

Note: The demarcation of ZONE handholds shall be based on the most likely sequence of climbing the problem, as determined by the Chief Routesetter, and should aid in the separation of competitors with markedly different performance. While three (3) ZONE handholds should generally be marked, a minimum of one (1) and maximum of three (3) “ZONE” handhold(s), must be marked. If two (2) ZONE handholds are marked, the first ZONE in the progression of the problem shall be ten (10) points and the second ZONE fifteen (15) points. If only one (1) ZONE handhold is marked, it shall be worth fifteen (15) points. For examples, refer to the bouldering section of the Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring, outlined rule 16.1 and 16.2.

d) For competitor ranking information in Bouldering, refer to rule 9.4.

6.20 Advancement between Rounds – Championship Events

6.20.1 For all Championship events, advancement is based on a competitor’s rank placement in each round.

6.20.2 For Championship events outlined in this rule 6.20.2, there shall be a defined range of advancement for competitors who are not considered extra quota. Extra quota competitors are those who are already qualified to be on (e.g. certain “Champion” status competitors) or are not eligible (non-U.S. citizens) to be on, the U.S team.

a) At Youth Divisional Championships, there shall be a defined range of advancement for U.S. citizen competitors who are not current Overall World, Pan American, or National Champions and/or World, Pan American or National Champions in the discipline. Those Champion status competitors, and/or non-U.S. citizen competitors, who are either tied with or ranked higher (better) than the advancing U.S. citizen competitors shall also advance. Refer to 6.22.1.

Note: If, when advancing additional competitor(s), the additional competitor(s) being advanced are extra quota competitors, then both the additional competitor(s) and another additional competitor(s) who is not extra quota, shall advance.

Examples:

Where top ten (10) is the defined range of advancement from a qualification to a final round:

- If there is a 3-way tie for 8th place, all competitors tied for eighth (8th) place shall advance, and no lower ranked competitors shall advance.
- If there is a current World Champion (WC), in the discipline, ranked within the top ten (10), then the competitor ranked eleventh (11th) shall advance, and no lower ranked competitors shall advance.
• If there is a non-U.S. citizen competitor ranked within the top ten (10), and there is a tie for 10th place, then all competitors tied for 10th place shall advance, and no lower ranked competitors shall advance.

• If there is a Pan American Champion (PAC) ranked sixth (6th), and a non-U.S. citizen competitor involved in a two-way tie for eleventh (11th), then both competitors tied for eleventh (11th) shall advance, and no lower ranked competitors shall advance.

6.20.3 In multiple round competitions, competitors must, at a minimum, attempt the first route/problem of the round in order to be eligible to advance to a subsequent round. Competitors who fail to at least attempt the first route/problem shall be disqualified from the competition.

6.20.4 Divisional Championship – Youth Bouldering and Sport and Speed

a) For Youth Bouldering and Youth Sport

The top ten (10) in each category, or the entire category if it numbers less than ten, shall advance from the qualification round to the final round.

When an extra quota competitor places within the range of advancement to the next round, the next ranked competitor(s) shall advance.

b) For Youth Speed

See rule 8 for advancement quotas for Speed. Note: In Speed Youth Divisional Championship competitions, when an extra quota competitor places within the range of advancement, no additional competitors shall advance.

6.20.5 National Championship – Youth Bouldering, Sport and Speed

For Bouldering and Sport, Qualification to semi-final round: The top twenty (20) in each category, or the entire category if it numbers less than twenty, shall advance from the qualification round to the semi-final round.

For Bouldering and Sport, Semi-final to final round: The top ten (10) in each category, or the entire category if it numbers less than ten, shall advance from the semi-final round to the final round.

For Speed, see rule 8 for advancement quotas for Speed.

Note: In Youth National Championship competitions, when an extra quota competitor places within the range of advancement, no additional competitors shall advance.

6.20.6 National Cup Series and National Championship – Bouldering, Sport and Speed Open

For Bouldering and Sport, for events with two (2) rounds – qualification and final – the top eight (8) competitors in each category, or the entire category if it numbers less than eight, shall advance from the qualification round to the final round.

For Bouldering and Sport, for events with three (3) rounds – qualification, semi-final and final – the top twenty (20) competitors in each category shall advance to the semi-final round. In the event of a tie for twentieth (20th) place, all twentieth (20th) place competitors will advance.

For Bouldering and Sport, Semi-final to final round: At the conclusion of the semi-final round of the Bouldering Open National Championship, the top six (6) competitors shall advance to the final round. At the conclusion of the semi-final round of the Sport Open National Championships, the top eight (8) competitors shall advance to the final round.

For Speed, see rule 8 for advancement quotas for Speed.

Note: In Open National Championship competitions, when an extra quota competitor places within the range of advancement, no additional competitors shall advance.

6.20.7 Combined Invitational advancement between rounds is outlined in rule 10.2.10.

6.20.8 National Championship – Collegiate

Where the National Championship is a two-round competition, in each single discipline,
(Bouldering, Sport, and Speed) twenty (20) competitors shall advance from the qualification round to the final round. Where the National Championship is a three-round competition, in each single discipline (Bouldering, Sport, and Speed) (20) competitors shall advance from the qualification round to the semi-final round, and eight (8) competitors shall advance from the semi-final round to the final round. In the event of a tie for the last advancing placement in any discipline, all tied competitors shall advance.

6.21 Rankings

6.21.1 The procedures for individual ranking of competitors during competitions are provided under the respective sections for Bouldering, Sport and Speed competitions.

6.21.2 The procedures for the ranking of Boulder+Lead competitors are as follows:

a) Each competitor participating in both the Bouldering competition/round and the corresponding Lead(Sport) competition/round for a Boulder+Lead Combined ranking shall be ranked.

b) For each of the Bouldering and Lead(Sport) competitions/rounds, the ranking points awarded for that discipline shall be as follows:

i. Where the competitor has a unique ranking in the discipline’s competition/round relative to other competitors participating in both competitions/rounds, equal to that ranking; or

ii. Where two or more relevant competitors are tied in the discipline’s competition/round, equal to the average relative ranking of the tied competitors (e.g. Where there are four (4) ties at eighth (8th) place then the ranking points awarded to each tied competitor will be equal to \( \frac{8+9+10+11}{4}= 9.5 \)).

c) For each competition/round, a Boulder+Lead ranking total shall be calculated for each relevant competitor by multiplying together the ranking points awarded for each discipline (Bouldering and Lead) of that competition/round.

d) The Boulder+Lead ranking is in order of the Boulder+Lead ranking total, ordered least number of points first.

e) Where any competitors have an equal Boulder+Lead ranking total and where a prior round in the competition has already occurred, rankings from the prior round shall be used to rank those competitors such that the competitor with the higher (better) ranking in the prior round shall be ranked better.

6.21.3 The procedures for the ranking of (all-discipline) Combined competitors are as follows:

a) Each competitor participating in the Bouldering, Sport, and Speed competitions/rounds for a Boulder+Lead Combined ranking shall be ranked.

b) For each of the Bouldering, Sport, and Speed competitions/rounds, the ranking points awarded for that discipline shall be as follows:

iii. Where the competitor has a unique ranking in the discipline’s competition/round relative to other competitors participating in all disciplines, equal to that ranking; or

iv. Where two or more relevant competitors are tied in a discipline, equal to the average relative ranking of the tied competitors (e.g. Where there are four (4) ties at eighth (8th) place then the ranking points awarded to each tied competitor will be equal to \( \frac{8+9+10+11}{4}= 9.5 \)).

c) For each competition/round, a Combined ranking total shall be calculated for each relevant competitor by multiplying together the ranking points awarded for each single discipline of the competition/round.

d) The Combined ranking is in order of the Combined ranking total, ordered least number of points first.

e) Where any competitors have the same Combined ranking total after the final round, the
relative ranking of the competitors shall be determined by comparing the head-to-head performance of such competitors within the round (e.g. if competitor A is ranked ahead of competitor B in two of the three disciplines, competitor A will be ranked first). Should this 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.

f) Where any competitors have an equal Combined ranking total and where (e) does not determine a unique rank and where a prior round in the competition has already occurred, rankings from the prior round shall be used to rank those competitors such that the competitor with the higher (better) ranking in the prior round shall be ranked better.

6.22 Ties

6.22.1 Competitors shall only be considered tied where they have the same ranking after comparing their rankings in the prior round. In a competition round where, competitors have the same exact score and where a prior round already occurred, rankings from the prior round shall be used to rank those competitors such that the competitor with the better ranking in the prior round shall be ranked better.

6.22.2 Ties in the final round of Youth Regional and Divisional Championship competitions:

a) At Youth Regional Championships, no ties shall be broken.

b) At Youth Divisional Championships, to determine advancement to Youth National Championships, if there are no extra quota competitors within the top six (6), any ties involving the last advancing placement (the 6th placed competitor) shall be broken.

Extra quota competitors are any current U.S. National Champions, Pan American Champions or World Champions, and/or non-U.S. citizen competitors as outlined in rule 6.20.1. If there are any extra quota competitors ranked within the top six (6) at Divisional Championships, then any ties for the last advancing placement shall be broken.

Example: If there is one extra quota competitor within the top six (6) at Divisional Championships, then the last advancing placement will be the 7th competitor, and any ties involving the 7th competitor shall be broken.

6.22.3 Ties in the final round of National Championship competitions:

a) At any Youth National Championship, ties will be broken for the top four (4) places. If there are any extra quota competitors ranked within the top four (4), then the ties shall be broken among the top four competitors plus the number of competitors ranked four or higher (better), that is equal to the number of extra quota competitors (i.e. if there is one extra quota competitor within the top four, then ties shall be broken within the top five competitors).

b) At any Open National Championship ties will be broken for the top six (6) places, plus any additional competitors, as outlined above.

