Rulebook

BOULDERING | SPEED | SPORT

ADAPTIVE | COLLEGIATE
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 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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1 Significant Changes – Overview

*** As of May 31, 2018, some rules have been updated to this v.4 of the 2017-2018 Rulebook, as highlighted in blue in the relevant sections. Significant changes are referenced immediately below.

- **Rule 2.1**: Addition of introductory language outlining general roles and responsibilities and addition of the word “referee,” to be used interchangeably with “official.” Also refer to 11.1.1.

- **Rule 2.2.1**: Clarification of coach certification requirements outlining that if coaching fewer than three (3) member competitors, a coach must have "submitted a letter documenting his/her coaching experience accompanied by references, and..."

- **Rule 3.2.1**: Revision of DAY-Member section: “A DAY-Member pass may be purchased online at www.usaclimbing.org, for a fee of $10.00, and is only valid for that competition.”

- **Rule 3.4.1**: Clarification of rule relating to changing region and/or team affiliation(s) such that doing so is conditional upon: “If a competitor moves to a residence in a different region and/or changes team affiliation...”

- **Rule 3.4.6**: Addition of rule outlining that Collegiate competitors may be granted an exception to participate in a Regional Championship outside of their home Region, if participating in an educational program requiring residency outside his/her home region and meeting the necessary requirements for documentation. These competitors shall not be eligible for a first-round invitation to the Collegiate National Championship.

- **Rules 3.6.1 and 3.6.2**: Addition of section outlining the Bouldering Open National Ranking including participation requirements and ranking points structure and section pertaining to the Bouldering Open National Cup Series outlining general rules for participation.

- **Rule 3.6.3**: Revision of rules pertaining to participation at the Bouldering Open National Championship, outlining that individuals qualify either by being a World and/or Pan American Champion, U.S. Citizens having competed in semi-finals in the prior year’s Open National Championship, or by being ranked among the top one hundred (100) in the Bouldering Open National Ranking at the conclusion of the final National Cup Series competition. Additionally, competitors who are not top one hundred (100) in the National Ranking but who participated in a minimum of one National Cup Series competition shall also be eligible, in context of a maximum isolation time of eight (8) hours for any competitor.

- **Rule 3.9.2**: Addition of language outlining registration information and deadlines for Youth Regional Championships.

- **Rules 3.14.2**: Addition of language pertaining to anti-doping to comply with USAC Bylaws.

- **Rules 4.5, 4.6 and 4.9**: Revision of rules pertaining to composition of National Teams and invitations to International competitions, including the addition of “Overall” National Teams and rules outlining invitations for members of both “Overall” and individual discipline (Bouldering, Sport, and Speed) National Teams, based on IFSC quotas.

- **Rule 5.1.1**: Addition of the sentence: “Climbing poses the risk of injury. Competitors, officials, coaches and others participate in climbing competitions at their own risk.”

- **Rule 5.4**: Addition of an introductory paragraph for clarification between a “competition” and a “round” of competition: “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 5.5 and 5.6.”

- **Rule 5.4.3**: Definition of “flash,” and clarification of “flash demonstration,” as an element of an onsight competition format rather than a competition format itself: “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.”
Rule 5.4.5: Clarification of redpoint “Classic” format, as a format type where routes/problems have unique values (100, 200, 300, and so on) and where a competitor’s goal is to complete routes/problems of the highest value s/he can achieve, with his/her final score the sum of the top three (3) routes, or top five (5) problems completed.

Rule 5.4.6: Addition of a new redpoint format type, referred to as “Modified,” where routes/problems each have the same value (25) and a competitor’s goal is to complete his/her maximum quantity of routes/problems, with his/her final score the sum of all points achieved. Also refer to rules relating to scoring and ranking: 5.18.3 and 6.10.3b) (Sport Climbing) and 5.18.5 and 8.4.1 (Bouldering).

Rule 5.5.1: Addition of rule outlining format for the Bouldering Open National Cup Series, where; “competitions shall be two round competitions. The qualification round shall be a redpoint format as per rule 5.4.6. The final round shall be an onsight format as per rule 5.4.1, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems.”

Rule 5.8.7: Revision of rule defining a finish in Bouldering being only one (1) handhold.

Rule 5.9.1: Revision of rule pertaining to the Technical Meeting, outlining that it is open to: “all registered athletes and USAC certified coaches, to the extent possible based on the host facility accommodations.”

Rules 5.15.9a and 5.15.9c): Clarification of rules pertaining to announcing technical incidents in Speed Climbing and the re-run of speed routes when technical incidents occur.

Rule 5.18.3: Revision of rules pertaining to scoring for Sport Climbing, differentiated by redpoint “Classic,” redpoint “Modified” and onsight format competition rounds.

Rule 5.18.5: Revision of rules pertaining to scoring for Bouldering, differentiated by redpoint “Classic,” and redpoint “Modified” and Onsight format competition rounds, including description of new Bouldering scoring methodology, commonly referred to as the “Multi-Zone” or “100-Point” system.

Rule 5.19.1: Revision of rule pertaining to advancement between rounds at Championship events: “Any multiple round competition shall have a defined range of advancement for ranked competitors who are not already members of, but whom are eligible to be on, a U.S. National Team. In the event of a tie for the last advancing rank placement, all competitors tied for that rank placement shall advance to the next round. Prior round scores shall be used to break ties for all rounds in both redpoint and onsight competitions.”

Rules 5.19.5: Addition of “top ten (10) World Ranked competitor,” as “extra quota” with respect to advancement from the qualification to semi-final round of Open National Championship competitions. Additionally, revision of rule outlining advancement from the semi-final to final round eliminating additional competitors advancing to finals: “No additional “extra quota” competitors shall advance to the final round in National Open competitions.”

Rule 5.19.6: Revision of rules outlining advancement to Finals at Collegiate Nationals such that where formerly twenty (20) competitors advanced in each discipline, twenty-five (25) shall now advance to Finals in Bouldering and Sport and twenty-six (26) in Speed.

Rule 5.21.1: Revision of rule relating to ties at Youth Championship competitions such that ties are only broken where rank placements involve advancement to the next competition (e.g. Regionals to Divisionals, or Divisionals to Nationals).

Rule 5.21.2: Revision of rule regarding ties at Local competitions: “At the discretion of the Chief Judge in consultation with the Event Organizer and Chief Routesetter, ties at Local competitions may stand.”

Rule 6.5.3: Elimination of: “in the case of a traverse or roof section of the route, before the competitor’s body has moved beyond an unclipped quickdraw in the line of the route; or,”

Rule 7.6.4: Addition of the option for a “3-beep” system may be used, wherein the timing system will provide a succession of three (3) beeps spaced one (1) second apart and where the two first beeps have an identical tone and the last a higher pitch.
2 USA Climbing Competition Officials and Coaches

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 to coordinate competition organization and execution and any individual with discretion to make field of play decisions. USA Climbing (USAC) 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.

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, for the National Championship, is appointed by USA Climbing to oversee 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 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 routesetting 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 Coaches – Certification
2.2.1 In order to be considered for a coaching certification, a coach must have by 11:59 p.m. (MTN) on:

   I. November 1st for the Bouldering Championship season;

   II. March 1st for the Collegiate Championship season;

   III. April 1st for the Sport & Speed and Adaptive Championship season.

   - Obtained a USA Climbing Coaches 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

   - Submitted documentation proving current First Aid and CPR certification through the season in which their certification is valid; and

   - Authorized USA Climbing to conduct a criminal background check and respond promptly to requests from vendor for additional information (background checks are valid for a maximum of two USA Climbing seasons); and

   - Submitted SafeSport Training Certificate proving successful completion of the SafeSport online training program (Certificates are valid for a maximum of two USA Climbing seasons).

Refer to the Coaches section of www.usaclimbing.org for instructions on submitting the above documentation.

2.2.2 The ability to enter isolation (ISO) at USAC championship events and/or to file an appeal on behalf of a competitor is limited to current USAC certified member coaches. USA Climbing may limit other activities to USAC certified coaches for reasons including the protection of member athletes.

2.2.3 Requirements for initial and continuing coaching certification include: Adhering to USA Climbing SafeSport Policies, disclosing personal information to USA Climbing, and submitting to initial
and ongoing background checks. Certification is subject to review and revocation is subject to USA Climbing’s Bylaws.

2.2.4 To participate in the Youth Team Championship competition, a team must have at least one coach that is certified, as outlined above.

3 Competitor Membership, Participation and Eligibility

3.1 Membership Applications

3.1.1 USA Climbing has multiple membership categories as outlined in Section 5.1 of the USA Climbing Bylaws. Competitors are required to hold a current Membership in order to compete in a USA Climbing sanctioned competition. Additional information about purchasing memberships, to the extent not addressed in this Rulebook, can be found on www.usaclimbing.org. Memberships are valid for one season – from September 1st through the following August 31st. A competitor must have a membership in the competition season(s) (Bouldering, Sport and Speed, and/or Collegiate) in which s/he is competing. Refer to Rule 3.8.1

3.2 DAY-Member Pass

3.2.1 A DAY-Member pass may be available for individuals who would like to compete in a USAC sanctioned climbing competition, as determined by the specific rules for that competition. A DAY-Member pass may be purchased online at www.usaclimbing.org, for a fee of $10.00, and is only valid for that competition. A DAY-Member pass can be purchased beginning the Monday prior to the competition and no later than the start of the competition. There is no limit to the number of DAY-Member passes a person may purchase in a season. The fees paid for DAY-Member passes will not be applied or credited toward any other type of USAC membership.

