



Rulebook

BOULDERING | SPEED | SPORT

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.

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1 Significant Changes – Overview

- **Clarified Rule 5.4.1:** Term of validity for background checks and SafeSport Certificates.
- **Revised Rule 5.7.2:** Byes at Youth National Championships, based on categories.
- **Revised Rule 5.7.4:** Byes for youth competitors at the Open National Championships.
- **Clarified Rule 5.13.4(b):** Speed-*only* competitors *not* required to attend local events.
- **Revised Rules 5.14.2, 5.14.3, 5.16.1 and 5.16.2:** Revised the number of competitors advancing to the Divisional Championships (10) and National Championships (6).
- **Revised Rule 5.17.5:** Unfulfilled or declined invitation to Divisional Championships will be reissued to the other Region within that Division.
- **Clarified Rule 5.18.1:** “For *Bouldering and Sport* climbing competitions...”
- **Revised Rule 5.18.3:** Color-blind competitors must notify USAC at least 7 days prior to the start of a competition.
- **Revised Rule 5.18.5:** Added the phrase “portion of an object.”
- **Clarified Rule 5.18.9:** Touching of start holds.
- **Clarified Rule 5.18.22:** Added the word “onsight.”
- **Revised Rule 5.28.4:** Eliminated “Tops” as a factor for (onsight) scoring.
- **Revised Rule 5.29.5:** Revised number of competitors advancing to Semi-final rounds of competition for Youth Bouldering, Sport and Speed to twenty (20).
- **Revised Rule 5.29.7:** Number of competitors based on format; Sport and Speed Open
- **Clarified Rule 5.29.10:** Clarified advancement; when “a reigning World or Pan American Champion in the *Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories.*”
- **Revised Rule 5.36.2:** At Collegiate Regional and National Championships, team rankings will be based on ranking points of top three (3) highest ranked individual team members.
- **Adopted Rule 5.36.3:** Team National Championship awards for each discipline.
- **Adopted Rule 5.37:** Youth All-Around Award scoring.
- **Revised Rules 5.38.2 and 5.38.35.38.4 :** U.S. National Team Selection.
- **Adopted Rules 5.40.2 and 5.40.3:** Routesetting activity of routesetters and coaches.
- **Revised Rule 5.40.8:** Revised rules pertaining to black and red tape.
- **Revised Rule 6.5.1:** Revised climbing periods for Youth Championship competitions.
- **Revised Rule 6.9.2:** Clarification of use of official video by judges.
- **Revised Rule 6.10.1:** Eliminated “Tops” as a factor for (onsight) scoring.
- **Revised Rule 7.1.6:** “The routes *may* be forerun...”
- **Revised Rule 7.5.1:** “The route *may* be demonstrated...”
- **Clarified Rule 7.6.4:** Eliminated “motionless.”
- **Revised Rule 7.8.1:** Ties “broken by placement in the previous round(s).”
- **Revised Rules 7.16, 7.17, and 7.18:** Number of competitors advancing each round for Open, Youth, and Collegiate Championship Speed competitions.
- **Revised Rule 11.4.2:** Out of competition Appeal fee increased to \$50.00 and appeals must Cc info@usaclimbing.org.

2 USA Climbing Competition Officials

USA Climbing (USAC) may formally appoint the following officials to each USAC sanctioned competition:

2.1.1 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.

2.1.2 Chief Routesetter

The Chief Routesetter consults with the members of the route setting 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 the technical standard and safety of each route/problem, advising the Chief Judge on all technical matters within the competition area, assisting in compiling the "route maps" for the routes/problems, and advising the judges on the positioning of video cameras and the maximum time allotted for each route/problem. At Bouldering and Sport & Speed National Championships, USA Climbing appoints the Chief Routesetter and members of the route setting 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.

2.1.3 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.

3 Anti-Doping Tests

- 3.1.1 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 a 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:

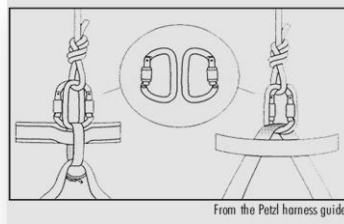
- a) International Federation of Sport Climbing: www.ifsc-climbing.org, or
- b) United States Olympic Committee: www.usoc.org, or
- c) United States Anti-Doping Agency: www.usantidoping.org.

- 3.1.2 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 and to 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.

4 Safety

- 4.1.1 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.
- 4.1.2 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.
- 4.1.3 The Chief Judge and/or Chief Routesetter shall inspect each route/problem, prior to the start of each round of a competition, to ensure the maintenance of the safety standards.
- 4.1.4 For safety reasons, only competitors, spotters and judges are permitted to be in the competition area(s). The Chief Judge shall instruct all other individuals to leave.
- 4.1.5 The Judge may not serve as both spotter and judge, unless warranted by safety considerations.
- 4.1.6 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.
- 4.1.7 Belayers and spotters may not have any physical contact with the competitor during an attempt.
- 4.1.8 Adequate floor padding, for protection, must be used.
- 4.1.9 Each route/problem shall be designed so as to avoid the possibility of a competitor's fall injuring the competitor or injuring or obstructing another competitor or third party.
- 4.1.10 Competitors shall tie-in with a figure-8 knot with a follow through.
- 4.1.11 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.



- 4.1.12 All competitors shall adhere to the host facility's policies.
- 4.1.13 The wearing of a harness is compulsory in Sport and Speed competitions. Competitors are free to use a climbing helmet if they so choose.
- 4.1.14 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.
- 4.1.15 The use of headphones, of any kind, while a competitor is climbing shall not be permitted.
- 4.1.16 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 General Rules

5.1 Membership Applications

- 5.1.1 Memberships are valid for one season – from September 1st through the following August 31st. Memberships are processed online at the USA Climbing website: www.usaclimbing.org.

5.2 Day-Member Pass

- 5.2.1 A Day-member pass is available for the individual who would like to compete in a USAC sanctioned "local" climbing competition. A Day-member pass may be purchased, for a fee of \$5.00, on the day of the competition and is **only valid for that day**. Additionally, all Day-members must provide a signed waiver at each event that they attend. 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: Day-members are allowed a grace period of two (2) business days, following a "local" competition, to purchase a USAC membership and, therefore, receive attendance credit and ranking for that competition. By doing so, the competition will be applied to the attendance/participation requirement outlined in rule 5.13. 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.

5.3 Regions and Divisions

- 5.3.1 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.
- 5.3.2 Competitors must compete in their assigned home region for their Regional Championship in order to be eligible to advance to the Divisional Championships.

- 5.3.3 Competitors will be assigned a home Division, based on their home Region.
- 5.3.4 Competitors may only earn an invitation to attend their home Divisional Championship.

5.4 Coaches – Certification

- 5.4.1 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; 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).

Documentation may be sent to USA Climbing via:

- Fax: 561-423-0715
- Email: info@usaclimbing.org
- Mail: USA Climbing

4909 Pearl East Circle, Ste. 102

Boulder, CO 80301

- 5.4.2 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.
- 5.4.3 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.
- 5.4.4 To participate in the Team Championship competition, a team must have at least one coach that is certified, as outlined above.

5.5 Competitions

- 5.5.1 Only event organizers, specifically recognized by USAC, shall be eligible to apply to organize a competition approved by USAC.
- 5.5.2 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) An Open National Championship, for members 16 years of age and older – Bouldering and Sport & Speed.
- 5.5.3 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.
- 5.5.4 Speed climbing is a component of the Sport and Collegiate seasons and is offered at all Sport and Collegiate Championship events. Speed climbing may be offered at Sport and Collegiate local competitions.
- 5.5.5 The dates for the above competitions shall be published on the USAC website.