6.22.4 For Bouldering and/or Sport competitions, a super final round will be held to break tie(s) where required. At the discretion of the Chief Judge and Chief Routesetter the super final round:

a) For Bouldering Championship competitions, shall consist of a minimum of one (1) but no more than three (3) problems with four (4) to five (5) minutes of climbing time per problem.

b) For Sport Championship competitions, shall consist of a minimum of one (1) but no more than three (3) routes with five (5) to ten (10) minutes of climbing time per route.

If after completion of the super final round the tie(s) has (have) not been broken, the following shall apply:

a) At Bouldering Championship competitions, the competitors shall be given an equal ranking.

b) At Sport Championship competitions, the “time” recorded to achieve the (super final) result shall determine the ranking of the super final round competitors, such that the competitors will be ranked in order of increasing time.
6.22.5 At Youth Sport National Championships, only, when determining an invitation to the World Youth Championships, for any competitors ranked lower than the top ten (10) ranked competitors (plus extra quota competitors), a super final round will not be held, but ties will be broken by "time" from the competitor's final round.

6.22.6 Local Competitions

At the discretion of the Chief Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer and Chief Routesetter, ties at Local competitions may stand. If the Local competition is an onsight or redpoint "modified" Bouldering or Sport competition or a Speed competition and the Chief Judge determines that ties shall be broken, the rules outlined in rules 6.22.1 and 6.22.4 above shall be followed.

If the Local competition is a redpoint "Classic" Bouldering or Sport competition and the Chief Judge determines that ties shall be broken, then counting the total number of attempts for the top scored three (3) Sport climbing routes or five (5) Boulder problems. The competitor with the fewest number of attempts shall be given the higher (better) placement/ranking. In the event the ties cannot be broken in this manner, then the next highest scored route/problem, for each tied competitor will be added to their score. If the competitors are still tied, their number of attempts will be compared, once again. This process shall continue, if necessary, up until the tenth highest scoring route/problem. If the tenth highest score cannot break the tie, then the tie shall stand.

6.23 Results Lists

6.23.1 At the end of each round of a competition, a preliminary result list showing the ranking and result of each competitor shall be prepared based on the score awarded by the judges. This preliminary result list shall be published as unofficial information awaiting the finalization of the official result list. It is recommended that preliminary results be projected on screens during all rounds of a competition.

6.23.2 After the preliminary list has been checked, amended if necessary, and officially approved in writing by the Chief Judge, this official result list shall be published.

6.23.3 At the end of a competition, an official consolidated result list showing the final ranking of all competitors, as well as their results in all rounds of the competition, shall be prepared, signed by the Chief Judge, and published.

6.23.4 All official result lists shall be prepared in a format as stipulated by USAC and published on the official competition notice board.

6.23.5 At any USA Climbing National Championship, a non-U.S. citizen shall not be declared the U.S. National Champion. The highest ranked U.S. Citizen will receive the designation of U.S. National Champion. See rule 3.15.2(a).
7 Sport

These rules shall be read in conjunction with Rule 6 – General Rules.

7.1 General

7.1.1 Sport competitions should take place on artificial climbing walls having a minimum height of approximately 25 feet.

7.1.2 Lead climbing is only permitted for competitors in the Open, Collegiate, and the Youth Junior, “A” and “B” categories.

7.1.3 At championship events, the Sport climbing competition routes shall be climbed on lead, with the competitor belayed from below, for all competitors in the Open, Collegiate, and the Youth Junior, “A” and “B” categories. If lead climbing is not possible due to limitations of space and/or terrain, for example, at the host facility, the routes for these categories may be a combination of top rope and lead.

7.1.4 For Youth C and Youth D competitors, the routes shall be climbed on top rope.

7.1.5 For lead competition routes, the route shall be considered successfully completed if it has been climbed in accordance with the existing rules and if the rope has been clipped from a legitimate position into the carabiner(s) on the final quickdraw(s). Additionally, the competitor must demonstrate control of the finish hold but is not required to match hands.

For top rope competition routes, the route shall be considered successfully completed if it has been climbed in accordance with the existing rules and if the competitor has successfully demonstrated control of the finish hold. Competitors are not required to match hands on the finish hold.

7.1.6 If a route is offered as both lead and top rope, the competitor must declare which way s/he is going to attempt the route. Once a competitor has made a top rope attempt, whether successful or not, the competitor may not attempt the route on lead. The competitor may first attempt the route on lead, and if unsuccessful, may then attempt the route on top rope.

7.2 Start Lists

7.2.1 The starting order of the qualification round of Championship competitions shall be one of the following and shall be announced by either the Event Organizer or Chief Judge prior to the start of the competition:

a) The starting order for the qualification shall be randomized. The starting order will then be split in half, with the first of half of the category climbing the first route and the bottom half of the category climbing the second route.

The competitors will switch routes – competitors that climbed on the first route will now climb the second route and competitors that climbed on the second route will now climb the first route. Additionally, the competitors will also climb in reverse order.

For example, when twenty competitors are in a category, the competitor who climbed eleventh on the first qualification route will climb first on the second qualification route.

b) The starting order of the qualification round shall be randomized. The starting order will then be split in half, with the first half of the category climbing the first route and the bottom half of the category climbing the second route. The competitors will switch routes and climb in the same order.

Note: For rules 7.2.1(a) and 7.2.1(b), there shall be a minimum resting period of twenty (20) minutes between the end of the attempt on the first route and the start of the attempt on the second route.

c) The starting order of the qualification round shall be randomized, and competitors will climb all routes in the same order.
7.2.2 These starting orders will be used when the routes are climbed either simultaneously or one after the other.

7.2.3 The starting order of the rounds following the qualification round, other than a super-final, shall be the reverse order of the ranking of the previous round. For example, the highest ranked competitor from the qualification round will start last in the semi-final round.

7.2.4 The starting order of a super-final shall be the same as for the final round of the competition.

7.3 Observation

7.3.1 In accordance with rule 6.13, competitors, as a group, shall be permitted to observe onsight routes which they are required to attempt.

7.3.2 The official observation period shall be decided by the Chief Judge in consultation with the Chief Routesetter and shall normally not exceed six (6) minutes for each route. In the case of unusually long routes, the period may be extended.

7.3.3 At the end of the official observation period, competitors shall immediately return to the isolation zone or, in the case of the first few competitors on the starting list, to the call zone as instructed by the Judges. Any undue delay in doing so may result in the award of a Yellow Card; any further delay shall result in disqualification in accordance with rule 12.

7.4 Safety and Belaying

7.4.1 At the start of each attempt on a route:

a) The climbing rope shall be tied to each competitor's climbing harness using a figure-8 knot plus a “safety knot;”

b) Before the competitor begins his/her attempt on a route, the belayers shall check (preferably in the call zone) that the competitor is equipped in accordance with the rules, and that the rope is secured to the competitor's harness in accordance with rule 7.4.1(a) above, and that the harness is properly fastened up;

c) Before accompanying the competitor to the start of the route, the belayers shall ensure that the rope is coiled or arranged in such a manner that it is ready for immediate and proper use;

d) The Chief Judge shall, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, decide whether the belayers shall have an assistant at the beginning of the route to provide additional safety for a competitor (i.e. to “spot”) at the lower part of the route.

7.4.2 The Chief Judge may decide, in consultation with the Chief Routesetter to have the climbing rope pre-fixed to the first (and, where deemed appropriate, other) protection points. Wherever possible, the design of the route shall be such as to make such precautions unnecessary.

7.4.3 One belayer, preferably assisted by a second person, shall control the climbing rope. The belayer shall, at all times during a competitor's attempt on a route, pay careful attention to the progress of the competitor to ensure:

a) That the competitor's movements are not hindered in any way by the rope being too tight;

b) That when the competitor attempts to connect the rope to any protection point s/he is not hindered in doing so or, if the clipping of the rope to the protection point fails, any excessive slack in the rope is immediately taken in;

c) That all falls are stopped in a dynamic and safe manner. Due to the specific nature of lead competitions, only approved braking devices shall be used. All braking devices used in the competition may be approved by the Chief Judge;

d) That no excessive fall shall be experienced by the competitor being belayed;

e) That great care is taken to ensure that a falling competitor shall not be exposed to any danger of injury caused by the edge of an overlapping section or any other feature of the climbing wall.
7.4.4 The belayer shall leave an appropriate amount of slack in the rope at all times. Any tension on the rope may be deemed as an artificial aid or hindrance, to a competitor, and the Judge shall declare a technical incident.

7.4.5 After having connected the rope to the final quickdraw or after a fall, the competitor shall be lowered to the ground. Care shall be taken to ensure that the competitor does not come into contact with any ground-based equipment.

7.4.6 While the competitor is untying the rope from his/her harness, the belayer shall pull the rope down in as fast a manner as possible without unduly disturbing the quickdraws. It is the responsibility of the belayer to ensure that the competitor vacates the climbing zone as quickly as possible.

7.5 Climbing Procedure

7.5.1 At Youth Regional Championships and the qualification round of Youth Divisional Championships, the fixed length of the climbing period shall be from five (5) to ten (10) minutes per route, at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The specific amount of climbing time allowed shall be announced prior to the start of the round. For the final round of Divisional Championships and for all rounds of competition at Youth National Championships, no time limit shall be imposed.

7.5.2 In consideration of event organization and at the discretion of the Chief Judge, a competitor must begin climbing on a route within a reasonable amount of time. A competitor may be instructed by the Chief Judge to begin climbing and if s/he has not begun within 30 seconds after this instruction, it shall be considered a delay of competition and may result in the competitor’s disqualification on that route/problem.

7.5.3 During his/her attempt on a lead route, a competitor shall always be in a legitimate position. This is the case if:

a) The lowest part of the competitor's body has not moved beyond the carabiner at the lower end of the next unclipped quickdraw, or;

b) The competitor is able to touch the next unclipped quickdraw with a hand, without having to haul up the quickdraw with a foot.

