



MEMBER RULEBOOK

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1. Welcome to USA Climbing!

We are pleased to welcome you into our great family of climbers! We think you will find competing in USA Climbing challenging and rewarding, but most of all, we hope you will find it fun. We are certain that you will find USA Climbing a great way to meet new and interesting people, travel to new places, and make lots of new friends. We encourage you to share your love of climbing by encouraging and supporting your fellow competitors. Try hard, have fun, and remember that, in climbing, the real competition is with you.

To get started, you should read this rulebook. Even if you are a long-time competitor, rules and formats change from year-to-year, so you will need to read this so that you don't get blind-sided by any rule changes. Additionally, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDERSTANDING THE RULES!**

1.1 Rules are the same for Youths and Adults except where specifically noted as pertaining to Youth or Adult competitors.

Rules regarding Adult competitions may be modified depending upon constraints of the venue holding the competition.

In the event of a rule change after this document has been published and before the first ABS9 competition, we will immediately post the revised version and post a notice of the affected changes.

If you have questions that are not answered in this rulebook, please feel free to contact USA Climbing/ABS via e-mail at abs@usacimbing.org, via regular postal mail at USA Climbing, P.O. Box 3405, Boulder, CO 80307, or by phone at (888) 944-4244.

1.2 Significant Changes for the ABS9 Season

Membership, and National Championship registrations are solely via online registration. More info on our website: www.usacimbing.org.

The grace period for non-members to join ABS and receive attendance credit is 2 days after the competition.

ALL competing members must show current membership card at all local events.

The ability to enter isolation at ABS Championship events, and to file an appeal on behalf of a climber is limited to current USA Climbing Member Coaches who have registered for Coach membership no later than Dec. 16, 2007, and submitted copies of current CPR and First Aid certifications by January 1, 2008.

2nd round National Championship invitees will be notified of invitations solely via the website. USA Climbing will no longer be sending e-mail invitations. It is the climber's responsibility to check the invitee list on a daily basis. 2nd round invitees will have 48 hours to register for the event. More details in section 5.4.6.

USA Climbing requires that all members read the current rulebook prior to the season start. Each member is responsible for knowing and understanding the current rules.

1.3 The Mission of USA Climbing

The mission of USA Climbing is to ensure the success and growth of the sport of climbing. To achieve that goal, USA Climbing organizes the largest tour of competitive climbing events in the world, sponsors the United States National Adult and Youth Climbing Teams, and promotes the interests of climbing both in the United States and abroad. USA Climbing is supported by an extensive and committed network of volunteers who work to make this vision a reality.

1.4 Organization

President: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation and shall, subject to the direction and control of the Board of Directors, supervise the affairs of the corporation and the activities of

the officers.

Vice President: In the absence of the President, or in the event of her or his inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions on, the President.

Executive Director: The Executive Director shall, subject to the direction and supervision of the Board of Directors, be the chief administrative officer of the corporation and shall have general responsibility for all day-to-day operations of the corporation. She or he shall direct and supervise the implementation of the programs and activities approved by the President, Executive Committee or the Board of Directors and shall see that all orders and resolutions of the Executive Committee, the President and the Board of Directors are carried into effect.

Executive Committee: The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote of its members, designate an Executive Committee consisting of a minimum of two (2) board members plus an Executive Director, who is not a member of the Board, and may delegate to such committee the powers and authority of the Board in the management of the business and affairs of the corporation, to the extent permitted, and except as may otherwise be provided, by provisions of law.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for day-to-day running of the corporation, to the extent that specific duties do not fall under the responsibility of other committees or involve major questions of policy or funding, and as approved by the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors: The board is the voting and deciding body for major decisions and obligations of USA Climbing.

Rules Committee: The Rules Committee shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the rulebooks for the organization, as well as keeping current with IFSC standards and practices. The Rules Committee can be reached via e-mail: rules@usacimbing.org

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

2.0 Membership

2.1 Eligibility

ABS membership is open to everyone! Participation in all ABS-sanctioned competitions is available to members of ABS, as well as non-members (see 2.3.2).

2.2 Benefits of Membership

2.2.1 ABS members will have the opportunity to participate in all local competition events, and to qualify to compete at the Regional, and National Championships.

2.2.2 ABS members will have their placement at local competition events, plus Regional, and National Championship finishes recorded and tracked by ABS and posted to the USA Climbing website.

a. Attendance and ranking will be tracked up to 2 days retroactive of date of membership.

2.2.3 ABS Members also receive access to the latest rule book, an online membership directory, member ID card, and many promotional items and offers from ABS sponsors.

2.2.4 ABS members are eligible, if qualified and selected, to compete for the United States as members of the U.S. National Bouldering Team, either youth or adult. Please note – Due to International regulations, only ABS members who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents who hold a valid U.S. passport are eligible to be selected for the U.S. National Team that competes at international climbing events.

2.2.5 ALL competing members must show current ABS9 membership card at all local events.

2.3 Types of Membership

2.3.1 Membership

The season is from October through August. Membership dues are payable and collected starting on September 15 of each season and vary based on membership type. Membership rates for the 2007-2008 season (Sept. 15, 2007 through Aug. 31, 2008) are:

- ABS Membership (Bouldering only): \$25.00*
- SCS Membership (Sport Climbing/Speed only): \$50.00*
- Full: SCS/ABS Membership (Bouldering/Sport Climbing/Speed): \$70.00*
- USA Climbing Supporter Membership: \$39.00*
- USA Climbing Routesetter Membership: \$39.00*
- USA Climbing Coach Membership: \$39.00*

*These prices include an online registration and credit card processing fee.

Please note that the bouldering (ABS) season begins in October, while the sport climbing (SCS) season begins in February. If you want to participate in both series you must be a Full: ABS/SCS member (\$65.00).

2.3.2 Non-Member Pass

The Non-Member Pass is available to the competitor who would like to compete in a climbing competition but is not ready to commit to the whole season. A competitor may pay the Non-Member Pass fee (\$5) on the day of the competition and compete in the sanctioned event. The Non-Member Pass is for the single competition for which it is paid. There is no limit to the number of Non-Member Passes a person may purchase in a season. Please note that Non-Members are not eligible to advance to National Championships. Additionally, all Non-Members must provide a signed waiver at each event.