5.6 Competitions – Registration of Competitors

- 5.6.1 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.
- 5.6.2 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.
- 5.6.3 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.

5.7 Byes

- 5.7.1 Byes are only offered to U.S. citizens. A non-U.S. citizen is not eligible to receive a bye.
- 5.7.2 For each discipline, 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, they 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.
- 5.7.3 For each discipline, the reigning 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.

5.7.4 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.

5.7.5 Byes, for any Championship event, other than those outlined in rule 5.7, will not be awarded or granted, for any reason, including but not limited to medical injuries/conditions or academic graduation ceremonies.

5.7.6 Individuals 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.

5.8 Effects on Invitations and Rankings

5.8.1 Day-member Competitors

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.

5.8.2 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 and said federation must be a member-in-good-standing with the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC).

- 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, for example, advancing from the semi-final round to the final round, an additional, eligible, U.S. citizen competitor will be advanced.

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, U.S. citizen competitor will receive an invitation.

5.9 Disciplines

5.9.1 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.

5.9.2 Competitions may consist of separate events for Sport, Speed and Bouldering. All disciplines need not be included in a particular competition.

5.10 Categories

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

Year of National Championship	Youth D		Youth C		Youth B		Youth A		Junior	
2016	And Younger	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
2017		2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
2018		2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
2019		2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000

5.10.2 Adult competitors, 16 years of age or older as-of December 31st, are divided into categories based on gender and skill level, as follows:

ADULT CATEGORIES				
Category:	Recreational	Intermediate	Advanced	Masters
Age:	16 years of age or older	16 years of age or older	16 years of age or older	45 years of age or older
Skill:	Up to 5.9 / V1	5.9+ to 5.11 / V2-V3	5.11+ / V4 and up	

5.10.3 The Open category is reserved for elite athletes that are sixteen (16) years of age or older, by December 31st, who wish to compete for an invitation to become a member of the (Open) U.S.

National Team and represent the United States at IFSC World Cup and World Championship events.

5.11 Formats

Competitions include routes/problems that are attempted in the following formats:

5.11.1 Onsight:

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 5.21, prior to the event and are brought out one at a time to climb.
- b) For each round of an onsight competition, start lists must be posted and made available to athletes and coaches per rule 5.20.
- 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, the one-minute tie-in period may be added in addition to the allocated route time. Additionally, a 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 5.28.
- i) Local onsight competitions, during the Sport Climbing season, may include a combination of top rope and lead climbing.
- j) Routesetting rules, as outlined in rule 5.40, shall be followed.
- k) Multiple categories may compete on some of the same routes/problems. For example, Male D's and Female C's may compete on the same routes/problems.

5.11.2 In addition to rule 5.11.1, above, the following apply:

- a) Onsight competitions are either single round or multiple rounds, with the number of routes/problems as follows:
 - i. For single round Sport competitions, there shall only be three (3) routes.

- ii. For multiple round Sport competitions, the number of routes per round shall be as follows:
 - a. Qualification round – there shall be a minimum of two (2) routes but no more than three (3).
 - b. Semi-Final round – there may only be one (1) route.
 - c. Final round – there may only be one (1) route.
- iii. For single round Bouldering competitions, six (6) problems.
- iv. For multiple round Bouldering competitions, the number of problems per round shall be as follows:
 - a. For each round of competition, there shall be a minimum of three (3) routes but no more than five (5).
- b) For Sport competitions, only one attempt per route will be permitted.
- c) Multiple attempts are permitted at Bouldering competitions.
- d) The routes/problems are climbed in sequence.

5.11.3 Flash

Prior to the start of the competition, 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 onsight competitions may utilize the flash format, however, at championship events, the flash format 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.

5.11.4 Redpoint

- a) The event organizer will prepare at least twenty (20) routes for Sport competitions, and, for Bouldering competitions, at least forty (40) problems. For either competition series, the event organizer is not expected to set more than sixty (60) routes/problems.
- b) Each route will be worth a specific number of points based on that route’s anticipated difficulty.
- c) 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.
- d) Competitors choose which routes/problems to attempt and may attempt as many different routes/problems as they wish, as time allows.
- e) “Beta,” or information, 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.

- f) 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.
- g) There is no limit on the number of attempts a competitor may make on any given route/problem. The score for each attempt, however, shall be recorded.
- h) 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.
- i) Upon successful completion of a route, the judge will award the appropriate number of points and note this on the scorecard. Points are awarded only for completion of the route/problem.
- j) If the competitor flashes the route the scorecard shall be marked with a one (1) in the attempts column.
- k) For Sport climbing, each competitor's top three (3) completed/scored routes will be added together for a final score.
- l) For Bouldering, each competitor's top five (5) completed/scored problems will be added together for a final score.
- m) 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 information.
- n) For Sport redpoint competitions, each route 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.

Bouldering, Collegiate and Sport Redpoint Scoring Chart								
Rating	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.10a	5.10b	5.10c	5.10d
	V0	V0	V0	V0+	V1-	V1	V1+	V2-
Points	600	700	800	900	1000	1025	1050	1075
Rating	5.11a	5.11b	5.11c	5.11d	5.12a	5.12b	5.12c	5.12d
	V2	V2+/V3-	V3/V3+	V4-/V4	V4+/V5-	V5/V5+	V6-/V6	V6+/V7
Points	1100	1125	1150	1175	1200	1225	1250	1275
Rating	5.13a	5.13b	5.13c	5.13d	5.14a	5.14b	5.14c	5.14d
	V7/V7+	V8-/V8	V8+/V9-	V9/V9+	V10-/V10	V10+/V11-	V11/V11+	V12-/V12+
Points	1300	1325	1350	1375	1400	1425	1450	1475

5.11.5 Redpoint – Modified

General Routesetting rules for redpoint format competitions shall be followed.

- a) Eight (8) to ten (10) routes/problems are assigned for each category.
- b) The competition is run as a redpoint format, with all competitors climbing at the same time. However, only routes/problems climbed from the assigned category routes/problems are counted towards the top three (3) scores for Sport competitions, or the top five (5) scores for Bouldering competitions.
- c) All other rules as to a Redpoint competition shall be followed.

5.12 Formats – Championship Events

- 5.12.1 The Sport Regional Championship shall be a single round onsight competition, as per rule 5.11.2.
- 5.12.2 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.
- 5.12.3 The Sport Youth National Championship event shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.11.2, 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.
- 5.12.4 The Sport Open National Championship event shall be a three (3) round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.11.2, 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.
- 5.12.5 The Bouldering Regional Championship shall be a single round, onsight competition (refer to rule 5.11.2 for the number of problems per round).
- 5.12.6 The Bouldering Divisional Championship shall be a dual round onsight competition, as per rule 5.11.2, and shall consist of between three (3) to five (5) problems for each round.
- 5.12.7 The Bouldering Youth National Championship event shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.11.2, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems per round.
- 5.12.8 The Bouldering Open National Championship shall be a three round, onsight competition, as per rule 5.11.2, and shall consist of three (3) to five (5) problems per round.
- 5.12.9 The Collegiate Regional Championship shall be a single round redpoint format competition comprised of all three disciplines as follows:
 - a) The top 3 routes for Sport;
 - b) The top 5 problems for Bouldering; and
 - c) The best time on two routes for Speed.

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

- 5.12.10 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.