7.5.4 The competitor shall clip the quickdraws in sequence. The Judge or Belayer shall notify the competitor to clip the quickdraw if it is apparent that a competitor is about to skip a clip and the safety of the competitor is compromised. S/he shall say, “(competitor’s name), make your clip,” in a loud, clear voice. If one competitor is so warned, then all competitors in a similar situation must be warned. If the competitor continues to climb without making the required clip and is no longer in a legitimate position as outlined in rule 7.5.3, the competitor’s attempt on the route shall be terminated and a measurement taken as to the highest point reached just prior to the infraction. If necessary, for safety purposes, the competitor may clip a clip after their attempt has been terminated.

7.5.5 At the discretion of the Chief Judge, pre-clipping the first quickdraw from the ground is permitted. If this is permitted for one competitor, it shall be allowed for all competitors in the category.

7.6 Z-Clipping

7.6.1 If the Judge or Belayer notices that the competitor is about to “Z-clip,” s/he shall say in a loud, clear voice, “(competitor's name) you are z-cliping. If the competitor z-clips without having been warned, the Judge or Belayer shall notify the competitor as soon as the z-clip is observed.

7.6.2 If a competitor clips the rope into a carabiner in accordance with rule 7.5.3, above, but a z-clip has occurred, the competitor shall be allowed to correct the z-clip and continue climbing. S/he is 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.

7.6.3 If a competitor falls while correcting a z-clip, s/he will not receive the .01 points for making the clip.

7.6.4 The z-clip must be fixed before clipping the next quickdraw. If a competitor fails to correct a z-clip, they will not receive credit for any upward movement past the point where their foot passes
the last correctly clipped quickdraw.

7.7 **Back Clipping**
7.7.1 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 quickdraw.

7.8 **Incorrect Clip**
7.8.1 In the instance of two routes being close enough in proximity that a competitor mistakenly clips a quickdraw on the wrong route, the Judge shall immediately instruct the competitor to correct the clip. Once the incorrect clip is un-clipped, the competitor may continue his/her attempt on their route. There will be no credit, or score, for clipping a quickdraw that is not part of the competitor’s route.

7.9 **Use of Video**
7.9.1 If the Judge deems it appropriate to examine the video recording of the attempt on a route by a competitor before making a decision, the Judge shall permit the competitor to complete his/her attempt in accordance with the rules. On completion of his/her attempt, the Judge shall immediately inform the competitor that his/her score/ranking in that round of the competition shall be subject to confirmation following an examination of the video. The confirmation should be given as soon as possible.

7.9.2 Official video may be used by judges to confirm a variety of issues, including but not limited to the following: control, positive movement and/or usable surface of a handhold(s), boundaries, use of quickdraws, et cetera, with respect to scoring and the ranking of competitors at the end of each round.
7.10 **Rankings – Onsight and Redpoint**

7.10.1 **Onsight:**

Competitors shall be ranked based on the following:

- Each competitor shall be awarded ranking points for each route as follows:
  
  i. Where the competitor has a unique ranking on the route, equal to the ranking of the competitor in their starting group; or
  
  ii. Where two or more competitors have the same ranking on the route, equal to the average ranking of the competitors in their starting group.

*Example:* Where there are 6 competitors ranked in 1st place then the ranking points awarded to each competitor will be equal to \( (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6) / 6 = 21 / 6 = 3.50 \)

*Example:* Where there are 4 competitors ranked in 2nd place then the ranking points awarded to each competitor will be equal to \( (2 + 3 + 4 + 5) / 4 = 14 / 4 = 3.50 \)

\[
TP = n^{\text{th}} \sqrt{R_1 \times R_2 \times R_3}
\]

\(TP\) = Total points

\(R_1\) = Ranking points on first route.

\(R_2\) = Ranking points on second route.

\(R_3\) = Ranking points on third route (included only if applicable).

7.10.2 Points and ranking data presented on the “Official Results” list shall be presented to two (2) decimals places.

7.10.3 **Redpoint:**

Competitors shall be scored and ranked in descending order according to the following:

- In redpoint “Classic” format, a competitor’s score shall be equal to the sum of the total points of the three (3) highest scored routes completed, or “Tops.” Refer to the scoring chart under rule 6.4.5(b).

- In redpoint “Modified” format, a competitor’s score shall be equal to the sum of the total points of all routes completed, where the completion of each route is valued at 25 points, as outlined in rule 6.4.6(b).
8  **Speed Climbing**

These rules shall be in addition to all applicable rules outlined in Rule 6 – General Rules.

Rules specific to a particular competition (including without limitation the Combined Invitational) may alter the Speed climbing rules for that particular competition, and the competition-specific rules shall govern.

8.1  **Speed Competition Type Summary**

8.1.1  The Speed competition summaries provided in rule 8.1.2 are for convenient reference only; rule 8.1.2 is not itself a binding rule.

8.1.2  The following table summarizes the USA Climbing Speed Competition Types:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed Competition Type</th>
<th>Speed Competition Rules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open competitions</td>
<td>All Standard Speed rules (see sections below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth B, A, Jr Championship competitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collegiate National competitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth C, D Championship competitions</td>
<td>Standard Speed rules, except for Alternative Field of Play rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collegiate Regional Championship competitions</td>
<td>Standard Speed rules, except for Alternative Field of Play, Format, and Starting Order rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local competitions</td>
<td>Standard Speed rules, except for Alternative Field of Play, Format, and Starting Order rules.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2  **Field of Play**

8.2.1  The following Speed competitions shall follow the Standard Speed Field of Play rules:

a)  All Open competitions.

b)  All Youth Championship and Qualifier competitions, for the B, A, and Junior categories.

c)  All Collegiate National Championship competitions.

8.2.2  Standard Speed Field of Play competitions shall take place:

a)  On artificial structures that meet the Certification Standards outlined in rule 8.4; and

b)  Using an automatic timing system that meets the Certification Standards outlined in rule 8.4;

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 Facility Agreement and the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document outlined in rule 8.4.

8.2.3  All Speed competitions not designated to follow the Standard Speed Field of Play rules may follow Alternative Speed Field of Play rules.

8.2.4  Alternative Speed Field of Play competitions shall take place:

a)  On artificial structures that meet the Certification Standards outlined in rule 8.4, or on two (2) parallel routes, of identical length, of the same profile, design, and difficulty, where the routes shall be newly set, and no competitors 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 8.4 or using stopwatches approved by the CJ; and

c)  With the competitor secured from above using a belay system as outlined in 8.2.2.
8.3 Format

8.3.1 The following competitions shall follow the Standard Speed Format rules:
   a) All Open competitions.
   b) All Youth Championship competitions.
   c) All Collegiate National Championship competitions.

8.3.2 Standard Speed Format 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 is four (4) or more, a Final round consisting of between two (2) and four (4) elimination stages.

8.3.3 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.

8.3.4 All Speed competitions not designated to follow the Standard Speed Format rules may follow Alternative Speed Format rules. The following competitions shall follow the Alternative Speed Format rules:
   a) All Collegiate Regional Championship competitions.

8.3.5 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 and/or the Chief Judge, 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.

8.4 Certifications

8.4.1 USA Climbing requires certification standards to be met for the field of play for Standard Speed Field of Play competitions, as well as for the Speed Chief Judge for said competitions. The three (3) certification levels are:
   a) National: required for all USA Climbing National Speed Competitions and for National records at a Speed Competition.
   b) Qualifying: required for times at a USA Climbing Standard Speed Competition to be recognized for Open and/or Youth event qualification. This includes without limitation Speed Youth Divisional Championships.
   c) Event: required for any USA Climbing Speed Competition.

8.4.2 The certification standards are outlined in the USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards document available on the USA Climbing website www.usaclimbing.org.

8.5 Records

8.5.1 USA Climbing recognizes National Records for a 15m wall (and, historically, for a 10m wall) for each of the following Categories:
   a) Open Category, for each of Female and Male; and
   b) Youth Junior Category, for each of Female and Male; and
   c) Youth A Category, for each of Female and Male; and
   d) Youth B Category, for each of Female and Male.

8.5.2 A National Record may be set only where:
   a) The climbing surface, holds, and timing system meet the National Certification standard outlined in 8.4; and
b) The competition uses the Standard Speed Field of Play, Format, and Starting Order rules; and

c) The competition is included in the official USA Climbing calendar of events; and

d) A Chief Speed Judge has been appointed by USA Climbing.

8.6 Safety
8.6.1 Each competitor shall wear a harness. The Chief Judge shall not permit a competitor to start if they reasonably believe that a competitor’s harness is unsafe.

8.7 Advancement between Rounds (Quotas)
8.7.1 The quota for the Final round shall be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competitors with a Qualifying Time</th>
<th>Final Round Quota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-15</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 15</td>
<td>16 (see Note)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: In the case of Youth Divisionals, Youth Nationals, and Collegiate Nationals, the Final Round Quota shall be no more than eight (8) and a Final round with 15 or more competitors shall result in a Final Round Quota of eight (8).

8.8 Starting Orders – Qualification Round
8.8.1 The following competitions shall follow the Standard Speed Starting Order rules:

a) All Open competitions

b) All Youth Championship competitions.

c) All Collegiate National Championship competitions.

8.8.2 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%, rounding down where there is an odd number of starters.

8.8.3 The Starting Order, if any, shall be posted at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the start of the competition.

8.8.4 All Speed competitions not designated to follow the Standard Speed Starting Order rules may follow Alternative Speed Starting Order rules.

8.8.5 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 and/or announced during the Technical Meeting. At this time, competitors shall be allowed to have up to one (1) race on each route (A and B), racing against a competitor or 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.

8.9 Starting Orders – Final Round
8.9.1 Speed Competitions with multiple rounds 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 Qualification round, their starting order in the first stage of the
Final round shall be determined by random selection.