- Non-Member Pass: \$5.00 per event

Non-members have a 2-day period after a competition in which to become ABS members and receive attendance credit and ranking for that competition. We cannot track competition attendance for competitions beyond those occurring within the 2 days prior to date of membership.

2.3.3 Membership applications

Season membership online registration is available on the USA Climbing website, www.usaclimbing.org.

Please provide an accurate and active e-mail address. All correspondence from USA Climbing/ABS will be via e-mail.

2.4 Membership Categories

2.4.1 2007-2008 Youth Competition Categories

Youth are divided into categories based on:

- a. Gender
- b. Birth year - Each youth division is further separated into categories based on the competitor's birth year, for all USA Climbing events. These groups incorporate the categories of IFSC World Youth

Events:

1. Junior: Born in 1989 & 1990
2. Youth A: Born in 1991 & 1992
3. Youth B: Born in 1993 & 1994
4. Youth C: Born in 1995 & 1996
5. Youth D: Born in 1997 or later

YOUTH SEASON SUMMARY

Must join ABS9 and designate Youth Regional Championship locale no later than December 16, 2007 to be eligible to advance to the Youth National Championship.



- Local ABS Competitions - October 2007 through April 2008**
Age-based Categories for competitors born in 1989 or later
2-local comp minimum to be eligible to advance to the Youth National Championship
- YOUTH REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (10 across the country) - January 2008**
300 total invitations to Youth National Championship allocated based on participation at each Youth Regional Championship
- ABS YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - February 2008**
Invitation only
U.S. YOUTH NATIONAL BOULDERING TEAM SELECTION

2.4.2 Adult Competition Categories

a. Adults are divided into categories based on:

- i. Gender
- ii. Age or Skill-Level
 1. Masters (born in 1968 or earlier)
 2. Recreational
 3. Intermediate
 4. Advanced
 5. **Adult Open Category** (born in 1992 or earlier)
 - i. is reserved for elite men and women, age 16 and older (in the current calendar year)
 - ii. who wish to compete for U.S. National Adult Bouldering Team selection and become eligible for international IFSC World Cup and Championship competitions.

ADULT SEASON SUMMARY

Must be full ABS member in order to compete at National Championship, see section 5.9 for details on eligibility requirements.



Local ABS Competitions - October 2007 through April 2008
Skill-based Categories: Recreational, Intermediate, Advanced, Open
for competitors born in 1992 or earlier

CITIZEN & OPEN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - January 2008
(5 across the country)

ABS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - February 2008
U.S. ADULT NATIONAL BOULDERING TEAM SELECTION
This event includes a Citizen Comp open to all ages
and abilities, with no prerequisite.

2.5 ABS Competition Regions

- 2.5.1** All ABS9 youth members will select a Youth Regional Championship when applying for membership in ABS. There will be 10 Youth Regional Championships across the country. To be eligible to advance to the ABS9 Youth National Championship, youth climbers, including current U.S. Youth Bouldering Team members, must register for full ABS membership, select a Youth Regional Championship no later than Dec. 16, 2007, and have competed in 2 local ABS9 competitions prior to the Youth Regional Championships.
- 2.5.2** No changes will be made to an ABS9 youth member's Regional Championship selection after Dec. 16, 2007. Youth ABS members who compete in a Youth Regional Championship other than the one selected when registering, will not be eligible to advance to the ABS9 Youth National Championship.
- 2.5.3** Youth Regional Championships should be selected based on geographic location of either the competitor's residence, or team.

CITIZENS' REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Rhode Island Rock Gym
- Lincoln, RI
2. Aiguille
- Longwood, FL
3. Climb Nashville
- Nashville, TN
4. Planet Rock
- Ann Arbor, MI
5. Vertical Heaven
- Ventura, CA



YOUTH REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Rock Club
- New Rochelle, NY
2. Philly Rock Gym 2
- Valley Township, PA
3. Climb Time of Blue Ash
- Cincinnati, OH
4. Adrenaline
- Atlanta, GA
5. Aiguille
- Orlando, FL
6. Dyno-Rock
- Arlington, TX
7. Stone Age
- Albuquerque, NM
8. Beach City Rocks
- Hawthorne, CA
9. City Beach
- Fremont, CA
10. Club Sport
- Tigard, OR



2.6 Climbers Code of Conduct

2.6.1 Sporting Behavior - We expect that all competitors will treat other climbers, judges, Coaches, spotters, gym owners and competition volunteers with respect, and conduct themselves as principled athletes. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from an event. In addition, disruptions and interference from competitors' parents or other family or friends may result in disqualification of the competitor. Competitors, Coaches, or parents must make no attempt to manipulate the regulations and rules to their advantage or to the advantage of any competitor.

2.6.2 The use of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol at USA Climbing/ABS Youth Competition events is strictly

prohibited. Use or the encouragement of use of illegal substances at USA Climbing/ABS youth events may result in immediate disqualification and revocation of membership in USA Climbing. This includes, but is not limited to, the sporting venue, hotels associated with a competition, restaurants used during the competition, and any other location where drugs, tobacco, and or alcohol may be consumed, during the time immediately before, during and immediately after a competition. USA Climbing supports the IOC medical code and IFSC regulations regarding drug use and testing.

2.6.3 It is the responsibility of all competitors to understand and abide by the regulations, rules and spirit of good sportsmanship. Competitors, parents, or Coaches must accept, subject to the official appeals procedure, the decision of the official judges without question or protestation and exercise self-restraint at all times.

2.6.4 While every attempt will be made to ensure that judging at USA Climbing events will be fair and impartial, occasionally a climber may question a particular ruling. When this occurs, only the climber or USA Climbing Member Coach may file an appeal to question the ruling. (See section 9 regarding Appeals). Parents may not petition for their children, unless the child is developmentally disabled, or hearing or speech impaired.

2.7 Discipline, Revocation of Memberships and Appeals

2.7.1 All members must follow all rules as outlined in the current season's rulebook

2.7.2 All members are subject to the Climbers Code of Conduct, section 2.6

2.7.3 Any appeals shall be followed as outlined in these rules, section 9.

2.7.4 A member may be disqualified as outlined in these rules, section 10.

3. USA Climbing Member Coaches

3.1 USA Climbing recognizes Coaches as a key to developing the sport and achieving the dream of making climbing an Olympic Sport. To that end the organization wishes to identify and elevate the individuals who can and do coach.

