



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USA Climbing and ESPN Announce New Multi-Year Programming Agreement to Televisе and Live Stream Events

Salt Lake City, UT – January 17, 2019

USA Climbing is excited to announce a multi-year agreement with ESPN to present the Combined Invitational, Bouldering Open National Championships, and Sport & Speed Open National Championships.

For each competition, a one-hour show will be televised on ESPN2 highlighting the excitement of competition climbing and the athletes' journey toward National Team Selection. ESPN3 will also live stream significant portions of the qualifying rounds, as well as the semi and final rounds in their entirety. In addition to the live stream, the events will remain available on demand on ESPN3. In year two, ESPN will add Collegiate Nationals to the arrangement.

“Working with ESPN is a huge step toward bringing competitive climbing into the mainstream,” said Marc Norman, CEO of USA Climbing. “As we build toward our first Olympic Games, we are excited to introduce climbing and our athletes to the American public. Finally, a special thanks to The North Face; without their additional support this would not have come to fruition.”

“With the significant growth in climbing in the U.S., this arrangement with ESPN is another positive step in our efforts to capture and share the excitement of competition climbing,” said Patti Rube, President of USA Climbing’s Board of Directors. “Thanks to the efforts of our routesetters, judges, staff, climbing gyms and competitors, our National level events are ready for this broad media distribution.”

Event Dates:

Combined Invitational is January 18-20 at Momentum Indoor Climbing in Salt Lake City and will be televised February 3rd at 5pm ET on ESPN2.

Bouldering Open National Championships is Feb 1-2 in Bend, Oregon, and will air February 17th on ESPN2. Sport and Speed National Championships is March 8-9 at Sportrock in Alexandria, Virginia, and will air March 24th (subject to change) on ESPN2.

For more information, visit www.usaclimbing.org

USA Climbing was advised by Equity Sports Partners on the agreement.

About USA Climbing: USA Climbing is recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the sport of competition climbing. The organization manages the disciplines of Bouldering, Speed and Sport climbing as well as the Collegiate and Adaptive series. USA Climbing, a member federation of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC), also hosts IFSC World Cup events and sends athletes to participate in the IFSC’s World Cup circuit and the World Climbing and Paraclimbing Championships. *For more information contact:*

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