### 16 starters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1/8 stage</th>
<th>1/4 stage</th>
<th>1/2 stage</th>
<th>Final stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 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 | A Winner Race 7  
B Winner Race 8 | |
| 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 | | | |

### 8 starters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1/4 stage</th>
<th>1/2 stage</th>
<th>Final stage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 A Qualifier #1  
B Qualifier #8 | 5 A Winner Race 1  
B Winner Race 2 | 7 A Loser Race 5  
B Loser Race 6 |
| 2 A Qualifier #4  
B Qualifier #5 | 6 A Winner Race 3  
B Winner Race 4 | 8 A Winner Race 5  
B Winner Race 6 |
| 3 A Qualifier #2  
B Qualifier #7 | | |
| 4 A Qualifier #3  
B Qualifier #6 | | |
8.10 **Competition Procedure – Practice Round**

8.10.1 Where a Practice period is held, competitors should be entitled to one practice run on each route/lane. Competitors will not be stopped in the event of a False Start.

8.10.2 The Practice period should include a demonstration of the false start signal and of the timing equipment.

8.10.3 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 Chief Judge may vary the timing and format of any Practice period to reflect circumstances specific to the competition.

8.11 **Competition Procedure: Qualification Round**

8.11.1 Each competitor may make one attempt on each lane, other than:

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.

c) Where the competition has only a single lane, then the competitor’s 2nd attempt on that lane shall be considered the competitor’s attempt on the 2nd lane.

8.11.2 Each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the Chief Judge until they have completed their attempts on both lanes.

8.11.3 A competitor making a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in rule 8.14.5) in any race of the Qualification round shall be eliminated from the Qualification round (and shall lose any valid time previously recorded). The other competitor in that race may re-run without a partner, this re-run taking place before the next scheduled race.

8.12 **Competition Procedure: Final Round**

8.12.1 In any race in the Final round, winner shall be determined as follows:

a) Where both competitors record a valid time, the competitor who records the lowest valid time;

b) Where one competitor is determined to have made a False Start (with the exception of a Probationary False Start, as outlined in rule 8.14.5), the other competitor;

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 competitor with the highest (best) qualification ranking; or

ii. if both competitors have the same qualification ranking, the relevant race shall be re-run;

d) where any competitor fails to report to the Call Zone when called, the other competitor;
8.12.2 Speed Competitions Final Rounds shall take place as a series of stages each consisting of a number of "elimination" races, the winner of a race in any stage proceeding forward to the next stage. The number of stages and races in each stage will be determined by the quota for the Final round.

a) a presentation of all Semi-Finalists may be made before the first race of the Semi-Final stage.

b) the competitors eliminated in the Semi-Final stage shall compete for 3rd and 4th place in a "Small Final".

c) the winners of the Semi-Final 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 8.14.5) occurs in any Big Final, the winning competitor shall make one further attempt to record a valid time.

d) each competitor shall remain in the Competition Area as directed by the Chief Judge until eliminated.

8.13 Climbing Procedure

8.13.1 All races shall be started with a clearly audible signal initiated by an assigned Starter. The Starter shall select a position where he is not visible to the competitors. The source of the starting signal should be positioned as near possible equidistant from all competitors.

8.13.2 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;

   ii. Will present themselves to the belayer, who shall confirm that

      1. The competitor’s harness is properly fastened; and

      2. The competitor’s harness is safely connected to the automatic belay system or top-rope.

   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 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 will 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, 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 Chief Judge may issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.

8.13.3 If an automatic timing system is not being used, the Starter shall, after announcing ‘Ready”
followed by a short pause (less than two (2) seconds), call “Go.”

8.13.4 All verbal instructions shall be given in a loud and clearly audible voice.

8.14 False Starts

8.14.1 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;
   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.

8.14.2 Where in any race not using an automatic timing system, following the Starter declaring ‘Ready!’:
   a) 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 (“Go” or audible signal), the competitor shall be called for a False Start.
   b) The Judge shall declare ‘False Start’ and instruct both competitors to ‘Stop’.

8.14.3 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.

8.14.4 No Appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time recorded by an automatic timing system approved by the USA Climbing.

8.14.5 In each Round not using an automatic timing system, a competitor’s first (1st) 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.

8.14.6 In the event of a Probationary False Start, the effected race shall be re-run immediately following that False Start.

8.15 Valid Time

8.15.1 A valid time shall be recorded where the relevant competitor:
   a) Has struck the top timing pad/switch; and
   b) Stopped the timer,
   except where a False Start has been made by any competitor in the relevant race;

8.15.2 A valid time shall not be recorded where the relevant competitor:
   a) Has struck the top timing pad/switch but not stopped the timer;
   b) Falls;
   c) Uses the side edges or the top edges of the wall for climbing; or
   d) Touches the ground with any part of the body after having started; or
   e) Makes use of areas, holds or features demarcated as out of bounds; or
   f) Uses any artificial aid.

8.16 Resting Time

8.16.1 Other than following a False Start, competitors shall be afforded a minimum resting time of five
(5) minutes between attempts on the route(s).

8.17 **Judging and Scoring**

8.17.1 The climbing time for each competitor shall be defined as the period between the Starting Signal and the completion of the competitor’s attempt.

8.17.2 Where an automatic timing system is being used, the timing system shall:

a) Record and display the climbing time for each competitor separately.

b) Be capable of measuring times to an accuracy of at least 1/100s.

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 purposes of ranking;

   ii. Times may be displayed rounded down to the nearest 1/100s.

8.17.3 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.

8.17.4 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).

8.18 **Qualification Ranking**

8.18.1 Competitors shall be ranked in the order following:

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 qualifying time.

8.18.2 If, following the ranking procedure in 8.18.1, 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.

8.19 **Final and General Ranking**

8.19.1 Competitors shall be ranked in the Final round in order of the last stage in which they competed and then:

a) First, the race winner(s) in each such stage; and

b) Second the competitors eliminated in each stage, ranked in order of their times in that stage.

8.19.2 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 Qualification ranking.

8.19.3 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 based on their respective times.

8.19.4 For purposes other than Final and General Ranking, 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
8.20 Technical Incidents and Appeals

8.20.1 In the event there is Official Video Recording, then only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Chief 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;
   b) The top timing pad/switch for both lanes; and
   c) The attempt of each pair of competitors in each race.

8.20.2 If a competitor or Team Official considers that a Technical Incident has occurred, they must notify the Chief Judge before the start of the next race.

8.20.3 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.

8.20.4 The Chief Judge shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred:
   a) In order to make this determination, the Chief Judge shall as necessary:
      i. Review the official video recordings;
      ii. Require the system to be tested;
      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 Chief Judge shall either:
          1. Cancel the affected and all subsequent stages; or
          2. Abandon and restart the stage; or
          3. Abandon and restart the stage using Alternative Speed Field of Play rules (rule 8.2.4) for the timing system.

8.20.5 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 required.

8.20.6 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 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.

8.21 Presentation of Results

8.21.1 Information on the preliminary ranking place and climbing times of each competitor in each round of the competition shall be provided to spectators and coaches directly after determining
results:
   a) On electronic display (board or screen), or
   b) On the official competition notice board if (a), above, is not possible.

8.21.2 The overall result lists shall show the competitors’ achieved climbing times on all routes and in all rounds.
9 **Bouldering**

These rules shall be read in conjunction with rule 6 – General Rules.

9.1 **Start Lists**

9.1.1 The starting order for the qualification round of the Bouldering Open National Championship shall be:

a) First, any competitor currently qualified for competing in the Olympic Games, ordered by Olympic Qualification event hierarchy, and by rank within the same qualification event.

b) Next, any World, Pan American, and U.S. National Champion(s) in Bouldering, and any World, Pan American, and U.S. National Champion(s) in the "Overall", in that order.

c) Next, any competitor with IFSC World Cup Bouldering Ranking points, ordered by such points (highest number of points ordered first), and by random selection between any competitors with an equal number of such points.

d) Next, any competitor that has Bouldering National Cup Series Ranking Points from the current season's National Cup Series and/or had Bouldering National Ranking Points (or Bouldering Season Open National Ranking Points in 2019) from the previous season's Bouldering Open National Championship, ordered by the sum of the two point values (highest number of points ordered first), and by random selection between any competitors with the same number of such points.

e) Finally, the remaining competitors qualified to compete in the event, ordered by random selection.

9.1.2 The starting order for the qualification round of Championship competitions, other than outlined in 9.1.1, shall be randomized.

9.1.3 The starting order of the rounds following the qualification round, other than a super-final, shall be the reverse order of the ranking of the previous round. For example, the highest ranked competitor from the qualification round will start last in the semi-final round.

9.1.4 The starting order of a super-final shall be the same as for the final round of the competition.

9.2 **Observation**

9.2.1 At Youth onsight Bouldering competitions, there is no official observation period. At Open Bouldering competitions, an official observation period is permitted for the final round only.

9.3 **Climbing Procedure**

9.3.1 In onsight competition rounds, the fixed length of the climbing period shall be from four (4) to five (5) minutes per problem for each round. The specific amount of climbing time allowed for each round shall be announced prior to the start of the round.

9.3.2 At Bouldering Open and Youth National Championships, a pre-recorded vocal cue shall announce the fixed length of the climbing period. The vocal cue shall be the phrase ‘Time … Time,’ and shall be announced on a recurring loop consistent with the fixed length of the climbing period. The expiration of the climbing period shall be defined by the sound of the first “T” in the vocal cue ‘Time… Time.’ Additionally, to the extent possible, a time clock shall be played on a recurring loop displaying the elapsing climbing period. This clock shall be set such that the “0:00” mark shall display simultaneously with the sound of the first “T” in the phrase ‘Time… Time.’

9.3.3 For all Bouldering competition formats, the competitor must control the finish handhold with both hands to receive points for completion of that problem. The competitor should establish contact with the Judge so that the Judge may verify control of the finish handhold. Refer to rule 6.9.8
and 6.19.3.

9.4 **Rankings – Onsight and Redpoint**

9.4.1 Onsight: Competitors shall be ranked according to total points recorded based on the scoring outlined in rule 6.19.7.