3.2 The organization will recognize and open membership to, only Coaches who:

- a) have a minimum of three member competitors who they actively coach
- b) provide documentation proving current first aid and CPR certification.
- c) sign and submit the USA Climbing Coaches Code of Conduct
- d) Give permission to USA Climbing to run a sexual offense background check

3.3 Coaches should be familiar with and educate their competitors about the rules as published by USA Climbing.

3.4 The ability to enter isolation at ABS Championship events, and to file an appeal on behalf of a climber is limited to current USA Climbing Member Coaches who have registered for Coach membership no later than Dec. 16, 2007. Copies of CPR and First Aid certifications must be received in the Boulder office no later than January 1, 2008 to be eligible to enter isolation at the ABS9 Regional & National Championships.

3.5 USA Climbing expects Coaches, at all times, to act in the spirit of fairness to all competitors, not just their teams.

3.6 USA Climbing does not encourage or endorse underage competitors traveling with Coaches alone for any reason.

4 Season Composition

The American Bouldering Series (ABS) acts as the bouldering arm of USA Climbing, the national governing body for competition climbing in the United States.

4.1 Bouldering - A boulder problem requires solving a sequence of moves in which all holds are located below a certain height. Because height is limited, no belay rope is used. Climbers are "spotted" by safety personnel in case of a fall. Climbers may use only designated holds and surfaces.

4.1.1 The ABS9 season shall be open to all youths and adults and will be composed of a series of local competitions, 15 Regional Championships, and 2 National Championships.

4.1.2 ABS9 shall sanction 10 Youth Regional Championships to be held in January 2008 that are open to climbers born in 1989 or later.

4.1.3 ABS9 shall sanction 5 Citizens' Regional Championships to be held in January 2008 that are open to all ages and abilities.

4.1.4 ABS shall sanction an Open & Citizens' National Championship to be held in February of each year during which the U.S. Open National Bouldering Team will be selected from the Open division. Only competitors born in 1992 or earlier are eligible to compete in the Open division.

4.1.5 ABS shall also sanction an invitation-only Youth National Bouldering Championship in February of each year during which the U.S. Youth National Bouldering Team will be selected. Only competitors born in 1989 or later are eligible to compete in the Youth National Bouldering Championship.

4.2 Local Events – American Bouldering Series (ABS) – Advancement to Regional Championships

4.2.1 Youth Competitors: Registered Youth members must attend a minimum of **two** Local events plus their pre-selected (see 2.5.1) Regional Championship in order to be eligible to advance at their Regional Championship, except current U.S. Youth Bouldering Team Members who are pre-qualified for their pre-selected Regional Championships.

4.2.2 Local event minimums must be met by attending comps within that particular series. For example bouldering comps during the ABS bouldering season do not count toward fulfilling the minimum comp requirement for the USA Climbing Sport Climbing Series (SCS).

4.2.3 Local competitions may be any redpoint. Competitors may compete in any ABS9-sanctioned competition, in any state, in fulfilling their local participation requirement prior to the Youth Regional Championships.

4.2.4 A redpoint format competition allows multiple attempts on a problem and the opportunity to watch other competitors climb on the problem prior to an attempt. Points are scored only for completion of the problem. The organizer will prepare at least 40, but not more than 60 problems for climbers to attempt. Each problem will be worth a specific number of points based on that problem's anticipated difficulty.

4.2.4 Competitors individually choose which problems to attempt, with unlimited attempts per problem. Climbers may try as many problems as they wish, or as time allows. At local level competitions, climbers may be peer-judged, if judges are not available. In peer-judging, two peers must sign the competitor's scorecard upon successful completion of a problem, and verify that s/he has indicated the correct number of attempts on the scorecard.

4.2.4 A suggested method of scoring at the local level is that there is no flash bonus (finishing the problem on a climber's first attempt), but 10 points are deducted for every fall. If the competitor flashes the problem, the score card shall be marked with a zero with a slash through the zero. An alternative scoring method would be to assign a 20-point flash bonus, and no point deduction for falls. *Please note that all local competitions have the right to use these or other scoring methods.

4.2.4 Competitors must match (control using both hands) on the final hold in order to receive credit for completing the problem.

4.2.4 Each competitor's best 5 completed/scored problems will be added together for a final score. Ties will be broken by comparing the tied competitors' next highest scoring problems. For example:

Two competitors are tied for 1st place with a combined score of 3,000 for their best 5. Competitor #1 has a sixth best score of 500. Competitor #2 has a sixth best score of 480. The tie will be broken and Competitor #1 places 1st; Competitor #2 places 2nd.

If necessary, the tie may be broken by up to the tenth highest-scoring problem. If a tie cannot be broken at the tenth highest score, the tie will remain.

- 4.2.4** Local competition scores hold no bearing on whether or not an individual is invited to Youth ABS Nationals, or ABS Nationals, or selected for the U.S. Team. There is only a 2-local competition participation requirement for each competitor to be eligible to advance beyond the Regional level.

On the www.usaclimbing.org website all rankings are based on the best **3** competitions of each competitor. This ranking does not hold any bearing on invitations to events. It is merely a tool to compare competitors across the country.

5.4 Regional Championships

- 5.4.1** The 10 Youth Regional Championships will be one-day events, in one of the following formats:

- a. On-sight with isolation
- b. Redpoint round followed by on-sight finals with isolation

- 5.4.2** Any ABS youth member or non-member may compete at the Youth Regional Championship. Only ABS youth members who have met the following are eligible to advance to the ABS9 Youth National Championship:

- a. Registered for current ABS membership and selected a Youth Regional Championship, no later than December 16, 2007
- b. Competed in a minimum of 2 local ABS9 competitions (current U.S. Youth Bouldering Team members are exempt from this requirement) prior to the Youth Regional Championships.
- c. Competed in his/her pre-selected ABS Youth Regional Championship.

- 5.4.3** The 5 Open/Citizens' Regional Championships will be one-day events consisting of a redpoint bouldering competition, followed by on-sight finals for the top 8 male & female climbers based on the results of the redpoint portion.