5.13 Eligibility – Championship Events

- 5.13.1 Athletes are eligible to compete at the Open National Championship provided:

- a) They are sixteen (16) years of age or older by December 31st, and

- b) Have a purchased a USAC membership **no later than** the registration deadline for the Open National Championship;
 - c) All ages and abilities are invited to participate in the Citizen's competition.
- 5.13.2 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 – a “Day-member” pass does not qualify. 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.
- 5.13.3 Collegiate members are eligible to compete at the Collegiate National Championships provided they have:
 - a) Competed at his/her Collegiate Regional Championship.
 - b) Met all registration requirements and/or deadlines.
- 5.13.4 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). 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.
- 5.13.5 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.
- 5.13.6 The local competition minimum participation requirement, as outlined in rule 5.13.4, 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.
 Please note, however, Collegiate competitions may **not** be used to fulfill the youth local participation requirement unless 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.

- 5.13.7 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 no later than April 30th. 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 no later than seven (7) days prior to the start of the 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.

5.14 Invitations – Championship Events

- 5.14.1 In determining invitations to the Championship events, rules relating to “Byes,” “Day-members,” and “Non-U.S. citizens” shall apply.
- 5.14.2 Invitations to the Divisional Championship will be announced at the conclusion of the Regional Championship. Eligible competitors as outlined in rule 5.13, above, who, at the conclusion of the Regional Championship, are ranked first (1st) through tenth (10th) will be invited to the Divisional Championship.
- 5.14.3 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.

5.15 Invitation Acceptance – Championship Events

- 5.15.1 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.
- 5.15.2 Upon registration, a confirmation email will be sent to the email address provided. Please contact, immediately, USA Climbing at info@usaclimbing.org if a confirmation email is not received.
- 5.15.3 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.
- 5.15.4 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.
- 5.15.5 At the conclusion of the first (1st) round invitation registration deadline, USAC will post a 1st Round Invitation Acceptance Chart. Competitors who have not accepted their first (1st) round invitation will have an additional 24-hour “window” to register and accept their invitation. There will be an additional fee of \$100.00 to register during this window. 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.***
- 5.15.6 A competitor who has received a “Bye” to the National Championship **must** register before the deadline for the first (1st) round of invitations.
- 5.15.7 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.
- 5.15.8 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.

5.16 Additional Invitations – Championship Events

- 5.16.1 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.
- 5.16.2 Categories that contain a *Non-U.S. citizen*, may receive an additional invitation to the Divisional Championship, 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. For example:
 - i. If the Non-U.S. citizen places tenth (10th) or higher, eleven (11) U.S. competitors will advance.
 - ii. If the Non-U.S. citizen places eleventh (11th) at their Regional Championship, only ten (10) competitors will advance.

5.17 Invitations, Declined or Unfilled – Championship Events

- 5.17.1 USAC may elect to award declined or unfilled championship invitations to the next competitor in line based upon championship event enrollment constraints.
- 5.17.2 A reissued invitation must stay within the original gender and category.
- 5.17.3 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.
- 5.17.4 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.
- 5.17.5 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.
- 5.17.6 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.
- 5.17.7 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.

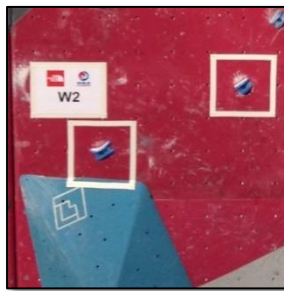
5.18 Competitions Rules – All formats

- 5.18.1 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.

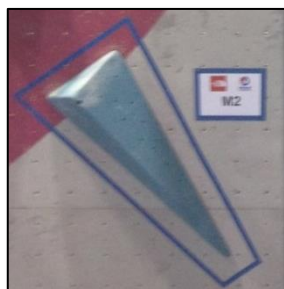
- b) At National competitions, competitors shall not enter the host facility after route setting for the competition has commenced. A competitor who enters the host facility once route setting has commenced or otherwise gains knowledge of the routes/problems prior to the event, may be disqualified from the event and may be subject to disciplinary action including revocation of membership.

- 5.18.2 A competition may only be deemed to have “officially” begun when the Chief Judge gives said instruction.
- 5.18.3 It is the responsibility of a color-blind competitor to notify, in writing and at least seven (7) days prior to the start of the competition, USA Climbing (info@usacimbing.org), the host facility and the USA Climbing Regional or Divisional Coordinator(s) that the routes/problems will need to be distinguished in such a manner to accommodate the color-blind competitor.
- 5.18.4 Only designated holds and features are permitted for climbing each route/problem.
- 5.18.5 For the purposes of competition climbing, a “hold” shall 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, identified on the route map.
- 5.18.6 Each route/problem shall have a clearly marked starting position, which shall consist of marked hold(s) for one or both hands.
- 5.18.7 The demarcations used to mark the starting and finishing position shall either be:
 - c) Taped “boxes” placed around one or more holds. A single taped box shall define one marked starting hold, whether it is placed around one or more holds.
 - d) Taped “flashes” placed on the wall touching a hold.

Examples:



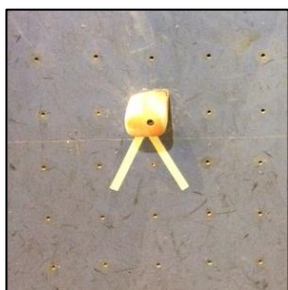
Two separately marked holds with taped boxes.



A single marked hold with one taped box.



Two separately marked holds with taped flashes.



A single marked hold with flashes.

- 5.18.8 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.
- 5.18.9 Prior to an attempt, a competitor may only touch the marked starting hold(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.
- 5.18.10 A competitor must first control the marked hold(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 hold(s). Establishing control of the marked hold(s) of a route/problem shall be defined accordingly:
 - a) If there is one (1) marked hold, the competitor must begin with one or more hand(s) controlling that hold.
 - b) If there are two (2) separately marked holds, the competitor must begin with each hand controlling each marked hold simultaneously.
- 5.18.11 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. A competitor shall be permitted to jump to the starting hold(s) but must control the starting hold(s) before moving their hands to any other holds.
- 5.18.12 Each route/problem shall have a clearly marked finish which shall be either:
 - a) In the case of Boulder problems, either one (1) or two (2) finish hold(s); or
 - b) In the case of Boulder problems, a standing position on top of the Boulder; or
 - c) In the case of Sport routes, one (1) hold.
- 5.18.13 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.

- 5.18.14 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.
- 5.18.15 Each attempt of a route/problem shall be noted on the competitor's scorecard.
- 5.18.16 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.
- 5.18.17 A competitor's attempt on a route/problem shall be stopped and the highest controlled hold, as determined by the Judge, shall be scored 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.
- 5.18.18 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.
- 5.18.19 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.
- 5.18.20 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.
- 5.18.21 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.
- 5.18.22 Competitors may not receive coaching or advice from any individual while attempting a route/problem. Encouragement and cheering are acceptable but coaching is not. When competing in an onsight competition that has no official route/problem preview, receipt of any information concerning a route/problem prior to or during the attempt on the route/problem is ground for immediate disqualification of the competitor.
- 5.18.23 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.
- 5.18.24 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.
- 5.18.25 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).
- 5.18.26 Competitors and/or judges may brush holds that can be reached from the ground. If available, pole brushes may be used.
- 5.18.27 Bolt hangers and/or quickdraws may not be used as handholds or footholds, at any time.
- 5.18.28 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 5.40.8.

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

5.19 Technical Meeting

5.19.1 A technical meeting should be held prior to the competition and is open to USAC certified coaches. 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.

5.20 Starting Lists

5.20.1 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.