9.4.2 Points and ranking data presented on the Official Results list shall be presented to at least two (2) decimal places.
10 Combined Invitational – Format Information

10.1 General

10.1.1 Unless otherwise specified in this rule 10, the format of the Combined Invitational and rules for each single discipline shall follow rule 6 “General Rules” and any other rules that apply to the respective single discipline Open National Championships outlined in this Rulebook. For the avoidance of doubt, the Combined Invitational is an Open Championship event.

10.1.2 The Combined Invitational shall consist of all three disciplines, Boulder, Sport, and Speed, and shall be a two (2) round competition: Qualification round and Final round.

10.1.3 In all rounds, each of the single disciplines shall be run with all competitors completing each single discipline before any competitors participate in the next discipline.

10.1.4 In all Bouldering rounds where competitors have the same score in the round, the relative ranking of the tied competitors shall be determined:

a) If in the Final round, by comparison of their ranking within the Bouldering stage of the Qualification round;

b) where the comparison in (a) cannot break any tie, by comparing the best results in this round for each such competitor, starting with the number of Tops attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of Tops attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on;

c) where the comparison in (b) cannot break any tie, by comparing the number of 15-point Zones attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of 15-point Zones attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on;

d) where the comparison in (c) cannot break any tie, by comparing the number of 10-point Zones attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of 10-point Zones attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on;

e) where the comparison in (d) cannot break any tie, by comparing the number of 5-point Zones attained on the 1st attempt, then the number of 5-point Zones attained on the 2nd attempt, and so on.

10.1.5 In all Sport rounds where competitors have the same score in the round, the relative ranking of the tied competitors shall be determined:

a) If in the Final round, by comparison of their ranking within the Sport stage of the Qualification round;

b) where the comparison in (a) cannot break any tie, by comparing their climbing times in this round (lower time is better).

For the avoidance of doubt, any ties in the Sport Qualification Round shall use the total climbing times of all routes in the round.

10.2 Qualification Round

10.2.1 The Qualification Round formats shall be:

a) For Speed, two (2) routes/races, preceded by a two (2) routes/race practice round.

b) For Bouldering, three (3) to five (5) problems, using onsight format.

c) For Sport, two (2) routes, using flash format.

10.2.2 The Qualification round may be run with the single disciplines scheduled in any order. Each competitor shall have a minimum resting period of thirty (30) minutes between disciplines. The Qualification round for Bouldering shall not be on the same day as the Qualification round for any other discipline.

10.2.3 The qualification round running orders may use a seeding order, where the seeding for the 2020 Combined Invitational shall be ordered by final 2019 U.S. Overall Ranking, such that the highest ranked competitor is seeded 1st. The order among any competitors with the same such ranking shall be randomized, and any competitors not ranked in the 2019 U.S. Overall Ranking shall be
seeded last, with the order among those competitors being randomized.

10.2.4 In the Qualification round, the Bouldering running order shall be in seeding order (using seeding as outlined in rule 10.2.3), such that the highest seeded competitor will be first in the Bouldering running order.

10.2.5 In the Qualification Round, the Sport running order shall be determined as follows:
   a) for the route A, by random selection; and
   b) for the route B, in the same order of the route A but with a stagger of 50%, rounding down where there is an odd number of competitors. For the avoidance of doubt, where there are 29 competitors, the 14th in the order for route A shall be the first in the order for route B.

10.2.6 There shall be a minimum resting period of 20 minutes between the end of a competitor’s attempt on their first route and the start of that competitor’s attempt on their second route.

10.2.7 In the Qualification round, Speed shall be run with the same running order from Sport Qualification round, where the Route A and Route B running orders from Sport are used on the two Speed routes (A and B).

10.2.8 Speed competitors will be ranked based on their fastest time of the two (2) routes.

10.2.9 The Qualification Round Combined Ranking shall use rule 6.21.3.

10.2.10 The top eight (8) ranked competitors in the Qualification round shall advance to the final round. In the event of a tie for the last advancing placement from the qualification round to the final round, the advancement to the final round shall be determined as follows:
   a) Competitors having a higher (better) final U.S. Overall Ranking (as used in Error! Reference source not found.) shall be advanced to the final round first among such competitors that have equal Qualification Round Ranking. A competitor without a U.S. Overall Ranking shall be considered as having a lower such Ranking as compared to a competitor with a U.S. Overall Ranking.
   b) Where (a) does not resolve the top eight (8) advancement to the final round, a game of chance shall be used to determine advancement to the final round among such competitors.

10.3 Final Round

10.3.1 The Final Round formats shall be:
   a) For Speed, a series of stages as outlined in rule 10.3.3.
   b) For Bouldering, three (3) to five (5) problems, using onsight format.
   c) For Sport, one (1) route, using onsight format.

10.3.2 The Final round shall be run in the following order: Speed, Boulder, Sport. Each competitor shall have a minimum resting period of fifteen (15) minutes between disciplines.

10.3.3 In the Final round, Speed shall take place as a series of stages, each consisting of a number of individual races where the winner of each race will be the competitor with the lowest (best) valid time in that race. Losing competitors in the quarter-final and semi-final races will not be eliminated, but will advance into a series of additional races to determine places three (3) through eight (8), such that all competitors complete the same number of races. The stages are
Note: If only one competitor records a valid time in a race, that competitor shall be deemed the winner of the race. If no competitor in a race records a valid time:

a) Where one competitor has made a False Start, the winner shall be the other competitor;

b) Where both competitors have fallen, the winner shall be the competitor with the lowest (fastest) valid time from the Qualification round.

10.3.4 The running order for each single discipline in the Final round shall be as follows:

a) Speed: The order as outlined in 10.3.3 using the ranking of the speed Qualification round.

b) Bouldering: The reverse order of the ranking of the preceding Speed Final round.

c) Sport: The reverse order of an interim Overall ranking total (refer to 6.21.3(c)) which shall be calculated following the completion of the preceding Speed and Boulder competitions, i.e. the highest (best) ranked competitor shall start last.

10.3.5 The Final Round Ranking shall follow rule 6.21.3.
11 Paraclimbing

11.1 Paraclimbing – General

11.1.1 All USA Climbing Paraclimbing competitions shall utilize the Classification System rules in this Rulebook.
   a) All Paraclimbing competitors must meet the specification for at least one category in the Paraclimbing Classification System outlined in rules 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, and 11.6.
   b) Adult Paraclimbing competitors are at least sixteen (16) years of age or older, by December 31st, of the year in which the National Championship is held.
   c) Youth Paraclimbing competitors are not at least sixteen (16) years of age or older, by December 31st, of the year in which the National Championship is held.

11.1.2 Each Adult Paraclimbing competitor registering for a competition shall register in an appropriate category as defined in the Paraclimbing Classification System.

11.1.3 Each Youth Paraclimbing competitor registering for a competition shall register in the appropriate age category. Such competitor shall also indicate on their registration their appropriate category as defined in the Paraclimbing Classification System.

11.1.4 Category Merging: If there are less than three competitors in a category, that category may be merged with (an)other category(ies), as shown in the following diagram:

```
AP  AU2
   ↓  ↓  ↓
AL1 AL2 RP1 RP2 RP3
   ↓  ↓  ↓
B1  B2  B3
   ↓  ↓
Youth D Youth C Youth B
```

   a) For each gender, the base categories are: Upper Limb Amputee (AU2), Lower Limb Amputee (AL2), Range of Power (RP3), Visually Impaired (B3), and Youth B. (For the avoidance of doubt, a competition shall have a minimum 5 Female and 5 Male categories.)

11.1.5 Paraclimbing is a new sport and a variety of different impairments can result in reduced power; classification is an attempt to optimize placement of all athletes in order to ensure competition is between individuals of similar performance capabilities. These categories and standards will be reviewed periodically by the Paraclimbing Committee and the Rules Committee, each of which may consult with advisers or other stakeholders such as a Medical Committee (if any) and its delegates.

11.2 Paraclimbing – Competition Format

11.2.1 The Paraclimbing National Championships shall be either:
   a) A single round competition using redpoint format; or
   b) A two-round competition consisting of a redpoint qualification round and either a redpoint or onsight final round.
11.2.2 A Paraclimbing Local competition shall be redpoint format.
11.2.3 Paraclimbing Sport and Paraclimbing Speed competitions shall be executed on top rope.
11.2.4 Athletes only need to control the start hold with one hand / appendage.
11.2.5 Athletes only need to control the finish hold with one hand / appendage.

11.3 Paraclimbing Classification – Paraplegic (AL1)
11.3.1 AL1 (Paraplegic):
   a) 2 legs: no usable muscle function below waist
   b) Climbing method utilizes arms only

11.4 Paraclimbing Classification – Amputee (AU1, AU2, AL2)
11.4.1 AU1 (Upper Limb Amputee *not allowed to use prosthetic)
   a) 2 arms: full or combination of any arm amputation/deficiency per AU2 requirements
   b) 1 arm: full (shoulder disarticulation)
11.4.2 AU2 (Upper Limb Amputee *not allowed to use prosthetic)
   a) At least 1 arm:
      • Above and below elbow amputation
      • No hand (wrist joint may exist, no functionally usable finger joints)
   b) Minimum disability: All fingers (disarticulated phalanges of one or both hands)
11.4.3 AL2 (Lower Limb Amputee *prosthetics allowed)
   a) 1 or 2 legs: Limb deficiency: Total or partial absence of bones or joints as a consequence of trauma (e.g. car accident), illness (e.g. cancer) or congenital limb deficiency (e.g. dysmelia).
   b) Minimum disability
      • no ankle joint present (unless used as a knee via Rotationplasty)
      • leg limb discrepancy resulting in using a prosthetic to walk

11.5 Paraclimbing Classification – Visually Impaired (B1, B2, B3)
11.5.1 Eligibility Criteria: Vision impairment arises for a variety of reasons - genetics, prenatal developmental issues, or from illness or trauma. Vision impairment occurs when there is damage to one or more of the components of the vision system, which can include: impairment of the eye structure/receptors, impairment of the optic nerve/optic pathways, impairment of the visual cortex.
11.5.2 Definition of Visual Classes: The determination of visual class will be based upon the eye with better visual acuity, whilst wearing best optical correction using spectacles or contact lenses, and/or visual fields which include central and peripheral zones. Athletes are required to forward a fully completed Medical Diagnostics Form by a certified ophthalmologist in advance of classification; athletes who do not present a fully completed form risk not being classified.
11.5.3 Visual Classification B1 (Visually Impaired: Completely or almost completely blind *must wear blindfold during competition regardless of sight)
   a) No light perception in either eye up to light perception, and an inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.
   b) Visual acuity lower than LogMAR 2.6.
11.5.4 Visual Classification B2 (Visually Impaired: Moderately blind)
   a) From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
b) Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.5 to 2.6 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 10 degrees.