- 5.4.4** The 5 Open/Citizens Regional Championships will be open to all ages and abilities.

- 5.4.5** The 5 Open/Citizens Regional Championships will include the following categories: Recreational, Intermediate, Advanced, Masters and Open, further divided by gender. Youth-aged competitors who compete in the Open/Citizens Regional Championships must choose one of the skill-based categories (Recreational, Intermediate, Advanced or Open).

- 5.4.6** In the event of ties at the Regional Championship, ties in the first three places may be broken in accordance with USA Climbing rules for tie-breaking at National Championships.

5.4.6 Invitations to the ABS9 Youth National Championship

- 5.5.5** A maximum of 300 invitations will be awarded among the 10 Youth Regional Championships, including byes awarded to the ABS8 First Place Champions and current bouldering Continental Champions. At least one invitation per category will be allocated to each Youth Regional. The remaining invitations will be distributed based on the number of competitors expected at each Youth Regional. Each youth competitor wishing to participate in a Youth Regional MUST indicate which Youth Regional s/he will attend upon registering for membership prior to December 16, 2007 (see 2.5.1). ABS will post the number of invitations allocated to each Youth Regional no later than December 20, 2007.

Byes: First Place Champions in each Youth Bouldering category, as established by the ABS8 National Championship shall enter the ABS9 season as Pre-Qualified Competitors for the ABS9 National Championship. As Pre-Qualified Competitors, these individuals will be required to be ABS9 members, but will not be required to attend any regular season or Regional Championship competition. If the Pre-Qualified Competitor elects to participate in any of the preliminary competitions:

- He/she will be awarded ribbons/medals based upon finish.
- Their finishes shall in no way reduce the number of competitors who would advance in their absence.
- They are pre-qualified to compete at the ABS9 Youth National Championship regardless of how they may have placed at a regular season competition or Regional Championship.

The 2007 Youth U.S. Bouldering Team members will enter the ABS9 season as Pre-Qualified competitors for the ABS9 Youth Regional Championships. As Pre-Qualified Competitors, these individuals will be required to be current ABS Members, but will not be required to attend any regular season competition(s). Pre-qualified competitors may elect to compete in Local events, and will be awarded ribbons/medals based on their placement.

If a 2007 Youth U.S. Bouldering Team member places high enough to receive one of the allocated invitations, we will advance the next-ranked U.S. citizen competitor.

Due to the varied number of invitations allocated to each Youth Regional Championship, a current Youth U.S. Bouldering Team member need only place in the top 6 in order to receive an invitation to the ABS9 Youth National Championship. For example:

Category receiving 2 invitations:

- 1st place (current U.S. Team member): Advances
- 2nd place: Advances
- 3rd place: Advances based on 1st place U.S. Team member receiving allocated invitation
- 4th place: Does not advance
- 5th place (current U.S. Team member): Advances based on qualifying in top 6
- 6th place: Does not advance

IMPORTANT NOTE: ABS may decide to award declined or unfilled National Championship invitations to another Youth Regional Championship if the eligible pool for a particular Regional Championship has been exhausted. An unused invitation from a Youth Regional Championship will be allocated to the Youth Regional Championship with the largest remaining pool of eligible competitors within that category.

5.7 Invitations to National Championships - Youth Competitors

The National Championship invitees will be announced by the ABS staff at the conclusion of the Regional Championships, and will also be posted on the USA Climbing website.

.7.1 Non-U.S. citizen competitors: Effects on invites and rankings

Only U.S. citizens or legal residents with valid U.S. passports are eligible to be selected for any U.S. climbing team (youth or adult) in any discipline. That said, USA Climbing welcomes and encourages non-U.S. competitors to compete at any and all levels of competition during the season. In order to encourage non-U.S. competitor participation while still maintaining an equitable system for U.S. competitors to qualify for Regional Championships/Nationals/U.S. team, the following guidelines have been adopted:

1. All non-U.S. citizen competitors are subject to the criteria for qualifiers for each level of competition as explained in this handbook.
2. If a non-U.S. citizen competitor places within the range of receiving an allocated Youth Bouldering National Championship invitation at Regional Championships, an additional U.S. citizen competitor will receive an invite to advance to the National Championship. This means we will always advance the top U.S. competitors in every category to Nationals PLUS only current U.S. team members and any non-U.S. citizen who places within the range of allocated invitations.

For example:

Category Youth D boys. 4 National invitations allocated to the particular Regional Championship:

1. U.S. team member = advances
2. Joe U.S. climber = advances
3. Joe U.S. climber = advances
4. Non-U.S. climber = advances
5. Joe U.S. climber = advance because of U.S. team member
6. Joe U.S. climber = advance because of above non-U.S. citizen advancement

If a non-U.S. citizen places 1st through 10th in qualifiers at Youth Bouldering Nationals, we advance the next qualified U.S. citizen competitor to the finals round.

- 5.8.3 Additional invitations in accordance with the rules regarding byes and non-U.S. citizens will be issued as outlined above in sections 5.7.1.
- 5.8.4 All competitors who qualify through the Youth Regional Championships to attend Nationals have **three (3) days** from the close of his/her Regional Championship to accept his/her first round invitation by registering for the event.
- 5.8.5 If a qualified climber is unable to attend the National Championship, or fails to register for the National Championship within three (3) days following the Regional Championship, the next qualified climber from the Regional Championship is eligible to compete at the National Championship (second round). A competitor receiving a second round invitation has 48 hours to register for the event before his/her invitation is re-awarded to the next qualified competitor. The 48 hour period begins at the time the invitee chart is posted.
- 5.8.6 All 2nd round invitees will be notified via the posted invitee chart. Due to the volume of competitors and invitees, there will be no phone or email notification of an invitation from the USAC office.
- 5.8.7 2nd round invitations are issued up until 2 weeks prior to the event. Invitations will not be re-awarded past that point.

5.9 **ABS9 Open National Championship**

The ABS National Championships will be held on February 15th and 16th, 2008. Qualifiers for the Open Category will be held on Friday, February 15th. A three (3) to five (5) hour Citizens' Comp for all ages and abilities will be held on Saturday, February 16th, followed by the Open Category Finals on Saturday evening.

All ages and abilities are invited to participate in the Citizens' Comp.