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

5.20.3 Starting lists shall include the following information:

- a) The starting order;
- b) The name of each competitor and their USAC membership number;
- c) Opening and closing time of isolation, when relevant;
- d) Time of observation or demonstration and the start of the round;
- e) Any other information approved by the Chief Judge.

5.20.4 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.

5.21 Check-in and Isolation

5.21.1 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.

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

5.21.3 At a single round championship event, a “rolling isolation” may be utilized. At multiple round championship onsite 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.

5.21.4 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.

5.21.5 For competitors of legal age, smoking is allowed only in specially designated areas, normally the area immediately outside the door to the isolation zone but never in or near the call zone or the competition zone. When in the designated smoking area, competitors or other persons are still under isolation conditions.

5.21.6 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.

5.21.7 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.

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

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

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

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

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

5.21.13 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.

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

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

5.22 Observation

5.22.1 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.

5.22.2 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.

- 5.22.3 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.
- 5.22.4 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.
- 5.22.5 It is the sole responsibility of each competitor to fully inform him/herself with respect to all instructions regarding the route/problem.

5.23 Preparation Prior to Climbing

- 5.23.1 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.
- 5.23.2 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.
- 5.23.3 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).
- 5.23.4 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.

5.24 Wall Maintenance

- 5.24.1 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.
- 5.24.2 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.

5.25 Technical Incidents

- 5.25.1 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.
- 5.25.2 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 any of these items impede the competitor.
- 5.25.3 There shall be no grounds for a medical technical other than outlined in rule 5.25.1(c).
- 5.25.4 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.
- 5.25.5 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.
- 5.25.6 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.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. 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.
- 5.25.7 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.
- 5.25.8 During an onsight competition:
- a) The competitor subjected to a confirmed technical incident shall be allowed a minimum recuperation period of fifteen (15) minutes up to a maximum of twenty (20) minutes.
 - b) The Chief Judge shall decide when the next attempt of the competitor will be slotted based on the competitor's requested recuperation time within the maximum limit. 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.

5.25.9 During a Speed competition:

- a) A competitor who experiences a technical incident must announce the technical prior to returning to the ground. 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, a maximum recuperation time of (5) five minutes shall be allowed for the competitor affected by a technical incident.
- c) After the recuperation period, the competitor impacted by the technical incident shall re-run the route on which the technical incident occurred and they shall run against another competitor or a "rabbit."

5.25.10 On completion of their 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.

5.26 Termination of an attempt on a Route

5.26.1 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) Makes use, with either his/her hands or feet, of bolt hangers or quickdraws for climbing;
- g) Fails to clip a quickdraw in accordance with the rules (Sport Climbing);
- h) Returns to the ground with any part of the body after having started the attempt;
- i) Uses any artificial aid.

5.26.2 In the case of infractions related to rules 5.26.1 (b) – (i), the Judge shall instruct the competitor to stop climbing.

5.26.3 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 8 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 5.25 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.

5.27 Video

5.27.1 National Championships

- a) At 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 Jury President or Chief Judge if requested.

5.28 Scoring

5.28.1 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.

5.28.2 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*, in the appendix of this rulebook, for more information regarding route maps.

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). 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.

- a) For Boulder problems, a single finish handhold shall be marked with two scored numbers, defining a matched finish. For example, (8/9). If two individual handholds are marked as the finish handholds, then they shall be marked as a "bridge" with two consecutive numbered scores; for example, an (8) and (9), linked on the route map with a line, written (8—9). In Bouldering, a competitor must demonstrate a controlled match of a single finish handhold or control both of two marked handholds with each hand.
- b) For Sport climbing, 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.

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.

5.28.3 Only handholds controlled by the hands shall be scored. At the discretion of the Chief Judge, and in consultation with the Chief Routesetter, in the event a competitor successfully controls a handhold that is a non-scored hold, in the "route map," the handhold may be added as a scored handhold to the total route score.

5.28.4 Sport Climbing:

A competitor's score is based on four (4) factors. The score of a competitor shall be:

- 1) The number of the highest handhold controlled, followed by a decimal score according to the following:
- 2) *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:
 - i) A significant change in the competitor’s center of mass; and
 - ii) The movement of at least one hand in order to reach a higher scored handhold.
- 3) *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.
- 4) 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.

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

- 5.28.5 A hold on a Sport climbing route that is marked with a “blue cross” or “blue box”, refer to Rule 5.40.9, 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.

5.28.6 Speed Climbing:

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

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

5.28.7 Bouldering:

A competitor shall be scored on each problem. The score of a competitor shall be:

- 1) A score of “TOP,” for completing the problem, followed by the number of attempts taken to complete the “TOP,” or;
- 2) If a competitor does not complete the problem, a numbered score for control of the highest scored handhold marked on the route map, followed by the number of attempts taken to first achieve control of the highest scored handhold.

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

- 5.28.8 Upon the completion of their attempt(s) of a route/problem, the Judge shall inform the competitor as to which point, on the route/problem, they were scored. If the competitor does not agree with the score, s/he may file an appeal – refer to 11.

5.29 Advancement between Rounds – Championship Events

- 5.29.1 For all Championship events, advancement is based on a competitor's placement in each round. A prior round score is only used to break ties – for both redpoint and onsight competitions.

- 5.29.2 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.

- 5.29.3 Regional Championship – Collegiate

At a multiple round Collegiate Regional Championship, 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.

- 5.29.4 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. National Champion and/or non-U.S. citizen places within the range of advancement to the next round, the next ranking U.S. citizen(s) will advance.

- 5.29.5 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. In the event of a tie in the semi-final round, the tie will be broken by a count-back to the qualification round. If the tie still remains, then all competitors tied for tenth shall advance 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 ranking U.S. citizen(s) will 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.

- 5.29.6 National Championship – Collegiate

Refer to rule 9.3.1; in each category and discipline, twenty (20) competitors shall advance from the qualification round to the final round. In the event of a tie for twentieth (20th) place, all twentieth placed competitors will advance.

- 5.29.7 National Championship – 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. In the event of a tie for eighth (8th) place, all eighth placed competitors will advance.

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. At the conclusion of the semi-final round, the top eight (8) competitors shall advance to the final round. In the event of a tie for eighth (8th) place, all eighth (8th) place competitors will advance.

- 5.29.8 National Championship – Bouldering 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 to the final round. In the event of a tie for eighth (8th) place, all eighth placed competitors will advance.

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. At the conclusion of the semi-final round, the top six (6) competitors shall advance to the final round. In the event of a tie for sixth (6th) place, all sixth (6th) place competitors will advance.

- 5.29.9 For all multiple round Regional and Divisional Championship competitions, when a reigning World, Pan American or U.S. National Champion and/or a non-U.S. citizen places within the range of ranked competitors advancing to the next round, the next ranked U.S. citizen shall also advance.
- 5.29.10 At National Championship competitions, when a reigning World or Pan American Champion in the Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories, and/or a non-U.S. citizen places within the range of ranked competitors advancing to the next round, the next ranked U.S. citizen shall also 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.

5.30 Rankings

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

5.31 Ties

5.31.1 Onsight

To determine the final results at Regional and Divisional Championships, ties will be broken among the top ten (10) competitors, *plus any additional competitors*, if the top ten (10) include reigning U.S. National Champions, Pan American Champions or World Champions, and/or non-U.S. citizen competitors (i.e. “extra quota” competitors; refer to rule 5.16). If there are any “extra quota” competitors ranked within the top ten (10), then the ties shall be broken among the top ten competitors *plus* the number of competitors ranked ten or lower, that is equal to the number of extra quota competitors (i.e. if there is one extra quota competitor within the top ten, then ties shall be broken within the top eleven competitors). At a National Championship, ties will be broken for the top four (4) places. Ties will be broken by count-back to the previous round(s). If the tie(s) cannot be broken in this manner, then a super final round will be held to break the ties(s). At the discretion of the Chief Judge and Chief Routesetter, the super final round:

- a) Must be an onsight format, and
- b) Must consist of a minimum of one (1) but no more than three (3) routes/problems with 3 to 6 minutes of climbing time per route/problem.