11.5.5 Visual Classification B3 (Visually Impaired: Legally blind with corrective measures)
   a) From visual acuity above 20/600 and up to visual acuity of 20/200 and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees and more than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
   b) Visual acuity ranging from LogMAR 1.4 to 1.0 (inclusive) and/or visual field constricted to a diameter of less than 40 degrees.

11.6 Paraclimbing Classification – Range of Power (RP1, RP2, RP3)

11.6.1 RP1 (Range of Power: Severe impact)
   a) disability affects all body parts severely (hypertonia, impaired muscle power, ataxia)

11.6.2 RP2 (Range of Power: Moderate impact)
   a) disability affects all body parts moderately (hypertonia, impaired muscle power, ataxia)
   b) impairment of lower limbs creating walking difficulties or one limb severely affected

11.6.3 RP3 (Range of Power: Noticeable impact)
   a) Impaired passive range of movement: elbow, junction between elbow & wrist, wrist, waist, junction between waist and knee, knee, junction between knee and ankle
   b) noticeable hypertonia
   c) noticeable impaired muscle power
   d) athetosis creating an asymmetry
12 Procedures for Field of Play Appeals and Infringements

12.1 General Guidelines

12.1.1 For purposes of this Section, the term "referee" shall include any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions, including any and all competition judges and officials (refer to rule 2). Under Bylaws Section 15.8, the final decision of a referee during a competition regarding a "Field of Play" decision (a matter set forth in the rules of the competition to be within the discretion of the referee) shall not be the subject of, or reviewable through the procedures for, administrative grievances or right to participate complaints unless the decision is:
   a) Outside the authority of the referee to make, or;
   b) The product of fraud, corruption, partiality, or other misconduct of the referee.

12.1.2 Any appeals that are not Field of Play related should be filed as complaints in accordance with rule 14 below and Article 15 of the Bylaws. SafeSport complaints are subject to Section 15.7 of the Bylaws.

12.1.3 The procedures set forth under the Bylaws and this Rulebook to resolve infringements are intended to constitute procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of grievances of USA Climbing's members and are intended, among other things, to avoid inappropriate direct confrontation between members. Failure to abide by these procedures, depending on the circumstances, could be interpreted as intimidation or harassment.

12.2 Field of Play Appeals – Appeals Jury and General Procedures

12.2.1 The procedures set forth in section 12.1 of this Rulebook are intended to constitute procedures for the prompt and equitable resolution of Field of Play appeals made by a competitor or coach.

12.2.2 The 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 procedure(s). This includes all climbing walls used for the competition and other areas of a competition venue such as the isolation and transit zones. Any challenge 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 rule 2 and 12.1.2 above) shall be considered a Field of Play appeal. This includes, for example, any challenges 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 "USA Climbing CEO - Competition / Advancement Authority" under rule 2.2 or "USA Climbing Sport Discretion" under rule 2.3 if, in preparation of or during a competition.

12.2.3 The Regional Coordinator will generally be the Chief Judge at Local events and the Regional Championship. An alternate Chief Judge may be selected at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator. The Chief Judge for all the Divisional and National Competitions will be announced prior to the event.

12.2.4 At all competitions, the Chief Judge shall receive any appeals and shall convene an Appeals Jury that generally should include, as applicable, the Chief Judge, the Judge, Chief Route setters, and/or other Route setters, and, if applicable, the Belayer for the route in question.

12.2.5 The decision of the Appeals Jury shall be final, and not subject to further appeal.

12.2.6 Official appeals shall be differentiated from a regular course discussion that might take place between a competitor and a Judge immediately after an attempt. No written appeal would be required where a question is raised to the Judge and is discussed at that time.

12.2.7 All appeals and official responses to appeals shall be made in English.

12.2.8 To be considered, all official appeals shall be in writing and accompanied by the appropriate fee. The appeal fee for Championship events is one hundred dollars ($100.00). If an appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be returned. If the appeal is denied, USA Climbing shall retain the appeal fee. Appeals made outside the appeals process will be rejected or returned.

12.2.9 All appeals shall be made by a competitor's coach or by the competitor. Appeals may not be
made by the competitor’s parent(s)/guardian, unless the competitor is developmentally disabled, hearing or speech impaired.

Note: 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.

12.2.10 A coach that files an appeal on behalf of his/her competitor, and/or, acts on behalf of said competitor, must be a certified coach as outlined in rule 3.2.

12.2.11 For the qualification and semi-final rounds, an official appeal must be made within twenty (20) minutes of the end of that segment of the competition, or, in the case of a disputed score, within twenty (20) minutes of the official posting of the results.

12.2.12 For the final round, an official appeal must be made within ten (10) minutes of the end of that segment of the competition, or, in the case of a disputed score, within ten (10) minutes of the official posting of the results.

12.2.13 In the event updated results are reposted (e.g. following a change as a result of an appeal), any new official appeal must be made within five (5) minutes of the posting of the updated results, or within five (5) minutes of the appeal deadline for the most recent prior posting of results, whichever is later.

12.2.14 USA Climbing shall have Sport Discretion subject to rule 2.3 to amend rules 12.2.11, 12.2.12, and 12.2.13 for Open and/or Collegiate National competitions (e.g. Open National Championships, Combined Invitational, Collegiate National Championship) provided that the competition’s official schedule and/or technical meeting include notice of such amendments. Such amendments are limited to:

a) If complete scoring of the round for the entire category is displayed at the competition venue, then a PA announcement that the results are official (but preliminary) shall be considered the official posting of the results.

b) For the qualification and semi-final rounds, the twenty (20) minute deadline for making an appeal may be reduced, though must be at least five (5) minutes.

c) For the final round, the ten (10) minute deadline for making an appeal may be reduced, though must be at least one (1) minute.

12.2.15 The Chief Judge will be made available at the climbing venue for at least the amount of time allowed to file an appeal after results have been posted.

12.2.16 A competitor may appeal the decision of the Judge to the Chief Judge when he or she has finished the attempt.

12.2.17 An appeal against the ranking of a competitor after the completion of a round, and after the official results have been posted, shall be made no later than the appeal deadline allowed for that round of competition.

12.2.18 At his/her discretion, the Chief Judge may solicit any additional information, s/he sees fit, to review when deciding an appeal – including unofficial video.

12.2.19 The appeal decision shall be made by the Chief Judge to the person who officially lodged the appeal and/or the Team Coach.

12.3 Procedures for Review of Field of Play Infringements

12.3.1 Any and all suspected competition-related infringements must first be reported to the Chief Judge. Only the Chief Judge may approach a competitor under disqualification proceedings.

12.3.2 Upon receiving a report of an infringement, either in writing or by verbal testimony, a Chief Judge must research the situation to determine if the infringement was: intentional, accidental, put anyone in danger, blatantly violated any rules, gave the competitors a distinct advantage, et cetera.

12.3.3 The research process may include but is not limited to interviewing Judges, belayers, ISO
monitors, spectators, other competitors, et cetera.

12.3.4 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.

12.3.5 All such proceedings should be kept confidential to the extent possible.

12.3.6 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. The Regional Coordinator, if present at the event, shall be included in any discussions / deliberations regarding any disqualification.

12.3.7 If the infringement is found to be unsubstantiated, the Chief Judge will reject the complaint with no consequences to the accused competitor.

12.3.8 If the infringement is substantiated, the Chief Judge may choose to issue a yellow card to the competitor as a warning. If a competitor receives a yellow card, the next infringement will result in a red card with disqualification from the competition. If the infringement caused or could have caused harm to any competitor, spectator, judge, et cetera, or if the infringement could be classified as cheating that was purposely instigated by the competitor, then the competitor will be issued a red card resulting in disqualification.

12.3.9 Anyone found to have knowingly falsely accused a competitor of an infringement will receive a red card resulting in disqualification.

12.3.10 Anyone, except the Chief Judge, who approaches a competitor and accuses them of an infringement, may be removed from the event by the Chief Judge and/or issued a red card by the Chief Judge resulting in disqualification.

12.3.11 Parents and coaches shall be held to the same yellow/red card standard, as competitors, for any infringement as determined by the Chief Judge.

12.3.12 The Chief Executive Officer and/or the Board of Directors of USA Climbing will review all red card violations. Said review may, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing’s Bylaws, result in the revocation of the competitor’s membership in USA Climbing for however long as deemed necessary. In this instance, no membership or entry fee refunds are given.
13 Disqualifying Infringements

13.1 General Guidelines

13.1.1 Disqualification matters, if arising in the context of Field of Play, will be administered under this Section 12 as well as under rule 12.2 above and under Section 15.8 of the Bylaws. Disqualification matters, if not arising in the context of Field of Play, will be administered, to the extent applicable under this Section 12 and under Article 15 of the Bylaws.

13.1.2 Cheating in any form will result in the disqualification of the competitor from the competition, and may, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws, result in the revocation of membership in USA Climbing.