ABS9 members born in 1992 or before may compete in the Open Category of the ABS National Championship if they meet the following requirements:

1. the competitor is a full-season ABS9 member
2. at least one of the following:
 - a. have competed in 2 local ABS9 events OR
 - b. have competed in one ABS9 local event and one ABS9 Regional Championship (Youth or Citizens') OR
 - c. have placed in the top 10 at an ABS9 Regional Championship

Sign up for the Open Category is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is limited to **80** participants per gender.

6 **National Championships and United States Team Selections**

6.1 **Introduction**

- a. Competitors invited to and attending the ABS9 National Championships will enter the competitions with zero (0) points. The U.S. Youth & Open Bouldering Teams will be determined solely by the results at the Championships.
- b. National Placement awards will be given based solely on placement in the finals rounds of the event.
- c. By accepting an invitation and competing in the National Championship(s), competitors acknowledge that they may be subject to random drug testing during the event.
- d. All National Championship competitors are required to compete in proper attire, including but not limited to, shirts or tank tops, and shorts or pants.

6.2 **Youth National Championship**

The ABS National Championships will be held Feb. 15-17, 2008. The Youth National Championship is a 2-day

event in on-sight format. There are 2 rounds of competition: qualifiers and finals.

Competitors will be placed into isolation and brought out to climb according to a pre-determined random running order.

Youth Qualifiers - Each competitor will have a set time limit (ranging from 3-7 minutes) to attempt each of 2-4 problems, and climb as high as they can on each.

A competitor may attempt the problem as many times as they wish within the allotted time. Points will be deducted for each fall up to a competitors' high point. The boulder problems will be progressively more difficult, but all will be worth 1000 points. A flash bonus of 20 points will be awarded for flashing. A 5-point deduction will be taken for each fall up to the attempt where the high point was reached. Competitors will be scored as to the highest-numbered hold controlled in that time span, and the number of falls (if any) to get to that point. Control is defined as holding a hold for 2 seconds. Making positive movement off a hold or touching the hold (usable surface or otherwise) will not receive a score. If the competitor finishes the problem, he/she may rest until the designated time is up for that problem.

A rest period may be allocated at the discretion of the Chief Judge. Climbers must immediately move on to the next problem when the timekeeper instructs them to.

At the discretion of the Chief Judge, a transition period may be added.

Competitors must match on, and control the final hold.

The points a competitor earns is determined by the highest-numbered hold controlled (please see page 22 for details on routesetting/scoring). The value of the problem is equally divided to each hold. For example, if there are 10 scoring handholds on a 1000-point problem, then each hold is worth 100 pts. To earn the points for a hold it must be controlled.

All competitors in a category must climb the problems in the same order.

A competitor's qualifier score is determined by the sum of the points he/she has earned for each problem. The competitors will be ranked based upon their scores from qualifiers, with 1st through 10th place in each category/gender advancing to the Finals. In the event of a tie for 10th place, all 10th place competitors will advance. *If a non-U.S. citizen or current U.S. Bouldering Team member places 1st thru 10th in qualifiers, we will advance the next ranking U.S. citizen competitor for each U.S. Bouldering Team Member or non-U.S. citizen placing 1st through 10th in qualifiers.*

Scores are zeroed between rounds.

Youth Bouldering Finals - Finals competitors go into the finals round with a score of zero, with count-backs to break ties if needed. Competitors will once again be placed into isolation and brought out to climb in reverse placement of the ranking after qualifiers. For example, the 10th place competitor after qualifiers will climb first at finals. In the event of ties, the tied competitors' climbing order will be randomized. Finals round will consist of 3-5 problems, and will run in the same format as the qualifiers, with each problem being progressively harder, but each being worth 1000 points. Rests may be given between problems at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The top 4 scoring competitors in each gender/category from the finals round will become members of the U.S. Youth National Bouldering Team.

Team members who do not fulfill their obligations, or violate the U.S. Team Code of Conduct will be replaced by the next ranking U.S. citizen competitor as determined by the final round of the bouldering competition at the National Championship.

6.5 ABS9 Youth Team Championship

6.5.1 Definition of a Youth Climbing Team: A youth climbing team consists of climbers who compete and train together under the guidance and direction of a USA Climbing Member Coach or Coaches. The Coach must organize/facilitate a minimum of four practices a month in which the majority of its members are present. A team must have a minimum of 3 members and a USA Climbing Member Coach. Eligible team members must be in good standing with their Coach, team policies, and rules and regulations of USA Climbing. To be eligible for the Team Competition at Nationals, each Coach and youth climber must

be a member of ABS and represent his/her team at their Regional Championship events.

6.5.2 Registering a Team for Competition: All team members shall designate their team affiliation during their membership registration. In the event a team member changes team affiliation or joins a team during the ABS season, ABS must be notified, and will make the appropriate adjustments. Any and all team designations or affiliations must be completed and finalized prior to the start of that member's Regional Championship. No changes to a team or team affiliation will be recognized by ABS after the Regional Championship.

6.5.3 Scoring - Teams will score cumulative points based on each member's individual placement at the ABS9 Youth National Championship for:

a. The scores will be based on the number of participants per category.

Example: If there are 34 competitors registered in the Youth D category, the competitor who places first will receive 34 points for his/her team and the competitor who places last will receive 1 point for the team. Likewise, if there are only 20 competitors in the Junior category the first place competitor will receive 20 points and the last place competitor receives 1 point. One point per place and will obviously descend from 1st through last.

b. Total Team Score and Placement in the Team Competition: A team's final score will be determined by the top seven (7) placing, (highest scoring) youths on each team. If a team has more than seven competitors participating at Nationals, each additional competitor will receive one point for his/her team regardless of how they finished.

ABS9 Open National Championship

The ABS National Championships will be held Feb. 15-17, 2008. Qualifiers for the Open Category will be held on Friday, February 15th. A 3 to 5 hours Citizens' Comp for all ages and abilities will be held on Saturday, February 16th, followed by the Open Category Finals on Saturday evening.

All ages and abilities are invited to participate in the Citizens' Comp.

Any ABS9 member born in 1992 or before is eligible to compete in the Open Category of the ABS National Championship.

Sign up for the Open Category is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is limited to 80 participants per gender.