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.

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.

5.31.2 Redpoint

To determine the final results for a redpoint competition, counting the total number of attempts will break ties that each of the tied competitors had for their top scored three (3) Sport climbing routes or five (5) Boulder problems. The competitor with the fewest number of attempts shall be given the lower (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.

5.32 Results Lists

- 5.32.1 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.
- 5.32.2 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.
- 5.32.3 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.
- 5.32.4 All official result lists shall be prepared in a format as stipulated by USAC and published on the official competition notice board.
- 5.32.5 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.

5.33 Youth Climbing Team – Definition

- 5.33.1 A youth climbing team consists of members who compete and train together under the guidance and direction of a coach or coaches. The coach must organize/facilitate a minimum of four (4) practices a month in which **each** member must attend and participate in the majority of the practices. A team must have a minimum of three (3) individuals who are members of USA Climbing and a USA Climbing certified coach. Eligible team members must be in good standing with their coach, team policies, and the rules and regulations of USA Climbing.

5.34 Youth Climbing Team – Team Affiliation

- 5.34.1 All team members shall designate their team affiliation during their USA Climbing membership registration. In the event a team member changes team affiliation or joins a team during the Bouldering or Sport & Speed season, USA Climbing must be notified in order to make the appropriate adjustment(s). Any and all team designations or affiliations must be submitted and finalized *by the close of registration* for an affected member’s Regional Championship. USA Climbing will not accept changes to a team or team affiliation after this point.
- 5.34.2 College students who are “age eligible” as youth competitors and who no longer live within their previously assigned “home” region, as defined in rule 5.3, and would like to continue an affiliation with a team they were a member of prior to attending college may request to do so by:
 - a) Submitting a letter to USA Climbing stating that the student is currently enrolled as a full time student. The letter must be on university or college letterhead and signed by the registrar. Additionally, the letter must be dated and stamped within one (1) month of its receipt by USA Climbing. Documentation may be sent to USA Climbing via:

- Fax: 561-423-0715
- Email: info@usaclimbing.org
- Mail: USA Climbing

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- b) All requests must be submitted and approved no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Regional Championship, by 11:59 p.m. No requests will be granted beyond this date.

- 5.34.3 Provided the above requirements have been met, the student will be allowed to attend the Regional Championship located nearest to his/her school residence. Their results will not be counted toward the Regional Team Championship. However, should they qualify for the Divisional and/or National Championships they may earn points for their team as outlined in rule 5.36.

5.35 Youth Climbing Team Competition – Championship Events

5.35.1 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 5.3. 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 5.3. Competitors that have a bye to the Regional Championship, per rule 5.7, are exempt from the local competition requirement and are eligible for the team competition at the Regional Championship.

5.35.2 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 5.3. 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 5.3. Competitors that have a bye to the Divisional Championship, per rule 5.7, are exempt from the local competition requirement and are eligible for the team competition at the Divisional Championship.

5.35.3 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 5.3. 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 5.3. Competitors that have a bye to the National Championship, per rule 5.7, are exempt from the Local, Regional and Divisional competition requirement; and are eligible for the team competition, at the National Championship.

5.36 Team Competition – Scoring

- 5.36.1 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:

Team Competition - Points					
Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
1 st	100	11 th	38	21 st	18
2 nd	90	12 th	36	22 nd	16
3 rd	80	13 th	34	23 rd	14
4 th	70	14 th	32	24 th	12
5 th	65	15 th	30	25 th	10
6 th	60	16 th	28	26 th	8
7 th	55	17 th	26	27 th	6
8 th	50	18 th	24	28 th	4
9 th	45	19 th	22	29 th	2
10 th	40	20 th	20	30 th	1
Competitors ranked 30 th or lower shall each receive one (1) point.					

- 5.36.2 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. 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.
- 5.36.3 For Youth National Championships, a separate Team National Championship award shall be determined for each discipline – Bouldering, Sport and Speed.
- 5.36.4 Teams are ranked in descending order; the team with the highest overall score shall be ranked in first (1st) place.
- 5.36.5 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.
- 5.36.6 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.

5.37 Youth All-Around Award – Scoring

- 5.37.1 At the conclusion of the Youth Sport and Speed National Championships, one athlete, for each gender, shall be selected for the All-Around award.
- 5.37.2 To be eligible for this award, a competitor must compete in each Championship event – Regional, Divisional and National – for Bouldering, Sport and Speed.
- 5.37.3 Competitors that have earned a bye to a National Championship are exempted from rule 5.37.2.
- 5.37.4 Each competitor accrues points, as outlined in the chart in rule 5.36.1, and a cumulative total is calculated based on their final placement at each of the Youth National Championships.
- 5.37.5 In the event of a tie, points are added based on the final results from the Divisional Championships. If the tie still remains, points are then added based on the final results from the Regional Championships. If the tie still remains, the tied competitors will share the All-Around Award.

5.38 U.S. National Team Selection

- 5.38.1 National ranking and the U.S. National Team, in each category and discipline, will be determined by the results of the National Championships – Open and Youth – and shall be announced by USAC at the conclusion of each respective National Championship event.
- 5.38.2 Reigning World and/or Pan American Champions in the Open, Junior, Youth A or Youth B categories that are U.S. citizens will also be members of the U.S. National Team in their respective World Championship discipline(s).
- 5.38.3 The U.S. National Teams are selected to represent the United States in sanctioned international competitions. There are separate adult and youth national teams, the members of which are defined by participation quotas for international competitions, as follows:
 - a) The U.S. Adult National Team is 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) The U.S. Youth National Team is 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.
- 5.38.4 An individual that has been selected to compete in the place of a U.S. National Team member at World Youth Championships or Pan American Championships, shall then also be considered a U.S. National Team member as an “Alternate.”

5.39 Invitations to International Competitions

- 5.39.1 Invitations to compete at the World Youth Championships are first extended to members of the U.S. National Team, in the Youth A, B and Junior categories, as recognized by the IFSC. In the event a U.S. National Team member declines their invitation, the invitation will be passed-down to the next highest placed U.S. citizen finalist of the respective National Championship. If an invitation remains, after having been extended it to all finalists, then the invitation will be extended to all competitors through an “Application Process.” Refer to the U.S. Team Selection Addendum, in this rulebook.
- 5.39.2 The Pan American Council provides an opportunity for competitors in the Youth C and Youth D categories to compete in a Pan American Championships. Invitations to the Pan American Championships are first extended to members of the U.S. National Team in all youth categories. If an invitation remains, after having been extended to all finalists, then the invitation will be extended to all competitors through an “Application Process.” Refer to the U.S. Team Selection Addendum, in this rulebook.

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.
- 5.39.3 Invitations to compete at the IFSC World Championships and IFSC World Cups are first extended to members of the U.S. National Team. In the event a U.S. National Team member declines their invitation, the invitation will be passed-down to the next highest placed U.S. citizen finalist of the respective National Championship. If an invitation remains, after having extended it to all finalists, then the invitation will be extended to all competitors through an “Application Process.” Refer to the U.S. Team Selection Addendum, in this rulebook.