13.1.3 The following infringements may result in the disqualification of the competitor from the competition and, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing's Bylaws, may also result in revocation of membership in USA Climbing:

   a) The use of non-approved equipment.
   b) The use of any knots other than a standard figure-8 knot plus a “safety knot.”
   c) Untying from the rope while climbing.
   d) Distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for, or, attempting a route.
   e) Distracting or interfering with any official while they are carrying out their duties.
   f) Failure to comply with the instructions of the official Judges and/or the organizer’s officials.
   g) Receipt of beta by a competitor may result in disqualification of that attempt and may result in disqualification of the competitor from the competition at the discretion of the Chief Judge. Refer to 6.9.23.
   h) Smoking or the use of other tobacco products, by minors, in the isolation, competition or spectator area.
   i) The use of prohibited drugs and/or use of alcohol by a minor, at any point, during the event, including but not limited to, registration, check-in and any hotel stay specifically for the event.
   j) The use of abusive, insulting and/or violent words and/or behavior towards anyone in the competition area and/or the isolation/transit zones while under the regulations governing the competition area and isolation/transit zones.
   k) Unsporting behavior, abusive, insulting and/or violent words and/or behavior to the event organizer or their officials and/or team officials and/or other competitors and/or members of the public.
   l) Competitors, competitors’ parents, or coaches are not permitted to view other competitors’ scorecards without the express consent of the other competitor. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from the event of the competitor viewing the scorecard.
   m) Unapproved modification of, and/or failure to wear the competition shirt and/or competitor's bib number as provided by the competition organizer. This rule may be modified at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
   n) Failure to wear a shirt while competing.
   o) Violation of applicable codes, rules or policies, including without limitation USA Climbing’s
13.2 **Onsight Competitions**

13.2.1 In addition to previous rules relating to disqualifications, the following infringements may result in the disqualification of the competitor from the competition:

a) Arrival at the isolation zone after the specified closing time.

b) Use of, including but not limited to, cell phones, cameras, pagers, recording devices or electronic communication or devices (walkie-talkies, et cetera) in isolation.

c) Observing the routes from outside the permitted observation zone.

d) Failure to return to the isolation zone after the route observation period has ended.

e) Failure to report properly equipped at the start of a route.

f) In Sport Climbing, the Chief Judge has instructed the competitor to begin climbing and s/he fails to begin climbing within 30 seconds of the instruction. Refer to rule 7.5.2.

13.2.2 The following infringements shall result in the disqualification of the competitor from the competition and subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing’s Bylaws. shall also result in revocation of membership in USA Climbing:

a) Gathering information on a route on which s/he is to attempt beyond that permitted during route previews.

b) Gathering and communicating information to other competitors beyond that permitted during route previews.

c) Falsifying scorecards.

d) Coaches found participating in any of the previously mentioned infringements will risk having their entire team disqualified for that competition and, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing’s Bylaws, lose coach status with USA Climbing and risk having their entire team disqualified for that competition.

13.2.3 A coach or member violating any of the rules relating to the Athlete’s or Coaches Code of Conduct, and where that violation occurs outside of a competition but in connection with activities related to USA climbing (e.g. team building, recruiting, competition planning), may be disqualified in accordance with the rules as indicated above or in accordance with USA Climbing’s SafeSport Policies, subject to the due process protections afforded under Article 15 of USA Climbing’s Bylaws.
14 Disputes, Grievances, or Other Complaints – Judicial Committee

14.1 General Guidelines
14.1.1 The procedures set forth under USA Climbing’s Bylaws, Article 15, and this Rulebook, govern the processing of all disputes, grievances or 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, depending on the circumstances, could be interpreted as intimidation or harassment. For more information refer to the Judicial Committee Procedures at www.usaclimbing.org.

14.1.2 Any disputes, grievances or other complaints which are not resolved by the procedures outlined in rules 12 and 13 of this Rulebook 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.

14.2 Judicial Committee Protocol
14.2.1 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. To enhance safe sport practices and to investigate and resolve safe sport violations, USA Climbing has agreed to comply with the safe sport policies of the U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) and has incorporated by reference the provisions of the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement (Code), including its appendices, into these policies. The Center may update its policies at any time and the changes are effective when published. For the most current safe sport rules, policies and procedures, go to www.safesport.org. The delegation of authority and jurisdiction to the U.S. Center for SafeSport as set forth above, shall include matters involving allegations of sexual misconduct, including sexual abuse, and shall also include the investigation and issuance of sanctions related to allegations of other violations of USA Climbing SafeSport Policies (e.g., physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment and hazing) that are reasonably related to and which accompany an allegation that involves sexual misconduct. Additionally, in the discretion of USA Climbing or at the recommendation of the Judicial Committee, USA Climbing may request that the U.S. Center for SafeSport accept jurisdiction of matters that do not involve sexual misconduct but do involve allegations of physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment or hazing.

14.2.2 Under Article 15 of USA Climbing’s Bylaws, complaints submitted to the USA Climbing Judicial Committee, judicial@usaclimbing.org, shall be in writing and accompanied by a non-refundable administrative fee of one hundred dollars ($100.00). All submissions should Cc info@usaclimbing.org and grant USA Climbing permission to charge the administrative fee to the competitor’s card on file. The fee must be paid prior to the Judicial Committee making a ruling on the respective matter. Notwithstanding the foregoing, 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.

14.2.3 In order to be considered, the Judicial Committee protocol, as outlined in USA Climbing’s Bylaws for, Article 15, or such other judicial protocol as is set forth under USA Climbing’s SafeSport Policies, must be followed. Otherwise, the complaint will be rejected or returned.

14.2.4 All complaints made to the Judicial Committee shall be made in English.

14.2.5 Complaints pertaining to registration deadlines or issues will not be heard or considered within ninety-six (96) hours of the start of a Championship competition.
15 Team Selection Committee

15.1 Team Selection Committee Overview

15.1.1 In the event invitation to participate in an international competition is not defined in this Rulebook (e.g. where the IFSC may change rules for quotas, additional competitions are scheduled, or where other similar unforeseen circumstances occur), the Team Selection Committee shall review and recommend to the USA Climbing CEO, in consultation with the USA Climbing Rules Committee and Athletes’ Advisory Committee, an objective process for invitation. This Team Selection Committee will not directly select individual athletes for invitation but rather will review the overall circumstances and recommend an objective process by which athlete invitation shall occur. The Team Selection Committee shall be composed of:

- Chairperson of the USA Climbing Rules Committee;
- USA Climbing’s Athlete Representative to the USOPC Athletes’ Advisory Council (USOPC AAC Rep);
- A representative of USA Climbing’s High Performance staff;
- A representative of USA Climbing’s Board of Directors.

15.1.2 The Team Selection Committee is a “Designated Committee” under the USA Climbing Bylaws. Therefore, the athlete representative must be eligible to serve as an Athlete representative on a “Designated Committee.”

15.1.3 In the event that the USOPC AAC Rep is unavailable, ineligible, and/or has a conflict of interest, the alternate USOPC AAC Rep shall serve on the Team Selection Committee, provided the alternate USOPC AAC Rep is available, eligible, and does not have a conflict of interest.

15.1.4 If both the USOPC AAC Rep and alternate USOPC AAC Rep are unavailable, ineligible, and/or have a conflict of interest, a USA Climbing athlete meeting eligibility requirements outlined in rule 15.1.2 shall be selected.

- a) If the USA Climbing Athletes’ Advisory Committee (AAC) Chairperson is available, eligible, and without conflict of interest, they shall serve on the Team Selection Committee.
- b) Otherwise, the AAC shall select, from among AAC members, an athlete who is available, eligible, and without conflict of interest, to serve on the Team Selection Committee.

15.1.5 Should any of the above members of the Team Selection Committee be unable to participate in the duties of the Committee (including due to a conflict of interest), a designee shall be assigned by the Board of Directors, subject to the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in rule 15.1.2.

15.1.6 Any processes recommended by the Team Selection Committee and applied by USA Climbing prior to publication of a subsequent version of this Rulebook, shall be reviewed by the USA Climbing Rules Committee, Athletes’ Advisory Committee and Board of Directors, and where appropriate, incorporated into a subsequent version.
16 Appendix

16.1 Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring - General

Definitions: For the purposes of competition climbing, a “hold” may be defined as any object or area of the climbing wall that may be used for climbing. For the purposes of scoring, a “handhold” shall be defined as any object, portion of the object, or area of the climbing wall that is both used for climbing and defined as a scored handhold in a route/problem, identified on the route map. Refer to rule 6.9.6.

Marking: Routes/problems should be set and marked in as simple a way as is possible for both competitors and judges to understand.

- Taped flashes should generally be used. Taped boxes should only be used if the Chief Routesetter deems necessary. Examples of this may include:
  - The marked handhold is a climbing wall arete, not including any modular hold(s);
  - The marked handhold includes two distinct modular holds that create a “pinch;”
  - The position of the marked handhold (on the wall or a modular volume) may make attachment (or maintenance of tape during competition) of a taped flash difficult.

- 1” gaffer’s or duct tape should generally be used to mark each handhold and if necessary, staples should be used to ensure the tape adheres to the wall. Refer to rules 6.9.7 and 6.9.8. Taped flashes or boxes should be taped in such a way that the tape clearly marks the handhold(s) so it can be seen by a competitor, but the possibility of a climber’s body touching the tape is minimized. When marked with flashes the tape should be approximately 8” long.

- When routesetting where each hold of a route/problem is marked with tape (for example, in Local/Redpoint Classic competitions where routes/problems are set with tape demarcation rather than only by color), the taped flashes marked on the starting handhold(s) should be designated specifically as the starting handhold(s) taped flashes, such that competitors can easily discern between the starting handhold(s) and other holds on the route/problem(s). For example, the word “START” may be written in bold on each taped flash that demarcates the starting handhold(s) and this method is recommended but other demarcation methods may be used if necessary.