If a Youth National Championship invitee (born in 1992 or earlier) opts to compete in both the Youth and Open Championship, and qualifies for Open Finals, he/she will receive an automatic advancement to the final round of the Youth Championship. This automatic advancement will not affect the number of competitors advancing from the Youth qualifier rounds.

ABS Open Qualifiers

Competitors will be placed into isolation and brought out to climb according to a pre-determined running order. Each competitor will have a set time limit (ranging from 3-7 minutes) to attempt each of 2-4 problems, and climb as far as they can on each.

A competitor may attempt the problem as many times as they wish within the allotted time. Points will be deducted for each fall up to a competitors' high point. The boulder problems will be progressively more difficult, but all will be worth 1000 points. A flash bonus of 20 points will be awarded for flashing. A 5-point deduction will be taken for each fall up to the attempt where the high point was reached. Competitors will be scored as to the highest-numbered hold controlled in that time span, and the number of falls (if any) to get to that point. Control is defined as holding a hold for 2 seconds. Making positive movement off a hold or touching the hold (usable surface or otherwise) will not receive a score. If the competitor finishes the problem, he/she may rest until the designated time is up for that problem.

A rest period may be allocated at the discretion of the Chief Judge. Climbers must immediately move on to the next problem when the timekeeper instructs them to.

At the discretion of the Chief Judge, a transition period may be added.

Competitors must match on, and control the final hold.

The points a competitor earns is determined by the highest-numbered hold controlled (please see page 222 for details on routesetting/scoring). The value of the problem is equally divided to each hold. For example, if there are 10 holds on a 1000-point problem then each hold is worth 100 pts. To earn the points for a hold it must be controlled.

All competitors in a category must climb the problems in the same order.

A competitor's qualifier score is determined by the sum of the points they've earned for each problem. The competitors will be ranked based upon their scores from qualifiers, with 1st through 20th place in each category/gender advancing to the Finals. In the event of a tie for 20th place, all 20th place competitors will advance.

Scores are zeroed between rounds.

ABS Open Finals

Finals competitors go into the finals round with a score of zero, with count-backs to break ties if needed. Competitors will once again be placed into isolation and brought out to climb in reverse placement of the ranking after qualifiers. For example, the 20th place competitor after qualifiers will climb first at finals. In the event of ties, the tied competitors' climbing order will be randomized. Finals round will consist of 3-5 problems, and will run in the same format as the qualifiers, with each problem being progressively harder, but each being worth 1000 points. Rests may be given between problems at the discretion of the Chief Judge. The top 3 scoring U.S. citizen competitors in each gender from the finals round will become members of the U.S. Open National Bouldering Team.

U.S. Adult National Team Selection

Please note: USA Climbing reserves the right to make adjustments to the U.S. Adult National Team up to 30 days after the close of the National Championship event.

a. Adult Open U.S. Team Eligibility

To be eligible for the Adult U.S. Team, competitors must fulfill the following:

1. U.S. citizenship
2. ABS9 membership in good standing
3. Agrees to abide by all IFSC international rules and regulations.
4. Be age 16 or older in the current calendar year (born in 1992 or earlier)

6.4.3 Adult World Cup Eligibility

Discounting competitors ranked in the World Cup top 10, the U.S. is able to field 3 competitors per discipline and gender at the World Cups. To compete in any international World Cup event, competitors must:

- a. Be a U.S. Team member -or- be the subsequently ranked eligible and interested competitor
 1. Slots will be awarded initially to U.S. Team members
 2. Any additional or available slots will be awarded first to competitors at the ABS Nationals (Open division), and/or based on other rankings to help determine a person's eligibility (such as SCS, CCR, IFSC, or others)
- b. Pay associated IFSC competition entry and license fees as posted by USA Climbing. These fees are due at USA Climbing home office two weeks after receiving the invitation, but not later than a week before the registration deadline for the event.
- c. Meet all application deadlines.

- d. Have health insurance and a physical exam as per IFSC guidelines
- e. Be willing to sign IFSC Drug Testing Awareness Form
- f. Fill out the USA Climbing Contract and Licensing form
- g. Be at least 16 years of age in the current calendar year (born in 1992 or earlier) as per IFSC Climbing rules

7 Competition Formats and Rules

7.1 General Rules for Competition Formats:

- 7.1.1** Local competitions must be redpoint and must utilize the scoring template posted on the website.
- 7.1.2** All Youth Regional Championships shall be on-sight format, or redpoint with on-sight finals.
- 7.1.3** The Citizens' Regional Championships shall be redpoint format with on-sight finals.
- 7.1.4** The Open National Championship shall be an on-sight format.
- 7.1.5** National Championships must be a multi-round format competition.
- 7.1.6** Boulder problems must NOT be available for competitors to climb prior to the event. There shall be no "home gym advantage." Competitors shall not enter the gym after route setting for the local competition has commenced. Failure to comply with either of these rules may result in loss of sanctioning for the event and points will NOT be allowed. A competitor who enters the gym during this time may be disqualified from the event and may be subject to revocation of membership.
- 7.1.7** It is the responsibility of the color-blind climber to notify the gym and the ABS Regional Coordinator at least 48 hours before the competition that the problems will need to be numbered to accommodate the color-blind climber.

7.2 Competition Officials

- 7.2.1 Chief Judge:** The Chief Judge, also known as the Jury President, is appointed by the USA Climbing Executive Committee to oversee all aspects of judging a competition, and to interpret and apply the rules in a fair and consistent manner. Additional Judges may be appointed. The Executive Committee may also appoint Assistant Judges who observe and assist the Chief Judge as part of their training program. The Chief Judge is assisted in his/her judging by Route Judges appointed by ABS or host facility. The Route Judges shall be fully informed of the technical rules and regulations governing ABS-sanctioned competitions, and shall be instructed in their duties by, and work under the direction of the Chief Judge. At the Regional Championship the Regional Coordinator is the Chief Judge.
- 7.2.2 Chief Route Setter:** The Head Routesetter consults with the members of the routesetting team, (all are appointed by ABS prior to the event), to plan and coordinate all matters concerning the routesetting and route maintenance, including the design of each problem; the installment of holds, and other equipment in accordance with ABS regulations; repair and cleaning of problems; and the design, installment and maintenance of warm-up facilities. He/she is responsible for checking the technical standard and safety of each problem, advises the Chief Judge on all technical matters within the competition area, assists in compiling the "route map" of the problems, and advises the judges on the positioning of video cameras and the maximum time allotted for each problem.
- 7.2.3 Event Organizer:** At Local competitions and Regional Championships, the Event Organizer is the gym staff. At the National Championships, the Event Organizer is the Executive Committee in conjunction with USA Climbing and gym staff.
- 7.2.4 Jury and Jury President:** The Jury President is the Chief Judge who presides over the National Championship events. The Jury President has overall authority within the competition area, which is defined as the area covering the isolation zone, the transit zone and the competition zone, the latter including the climbing wall and the area immediately in front of and next to the climbing wall(s). This