Note: For the Youth competitive season, DAY-Members have until the close of registration for the respective Regional Championship to purchase a USA Climbing membership. By doing so, the competition will be applied to the attendance/participation requirement outlined in rule 3.6. DAY-Members that do not obtain a USAC membership within the above stated time frame will not be eligible to receive credit for that local competition.

3.3 Categories

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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>

3.3.2 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 to USA Climbing to documents@usaclimbing.org. More
information can be found on the Collegiate section of the www.usaclimbing.org website.

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 The Adaptive category is open to competitors with disabilities. Refer to Rule 10.1.

3.3.5 Transgender Participation. A competitor may register for a membership as the gender with which the competitor identifies. 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 sincerely held and reflects the person’s 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.

This rule is subject to any superseding rule or policy of any applicable national or international governing body with respect to international competition.

3.4 Regions and Divisions

3.4.1 All 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 change his/her home region and/or team affiliation during the season according to procedures outlined in rule 4.2.1d).

3.4.2 Youth Competitors must compete in their assigned home region for their Regional Championship in order to be eligible to advance to the Divisional Championships. Youth Competitors may not compete in a Regional Championship outside of their home region.

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

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

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

a) Be required to have a USAC membership and register for the competition by the close of the first (1st) round registration deadline for their Divisional Championships. They are not required, however, to attend any local competitions or the Regional 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.

d) Be pre-qualified to compete at the Divisional Championship regardless of how they may have placed at any local competitions, or at the Regional Championship.

3.4.6 Collegiate competitors must compete in their assigned home region for their Regional Championship to be eligible for the National Championships unless granted an exception to participate in a different Regional Championship based on an educational program requiring residency outside his/her home region. Collegiate competitors shall be granted an exception provided they:

a) Are 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.

b) Submitted documentation from his/her college/university outlining the location and duration of the educational program along with a request to participate in a specific Collegiate Regional Championship other than the one held in his/her home Region, by 11:59 p.m. (MTN) March 1st. Refer to the Collegiate section of www.usaclimbing.org for instructions on submitting the above documentation.

Note: Any Collegiate competitors granted an exception as outlined above and participating in a Collegiate Regional Championship other than their home Regional Championship shall be considered participatory competitors only, with respect to invitations for the Collegiate National Championships. Invitations to the Collegiate National Championship shall be extended as outlined in Rule 3.7.3, where these participatory competitors will not be counted within the rankings in either the Collegiate Regional Championship they participate in nor their home Regional Championship. These competitors shall not be eligible for a first-round invitation to the Collegiate National Championship but shall be eligible to register after the first-round invitation period outlined in Rule 3.7.4 has closed.

3.5 Registration of Competitors

3.5.1 Registration for a Local competition is typically handled directly with the host facility. Please refer to your Regional page on the USA Climbing website for specific details. Additionally, you may contact your Regional Coordinator or the host facility for registration information.

3.5.2 Registration for the Regional, Divisional and National Championships is conducted online at www.usaclimbing.org. All competitors must register directly with USAC as part of the eligibility requirement for all Championship Events. Additionally, competitors must meet any and all registration guidelines and/or deadlines, which are posted online. Failure to do so will result in loss of eligibility.

3.5.3 Upon registering, 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.

3.6 Participation and Eligibility – Open Championship Rankings and Events

3.6.1 Bouldering Season Open National 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 and/or the Bouldering Open National Championships will accrue points and a current Bouldering Season Open National Ranking will be maintained on www.usaclimbing.org. Athletes are eligible to accumulate points in the Bouldering Season Open National Ranking provided:

a) They are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st (refer to rule 3.3.2), and

b) Have a purchased a USAC membership no later than the Wednesday following the final National Cup Series competition.
Competitors will be awarded ranking points as follows:

### National Cup Series Competitions

#### 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 3.6.1 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 3.3.2), and

b) Have a 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 a DAY-Member pass 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 the those in this Rulebook.

### 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 3.3.3), and

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

c) They have met at least one of the following eligibility requirements:

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

ii. Are ranked in the top one hundred (100), based on the Bouldering Season Open National Ranking after the final National Cup Series competition;

iii. For **U.S. Citizen competitors only**, competed in the semi-final round of the Open Bouldering National Championship in the previous season;

iv. For the 2018 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 shall follow the order above, where any World, Pan American, and U.S. National Champion(s) will first be placed at the start of the running order, followed by competitors ranked in the top one hundred (100), in order of their ranking. Additional competitors outlined in 3.6.3c) iii and 3.6.3c) iv above shall next be placed in the running order, according to the time of their registration where the competitor who has registered last shall be placed as the final competitor in the running order.

3.6.4 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 3.3.2), and
b) Have a purchased a USAC membership no later than the registration deadline for the Sport & Speed Open National Championship;

3.7 Participation and Eligibility – Collegiate Championship Events
3.7.1 Collegiate members are eligible to compete at a Collegiate Regional Championship provided they have:

a) Competed in a minimum of, and received credit for, one (1) local competition as a Collegiate member. (Note: a DAY-Member pass does not qualify, refer to Rule 3.2.1). Additionally, for local competitions, registration, in and of itself, does not fulfill the attendance requirement. An individual must actually compete/participate in the event and receive a score in order to receive attendance credit for the competition (event). 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

b) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.7.2 Collegiate members are eligible to compete at the Collegiate National Championships provided they have:

a) Competed at his/her “home” Collegiate Regional Championship.

b) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.7.3 A first-round invitation to register for the Collegiate National Championships shall be extended to the highest ranked competitors from Collegiate Regional Championships where a “quota” for the first-round invitations shall be determined from average participation from prior seasons. Refer to the Collegiate section of www.usaclimbing.org for quotas for each Collegiate Region, based on the following:

a) If there is an average of one hundred (100) or more competitors over the prior two seasons in a Collegiate Regional Championship, the twenty (20) highest ranked competitors from that Region, of each gender and in each discipline, shall receive a first-round invitation to the Collegiate National Championship.

b) If there is an average of between fifty (50) and ninety-nine (99) competitors over the prior two seasons in a Collegiate Regional Championship, the ten (10) highest ranked competitors from that Region, of each gender and in each discipline, shall receive a first-round invitation to the Collegiate National Championship.

c) If there is an average of less than fifty (50) competitors over the prior two seasons in a Collegiate Regional Championship, or if a Collegiate Regional Championship is being hosted for the first time in a specific Region, the five (5) highest ranked competitors from that Region, of each gender and in each discipline, shall receive a first-round invitation to the Collegiate National Championship.
Note: If no Collegiate Regional is hosted in a specific Region, first-round registration to the Collegiate National Championship shall be opened on a first-come, first-served basis to up to fifteen (15) Collegiate members, of each gender, from that Region who have competed in one (1) local competition as a Collegiate member. Refer to Rule 3.7.1a).

3.7.4 First-round invitation charts and 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 3.7.3 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. Once the first-round registration period closes USA Climbing will open registration to all competitors who competed in their home Collegiate Regional Championship and eligible competitors may then also register.

3.8 Participation and Eligibility – Youth Championship Events

3.8.1 The Bouldering and Sport and Speed Regional Championships are open only to USAC youth members who have met the following requirements:

a) Bouldering and Sport competitors must have competed in a minimum of, and received credit for, two (2) local competitions as a USAC member (Note: a DAY-Member pass does not qualify, refer to Rule 3.2.1). For local competitions, registration, in and of itself, does not fulfill the attendance requirement. An individual must actually compete/participate in the event and receive a score in order to receive attendance credit for the competition (event). 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 Bouldering / Sport - 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.

b) Speed-only competitors are not required to attend local competitions. They must, however, purchase a USAC membership by the registration deadline for the Sport and Speed Regional Championships.

c) Bouldering, Sport and Speed competitors must meet all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

3.8.2 The Bouldering and Sport and Speed 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.

3.8.3 The local competition minimum participation requirement, as outlined in rule 3.8.3, must be met by attending any USAC sanctioned competition, in any state or USAC Region, within that particular series. For example, Bouldering competitions do not count toward fulfilling the minimum competition requirement for the Sport season.

Note: Collegiate competitions may be used to fulfill the youth local participation requirement if the competitor is enrolled in a college or university, is age-eligible to compete in both youth and Collegiate events and has a USAC and Collegiate membership. Additionally, if a competitor has purchased a USAC membership and wishes to add a Collegiate membership, s/he may do so at no additional charge – please contact USA Climbing at: info@usaclimbing.org. Refer to rule 3.1.1

3.8.4 Competitors may also participate in a climbing event sanctioned by either the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), or by an IFSC Member Federation, provided it takes place no earlier than September 1st and prior to the close of registration for Regional Championships. Proof of participation at an IFSC/member Federation sanctioned event shall be required. The competitor’s name, USAC membership number, the date of the event and a copy of the results
must be received by USAC prior to the close of registration for Regional Championships. Competitors will only receive credit for the discipline that they participated in and the credit may only be applied to the appropriate competition series – Bouldering or Sport.

3.9 Invitations – Youth Championship Events
3.9.1 In determining invitations to the Championship events, rules relating to “Byes,” “DAY-Members,” and “Non-U.S. citizens” shall apply.