5.40 Routesetting

- 5.40.1 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.

- 5.40.2 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.
- 5.40.3 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.
- 5.40.4 Competitors may not work as routesetters for a competition they are competing in.
- 5.40.5 Routes/problems may **not** be designated solely by hold color, unless, the route/problem is completely isolated on the wall from other routes/problems.
- 5.40.6 If a route is to be used as both a lead route and a top-rope 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.
- 5.40.7 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.
- 5.40.8 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.
- 5.40.9 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.
- 5.40.10 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.

- 5.40.11 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 onsite competitions.

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 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:

- 1) The starting order for the qualification 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 – 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.

- 2) 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 6.2.1(1) and 6.2.1(2), 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.

- 3) 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 5.22, competitors, as a group, shall be permitted to observe onsite 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 Article 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 shall 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 as possible.

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 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, 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,
- 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 the lowest part of the

competitor's body has moved above the lowest part of the carabiner connected to the next unclipped quickdraw, or in the case of a traverse or roof section of the route, after the competitor's body has moved beyond the next unclipped quickdraw in the line of the route, 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 $(2 + 3 + 4 + 5) / 4 = 14 / 4 = 3.50$

$$TP = n^{\text{th}}\sqrt{(R1 * R2 * R3)}$$

TP = Total Points

R1 = Ranking Points on first route.

R2 = Ranking Points on second route.

R3 = 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) decimal places.

6.10.3 Redpoint:

Competitors shall be scored and ranked in descending order according to the following:

- a) Points are awarded for the successful completion or “Top” of each route.
- b) 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 Redpoint Scoring Chart under Rule 5.11.4(n).

6.10.4 Competitors shall enter each competition with zero points.

6.10.5 Competitor’s scores are zeroed between rounds, but prior rounds will be used as a “count-back” to break ties.

6.10.6 Placement awards are based solely on the results of the final round after any count-backs to prior rounds and/or a super-final round.

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 4.

- 7.2.1 All routes shall be climbed with the competitor secured by top-rope, belayed from below. The rope shall be a single rope.
- 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 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 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:
- a) Competitors will climb two (2) routes – with route #1 followed by route #2.
 - b) 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.
 - c) 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.
 - d) The last Speed climbing competitor shall climb against a “rabbit” when s/he is climbing

route #2.

- 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 be a randomized delay, followed by audible "start" tone.
- 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 immediately restart the route.
- 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 Ties

- 7.8.1 At the conclusion of the qualification round of competition, any ties amongst competitors advancing to the next round shall be broken with the re-run of the two (2) routes used for the round. At the conclusion of the semi-final round and final round of competition, any ties amongst competitors shall be broken by placement in the previous round(s).

7.9 Completion of a Route

- 7.9.1 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 with his/her hand.
- 7.9.2 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 5.40.8(a).
 - 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.

7.10 Presentation of Results

- 7.10.1 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.
- 7.10.2 The overall result lists shall show the competitors' achieved climbing times on all routes and in all rounds.

7.11 Speed – Regional Championship

- 7.11.1 Speed climbing at the Regional Championship is open to all USA Climbing members.
- 7.11.2 Speed climbing shall consist of one (1) round.
- 7.11.3 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
- 7.11.4 Regional Championship awards are based on the rankings from the (Final) round.
- 7.11.5 Invitations to the Divisional Championship shall be extended to all USAC members that competed in Speed climbing at their Regional Championship.

7.12 Speed – Divisional Championship

- 7.12.1 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.
- 7.12.2 Speed climbing at the Divisional Championship shall consist of two (2) rounds – Qualification and Final.

7.13 Speed Qualification Round – Divisional Championship

- 7.13.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
- 7.13.2 At the conclusion of the qualification round, the top ten (10) fastest times will advance to the final round. All competitors tied for tenth (10th) place shall advance to the final round.
- 7.13.3 In the event there are less than ten (10) competitors in the qualification round, all competitors will advance to the final round.

7.14 Speed Final Round – Divisional Championship

- 7.14.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
- 7.14.2 Pairings for the final round shall be based on ranking from the qualification round with and 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
- 7.14.3 Divisional Championship awards are based on the rankings from the Final round.
- 7.14.4 National Championship invitations shall be extended to all USAC members that competed in

Speed climbing at their Divisional Championship.

7.15 Speed – National Championship

- 7.15.1 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.
- 7.15.2 The Youth National Championship shall consist of three (3) rounds of competition – qualification, semi-final and final.
- 7.15.3 The Collegiate National Championship shall consist of two (2) rounds of competition – qualification and final.

7.16 Speed Qualification Round – National Championships

- 7.16.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
- 7.16.2 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.
- 7.16.3 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.
- 7.16.4 The Collegiate National Championship shall advance the top twenty (20) fastest times to the final round. If there are less than twenty (20) competitors in the qualification round, all competitors will advance to the final round.

7.17 National Championships – Semi-final Round

- 7.17.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.
- 7.17.2 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.
- 7.17.3 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.
- 7.17.4 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

7.18 National Championship – Final Round

7.18.1 Competitors will climb two (2) routes.

7.18.2 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

7.18.3 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

7.18.4 For the Collegiate National Championship events 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

7.18.5 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 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 onsite 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 only the final round.

8.3 Climbing Procedure

- 8.3.1 The fixed length of the climbing period shall be from three (3) to six (6) minutes per route/problem for each round. The specific amount of climbing time allowed for each round shall be announced prior to the start of the round. At the discretion of the Chief Judge, for the final round only, s/he may opt to not impose a specific climbing time limit.
- 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).

8.4 Rankings – Onsight and Redpoint

- 8.4.1 Onsight: Competitors shall be ranked based on the following:
 - a) The total number of problems completed, or "TOPS."
 - b) Each competitor shall be awarded Ranking Points for each Boulder problem as follows:
 - i. Where the competitor has a unique ranking on the Boulder problem, equal to the ranking of the competitor in their Starting Group; or
 - ii. Where two or more competitors are tied on the Boulder problem, 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 $(2 + 3 + 4 + 5) / 4 = 14 / 4 = 3.50$

- c) The ranking of competitors within their Starting Group shall be in descending order of the total number of "TOPS." Those competitors with the same number of TOPS shall then be listed in ascending order of the Total Points awarded to each competitor (i.e. lower Total Points is better), calculated according to the following:

$$\text{Total Points} = n^{\text{th}}\sqrt{(B1 * B2 * B3 * B4 * B5 * B6)}$$

TP = Total Points

B1 = Ranking Points on first Boulder problem.

B2 = Ranking Points on second Boulder problem.

B3 = Ranking Points on third Boulder problem.

B4 = Ranking Points on fourth Boulder problem (included only if applicable).

B5 = Ranking Points on fifth Boulder problem (included only if applicable).

B6 = Ranking Points on sixth Boulder problem (included only if applicable).

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

8.4.3 Redpoint:

Competitors shall be scored and ranked in descending order according to the following:

- a) Points are awarded for the successful completion or “TOP” of each Boulder problem.
- b) A competitor's score shall be equal to the sum of the total points of the five (5) highest scored Boulder problems completed, or “TOPS.”

Refer to the Redpoint Scoring Chart under Rule 5.11.4 (n).

8.4.4 Competitors shall enter each competition with zero points.

8.4.5 Competitor's scores are zeroed between rounds.

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 5.12 and 5.29.6; in addition, for the Collegiate National Championship, a competitor that qualifies to advance to the final round may only compete in one discipline – Sport, Speed or Bouldering – and thus s/he must rank in the order of their preference, at the time of registration, which discipline they wish to participate in during the final round, should they qualify.

