



May 15, 2018

To the USA Climbing family,

It has come to our attention that there was an incident this weekend at one of our Sport and Speed Regional Championships in which a climber was not belayed appropriately and took a precipitous fall.

We would like to state here that the health and safety of our athletes is of the utmost concern to USA Climbing, and this concern is present in all of our decision-making processes. In fact, earlier this year, USA Climbing formed a Risk Management Committee that advises the Board and the CEO on the organization's safety program. The program's goal is "...to the extent possible, prevent fatalities and disabling or disfiguring injuries..." and "...reduce the frequency and severity of all injuries" in relation to USA Climbing events and programs. The multi-disciplinary Committee is made up of various professionals who have expertise in the field of risk management (workplace safety, legal, medical), and USA Climbing is very happy that they have volunteered to assist us. As some of you already may know, the Committee currently is reviewing belay practices at USA Climbing events and programs, including the potential use of auto-belay devices.

The efforts of this Committee have been ongoing – and the Committee is now reviewing the incident from last weekend and will make a recommendation to USA Climbing and its Board of Directors if it concludes that any changes to USAC rules or practices are warranted. To assist USA Climbing in this ongoing effort, we encourage participants to report to USA Climbing any safety incidents that occur during USA Climbing events or programs so that the Board of Directors and the Committee can have access to as much information as possible when evaluating USA Climbing's overall safety program.

Thank you, as always, for your support of USA Climbing and your desire to keep our athletes safe – we are united in this effort.

Sincerely,

Kynan Waggoner
Chief Executive Officer

USA Climbing
501(c)(3)
Federal EIN 91-1899953



Adaptive | Bouldering | Collegiate | Speed | Sport
4665 Nautilus Court Suite 502A | Boulder, CO 80301
303-499-0715 | www.usaclimbing.org