authority extends to covering the activities of the media and all persons nominated by the organizer. The overall authority of the Jury President covers all aspects of the running of the competition. The Jury President presides over all meetings of USAC officials and over organization and technical meetings with the competition organizers, team officials and competitors. The Jury President shall convene an Appeals Jury that should include the Chief Judge, the Route Judge, and the spotter for any boulder problem involved in an Appeal.

7.3 Safety

Safety is of the utmost concern to USA Climbing.

- 7.3.1** The event organizer shall be responsible for maintaining safety within the competition area and in the public section of the arena, and in relating to all activities connected to the running of the competition.
- 7.3.2.** The Chief Judge, in consultation with the chief route setter shall have the authority to make decisions with respect to any question of safety within the competition area.
- 7.3.3.** Spotters shall be trained to spot in a competent manner.
- 7.3.4.** Adequate padding for protection must be used, and at local competitions each competitor should ensure that his/her spotter is aware of proper and safe spotting practices.
- 7.3.5.** Each boulder problem shall be designed so as to avoid the possibility of a competitor's fall injuring the competitor or injuring or obstructing any other competitor.
- 7.3.6.** The Chief Judge, Jury President (if any) and/or Chief Routesetter shall inspect each boulder problem prior to the start of each round of a competition to ensure the maintenance of the safety standards.
- 7.3.7.** All competitors shall adhere to the host gym's policies and manufacturers' guidelines.
- 7.3.9** All equipment used in a competition shall comply with IFSC standards unless otherwise specified by the IFSC, or under exceptional circumstances, by the Jury President through the authority delegated to him/her by the IFSC.
- 7.3.10** 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 Doctor present, and is assisting in the competition, this should be deferred to said individual.
- 7.4.1** At **REDPOINT COMPETITIONS ONLY** - Beta MAY be given to a competitor BETWEEN attempts on a problem, but NOT before the first attempt on the problem by that climber, nor while the competitor is attempting the problem.
- 7.4.2** Route setting for Redpoint Formats:
 - a. General rules for routesetting, page 22, shall be followed.
- 7.4.3** **General Redpoint Competition Format**
 - a. The organizer will prepare at least 40, but not more than 60 problems for climbers to attempt.
 - b. Each problem will be worth a specific number of points based on that problem's anticipated difficulty.
 - c. Competitors individually choose which problems to attempt.
 - d. Climbers may try as many problems as they wish, or as time allows.
 - e. Climbers declare their intention to attempt a problem by handing their scorecard to the route judge who will call climbers in order.

- f. Upon successful completion of a problem, the judge will award the appropriate number of points and note this award on the score card.
- g. After each failed attempt the climber may ask that their card be returned to the back of the queue or elect to move on to another problem.
- h. The number of falls on each problem will also be noted.
- i. If the competitor flashes the problem, the score card shall be marked with a zero with a slash through the zero in the falls/attempts column.
- j. No competitor shall be judged solely by his or her parent, significant other or spouse. If a parent, significant other, or spouse is judging a problem, that his/her child, significant other, or spouse is climbing, another judge must also observe the attempt and sign off on the score card.

7.4.13 On-sight Formats

- a. These rules apply to all bouldering on-sight competitions.
- b. In an on-sight competition, the climber will not see any other person climb the problem(s) prior to attempting them him/herself. To accomplish that goal, climbers enter an isolation area prior to the event and are brought out one at a time to climb. There may be an opportunity to preview the problem prior to their attempt. Climbers are scored based on the highest-numbered hold reached.
- c. During an on-sight competition: Each problem shall be allocated a predetermined time in which a competitor may attempt the problem. Each competitor will have a pre-determined transition period in which to make his/her way to the next problem.
- d. During an on-sight competition: The climb time is started when the competitor is instructed to turn and climb when ready.

When competing in an on-sight format competition, receipt of any information concerning a problem prior to or during the attempt on the problem is grounds for disqualification of the competitor. Competitors are free to discuss a problem with other competitors in isolation who have not previously climbed/attempted the problem.

8.0 General Competition Rules

8.1 General Competition Rules - Climbing

- 8.1.1** A gym hosting a Local event can accept or restrict Coaches' help in organizing and routesetting prior to the event depending on the needs of the hosting gym.
- 8.1.2** Gyms are expected to set new problems for a comp. If this is not the case, any person shall make the Chief Judge aware of this immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken by the Chief Judge to eliminate those problems from the comp or disqualify all competitors who had prior knowledge of the problems, or adjust scores. The Chief Judge shall be made aware of this prior to the comp completion. If the competitor(s) wait until after the competition is over, or is almost over; then results will not be adjusted.
- 8.1.3** Laser pointers are prohibited from use at any time.
- 8.1.4** Spotters exhibiting unsafe practices will be replaced.
- 8.1.5** Spotters should not have any physical contact with the climber during a bouldering attempt.
- 8.1.6** For bouldering problems, the route judge should not serve as both spotter and judge.
- 8.1.7** Only climbers, spotters and judges are permitted to be in crowded bouldering areas, for safety's sake. Please ask all others to stand away from crowded areas/fall zones.

8.2 Routesetting Rules

- 8.2.1** All redpoint problems **MUST** be clearly taped for the entire problem. On-sight problems do not require taping provided the problems are far enough apart to not cause confusion.
- 8.2.2** Problems may **NOT** be designated solely by hold color, unless the problem is completely isolated on the wall from other problems.
- 8.2.3** If there is a need to demarcate an area on the wall, or hold or features which are out of bound, the demarcation shall be made using a continuous and clearly identifiable marking of the following colors:
- a. Demarcation of areas, hold or features which are out of bounds and **shall not** be touched by the competitor shall be identified with red tape. In addition to the area on the other side of the red tape being off limits, the red tape itself is off limits. This means that touching the red tape creates an infraction. The climber may break the plane of the line provided they do not touch the red tape, or cross the red tape and touch the surface.
 - b. Demarcation of areas, holds or features which are not allowed to be used for climbing but may be touched by a competitor shall be identified with a color other than red, preferably black.