3.9.2 All competitors who have met the requirements outlined in rule 3.8.1 above are automatically invited to register for the Regional Championship. There will be an initial registration period of thirty (30) days during which all eligible competitors are encouraged to register. The initial registration period for Bouldering Youth Regionals shall be from November 1st to November 30th, and for Sport & Speed Youth Regionals, from April 1st to April 30th. At the deadline of this initial registration period, USAC will post a roster of currently registered competitors and will allow all other eligible members, who have not yet registered, an additional 48 hours to register. Competitors that register during this additional 48-hour registration period will incur a late fee of $100.00. **Missing the deadline for registration may not be appealed.**

3.9.3 Invitations to the Divisional Championship will be announced at the conclusion of the Regional Championship. Eligible competitors as outlined in rule 3.8, above, who, at the conclusion of the Regional Championship, are ranked first (1st) through tenth (10th) will be invited to the Divisional Championship.

3.9.4 Invitations to the National Championship 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.

3.10 Invitation Acceptance – Youth Championship Events
3.10.1 Registration for the event is the sole means of acceptance. Failure to accept your invitation by the stated deadline will result in the invitation being re-issued to the next qualified competitor. 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.

3.10.2 Upon registration, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided. If a confirmation email is not received, please contact USA Climbing immediately at info@usaclimbing.org.

3.10.3 All first (1st) round Divisional Championship invitees must accept their invitation within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of registration. Registration shall be open by the conclusion of the last Regional Championship that is held within the Division.

3.10.4 All first (1st) round National Championship invitees must accept their invitation within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of registration. Registration shall be open by the conclusion of the Divisional Championships.

3.10.5 There will be a 72-hour first (1st) round registration period. At the deadline of this registration period, USAC will post a Reissued 1st Round Registration Chart. The Reissued 1st Round Registration period will allow competitors that received a 1st Round invitation but did not register within the initial 72-hour period, an additional 24 hours to register. Competitors that register during the Reissued 1st Round registration period will incur a late fee of $100.00. Failure to register during this time shall result in the 1st round invitee’s invitation being passed-down to the next qualified competitor. **The loss of the invitation may not be appealed.**

3.10.6 A competitor who has received a “Bye” to the National Championship must register before the deadline for the first (1st) round of invitations.

3.10.7 The only notification for 2nd and subsequent round invitees is via the posted invitation chart on the USAC website. Competitors receiving a second (2nd) or subsequent round invitation have forty-eight (48) hours, from the posting of the invitation chart, to register for the event.

3.10.8 There will be no more than three (3) rounds of invitations issued and invitations will not be issued
with less than twelve (12) days prior to the start of the event.

3.11 Additional Invitations – Youth Championship Events
3.11.1 In addition to any reigning 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.

3.11.2 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) 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 3.11.2 ai, 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.

3.12 Invitations, Declined or Unfilled – Youth Championship Events
3.12.1 USAC may elect to award declined or unfilled championship invitations to the next competitor in line based upon championship event enrollment constraints.

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

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

3.12.4 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.

3.12.5 For the Divisional Championship, an invitation that is unfilled or declined shall be re-issued to the next eligible competitor within the originating Region. If the pool of eligible competitors within the Region is exhausted, the invitation will be reissued to the other Region within that Division. Reissued invitations must remain within the same category and gender from which they originated.

3.12.6 For the National Championship, an invitation that is unfilled or declined shall be re-issued to the next eligible competitor within the originating Division. If the pool of eligible competitors within that Division is exhausted, the invitation will be reissued to the Division with the highest number of eligible competitors who have not received an invitation. If there is a tie in the number of eligible competitors whom have yet to receive an invitation, both Divisions will receive a re-issued invitation. If there are multiple invitations to re-issue, they will be re-issued “round robin,” between the remaining Divisions, relative to the number of eligible competitors within that gender/category who have not received an invitation.

3.12.7 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.

3.13 Effects on Invitations and Rankings
3.13.1 DAY-Member Competitors
For Youth competitions, any and all DAY-Member competitors are welcome and encouraged to participate and compete at local level competitions. However, a DAY-Member 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 3.2.1.

3.13.2 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 must be current USAC members; or, they must provide proof of membership in their "home" country's federation by the deadline for Regionals registration by emailing a copy to documents@usaclimbing.org. The federation must be a member-in-good-standing with the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC). The competitor must provide proof of membership by the close of the registration period for Regional Championships.

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

c) In a multiple round competition, for each non-U.S. citizen competitor that places within the range of advancement to the next round, an additional competitor may be advanced, as determined by the rules for the specific competition. Refer to rule 5.19.

d) 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.

3.14 Anti-Doping Tests
3.14.1 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 an aspiring member National Governing Body of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), 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 USOC and IFSC, as well as the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). In addition, USOC Bylaw Chapter XXIII, Section 2(G) provides that, as a condition of membership in the USOC, 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 USOC to conduct drug testing. The USOC has designated the United States Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") as that organization. The current anti-doping rules of the USOC, IFSC and USADA are available at the offices of USA Climbing or online at the following
websites:

a) International Federation of Sport Climbing: www.ifsc-climbing.org, or

b) United States Olympic Committee: www.usoc.org, or


3.14.2 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, USOC, WADA and USADA including the USADA Protocol for Olympic and Paralympic Movement Testing, and all other policies and rules adopted by the IFSC 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, National Teams and International Competitions

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 minimum of three (3) athletes who are members of USA Climbing and a USA Climbing certified coach.

b) Team members must be in good standing with their coach, team policies, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing.

c) All team members shall designate their team affiliation during their USA Climbing membership registration.

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, to documents@usaclimbing.org by 11:59pm Mountain Time on:

i. November 1st for the Bouldering season;

ii. April 1st for the Sport & Speed season.

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 by the date and time outlined in rule 4.2.1b. USA Climbing will not accept changes to a team or team affiliation after this point.

4.3 Youth Climbing Team Competition – Championship Events

4.3.1 Regional Championship

To be eligible for the Team Competition at the Regional Championship, each youth competitor must be a USA Climbing member and at least one team coach must be certified as outlined in rule 2.2. Additionally, all team members must have represented his/her team at local competitions during the Bouldering and/or Sport & Speed season. All team members are required to compete, together, at their assigned “home” Regional Championship, as defined by rule 3.4. 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.

4.3.2 Divisional Championship

To be eligible for the Team Competition at the Divisional Championship, each youth competitor must be a USA Climbing member and at least one team coach must be certified as outlined in rule 2.2. Additionally, all team members must have represented his/her team at local competitions during the Bouldering and/or Sport & Speed season. All team members are required to compete, together, at their assigned “home” Divisional Championship, as defined by rule 3.4. Competitors that have a bye to the Divisional Championship are exempt from the local competition requirement and are eligible for the team competition at the Divisional Championship.

4.3.3 National Championship

To be eligible for the Team Competition at the National Championship, each youth competitor must be a member of USA Climbing and at least one team coach must be certified, as outlined in rule 2.2. Additionally, all team members must have represented his/her team at local competitions and competed, together, at their assigned “home” Regional and Divisional Championships, as defined by rule 3.4. 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.

4.4 Team Competition – Scoring

4.4.1 At Regional, Divisional and National Championships, team members will accrue points based
on their final ranking. Competitors, in each category, are awarded points as follows:

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Competitors ranked 30th or lower shall each receive one (1) point.

4.4.2 Team rankings shall be calculated by adding the ranking points of the highest ranked individual team member participating in each discipline of the competition. At Youth Regional, Divisional and National Championships, the number of competitors whose points shall be used for calculating the team ranking shall be one (1) competitor for each gender and each category.

4.4.3 At the Collegiate Regional and National Championships, team rankings shall be calculated by adding the ranking points of the three (3) highest ranked individual team members participating in each discipline of the competition. Team members, however, may not be counted in more than one discipline.

4.4.4 For Youth National Championships, a separate Team National Championship award shall be determined for each discipline – Bouldering, Sport and Speed.

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

4.4.6 Tie(s) amongst the top three (3) ranked teams must be broken. 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) still remains, an additional team member shall be added until the tie(s) is/are broken.

4.4.7 Team and/or individual 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 U.S. National Teams Selection – Bouldering, Sport and Speed

4.5.1 The U.S. National Teams, for each category and discipline, are selected to represent the United States in sanctioned international competitions. These teams are determined by the results of the National Championships and shall be announced by USAC at the conclusion of each respective National Championship event.

4.5.2 Reigning World and/or Pan American Champions in the Open, Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories that are U.S. citizens are members of the U.S. National Team in their respective World and/or Pan Am Championship discipline(s).

4.5.3 In addition to rule 4.5.2, the U.S. National Teams are composed as follows:

a) U.S. Open National Teams are composed of the top six (6) U.S. citizen competitors from the Open National Championships and any reigning World and/or Pan American Champions.

b) U.S. Youth National Teams are composed of the top four (4) U.S. citizen competitors in the
Youth National Championships and any reigning World and/or Pan American Champions. In the event a reigning World and/or Pan American Champion in the Open, Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories finishes in the top four (4) U.S. citizen competitors in the National Championships, the next highest placed U.S. citizen competitor(s) will also be member(s) of the U.S. National Team.

4.6 U.S. National Teams Selection – “Overall”

4.6.1 The U.S. Overall National Team, in each category, will be determined by competitor rankings from the results of each of the National Championships – Bouldering, Sport and Speed.

4.6.2 Reigning Overall World and/or Pan American Champions in the Open, Junior, Youth A and Youth B categories that are U.S. citizens will be members of the U.S. Overall National Team in their respective World/Pan American Championship discipline(s).

4.6.3 U.S. Overall National Teams, are selected to represent the United States in sanctioned international competitions and are composed of the top four (4) U.S. citizen competitors, based on competitors’ rank placement in each of the National Championships. Each U.S. citizen competitor participating in all three National Championships shall be awarded ranking points for each individual event, as follows:

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Competitors ranked 30th or lower shall each receive one (1) point.

