



USA CLIMBING Competition Task Force

Charter & Procedures for Organization and Operation

Effective: February 16, 2019

Article 1. Name. The name of this Task Force is the USA Climbing Competition Task Force (the “CTF”).

Article 2. Purpose. The CTF is an advisory Task Force that is operated within the nonprofit USA Climbing (“USAC”), in accordance with Article 9 of the USAC Bylaws and as otherwise in accordance with this Charter. The purpose of this CTF is to look globally at the sport of competition climbing with the focus to make strategic recommendations to the USA Climbing Board of Directors (the “Board”) and Staff on youth development, competition season, competition format, and IF rules alignment to better align USAC for inclusiveness, athlete well-being, growth, and international success. The CTF will also work closely with the Realignment Task Force (the “RTF”) to the extent that the CTF’s mission or recommendations may impact or be informed by the geographic structure of USAC’s Regions and Divisions or other considerations in the RTF Charter. The CTF’s recommendations, if approved by the Board and the CEO, would be designed to take effect on or about September 2020, with any interim recommendations outside of Article 6 of the USAC Bylaws, if approved by the Board, to take effect earlier upon such approval.

Article 3. Duties and Responsibilities. The CTF will primarily fulfill its responsibilities as follows:

1. To review the American Development Model (ADM) and recommend a climbing specific model that embraces sound principles of youth development in sport based on the ADM and other fact based models.
2. To make recommendations for adjusting the USAC competition *season* to better align with the IFSC competition season for the “Open” or equivalent classes and to make recommendations for all other classes based on desired outcome of each class.
3. To make recommendations for adjusting USAC competition *formats* to better align with the IFSC competition formats and provide robust competition opportunities for recreational, developmental, and competitive athletes nationally.
4. To adopt IFSC rules for USAC competitions in the “Open” or equivalent class and to make recommendations for “Youth” or other classes as deemed appropriate. Specifically:
 - USAC has determined that it is in the best interests of USAC and its athletes for USAC to adopt the IFSC competition rules for all championship competitions for Youth B, A and Jr. categories, as well as for the Open category.
 - USAC seeks to assess the desirability and feasibility of adopting the IFSC competition rules for all other categories for championship events, and even for local and recreational events, including for Collegiate, Adaptive, and other Youth categories.

5. To collaborate with other USAC Committees, the RTF, and other stakeholders as applicable, e.g., Rules Committee, Adaptive Committee, Routesetting Committee, Coaching Committee, USAC Athletes' Advisory Committee, Collegiate Climbing Steering Committee, USA Climbing Regional Coordinators, and USA Climbing Staff in an effort to rule out or manage obstacles to its intended recommendations and to maximize the likelihood that its recommendations, if approved, can be implemented in a smooth and timely manner.
6. To the extent requested by the CEO or the Board, to participate in any strategic planning sessions organized by USA Climbing, and to consider any Strategic Plan generated as a result of such sessions.
7. Coordinate regularly with Climbing Escalade Canada ("CEC") to facilitate close working relationship and, where possible, achieve mutual goals.
8. Consideration of the following items as part of the deliberations with the understanding that the RTF will have the primary responsibility to make recommendations relating to the *implementation* of such changes:
 - *Desirability* of shifting entire competition season to begin in March or April and end in September or October for the Open category
 - *Desirability* of potentially splitting C/D categories from B/A/Jr categories at Bouldering and Sport & Speed Youth National Championships and the creation of a developmentally appropriate event in its place, for example a Youth C/D Combined Invitational
 - *Desirability* of the potential addition of an E category (ages 8/9), with no advancement beyond local events, including whether to permit E competitors to opt for D category events and championships with parent/guardian permission
 - *Desirability* of potentially splitting the Speed discipline into its own National Championships event at which both youth and adults compete
 - *Desirability* of the competition season(s), i.e., should we combine all disciplines and only run one season
 - *Desirability* of using the current or modified local event ranking system to "gatekeep" at the Youth Regional level
 - *Desirability* of implementing a "recreational"/"developmental" competition track for all levels
9. Submission of an initial comprehensive report no later than early December 2019 to the Board and a final report and recommendation to the Board in early February 2020, for implementation by the RTF, including under Article 6 of the Bylaws to the extent applicable, on or about September 2020.
10. Submission of any interim recommendations by the CTF, including as applicable for implementation earlier than September 2020, when approved by the Board and the CEO, provided that such interim recommendations, if they are to be implemented earlier than September 2020, fall outside of Article 6 of the Bylaws, together with any summary documentation intended for public dissemination as overviews of applicable changes.
11. Preparation, by February 2020 for review and approval by the Board, of a Summary Document intended for public dissemination providing an overview of the CTF recommendations highlighting the changes that will take effect beginning on or about September 2020.
12. Hosting of membership open houses throughout the course of the CTF's work taking input and providing updates to USAC membership.

13. Any CTF recommendations should include, and allow sufficient time for, a communication plan to be drafted and communicated to all stakeholder groups and members well in advance of implementation.

Article 4. CTF Meetings and Actions.

- The CTF shall endeavor to meet at least once per month via telephone, or more frequently as circumstances dictate.
- The CTF may invite any Board member, officer, or employee of USAC, and such other persons as it deems appropriate, to attend its meetings (or portions thereof) or to meet with or provide relevant information to any members of, or consultants to, the CTF.
- CTF decisions may be made via email and teleconference discussions and voting.
- The quorum for transaction of business is more than half of the CTF members. Effort should be made for all CTF members to be present for the transaction of any business; provided, however, that the Chair may organize the CTF into sub-groups of one or more members to collect information for, and/or to make recommendations to, the full CTF.
- The CTF Chair will approve the agenda for the CTF meetings, and any CTF member may suggest items for consideration. Briefing materials, if any, will be provided to the CTF as far in advance of the meetings as practicable.
- In the event the Chair is not present at the meeting, the other members present at that meeting shall designate an acting chair for such meeting by a majority vote.
- The CTF shall follow basic rules of parliamentary procedure in conducting meetings when practicable. The Chair shall generally call to order each meeting, review the past meeting's Minutes, then discuss unfinished business, followed by new business.
- A majority vote of those CTF members present or participating is necessary to transact any business brought before the CTF.
- Minutes of CTF meetings documenting business discussed and any official CTF votes, along with any relevant reports, shall be submitted to the USAC CEO, by the Chair or his/her designee. Minutes of the CTF meetings shall be kept on file at the USAC main office.

Article 5. Composition. The CTF shall be composed of ten (10) CTF members (not including staff or CEC representation) except as otherwise determined by the Board. The Board shall select the CTF members, which shall include at least 20% Athlete representation, and the Board shall select the Chair from among the CTF members. The Board may seek the recommendation of USAC's Nominating and Governance Committee in the selection of CTF members and/or the Chair. The CEO may name staff liaisons and CEC representation, with no voting rights, as necessary to fulfill specific needs.

Article 6. Tenure. The term of office for a member of the CTF shall be until the Final Report is delivered to the Board, but no more than 36 months from the effective date of this Charter.

Article 7. Amendments to Procedures. Amendments to this Charter may be made by the Board, or by the CTF with the approval of the Board. A two-thirds majority vote of voting CTF members is required in order to propose any change(s) to the Board for approval.

Article 8. Conflicts. In the event of any conflict between this Charter and the USAC Bylaws, the USAC Bylaws shall control.