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 5.36.1. Additionally, team rankings are calculated per rules 5.36.2, 5.36.3, 5.36.5 and 5.36.6.

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:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Trans radial and Long Trans humeral: Wrist disarticulation to trans humeral amputation of two (2) inches or more.
- 3) 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 Appeals

11.1 Protocol - General

11.1.1 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.

11.1.2 In order to be considered, all official appeals shall be in writing and accompanied by the appropriate fee.

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

- 11.1.4 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.
- 11.1.5 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 5.4 of this rulebook.
- 11.1.6 Appeals made outside the appeals process will be rejected or returned.
- 11.1.7 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.
- 11.1.8 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.
- 11.1.9 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.
- 11.1.10 A competitor may appeal the decision of the Judge to the Chief Judge when he or she has finished the attempt.
- 11.1.11 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.
- 11.1.12 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.
- 11.1.13 The appeal Decision shall be made in writing, and handed by the Chief Judge to the person who officially lodged the appeal and/or the Team Coach.

11.2 Protocol – Local Competitions

- 11.2.1 The Appeal protocol as outlined in rule 11.1 shall be followed unless modified in this section.
- 11.2.2 The Regional Coordinator is the Chief Judge at Local events. An alternate Chief Judge may be selected at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator. The alternate Chief Judge must be a USAC member in good standing with thorough knowledge of the current rulebook.
- 11.2.3 At a local competition, if the competitor disagrees with the decision made by the Chief Judge, the competitor may file his or her appeal in writing, following the protocol outlined in rule 11.4, below, to the Appeals Committee no later than seven (7) days from the occurrence of the incident/dispute. However, once the Chief Judge at the event makes a decision, that decision will be considered “final” and the competition will continue. If the Appeals Committee later reaches a different conclusion than the Chief Judge, the results will be adjusted accordingly. Those adjustments, if any, will be announced as timely as possible. ***No appeal(s) of the adjusted results will be considered. The Appeals Committee decision and the adjusted results, if any, will be final.***

11.3 Protocol – Championship Events

- 11.3.1 The Appeal protocol as outlined in rule 11.1 shall be followed unless modified in this section.
- 11.3.2 The Regional Coordinator is the Chief Judge at the Regional Championship. An alternate Chief Judge may be selected at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator. The alternate Chief Judge must be a USAC member in good standing with thorough knowledge of the current rules.
- 11.3.3 The Chief Judge for the Divisional Championship will be announced prior to the event.
- 11.3.4 The Chief Judge for the National Championship will be announced prior to the event.
- 11.3.5 The Appeal Fee for Championship events is one hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- 11.3.6 If an appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be returned. If the appeal is denied, USA Climbing shall retain the appeal fee.
- 11.3.7 At the Championship events, Regional, Divisional and National, the Chief Judge shall convene an Appeals Jury that should include the Chief Judge, the Judge, Chief Routesetter, and/or the

Routesetter, and the Belayer for the route in question. A decision shall be made as circumstances allow.

11.3.8 Appeals 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: twenty (20) minutes for qualification and semi-final rounds, or ten (10) minutes for the final round. The appeal shall be made by the coach, the competitor or by the parents/guardian of the competitor if the competitor is developmentally disabled, or hearing or speech impaired. The appeal fee shall accompany the appeal.

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

11.4 Protocol – Appeals Committee

11.4.1 The Appeals Committee handles all disputes which are not resolved by the procedures outlined in rules 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3. These include, but are not limited to, all competition and championship issues such as:

- a) Attendance;
- b) Byes;
- c) Coaching certification;
- d) Deadlines;
- e) Invitations;
- f) Isolation;
- g) Qualification;
- h) Registration;
- i) Rules ambiguities and interpretation;
- j) Rules infractions, including allegations of cheating.

11.4.2 Appeals submitted to the USA Climbing Appeals Committee, appeals@usaclimbing.org, shall be in writing and accompanied by a non-refundable administrative fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00). All appeal submissions should Cc info@usaclimbing.org and grant USA Climbing permission to charge the appeals fee to the competitor's card on file. The fee must be paid prior to the Appeals Committee making a ruling on the respective appeal.

11.4.3 In order to be considered, the Appeals Protocol, as outlined in rules 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3, or such other appeals protocol as is set forth under USA Climbing's SafeSport Policies, must be followed. Otherwise, the appeal will be rejected or returned.

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

11.4.5 Appeals pertaining to registration deadlines or issues will not be heard or considered within ninety-six (96) hours of the start of a championship competition.

11.4.6 If an appeal is filed after an event, the Appeals Committee will conduct a thorough investigation, which may or may not include interviewing witnesses. In the event that a witness is a minor, an adult representative, for that minor, must be present at all times during the interview whether or not the interview is conducted in-person or by telephone. This is **not** optional. The adult representative may be a parent, legal guardian or registered coach. The Appeals Committee has the authority to impose reasonable deadlines for witnesses to provide requested information. If the deadline is not met, the appeal may be dismissed. ***Upon conclusion of the investigation, any decision reached by the Appeals Committee decision is final.***

12 Disqualification

12.1 General Guidelines

12.1.1 Cheating in any form **will** result in the disqualification of the competitor from the competition, and may result in the revocation of membership in USA Climbing.

12.1.2 The following infringements may result in the disqualification of the competitor from the competition and 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) At onsight and redpoint format competitions, "beta" (advice) may not be given to a competitor either prior to their attempt on the route, nor while they are attempting a route/problem. Giving beta to a competitor will result in disqualification of that attempt, and may result in disqualification of the competitor from the competition. At a flash format competition, beta may not be given to a competitor while they are attempting a route.
- 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 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 lose coach status with USA Climbing and risk having their entire team disqualified for that competition.

12.3 Non-Competition violations

12.3.1 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 (i.e. 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.

12.3.2 If the suspected violator is a coach, any complaints shall be taken to the Regional Coordinator who may consult with the Chairperson of the Rules Committee. Any finding of violation shall be determined by a majority of the entire Rules Committee and said finding of violation may be appealed to the Appeals Committee, per procedures relating to Appeals.

12.3.3 If the suspected violator is a competitor, any complaints shall be presented to the Regional Coordinator who may consult with the Chairperson of the Rules Committee. Any finding of violation shall be determined by a majority of the Rules Committee. Any finding of violation may be appealed to the Appeals Committee, per procedures relating to Appeals.

12.3.4 Notwithstanding the process described in this Section 11.3, any complaints under USA Climbing's SafeSport Policies may and should be made under the reporting procedures set forth therein.

12.4 Procedure for Competition-related Disqualification During a Competition

12.4.1 It is imperative that these procedures are followed in all cases, under all circumstances. Failure to abide by these procedures could be interpreted as intimidation or harassment. This Section 11.4 is subject to USA Climbing's SafeSport Policies.

- 12.4.2 Any and all suspected infringements must **first** be reported to the Chief Judge. Only the Chief Judge may approach a competitor under disqualification proceedings.
- 12.4.3 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.
- 12.4.4 The research process may include but is not limited to interviewing Judges, belayers, ISO monitors, spectators, other competitors, et cetera.
- 12.4.5 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.
- 12.4.6 All proceedings are confidential and this point should be stressed to everyone involved.
- 12.4.7 Anytime a person under the age of eighteen (18) is interviewed, an adult representative for that minor must be present at all times. This is **not** optional. 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.
- 12.4.8 If the infringement is found to be unsubstantiated, the Chief Judge will drop the charge with no consequences to the accused competitor.
- 12.4.9 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.
- 12.4.10 Anyone found guilty of knowingly falsely accusing a competitor of an infringement will receive a red card resulting in disqualification.
- 12.4.11 Anyone except the Chief Judge, who approaches a competitor and accuses them of an infringement, will be removed from the event. If the accuser is a competitor, s/he will receive a red card resulting in disqualification.
- 12.4.12 Parents and coaches shall be held to the same yellow/red card standard, as competitors, for any infringement as determined by the Chief Judge.
- 12.4.13 The Chief Executive Officer and/or the Board of Directors of USA Climbing will review all red card violations. Said review may 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.