In determining the Overall Ranking for selection of the U.S. Overall National Teams, if two or more competitors are tied following the calculation of ranking points above, the tie shall be broken by comparing the ‘best’ result achieved by each tied competitor. If following this the tie remains unbroken, then the second-best results shall be compared. If following a comparison of all results the tie remains unbroken, then the head-to-head performance of any competitors remaining tied shall be used to break the tie.

4.7 U.S. National Teams Selection – Collegiate

4.7.1 The U.S. Collegiate National Team is composed of the top five (5) U.S. citizen competitors in the Collegiate National Championships, based on the Overall Ranking established from the points table outlined in rule 4.6.3 above.

4.8 Byes for National Team Members, National and International Champions

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

4.8.2 For each discipline, and the “Overall,” the reigning 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 National Championship. 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.

d) Their placement shall, in no way, reduce the number of competitors who would advance in their absence.

4.8.3 For each discipline, and the “Overall,” the reigning youth U.S. National Team members and U.S. National Team-Alternate 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.

4.8.4 For each discipline, the reigning Open National Champions, if they are age-eligible as youth competitors, will receive a bye to their respective Youth National Championship. Additionally:

a) For 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 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 Divisional Championships.

c) Each competitor who receives a bye must be a current member of USA Climbing.

4.8.5 Byes, for any Championship event, other than those outlined in rule 4.8, will not be awarded or granted, for any reason, including but not limited to medical injuries/conditions or academic graduation ceremonies.

4.9 Invitations to International Competitions
Invitations to compete at international competitions are extended based on IFSC quotas for National Federations. Invitations are extended to U.S. National Team members based on these quotas, in consideration of whether the competition consists of a single discipline (ie. World Cups) or may include all disciplines and awards for the “Overall” (e.g. Youth and Adult World or Pan American Championships).

4.9.1 Invitations to compete in single discipline(s) – Bouldering, Sport and Speed, at the IFSC Youth World Championships and Youth Pan American Championships (in the Youth A, B and Junior categories only) are extended to:

a) Any member of the U.S. National Teams that is a current Adult/Youth World/Pan American Champion, in the respective discipline(s), and/or a current Overall World/Pan American Champion.

b) In addition to a), four (4) invitations to compete at the IFSC World Youth Championships are first extended to members of the U.S. National Team, in the respective discipline(s).

Invitations to U.S. National Team members, in each category and for each single discipline(s) – Bouldering, Sport, and Speed – will first be extended to the four (4) U.S. National Team members in each respective discipline, unless those athlete(s) are also among the U.S. National Overall Team members in that category that will otherwise receive an invitation according rule 4.9.2 below, in which case the next ranked competitor from the National Championship of the
individual discipline, will be extended an invitation in that discipline.

4.9.2 As per IFSC Rules, the “Overall” is considered a separate discipline from the single Bouldering, Sport and Speed disciplines, wherein athletes are registered specifically as “Overall” competitors, being then automatically registered to compete in each single discipline. Accordingly, invitations to compete at Youth World Championships and Youth Pan American competitions may also be extended in addition to 4.9.1 as follows:

a) Two (2) invitations are extended to the highest ranked members of the U.S. Overall National Team.

4.9.3 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 4.9.1 and 4.9.2.

Note: The IFSC only recognizes athletes that attained 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.

4.9.4 Invitations to compete at the IFSC World Championships and Adult Pan American Championships, are extended to:

a) Any member of U.S. National Team(s) that is a current Adult/Youth World/Pan American Champion, in the respective discipline(s), and/or a current Overall World/Pan American Champion.

b) In addition to a), four (4) invitations are extended to members of the U.S. National Team, in the respective discipline(s).

Invitations to U.S. National Team members, in each category and for each single discipline(s) – Bouldering, Sport, and Speed – will first be extended to the four (4) U.S. National Team members in each respective discipline, unless those athlete(s) are also among the U.S. Overall National Team members in that category that may otherwise receive an invitation according to rule 4.9.5 below, in which case the next ranked competitor from the National Championship of the individual discipline, will be extended an invitation in that discipline.

4.9.5 As per IFSC Rules and outlined in 4.9.2 above, invitations to compete at the IFSC World Championships and Adult Pan American competitions may also be extended, in addition to 4.9.4, as follows:

a) At least one (1) invitation is extended to the highest ranked member(s) of the U.S. Overall National Team, based on the IFSC quota for the “Overall.”

4.9.6 Invitations to compete at IFSC World Cups are extended to:

a) Any member of the U.S. National Team, in the respective discipline(s), that is a current Adult/Youth World/Pan American Champion, and/or a current Overall World/Pan American Champion.

b) In addition to a), an invitation is extended to any competitor(s) ranked tenth (10th) or above on the relevant World Ranking at the start of the calendar year, in the respective discipline.

c) In addition to a) and b), all additional invitations to compete at IFSC World Cups are extended to members of the U.S. National Team, in the respective discipline, up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota.

4.9.7 Invitations to compete at World University Championship are extended to:

a) Any member of the U.S. Collegiate National Team, in the respective discipline(s), that is a current Adult/Youth World/Pan American Champion, and/or a current Overall World/Pan American Champion.

b) In addition to a), all additional invitations to compete at World University Championship are extended to members of the U.S. Collegiate National Team, up to the maximum number of USA Climbing competitors eligible to compete based on the competition quota.
4.9.8 In the event a U.S. National Team member of a single discipline declines their invitation, the invitation will be passed-down to the next highest placed U.S. citizen finalist of the respective National Championship. In the event a U.S. Overall National Team member declines their invitation, the invitation will be passed-down to the next highest ranked member of the U.S. Overall National Team. If an invitation remains and/or in the event USA Climbing is permitted to register additional competitors beyond those quotas outlined above, then the invitation will be extended to all competitors through an “Application Process.” Refer to the U.S. Team Selection in the Appendix of this Rulebook.

4.9.9 An individual that has been selected to compete in the place of a U.S. Youth National Team member at World Youth Championships or Pan American Championships shall then also be considered a U.S. Youth National Team member as an “Alternate.”

5 General Rules

5.1 Safety

5.1.1 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.

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 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.

5.1.4 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.

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

5.1.6 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.

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

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

5.1.9 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.

5.1.10 Competitors shall tie-in with a figure-8 knot with a follow through.

5.1.11 USAC recognizes that some host facilities utilize a pre-tied rope as a method to tying-in. In this case, it is recommended that two opposite facing auto-locking carabiners, at the tie-in point, be used.

5.1.12 All competitors shall adhere to the host facility’s policies.

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

5.1.14 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 12.

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

5.1.16 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 doctor present, and is assisting in the competition, this authority should be deferred to said individual.

5.2 Disciplines

5.2.1 Competition climbing includes the following disciplines:

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

b) Speed: Routes are attempted on top-rope, with the competitor belayed from below.

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

5.3 Competitions

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

5.3.2 The Bouldering, Sport & Speed and Collegiate climbing seasons are composed of:

a) A series of local competitions.

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

c) Regional and National Championships – Collegiate.

d) A Bouldering Open National Cup Series, for members 16 years of age or older

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

5.3.3 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.

5.3.4 Speed climbing is a component of the Sport & Speed and Collegiate seasons and is offered at all Sport and Collegiate Championship events. Speed climbing may be offered at Sport and Collegiate local competitions.

5.3.5 The dates for the above competitions shall be published on the USAC website.

5.4 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 5.5 and 5.6.

5.4.1 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 5.11, 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 5.10.

c) There may be an authorized period of observation of the route(s)/problem(s) prior to a competitor’s attempt.

d) 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.

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

f) 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.

g) The route time is started when the competitor is instructed to turn and climb when ready. The time-period includes a 40-second final preparation period, at the base of the route/problem. If the competitor has not started his/her attempt at the end of this 40-second period they shall be instructed to start immediately. Any further delay shall result in the competitor’s disqualification on that route/problem. The 40-second start time is required at the Championship events, but optional and at the discretion of the Chief Judge at local level onsight competitions.

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 5.18.

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

j) Routesetting rules, as outlined in rule 5.7, 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.

5.4.2 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).

5.4.3 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.

While the demonstration of the route(s) is being conducted, video recording of the route(s) is not permitted.

5.4.4 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
5.4.5 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 5.4.4 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.

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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.
5.4.6 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 5.4.4, 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 Sport, a competitor shall be scored where points are awarded only for completion of a route, with a value of 25 points, for completion of each route.

d) 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 5.18.5c (“multi-zone” scoring). Also refer to rule 15.3, Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring – Bouldering.

e) The event organizer may apply a limit on the total number of attempts a competitor may make on any given route/problem. Each attempt shall be recorded.

5.5 Formats – Local Events

5.5.1 Local competitions may be organized in any of the formats outlined in rule 5.4.

5.6 Formats – Championship Events

5.6.1 The Sport Regional Championship shall be a single round onsight competition, as per rule 5.4.2.

5.6.2 The Sport 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.

5.6.3 The Sport Youth National Championship event shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.4.2, 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.

5.6.4 The Sport Open National Championship event shall be a three (3) round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.4.2, 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.

5.6.5 The Bouldering Regional Championship shall be a single round, onsight competition (refer to rule 5.4.2 for the number of problems per round).

5.6.6 The Bouldering Divisional Championship shall be a dual round onsight competition, as per rule 5.4.2, and shall consist of between three (3) to five (5) problems for each round.

5.6.7 The Bouldering Youth National Championship event shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.4.2, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems per round.

