

# Collegiate Realignment Process and Recommendations

USA Climbing Realignment Task Force (RTF)  
June 2020



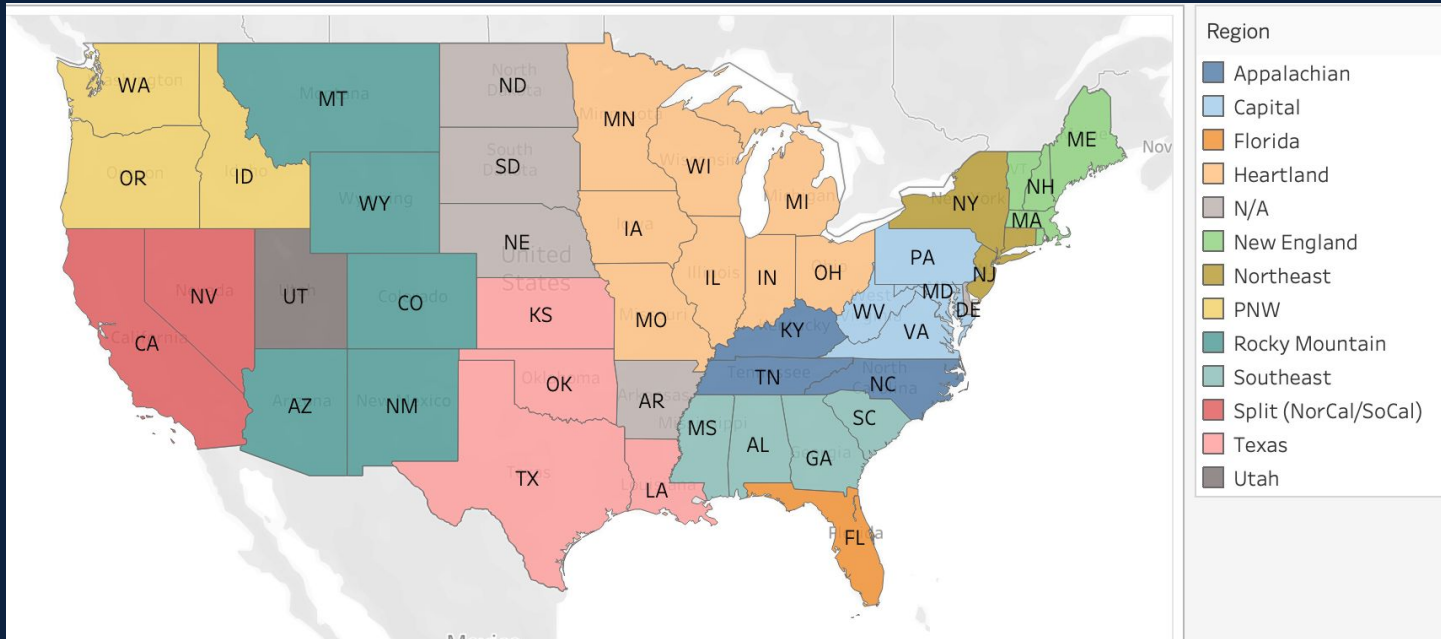
# Realignment Task Force (RTF)

- The USAC bylaws, Section 6.1, allow for realignment of regions and divisions. Once the realignment has occurred, no major changes may take place for four years.
- The Realignment Task Force (RTF) was originally formed in Summer 2018, but realignment work was suspended due to the inclusion of climbing in the Olympics.
- In February 2020, the RTF started data collection and the realignment process.
- The RTF has generated new alignments for the Collegiate and Competitive Youth competition series. This document focuses on the Collegiate Series.



RTF members: Tab Stephens (chair), Kyle Struthers (athlete), Nicole Brandt, Mark Vasta, Greg Fanslow, Dustin Skinner (BoD liaison)

# Current Map of 13 Collegiate Regions



Region	# of Athletes
Appalachian	115
California	272
Capital	158
Florida	107
Heartland	136
N/A	3
New England	139
Northeast	258
Pacific Northwest	27
Rocky Mountain	239
Southeast	20
Texas	280
Utah	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>1800</b>

*Note: 6 States (HI, ND, SD, NE, AR, DE) are not assigned to any current region. AK belongs to the Pacific Northwest Region.*

# Key Issues Addressed by the RTF

- How might we redraw the map to facilitate further expansion of the Collegiate series over the next 4 years?
- How might we balance the size of regional units in a way that will allow us to have large enough competitor bases to entice gyms to host National Qualifying Events (NQEs; currently known as Regionals)?
- How might we ensure that the travel time to the NQEs does not create an undue burden and/or discourages participation by athletes?