13 USA Climbing Contact Information

USA Climbing:

Email: info@usaclimbing.org

Phone: 303-499-0715

Fax: 561-423-0715

Mail: USA Climbing

4909 Pearl East Circle, Ste. 102

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.

Appeals Committee: The Appeals Committee considers appeals outside of those that arise at a climbing competition. The Appeals Committee may be reached via e-mail: appeals@usacimbing.org

14 Addendums

14.1 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 and 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 Selection Procedures

Youth Events: Pan American Championships and World Youth 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 Youth National Championships and/or Bouldering Youth 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.
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 - 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:

14.2 Guidelines for Routesetting and Scoring

Routesetting Considerations:

Definitions: For the purposes of competition climbing, a “**hold**” shall 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 5.18.5.*

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 5.18.6 and 5.18.7.*

- Taped boxes and other taped marks should be taped in such a way that the tape clearly marks the handhold(s) so it can be seen by the competitor, but minimizes the possibility of a climber’s body touching the tape.
- The marked starting handhold(s) and finish handhold(s) should generally be marked with a taped box, surrounding the handhold(s). This box or set of boxes define the scored position of the start and finish respectively. If it is necessary to mark other handholds, they should generally be marked with a single piece of tape approximately 8” long.
- If a route/problem is set in complete isolation from all other routes/problems (i.e. while climbing it is not possible to use handholds from another route/problem), then only the start handhold(s) and finish handhold(s) must be marked.

Marking the starting position: The starting position is defined as one or more taped boxes that surround the starting handhold(s). *Refer to Rules 5.18.7, 5.18.8, 5.18.9, and 5.18.10.*

- If there is one starting handhold, this should be marked with one taped box. A competitor may start with one or both hands in this box.
- If there are two starting handholds, they may be marked either with one box that encompasses both holds, or with two boxes, one for each hold. If there is only one box marked, a competitor may start with only one hand in this box, regardless of whether there are multiple handholds within the marked box.
- Marked starting holds may be marked with an “L” or “R” to define a starting position for the hands, though defining L or R starts is very rare. If a hold is marked with an “L” or “R,” the competitor must start with the respective Left or Right hand, or foot, on the respective marked climbing hold.

Scoring Considerations:

Route Map: Scoring of a route/problem 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/problem. *Refer to Rule 5.28.*

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/problem should receive the next number in progression, determined by the *most likely* path of the route/problem.

Match: If it is determined by the Chief Routesetter that it is most likely *and* advantageous for the majority 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.

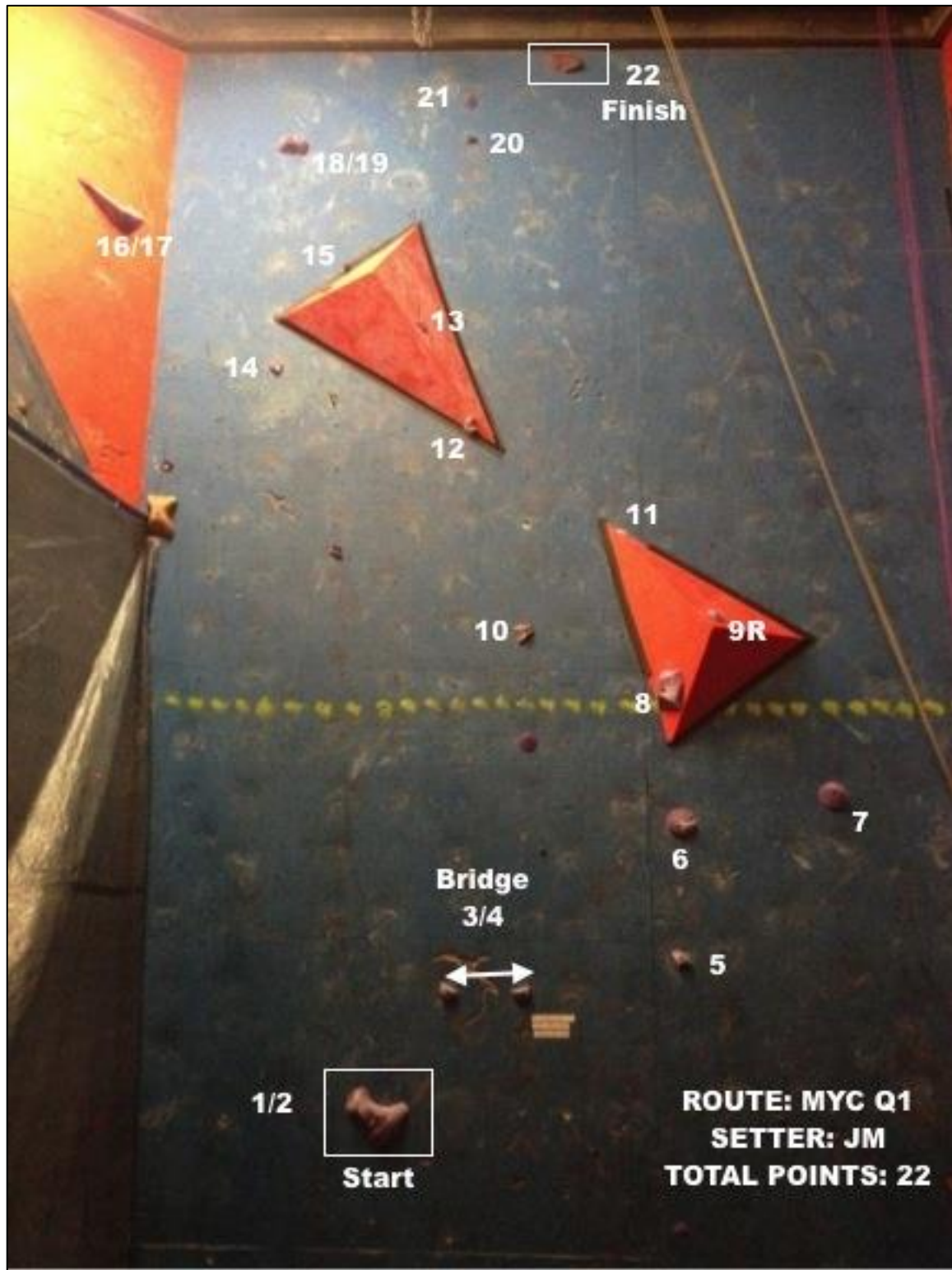
Left or Right: A handhold may be scored with a defined “**L**” or “**R**” meaning that in order to receive the score for the handhold, the competitor must have it in control with that particular hand. This scoring method would typically be used if a competitor may easily reach handhold **(12)** from 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 under cling with their left hand, receiving **(16)** for control of the under cling. 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.

Scored Onsight Route Example - Simple



Scored Onsight Boulder Problem Examples – Complex

Figures 1 & 2

Figure #1

This handhold #9 is contingent upon control of handhold #8. The competitor must have control of #8 before receiving control of #9.



Figure #2

This volume has three scored points on it, defined by the left area (#9) and a matched score (#10/#11) for the right area.