5.6.8 The Bouldering Open National Cup Series competitions shall be two round competitions. The qualification round shall be a redpoint format as per rule 5.4.6. The final round shall be an onsight format as per rule 5.4.1, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems.

5.6.9 The Bouldering Open National Championship shall be a three round, onsight competition, as
per rule 5.4.2, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems per round.

5.6.10 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 5.4.5 and 5.4.6.
   b) The best time on two routes for Speed.

Competitors may compete in all three (3) disciplines and shall have a minimum of 3 hours.

5.6.11 The Collegiate National Championship shall be a two-round event consisting of a redpoint qualification round and an onsight final round. Each round of competition shall include the Sport, Speed and Bouldering disciplines. The final round shall have: three (3) Boulder problems, one (1) Sport route and two (2) Speed routes.

5.7 **Routesetting**

5.7.1 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.

5.7.2 At all levels of competitions, routesetters 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. Routesetters 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.

5.7.3 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 routesetters 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 routesetters 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.

5.7.4 Competitors may not work as routesetters for a competition they are competing in.

5.7.5 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.

5.7.6 If a route is to be used as both a lead route and a top-roped 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.

5.7.7 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.

5.7.8 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. Note: 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. Note: A competitor may 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.

5.7.9 The Chief Routesetter, at their discretion, may establish a “hold” along the route from which a quickdraw **must** be clipped. This “point” and its associated quickdraw shall each be delineated by a “blue cross” or “blue box.” Failure to clip from this, or a prior, point shall result in the termination of the competitor’s attempt.

5.7.10 Speed climbing routes shall be either:

a) Two (2) routes of the same length and of similar profile and difficulty; or,

b) Two (2) parallel routes of identical length, profile, design and difficulty.

5.7.11 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 only be imposed at onsight competitions.

5.8 **Competitions Rules – All Formats**

5.8.1 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.

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

5.8.3 It is the responsibility of a color-blind competitor to notify, in writing and at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of the 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) Segregation of a route/problem from other 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.

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

5.8.5 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.

5.8.6 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.

5.8.7 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.

5.8.8 The demarcations used to mark the starting and finishing position shall either be:

a) Taped “boxes” placed around one or more holds. 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.

b) Taped “flashes” placed on the wall touching a handhold. Note: If taped “flashes” are not suitable (ie. tape does not adhere), plastic tags or other demarcations may be used.

Examples:

Two separately marked holds with taped boxes.

A single marked hold with one taped box.
Two separately marked holds with taped flashes.

A single marked hold with taped flashes.

5.8.9 Prior to an attempt, a competitor may only touch the marked starting handhold(s) with their hands. If they touch any other holds with their hands they will be charged with an attempt. Note: Touching a foothold with a foot prior to beginning an attempt will not result in the competitor being charged with an attempt.

5.8.10 A competitor must first control the marked handhold(s) before using their hands for climbing on any other holds, but s/he may use any holds with other points of contact, to assist in establishing control of the marked handhold(s). Establishing control of the marked handhold(s) of a route/problem shall be defined accordingly:

a) In bouldering, if there is one (1) marked handhold, the competitor must begin with both hands controlling that handhold. In sport climbing, if there is one (1) marked handhold, the competitor must begin with at least one hand controlling that handhold.

b) In bouldering and sport climbing, if there are two (2) separately marked handholds, the competitor must begin with each hand controlling each marked handhold simultaneously.

5.8.11 Each competitor's attempt shall be deemed to have started when any part of the competitor's body has touched the climbing wall and 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 shall be permitted to jump to the starting handhold(s) but must control the starting handhold(s) before moving their hands to any other holds.

5.8.12 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.

5.8.13 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.

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

5.8.15 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.

5.8.16 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 5.18.3 for Sport Climbing and for 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.

5.8.17 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.

5.8.18 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.

5.8.19 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.

5.8.20 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.

5.8.21 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.

5.8.22 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.

5.8.23 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.

5.8.24 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).

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

5.8.26 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.

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

5.8.28 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 5.7.8.

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

5.9 **Technical Meeting**

5.9.1 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 on the USAC website;

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

c) Communicate any logistics information not available from the USAC website.

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.

5.10 **Starting Lists**

5.10.1 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.

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

5.10.3 The method of preparing the starting lists of each discipline may be found under rule 6.2 for Sport competitions, rule 7.4 for Speed competitions and rule 8.1 for Bouldering competitions.

5.11 **Check-in and Isolation**

5.11.1 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.

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

5.11.3 At a single round championship event, a “rolling isolation” may be utilized. At multiple round championship on-site 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.

5.11.4 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 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.

5.11.5 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.

5.11.6 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.

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

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

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

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

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

5.11.12 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.

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

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

5.12 Observation

5.12.1 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 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.

5.12.2 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 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.

5.12.3 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.

5.12.4 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.

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

5.13 Preparation Prior to Climbing

5.13.1 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.

5.13.2 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.

5.13.3 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).

5.13.4 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 12.

5.14 Wall Maintenance

5.14.1 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.

5.14.2 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.

5.15 Technical Incidents

5.15.1 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.

5.15.2 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.

5.15.3 There shall be no grounds for a medical technical other than outlined in rule 15.5.1c).

5.15.4 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.

5.15.5 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.

5.15.6 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.

5.15.7 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.

5.15.8 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-slotting.

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.

5.15.9 During a Speed competition:

a) A competitor who experiences a technical incident must announce the technical prior to detachment from the belay system. A technical is subject to confirmation by the Judge.

b) If a competitor suffers a technical incident that interrupts only his/her attempt, his/her opponent competitor(s) shall continue to climb. If the technical incident is confirmed, the competitor shall be allowed a recuperation period. The duration of the recuperation period is at the discretion of the Chief Judge.
c) After the recuperation period, the competitor impacted by the technical incident shall re-run the route on which the technical incident occurred, and s/he shall run against the same opponent competitor or a "rabbit." His/her opponent competitor shall have the option to re-run and his/her time on the re-run shall also be recorded. If his/her opponent competitor chooses not to re-run, the competitor impacted by the technical incident shall re-run against a "rabbit."

5.15.10 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.

5.16 Termination of an attempt on a Route
5.16.1 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 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.

5.16.2 In the case of infractions related to rules 5.15.1 (b) – (j), the Judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing.

5.16.3 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 11 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 5.15 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.

5.17 Video
5.17.1 National Championships

a) At Youth and Open National Championship events, 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.

5.18 Scoring

5.18.1 Only handholds controlled by the hands shall be scored. A handhold shall be considered ‘controlled’ when a competitor has made use of the handhold either while in, or to achieve, a stable or controlled position that in general will be evidenced by:

a) Holding a handhold for two (2) seconds or more; or

b) Controlling the momentum of a climbing movement.

5.18.2 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 11.

5.18.3 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 5.4.5c.

b) In all redpoint “modified” format competition rounds, a competitor shall receive a score for each route completed, where each route is valued at 25 points, as outlined in rule 5.4.6c. A competitor’s final score shall be the cumulative value of his/her top completed routes.

c) In all onsight format competition rounds (refer to rules 5.4.1, 5.4.2, and 5.4.3, 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 15.4 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.

d) 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 .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 .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 .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.

e) 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.

f) A hold on a Sport climbing route that is marked with a “blue cross” or “blue box”, refer to rule 5.6.9, is the last hold that may be controlled and scored in the event a competitor fails to clip the associated quickdraw from, or prior to, controlling this hold. In that instance, any movement beyond this point shall place the competitor in a non-legitimate position and, as a result, their attempt shall be terminated.

g) For competitor ranking information in Sport climbing, refer to Rule 6.10.

5.18.4 Speed Climbing:

a) A competitor’s score shall be the amount of time used to complete the route, recorded to (two) decimal places.

b) For competitor ranking information in Speed climbing, refer to Rule 7.7.

5.18.5 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 5.4.5c). 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 5.4.1, 5.4.2, 5.4.3 and 5.4.6, 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 5.8.6. 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 15.3 for more information regarding routesetting and scoring.

iv. **FALLS**: A tenth place decimal score deduction of .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 15.3 for more information.

i. **Number of Tops**: .01 points shall be recorded for each completed problem.

ii. **Flashes**: .001 points shall be recorded for each flashed problem.

iii. **Falls to Tops**: .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 15.2 and 15.3.

d) For competitor ranking information in Bouldering, refer to Rule 8.4.

### 5.19 Advancement between Rounds – Championship Events

#### 5.19.1

For all Championship events, advancement is based on a competitor’s rank placement in each round. Any multiple round competition shall have a defined range of advancement for ranked competitors who are not already members of, but whom are eligible to be on, a U.S. National Team. In the event of a tie for the last advancing rank placement, all competitors tied for that rank placement shall advance to the next round. Prior round scores shall be used to break ties for all rounds in both redpoint and onsight competitions.

Example regarding ties: If top twenty (20) is the defined range of advancement in a competition
from the qualification to semi-final round and there is a tie for 20th place, all competitors tied for 20th place shall advance. If top ten (10) is the defined range of advancement in a competition from the semi-final to final round and there is a tie for 10th place in that round, then when that tie is not otherwise broken from the previous round, all competitors tied for 10th place shall advance.

Example regarding “extra quota”: If top twenty (20) is the defined range of advancement in a competition from the qualification to semi-final round and there is a reigning World Champion (WC), in the discipline, ranked within the top twenty (20), then an additional competitor shall advance. Similarly, if there is a Foreign National (FN) competitor ranked within the top twenty (20), then the next ranked competitor shall advance.