# Task Force Process

- Examined current membership data to identify competitor populations by state
- Looked at past growth and volatility over the last 6 years
- Factored in timeline for inclusion as an NCAA sport
  - Determined it did not need to be considered for this realignment based on conversations with USA Climbing staff
- Used data analysis software to calculate number of competitors in potential new divisions
- Used mapping program to determine travel times between campuses and large cities with potential host facilities



# Key Insights from Research

After analyzing membership data and growth trends, the RTF came to the following conclusions:

- The current regional alignment needs redrawing and rebalancing due to uneven regional participation
- The target size for an NQE should be 200 competitors to facilitate securing host facilities
- Renaming the geographic units as “Divisions” aligns with youth system of divisionals leading to nationals

We considered a variety of ways to redraw the map into either 10, 8, or 7 Divisions



# Recommendation: Shift from 13 Regions to 7 Divisions

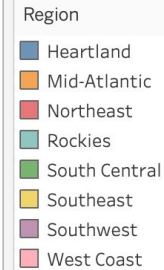
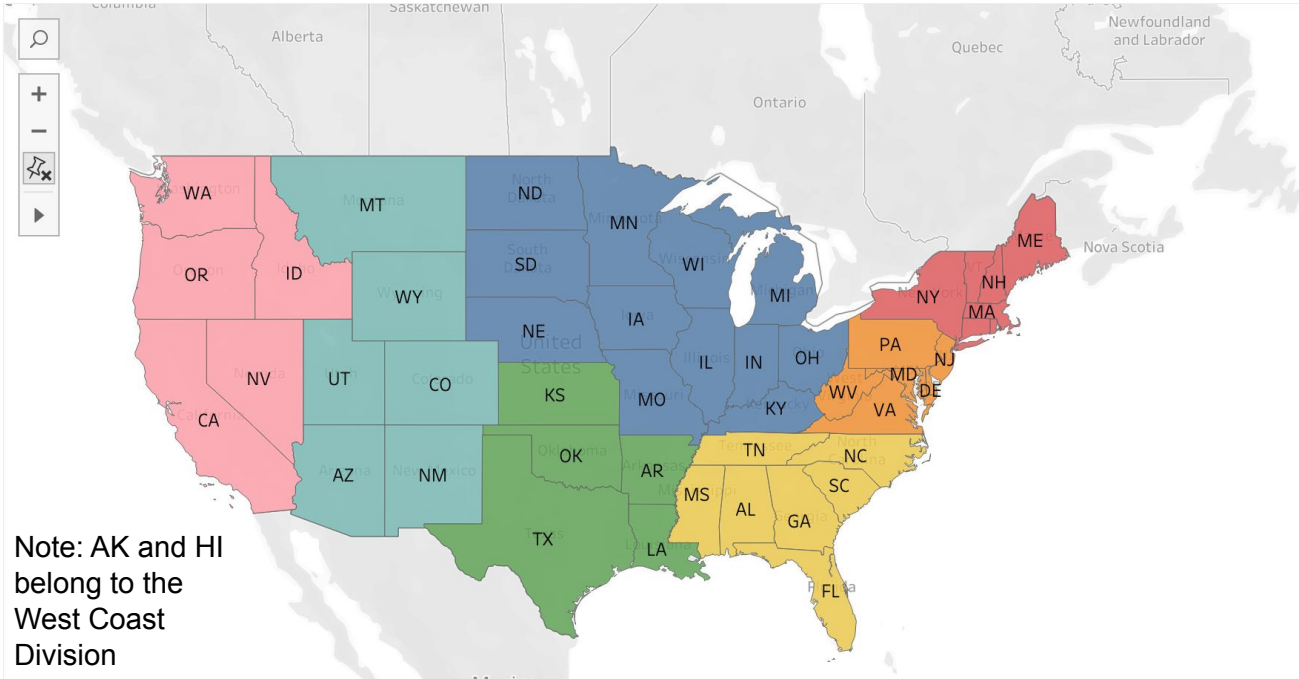
- The new map creates more numerically-balanced Divisions given current student athlete distribution
- A majority of the Divisions will be at or above the 200-athlete target for NQEs
- Moving to 7 Divisions increases the number of potential host sites for NQEs and local competitions in each Division
- Drawing Divisional boundaries along state lines eliminates confusion for new schools about their Divisional membership

This recommendation was approved by the USA Climbing Board of Directors during the June 2020 meeting



# New Collegiate Divisional Map

Sheet 1



Region	# of Athletes
Heartland	136
Northeast	301
Southeast	242
South Central	280
Rockies	285
West Coast	299
Mid-Atlantic	257
<b>Total</b>	<b>1800</b>

This recommendation was approved by the USA Climbing Board of Directors during the June 2020 meeting



The RTF would like to thank the following stakeholder groups for their invaluable help and feedback throughout the realignment process.

**USA Climbing Collegiate Committee**

**USA Climbing Collegiate Regional Coordinators**

**USA Climbing Collegiate Athletes**

**USA Climbing Board of Directors**

**USA Climbing Staff**

**Competition Task Force**