16.2 Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring - Bouldering

Marking of Boulder Problems for Multi-Zone Scoring: Generally, 1” gaffer’s or duct tape should be used to mark the start, each scored Zone handhold, and the finish, with a placard visibly displaying the value of the Zone handhold(s), 5, 10, or 15, respectively, and the finish, 25. In the event a placard is not used, the value of the Zone handhold(s) and finish handhold should be otherwise marked on the tape. Refer to rules 6.9.7 and 6.9.8 for general.

- The Chief Routesetter shall determine which handholds shall be marked as Zone handholds, where the Zone demarcation should aid the separation of competitors, on each problem, fairly (in a way that is not anticipated to distinctly advantage or disadvantage, competitors of different heights, for example), and effectively (in a way that is anticipated to separate competitors with markedly different performance).

- As outlined in rule 6.19.7(c)(iii), three (3) Zone handholds shall generally be marked, where the first Zone handhold in the progression of the problem shall be “5” points, the second Zone “10” points, and the third Zone “15” points. Where the routesetter can mark three (3) Zone handholds fairly and effectively, s/he should always mark three (3) Zone handholds.

- Only in uniquely short problems where the Chief Routesetter deems there are not enough handholds to mark three Zone handholds fairly and effectively, should s/he then mark two, or only one. In the rare instance(s) where only two Zone handholds are marked, the first Zone shall be valued at 10 points and the second Zone valued at 15 points. If, in a very short problem, there is only one Zone handhold that can fairly and effectively be marked, the value of that Zone handhold shall be 15 points.
• If a problem is set in complete isolation from all other problems (i.e. while climbing it is not possible to use handholds from another problem), then only the start handhold(s), zone handhold(s), and finish handhold must be marked with tape, where the start may be labeled “START,” each respective zone is labeled with a “5,” “10,” “15,” respectively, and the finish handhold labeled “25.”

• If there are multiple problems set in a climbing "lane," (i.e. while climbing it would be possible to use handholds from another problem), as in Redpoint “Classic” competitions (refer to rules 5.7.6), then all holds must be marked with tape and the start handhold(s), zone handhold(s), and finish handhold must be marked further to display the values, where the start should be labeled “START,” each respective zone labeled with a “5,” “10,” “15,” respectively, and the finish handhold labeled “25.”

Example Boulder Problem:

**TOP = 25 POINTS**

Completing a problem on the first attempt is a score of 25 POINTS. Flashing all four problems in a round with four problems is a perfect score of 100.

**ZONES = 5 / 10 / 15 POINTS**

ZONE handholds are marked, worth 5, 10 and 15 POINTS, respectively. Competitors who control a ZONE handhold receive the points for that handhold.

**FALLS = .1 POINT DEDUCTION(S)**

A deduction of .10 POINT(s) for the total FALLS recorded to reach the competitors highest scored point in each problem (either TOP or highest ZONE handhold).

**Scoring Considerations for Boulder Problems in Multi-Zone Scoring:** Maps are not necessary in the scoring of problems as each problem is scored either by completion of Tops with each problem having a value depending on the competition format (refer to the chart in rule 6.4.5(b)), or, by Tops and Zones (refer to rule 6.19.7), where the values are labeled on the problem.

• In the bouldering scoring outlined in rule 6.19.7, the only scores a competitor may be recorded as having achieved for each attempt of a problem are either 0, 5, 10, 15, or 25. Competitors are recorded for those respective scores for having controlled the handhold(s) labeled with those values based on the definition of control outlined in rule 6.19.1.

• Zone handhold(s) shall not be labeled or scored based on match, bridge, contingency or other factors commonly used in scoring for routes and described below. A competitor shall receive the score for a Zone handhold if they achieve control of that handhold; no other condition is required to achieve the score.

• A single hold should not be marked as multiple Zone handholds. Only in exceptional circumstances where a hold may be a single object with multiple scored handholds as part of it, may this be permitted. For example, if a large volume or feature has two distinct handholds that can clearly be marked as distinct handholds, easily discernible by competitors and judges alike, this may be permitted. In this example, when the competitor initially attains a first part of the
hold (1st Zone, marked with 5), they shall receive 5, but only after controlling the next part of the same hold (2nd Zone handhold, marked with 10), shall they then receive 10.

**Example Scorecard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Example Scoring Detail – Competitor A**

- **Problem 1:** Completed the problem on his second attempt, thus recording one fall (deduction of .1) for a score of 24.9.
- **Problem 2:** Completed the problem on his first attempt, thus recording no falls (therefore no deductions) for a score of 25.0.
- **Problem 3:** Controlled the ZONE worth fifteen (15) points on his third attempt, thus recording two falls (deduction of .2) for a score of 14.8.
- **Problem 4:** Controlled the ZONE worth ten (10) points on his first attempt, thus recording no falls (therefore no deductions) for a score of 10.0.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem 1</th>
<th>Problem 2</th>
<th>Problem 3</th>
<th>Problem 4</th>
<th>Total Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>74.7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Example Results:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competitor</th>
<th>Pr 1</th>
<th>Pr 2</th>
<th>Pr 3</th>
<th>Pr 4</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competitor A</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>74.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitor B</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>74.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitor C</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitor D</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>69.622</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitor E</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>69.622</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitor F</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
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<td>9.7</td>
<td>64.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competitor G</td>
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<td>Competitor H</td>
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<td>14.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>54.70</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Where competitors have unique scores to the tenth decimal place, scores shall be displayed only to that decimal place as shown with Competitors A (74.7), B (74.4), C (69.8), and F (64.7).

As outlined in rules 6.19.7(c)(i) – 6.19.7(c)(iii), where two or more competitors have the same score based on primary factors (as displayed to the tenth decimal place), their scores shall further display decimal places showing secondary scoring factors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competitor</th>
<th>Pr 1</th>
<th>Pr 2</th>
<th>Pr 3</th>
<th>Pr 4</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competitor D</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>69.622</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitor E</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>69.621</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**# FLASHES:** Competitor D recorded two Flashes while Competitor E recorded only one. Based on this secondary scoring factor Competitor D is thus ranked higher.

**# TOPS:** Both Competitor D and Competitor E recorded 2 Tops.
16.3 Routesetting and Scoring Guidelines - Sport

Scoring Considerations for Routes:

**Route Map:** Scoring, *for routes only,* is dictated by a “route map” the Chief Routesetter creates, for use by the judge. Each consecutive handhold in a route/problem shall be scored with the next highest number in progression, according to what is determined by the Chief Routesetter to be the *most likely* sequence of climbing the route. *Refer to rule 6.19.5.*

**Starting Position:** A single starting handhold should be marked with a (1/2). Two individual starting handholds should be marked with a (1) and (2) respectively. Each consecutive scored handhold in a route should receive the next number in progression, determined by the *most likely* path of the route.

**Match:** If it is determined by the Chief Routesetter that it is most likely *and* advantageous for the majority of competitors to “match” a handhold in the progression of a route/problem, the handhold should be scored as a match. A match should be written on a route map with a slash symbol. For example: *(6/7).*

**Bridge:** A “bridge” is a scoring method where two or more individual handholds (typically close to one another) may be scored such that the climber receives a first numbered score for controlling either of the handholds with one hand and a second for then simultaneously controlling the other handhold with the other hand. A bridge is used when the competitor may have multiple options for climbing a sequence and might, for example, move right hand first to an edge *(10)* and then left hand to an under cling *(11)* or may go left hand first to the under cling *(10)* and then right hand to the edge *(11).* The competitor shall receive the first numbered score of the bridge once one hand controls *either* of the handholds that are marked as part of a bridge, and the second numbered score of the bridge once the other hand controls the other handhold, regardless of the order. The competitor only receives the higher numbered score of the bridge when *both* handholds are controlled simultaneously, with both hands. If a competitor matches a single handhold that is part of a bridge, but has not controlled the other handhold, they shall only receive the first score of the bridge. In the event a specific “area” is defined as a bridge, demarcated by a “box” on the Route Map, rather than an “arc” connecting two holds, then when a climber controls any handhold(s) with both hands, within this box, they shall receive both points of the bridge.

**Left or Right:** A handhold may be scored with a defined “L” or “R” meaning that in order to receive the score for the handhold, the competitor must have it in control with that particular hand. This scoring method would typically be used if a competitor may easily reach handhold *(12)* from handhold *(11) with their left hand,* for example, but would only be likely to meaningfully advance in the route, with their *right hand* on handhold *(12).* Thus, if the handhold is scored *(12R),* they will only receive the score for *(12)* if they have control of the handhold with their right hand.

**Contingent Scoring:** A handhold may be scored as a “contingent” hold, meaning that the competitor may only receive the score for that handhold, *if* they already have controlled the handhold that its score is contingent upon. For example, where a competitor attains control of a high handhold with their right hand, and receives *(15)* and then reaches down to an under cling with their left hand, receiving *(16)* for control of the under cling. The numbered handhold *(16)* may be scored as contingent upon control of *(15).* *If* that handhold (often lower) could be reached earlier in the progression of the route, *but not controlled in a way that meaningfully advances the climber’s path in the route.* The point value for a contingent hold is *only* awarded when the competitor has controlled the specifically designated hold that precedes the contingent hold. In the event the competitor controls the contingent hold without controlling the designated preceding hold no point value shall be awarded for the contingent hold.

**Hold with Multiple Scored Points:** A hold may be a single object with multiple scored handholds. For example, if a volume or feature has two distinct handholds and the competitor initially attains a first part of the hold (handhold *(14)*), but then must make another movement to attain the next part of the same hold (handhold *(15)*), they would first receive 14, then 15.

Additionally, a single handhold may be scored with two numbered scores, if used at different times. For example, a single handhold may be scored both 15R, and 17L. In this scenario, the climber receives control for 15 when they control it with their right hand. When they move again with their right hand, to hold 16, and then bring their left hand in to control the same handhold originally scored as 15, they would receive 17.
16.4 Scored Onsight Route Example

ROUTE: MYC Q1
SETTER: JM
TOTAL POINTS: 22