Note: If, when advancing additional competitor(s), the additional competitor(s) being advanced are already members of, or, are not eligible to be on, the U.S. National Team, then both the additional competitor(s) and another additional competitor(s) who is not yet a member of, but is eligible to be on, the U.S. National Team, shall advance.

5.19.2 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.

5.19.3 Divisional Championship – Youth Bouldering and Sport and Speed
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 a reigning World, Pan American or U.S. Youth National Champion and/or non-U.S. citizen places within the range of advancement to the next round, the next ranked competitor(s) shall advance.

5.19.4 National Championship – Youth Bouldering, Sport and Speed
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.

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 all rounds, when a reigning World and/or Pan American Champions in the Junior, Youth A and Youth B categories and/or a non-U.S. citizen places within the range of advancement to the next round, the next ranked competitor(s) shall advance. Note: Competitors that achieved the Pan American Champion status as a Youth C or Youth D shall not advance the next ranking U.S. citizen competitor.

5.19.5 National Cup Series and National Championship – Bouldering, Sport and Speed Open
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 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 the semi-final round, when a reigning World or Pan American Champion in the Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories, top ten (10) World Ranked competitor, and/or a non-U.S. citizen places within the range of advancement to the semi-final round, the next ranked competitor(s) shall advance. Note: Competitors that achieved the Pan American Champion status as a Youth C or Youth D shall not advance the next ranked competitor.

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 and Speed Open National Championships, the top eight (8) competitors shall advance to the final round. Note: No additional “extra quota”
competitors shall advance to the final round in National Open competitions.

5.19.6 National Championship – Collegiate
Refer to rule 9.3.1; in Bouldering and Sport, twenty-five (25) competitors shall advance from the qualification round to the final round and in Speed twenty-six (26) competitors shall advance. In the event of a tie for the last advancing placement in any discipline, all tied competitors shall advance.

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

5.21 Ties
5.21.1 Championship Competitions
At Regional Championships, to determine advancement to Divisional Championships, if there are no “extra quota” competitors within the top ten (10), any ties involving the last advancing competitor (the 10th competitor) shall be broken. At Divisional Championships, to determine advancement to National Championships, if there are no “extra quota” competitors within the top six (6), any ties involving the last advancing competitor (the 6th competitor) shall be broken. Extra quota competitors include any reigning U.S. National Champions, Pan American Champions or World Champions, and/or non-U.S. citizen competitors as outlined in rule 3.9. If there are any extra quota competitors ranked within the top ten (10) at Regional Championships or 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 ten (10) at Regional Championships, then the last advancing placement will be the 11th competitor, and any ties involving the 11th competitor shall be broken.

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

A super final round will be held to break tie(s). 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.

c) For Speed Championship competitions, shall be a re-run of the two (2) routes used for the final round.

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.

c) At Speed Championship competitions, the competitors shall be given an equal ranking.
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.

5.21.2 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 rule 5.20.1 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.

5.22 Results Lists

5.22.1 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.

5.22.2 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.

5.22.3 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.

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

5.22.5 At any USA Climbing National Championship, a non-U.S. citizen may not be declared the U.S. National Champion. The highest ranked U.S. Citizen will receive the designation of U.S. National Champion.

6 Sport

These rules shall be read in conjunction with Rule 5 – General Rules.

6.1 General

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

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

6.1.3 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, Adult – advanced, 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.

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

6.1.5 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(s) 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(s). Competitors are not required to match hands on the finish hold.

6.1.6 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.

6.2 Start Lists

6.2.1 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 6.2.1a) and 6.2.1b), 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.

6.2.2 These starting orders will be used when the routes are climbed either simultaneously or one after the other.

6.2.3 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.

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

6.3 Observation

6.3.1 In accordance with rule 5.12, competitors, as a group, shall be permitted to observe onsight routes which they are required to attempt.

6.3.2 The 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.

6.3.3 Competitors are allowed to touch the starting handhold(s), without leaving the ground with either one or both of their feet.

6.3.4 At the end of the 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.

6.4 Safety and Belaying

6.4.1 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, with a follow through;

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 6.4.1 (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.

6.4.2 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.

6.4.3 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.

6.4.4 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.

6.4.5 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.

6.4.6 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
6.5 Climbing Procedure

6.5.1 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.

6.5.2 At the point where the competitor enters the competition zone at the base of the climbing wall, s/he shall be permitted 40 seconds to commence his/her attempt on the route. If the competitor has not started his/her attempt at the end of this 40-second period he/she shall be instructed to start immediately. Any further delay shall result in the competitor’s disqualification on that route. The 40-second final observation period shall also be applied when the route is climbed in the flash format.

6.5.3 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.

6.5.4 The competitor shall clip the quickdraws in sequence. The Judge 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. The Judge 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 6.5.3, 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.

6.5.5 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.

6.6 Z-Clipping

6.6.1 If the Judge notices that the competitor is about to “Z-clip,” the Judge will say in a loud, clear voice, “(competitor’s name) you are z-clipping. If the competitor z-clips without having been warned, the Judge shall notify the competitor as soon as the z-clip is observed.

6.6.2 If a competitor clips the rope into a carabiner in accordance with rule 6.5.3, 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.

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

6.6.4 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.

6.7 Back Clipping

6.7.1 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.

6.8 **Incorrect Clip**
6.8.1 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.

6.9 **Use of Video**
6.9.1 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.
6.9.2 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.

6.10 **Rankings – Onsight and Redpoint**
6.10.1 Onsight:
Competitors shall be ranked based on the following:
  a) 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 are tied on the route, equal to the average ranking of the tied competitors in their Starting Group.

Example: Where there are 6 ties at 1st place then the Ranking Points awarded to each tied competitor will be equal to \((1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6) / 6 = 21 / 6 = 3.50\)

Example: Where there are 4 ties at 2nd place then the Ranking Points awarded to each tied competitor will be equal to \((2 + 3 + 4 + 5) / 4 = 14 / 4 = 3.50\)

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

\[ TP = \text{Total Points} \]
\[ R_1 = \text{Ranking Points on first route.} \]
\[ R_2 = \text{Ranking Points on second route.} \]
\[ R_3 = \text{Ranking Points on third route (included only if applicable).} \]

6.10.2 Points and ranking data presented on the “Official Results” list shall be presented to two (2) decimals places.
6.10.3 Redpoint:
Competitors shall be scored and ranked in descending order according to the following:
  a) 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 5.4.5c).
  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 5.4.6c).
7 Speed Climbing

These rules shall be in addition to all applicable rules outlined in Rule 5 – General Rules.

7.1 General

7.1.1 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.

7.1.2 When multiple rounds are held, on the same day, there shall be a five (5) minute rest period in between each round.

7.1.3 Competitors are allowed to touch the starting handhold(s) without leaving the ground with both of their feet.

7.1.4 For the qualification round, a randomized running order, for each category, shall be posted prior to the start of the competition.

7.1.5 For events with only two rounds – qualification and final – if the rounds are held on the same day, then the routes for both rounds shall be the same. If the qualification and final rounds are held on different days, then, at the discretion of the Chief Judge, the routes for each round may be slightly different. Competitors shall be informed about this in advance.

7.1.6 The routes may be forerun prior to the start of the qualification round. For subsequent rounds, the routes shall not be forerun unless they have been altered or changed from the qualification round.

7.1.7 After each competitor’s attempt on a route, s/he must be made aware of his/her individual time on the route and said time shall be written on the competitor’s scorecard.

7.2 Safety and Belaying

These rules shall be in addition to all (applicable) rules outlined in rule 5.

7.2.1 All routes shall be climbed with the competitor secured by a single line using manual belay (top-rope) or a mechanical auto-belay device determined by the host facility to be suitable for speed climbing.

7.2.2 The position of the highest protection point shall be above the switch controlling the timing device or finishing signal for the route.

7.2.3 For manual belay, each rope shall be controlled by two (2) belayers, with the belayers, at all times, paying attention to the competitor’s progress on the route to ensure:

a) That the competitor’s movements are not hindered in any way by the rope.

b) That falls are not excessive and that all falls are stopped in a safe manner.

7.3 Route Timing

7.3.1 The climbing time shall be determined either by an automated timing system or by manual timing (stopwatch).

7.3.2 When an automated timing system suffers a malfunction during any attempt, a technical incident shall be declared for the competitors climbing during that attempt, and they shall re-run their attempt once the automated timing system is repaired. If an automated timing system suffers an irreparable malfunction, at any point once a round has begun, a technical incident shall be declared and all competitors in the affected category of the round shall be re-run using a manual timing system.

7.3.3 If manual timing is used, a judge and two assistants, with each operating a stopwatch, shall time each route. The Judge, taking into account the average of the stopwatches, and eliminating
obvious timing errors, shall record the time of each competitor for completing his/her attempt.

7.4 **Start Lists**
7.4.1 The starting order for the qualification round of Championship competitions shall be randomized.

7.5 **Observation**
7.5.1 The routes may be demonstrated, or forerun, by a member of the routesetting team or someone so designated by the Chief Routesetter or Chief Judge.

7.6 **Climbing Procedure**
7.6.1 For qualification rounds competitors will climb two (2) routes and either of two formats may be used:
   
a) Continuous format:
   i. The first competitor will climb route #1 against a “rabbit” on route #2. Upon the first competitor’s completion of route #1, s/he will climb route #2 against the next competitor climbing on route #1.
   ii. There shall be a continuous line of competitors, with no “gap” or “break” in between categories. For example, the last “Male Junior” shall climb route #2 against the first Male Youth A competitor, climbing on route #1.
   iii. The last Speed climbing competitor shall climb against a “rabbit” when s/he is climbing route #2.

b) Pairings format:
   i. The pairings for the qualification round shall be based on the randomized running order (as outlined in 7.16.4).
   ii. The individuals in each pairing shall compete against each other on both routes.
   iii. In the event there are an odd number of competitors, the first competitor shall climb against a “rabbit.”

7.6.2 On being called to the start of a route, each competitor shall approach the wall. When both competitors have approached the wall, the Judge shall say “At your marks.”

7.6.3 At the command “At your marks,” each competitor shall take a starting position with one foot on the floor, or, when applicable, the timing device and the other foot shall be on the wall. Both hands shall be on the starting handhold(s).

7.6.4 Once all competitors are in the starting position, the Judge shall call “Ready,” and the Judge shall immediately initiate the automated timing system. Once the automated timing system is initiated, there will either be a randomized delay, followed by audible “start” tone, or a “3-beep” system may be used, wherein the timing system will provide a succession of three (3) beeps spaced one (1) second apart and where the two first beeps have an identical tone and the last a higher pitch.

7.6.5 In the event a manual timing system (stopwatch) is being used, after the Judge calls “Ready,” there shall be a short pause (less than two (2) seconds) at which time the Judge shall then call “Go.” All verbal instructions shall be given in a loud and clearly audible voice.

7.6.6 Once the verbal instruction (“Go” or audible signal) to start is given, the timing system shall commence and each competitor shall begin his/her attempt on the route.

7.6.7 Unless a competitor clearly calls that s/he is not ready by raising a hand when the Judge calls “Ready,” no appeal against the starting instruction will be allowed.

7.6.8 If 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.

7.6.9 In the case of a false start, the judge shall immediately stop both competitors with a loud and clearly audible voice or signal. Both competitors shall be lowered to the ground and will
7.6.10 A competitor is permitted one false start in each round (qualification, semi-final and/or final) of competition. In the event a competitor commits two false starts, in a round, s/he is disqualified.

7.7 **Rankings**

7.7.1 For each round of competition, competitors will be ranked based on their fastest time, of the two (2) routes for the round; with the fastest (lowest) time being ranked first (1st) to the slowest (highest) time being ranked last.

7.8 **Completion of a Route**

7.8.1 An attempt on a route shall be considered successfully completed if it has been climbed in accordance with the rules and if the competitor has struck the timing switch, or, as applicable, the finish box, with his/her hand.

7.8.2 A competitor shall be deemed to be **unsuccessful** in completing an attempt on a route if s/he:

a) Falls or weights the rope;

b) Makes use of areas, holds or features demarcated as out of bounds – refer to rule 5.7.8;

c) Uses the side edges or the tope edges of the wall for climbing;

d) Touches the ground with any part of the body after having started;

e) Uses any artificial aid.

7.9 **Presentation of Results**

7.9.1 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.

7.9.2 The overall result lists shall show the competitors’ achieved climbing times on all routes and in all rounds.

7.10 **Speed – Regional Championship**

7.10.1 Speed climbing at the Regional Championship is open to all USA Climbing members.

7.10.2 Speed climbing shall consist of one (1) round.

7.10.3 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.

7.10.4 Regional Championship awards are based on the final rankings of the competition.

7.10.5 Invitations to the Divisional Championship shall be extended to all USAC members that competed in Speed climbing at their Regional Championship.

7.11 **Speed – Divisional Championship**

7.11.1 Only USAC members, who have completed the following, are eligible to advance to Divisional Championship for Speed Climbing:

a) Competed in Speed climbing at their “home” Regional Championship.

b) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.

7.11.2 Speed climbing at the Divisional Championship shall consist of two (2) rounds – qualification
7.12 **Speed Qualification Round – Divisional Championship**
7.12.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.

7.13 **Speed Final Round – Divisional Championship**
7.13.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
7.13.2 Pairings for the final round shall be based on ranking from the qualification round and competitors shall climb in the following order:

1) 10 versus 9  
2) 8 versus 7  
3) 6 versus 5  
4) 4 versus 3  
5) 2 versus 1  

7.13.3 Divisional Championship awards are based on the rankings from the final round.
7.13.4 National Championship invitations shall be extended to all USAC members that competed in Speed climbing at their Divisional Championship.

7.14 **Speed – National Championship**
7.14.1 The Open National Championship may consist of either two (2) rounds or three (3) rounds of competition – qualification and final rounds; or qualification, semi-final and final rounds, respectively.
7.14.2 The Youth National Championship shall consist of three (3) rounds of competition – qualification, semi-final and final.
7.14.3 The Collegiate National Championship shall consist of two (2) rounds of competition – qualification and final.

7.15 **Speed Qualification Round – National Championships**
7.15.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
7.15.2 Open National Championship events with two (2) rounds of competition shall advance the top eight (8) fastest times to the final round. If there are less than eight (8) competitors in the qualification round, all competitors will advance to the final round. Open National Championship events with three (3) rounds of competition shall advance the top twenty (20) fastest times to the semi-final round. If there are less than twenty (20) competitors in the qualification round, all competitors will advance to the semi-final round.
7.15.3 The Youth National Championship shall advance the top twenty (20) fastest times to the semi-final round. If there are less than twenty (20) competitors in the qualification round, all competitors will advance to the semi-final round.
7.15.4 The Collegiate National Championship shall advance the top twenty-six (26) fastest times to the final round. If there are less than twenty-six (26) competitors in the qualification round, all competitors will advance to the final round.

7.16 **National Championships – Semi-final Round**
7.16.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
7.16.2 Open National Championship events with three (3) rounds of competition shall advance the top eight (8) fastest times to the final round. In the event there are less than eight (8) competitors in
the semi-final round, all competitors will advance to the final round.

7.16.3 The Youth National Championship shall advance the top ten (10) fastest times to the final round. In the event there are less than ten (10) competitors in the semi-final round, all competitors will advance to the final round.

7.16.4 The pairings for the semi-final round shall be based on ranking from the qualification round and shall climb in the following order:

1) 20 versus 19
2) 18 versus 17
3) 16 versus 15
4) 14 versus 13
5) 12 versus 11
6) 10 versus 9
7) 8 versus 7
8) 6 versus 5
9) 4 versus 3
10) 2 versus 1

7.16.5 In the event two (2) or more competitors are tied after the qualification round, the tied competitor(s) shall be paired for the semi-final round based on the running order used in the qualification round. If two (2) competitors are tied for an odd numbered rank placement, they shall climb against one another. If two (2) competitors are tied for an even numbered rank placement, the competitor listed first in the running order for the qualification round shall climb against the higher (better) ranked competitor, and the second tied competitor shall climb against the lower ranked competitor.

Example: If two competitors are tied for 3rd place after the qualification round, they shall be paired together for the semi-final round.

Example: If two competitors are tied for 4th place after the qualification round, the competitor who climbed first in the qualification round shall be paired with the 3rd place competitor for the semi-final round. The competitor who climbed second in the qualification round shall be paired with the 5th placed competitor for the semi-final round.

7.16.6 If the semi-final round has an odd number of competitors, the last ranked competitor in the semi-final round shall compete against a rabbit.

7.17 National Championship – Final Round

7.17.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.

7.17.2 For Open National Championship events with two (2) rounds the pairings for the final round shall be based on the ranking from the qualification round. For events with three (3) rounds the pairings for the final round shall be based on ranking from the semi-final round. For either
format, competitors advancing to the final round shall climb in the following order:

1) 8 versus 7
2) 6 versus 5
3) 4 versus 3
4) 2 versus 1

7.17.3 For the Youth National Championship events the pairings for the final round shall be based on ranking from the semi-final round. Competitors advancing to the final round shall climb in the following order:

1) 10 versus 9
2) 8 versus 7
3) 6 versus 5
4) 4 versus 3
5) 2 versus 1

7.17.4 For the Collegiate National Championship event, the pairings for the final round shall be based on ranking from the qualification round. Competitors advancing to the final round shall climb in the following order:

1) 20 versus 19
2) 18 versus 17
3) 16 versus 15
4) 14 versus 13
5) 12 versus 11
6) 10 versus 9
7) 8 versus 7
8) 6 versus 5
9) 4 versus 3
10) 2 versus 1

7.17.5 National Championship awards and invitations to be a member of the U.S. National Team are based on a competitor’s fastest time, of the two (2) routes, from the final round; with the fastest (lowest) time being ranked first (1st) to the slowest (highest) time being ranked last.

8 Bouldering

These rules shall be read in conjunction with Rule 5 – General Rules.

8.1 Start Lists

8.1.1 The starting order for the qualification round of Championship competitions shall be randomized.

8.1.2 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.

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

8.2 Observation

8.2.1 At Youth onsight Bouldering competitions, there is no route preview. The allotted time for the attempt includes preview time. At Open Bouldering competitions, route preview is permitted for the final round only.

8.3 Climbing Procedure

8.3.1 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.

8.3.2 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.’

8.3.3 For all Bouldering competition formats, the competitor must control and match hands on the finish handhold(s) of a Boulder problem 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(s). Refer to Rule 5.8.7.

8.4 Rankings – Onsight and Redpoint

8.4.1 Onsight: Competitors shall be ranked according to total points recorded based on the scoring outlined in Rule 5.18.5.

8.4.2 Points and ranking data presented on the Official Results list shall be presented to at least two (2) decimal places.

9 Collegiate

9.1 General

These rules shall be read in conjunction with Rules 5, 6, 7 and 8 – General Rules, Sport, Speed and Bouldering, respectively.

9.2 Local Competitions – Format

9.2.1 Collegiate Climbing Series “local” competitions shall be redpoint format and must follow the redpoint rules outlined in this Rulebook.

9.3 Championship Competitions – Format

9.3.1 Refer to rules 5.6.10 and 5.6.11, and 5.19.6.

9.4 Collegiate Climbing Team – Definition

9.4.1 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.

9.5 Collegiate Climbing Series Team Competition – Scoring

9.5.1 At Regional and National Championships, team members will accrue points based on their final ranking. Competitors, in each category and discipline, are awarded points as outlined in rule
4.4. Additionally, team rankings are calculated per rules outlined in rules 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.5, and 4.4.6.

10 Adaptive Climbing

10.1 Categories

10.1.1 The following categories are included in Adaptive Climbing and are open to individuals with physical disabilities:

a) Neurological / Physical Disability
b) Visual Impairment: Open to those individuals that have less than 20/200 vision in the better eye after best correction, contact lenses or glasses, or a field of vision of less than 20 degrees in the better eye.
c) Upper Extremity Amputee

There are three (3) sub-categories:

i. Congenital Hand Deformity / Partial Hand Amputation: Congenital Hand Deformity shall be considered any Symbrachydactyly or a limb difference acquired at birth. Partial hand should be considered any acquired amputation of the trans metacarpal level or any higher amputation where movement of the wrist is present.

ii. Trans radial and Long Trans humeral: Wrist disarticulation to trans humeral amputation of two (2) inches or more.

iii. Short Trans humeral / Shoulder Disarticulation: Trans humeral amputation of two (2) inches or shorter to shoulder disarticulation.

d) Lower Extremity Amputee
e) Seated: Includes those participants who climb using only their arms, due to an inability to use their legs. Individuals in this category will be required to provide and wear their own chest harness to help prevent inverting in their waist harness.
f) Youth: Includes participants aged eight (8) to fifteen (15). Participants aged sixteen (16) and older will be placed in their respective adult category. For youth, categories are based on gender – male or female – and are not based, further, on disability.

10.2 Competition Format

10.2.1 The format for Adaptive Climbing shall be redpoint and will be executed on top rope.

10.2.2 Athletes only need to control the finish hold with one hand / appendage.

10.3 Invitations to International Competitions

10.3.1 Invitations to compete at the Paraclimbing World Championships are based on the results from the most recent year’s Adaptive Climbing National Championships.

11 Procedures for Field of Play Appeals and Infringements

11.1 General Guidelines

11.1.1 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.

11.1.2 Any appeals that are **not** Field of Play related should be filed as complaints in accordance with rule 13 below and Article 15 of the Bylaws. SafeSport complaints are subject to Section 15.7 of the Bylaws.

11.1.3 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.

11.2 **Field of Play Appeals – Appeals Jury and General Procedures**

11.2.1 The procedures set forth in section 11.1 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.

11.2.2 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 11.1.2 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 in preparation of or during a competition.

11.2.3 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 Championships will be announced prior to the event.

11.2.4 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 Routesetter, and/or other Routesetters, and, if applicable, the Belayer for the route in question.

11.2.5 The decision of the Appeals Jury shall be final, and not subject to further appeal.

11.2.6 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.

11.2.7 All appeals and official responses to appeals shall be made in English.

11.2.8 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.

11.2.9 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.

11.2.10 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 2.2.

11.2.11 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.

11.2.12 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.

11.2.13 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.

11.2.14 A competitor may appeal the decision of the Judge to the Chief Judge when he or she has finished the attempt.

11.2.15 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.

11.2.16 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.

11.2.17 The appeal decision shall be made by the Chief Judge to the person who officially lodged the appeal and/or the Team Coach.

11.3 Procedures for Review of Field of Play Infringements

11.3.1 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.

11.3.2 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.

11.3.3 The research process may include but is not limited to interviewing Judges, belayers, ISO monitors, spectators, other competitors, et cetera.

11.3.4 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.

11.3.5 All such proceedings should be kept confidential to the extent possible.

11.3.6 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.

11.3.7 If the infringement is found to be unsubstantiated, the Chief Judge will reject the complaint with no consequences to the accused competitor.

11.3.8 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.

11.3.9 Anyone found to have knowingly falsely accused a competitor of an infringement will receive a red card resulting in disqualification.

11.3.10 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.

11.3.11 Parents and coaches shall be held to the same yellow/red card standard, as competitors, for any infringement as determined by the Chief Judge.

11.3.12 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.

12 Disqualifying Infringements

12.1 General Guidelines

12.1.1 Disqualification matters, if arising in the context of Field of Play, will be administered under this
Section 12 as well as under Rule 11.2 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.

12.1.2 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.

12.1.3 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 with a follow through.

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 5.8.21.

h) Electronic devices and/or videotapes may not be used to provide beta to a competitor at any time.

i) Smoking or the use of other tobacco products, by minors, in the isolation, competition or spectator area.

j) 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.

k) 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.

l) 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.

m) 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.

n) 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.

o) Violation of USA Climbing’s SafeSport Policies.

12.2 **Onsight Competitions**

12.2.1 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) If the Chief Judges opts to include the 40-second final preparation time limit and the competitor fails to start within the allotted 40 seconds.

12.2.2 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.

12.2.3 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.

13 Disputes, Grievances, or Other Complaints – Judicial Committee

13.1 General Guidelines

13.1.1 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.

13.1.2 Any disputes, grievances or other complaints which are not resolved by the procedures outlined in rules 11 and 12 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.

13.2 Judicial Committee Protocol

13.2.1 A decision concerning a Safe Sport rule violation decided by the independent safe sport
organization designated by the US Olympic Committee (currently the United States Center for Safe Sport) to investigate and resolve Safe Sport violations 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 Safe Sport 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 Safe Sport 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 Safe Sport accept jurisdiction of matters that do not involve sexual misconduct but do involve allegations of physical abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment or hazing.

13.2.2 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 Safe Sport policies, and USA Climbing itself shall not incur any complaint fee for bringing its own complaint of any kind before the Judicial Committee.

13.2.3 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.

13.2.4 All complaints made to the Judicial Committee shall be made in English.

13.2.5 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.

14 USA Climbing Contact Information

USA Climbing:

   Email: info@usaclimbing.org
   Phone: 303-499-0715
   Fax: 561-423-0715

   Mail: USA Climbing | 4665 Nautilus Court Suite 502A | Boulder, CO 80301

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.
15 Appendix

15.1 Team USA Selection Procedures/Application

Team USA Selection Procedures

Adult Events: World Cups, World Games, World and Pan American Championships.

Invitation Process:
1. Must be a Competitor Member of USA Climbing.
2. Must be a US Citizen.
3. Must have made finals in that discipline (Sport & Speed Open National Championships and/or Bouldering Open National Championships).
4. USA Climbing will officially invite athletes in order of their final ranking at the National Championship event, limiting the number of outstanding invitations to the number of athletes that USA Climbing is eligible to register for the event.

Once all National Championship finalists above have been notified and accepted or declined, any remaining available spots will be open to an application process.

Application Process:
1. Must be a Competitor Member of USA Climbing.
2. The application (see Example) must be submitted to USA Climbing at least 30 days prior to registration deadline for the event.
3. The application is distributed to the Team Selection Committee, which is comprised of:
   • A USA Climbing Staff member – non-voting;
   • A USA Climbing Athlete – someone who has competed at a USA Climbing event within the last 5 years and has placed in the top 50% at one of those events;
   • The US Team Head Coach;
   • A USA Climbing member-at-large;
4. The Committee reviews the application and a decision shall be rendered as expeditiously as possible.

The US Team Head Coach will have the final say in case of injury or withdrawal, as long as there is an available spot.
Team USA Application

Name:

Gender:

Youth Category (if applicable):

Event:

IFSC registration deadline for this event:

Please list any USA Climbing National Championship events in which you have participated in the last 5 years, along with results.

Please list any IFSC events in which you have participated in the last 5 years, along with results.

Please list any reasons, outside of competition results, that you believe demonstrate that it is in the best interest of USA Climbing to allow you to compete at this event:
15.2 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 5.8.5.

Marking: Routes/problems should be set and marked in as simple a way as is possible for both competitors and judges to understand.

- Generally, 1” gaffer’s or duct tape should be used to mark each handhold and if necessary, staples should be used to ensure the tape adheres to the wall. Refer to rules 5.8.6 and 5.8.7.

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.

15.3 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 5.8.6 and 5.8.7 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 5.18.5c 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).

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**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 5.4.5c), or, by Tops and Zones (refer to rule 5.18.5), where the values are labeled on the problem.

- In the bouldering scoring outlined in rule 5.18.5, 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 5.18.1.
- 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 - Competitor A

Example Scoring Detail – Competitor A

- **Problem 1:** Completed the problem on his second attempt, thus recording one fall (deduction of 0.1) 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 0.2) 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</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score</strong></td>
<td><strong>74.7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>A</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>74.7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.7</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>74.4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>69.622</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>69.621</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>69.621</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>69.621</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>69.621</td>
<td>5</td>
</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 5.18.5c i) – 5.18.5c 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>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>69.621</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.
15.4 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 5.18.2.

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 undercling with their left hand, receiving (16) for control of the undercling. 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.
15.5 **Scored Onsight Route Example**

![Bouldering wall with numbered holds and route description](image)

**Route: MYC Q1**

**Setter: JM**

**Total Points: 22**