Routesetting

Route setters create boulder problems for competition climbing that have an intentional hand sequence. This sequence is then used for the scoring of each intended hand movement, including matches (2 hands simultaneously controlling the same hold). Each judge on a problem is given a "route map" that illustrates the intended sequence, with each hold numbered in sequence for scoring purposes.

In an on-sight bouldering competition, each problem is worth 1,000 points. In calculating a climber's score, each problem's total score (1,000 points) is divided by the total number of scored holds, including matched holds. This calculation determines the number of points awarded for each controlled hold on the problem. For example, on a problem with 25 scored holds, each scoring hand hold is worth 40 points.

Typically, each hand hold is placed higher than the previous one, but not always. There are times, specifically in the case of a traversing problem, where a higher-numbered hold is lower on the wall than a previous hand hold. A setter may have a hold that is worth more points that is either lower, or off to one side of the problem, that is part of the intended sequence. An example would be when a setter has placed an undercling that can not be used until one hand is above the other. Even though one hand is higher, the lower hold is worth more points.

8.3 Climbing

- 8.3.1** The entire surface of the climbing wall shall be permitted to be used for climbing with the following exceptions:
- a. The holes created in the climbing wall for the placement of bolt-on holds shall not be used for climbing by a competitor's hands/fingers.
 - b. Bolt hangers and quickdraws are not permitted to be used as hand holds or foot holds at any time.
 - c. Neither the side edges nor the top edge of the wall shall be used for climbing, unless specifically designated as part of the problem.
- 8.3.2** At Championship events, each problem shall be allocated a pre-determined period in which a competitor may attempt the problem.
- 8.3.3** A climber's attempt shall be deemed to have started when both feet have left the ground.
- 8.3.4** The climber must **CONTROL** and **MATCH HANDS** on the finish hold(s) of a boulder problem to receive points for completion of that problem. The climber must establish contact with the route judge so that the

judge may verify control of the finish hold(s).

- 8.3.5** Only designated holds and features are permitted for climbing each problem.
- 8.3.6** Non-Static starts are permitted unless the starting footholds are boxed with route-marking tape, and unless otherwise announced at the start of the competition by the Chief Judge.
- 8.3.7** Rules regarding starting positions may be set by the Chief Judge.
- 8.3.8** The Timing Judge or the Route Judge will be responsible for the announcement of the last minute and the last 10 seconds of the competitor's allotted time on the problem during an on-sight competition. They will also announce the time remaining, at any point, at the competitor's request.
- 8.3.9** Rules and instructions regarding a problem may be given by the Route Judge prior to a competitor's attempt(s). These rules and instructions shall be given in full to all competitors climbing on a particular problem.
- 8.3.10** Once a climber has been given final instructions by the Route Judge and has acknowledged his/her readiness to start, no further instructions or information shall be given to any climber. A climber may, however, request and receive clarification from the Route Judge concerning usability of a hold or climbing surface.
- 8.3.11** Climbers may not receive coaching or advice from any individual while attempting an on-sight problem. Encouragement and cheering are acceptable but coaching is not. When competing in an on-sight format competition, receipt of any information concerning a problem prior to or during the attempt on the problem is grounds for immediate disqualification of the competitor.
- 8.3.12** The Route 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.
- 8.3.13** The refusal by a competitor to obey the instruction of a Route Judge to terminate their attempt on a problem shall result in the disqualification of the competitor.
- 8.3.14** Competitors should not work as route setters even on other category problems.
- 8.3.15** In the interest of fairness and good sportsmanship, any competitor who knowingly receives a higher score than he or she is entitled to, must notify USA Climbing officials of the scoring discrepancy.

Skipping Holds

Competitors will be scored based solely on the number of holds that they have controlled. There is NO point advantage in skipping a hold unless the climber CONTROLLED the hold he/she was going for. For example, in the case of a competitor controlling Hold #5, skipping Hold #6 and touching Hold #7 before falling, the competitor would be scored as controlling Hold #5. In other words, the climber would only get points for Hold #7 if he/she CONTROLLED Hold #7.

.6..1.1.1. Overall Competition Rules

- Laser pointers are prohibited from use at any time.
- Spotters should not have any physical contact with the climber during a bouldering attempt.
- For bouldering problems, the route judge SHALL NOT serve as both spotter and judge.
- Only climbers, spotters and judges are permitted to be in crowded bouldering areas, for safety's sake. Please ask all others to stand away from crowded areas/fall zones.
- The climber must CONTROL and MATCH HANDS on the finish hold on a boulder problem to receive points for completion of that problem. The climber must establish contact with the route judge so that the judge may verify control of the finish hold.
- Only designated holds and features are permitted for climbing each problem.
- Bolt holes on the wall are not permitted to be used as hand holds at any time.
- Competitors may only touch the starting hold(s) prior to an attempt. If the competitor touches

other holds, it will count as a fall.

- Competitors and/or judges may brush holds.
- Competitors are only required to have one hand in a start box.
- Competitor must acknowledge score after the final attempt of a problem.
- Competitors that wish to climb at the hosting gym during the two days prior to the competition must check with the gym first. If route setting is underway for the competition, competitors must not climb in the gym or observe anyone else climbing. Competitors that climb or observe anyway will be subject to disqualification for that event. Continued violations will result in revocation of the competitor's membership for the year.
- Competitors shall not enter the gym if problems are being set for the comp. Competitors who do will be disqualified for that comp. Continued violations will result in revocation of membership for that year.
- A gym hosting a Local event can accept or restrict Coaches' help in organizing and route setting prior to the event depending on the needs of the hosting gym.
- Gyms are expected to set new problems for a comp. If this is not the case, any competitor shall make the Chief Judge aware of this immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken by the Chief Judge to eliminate those problems from the comp or disqualify all competitors who had prior knowledge of the problems or adjust scores. The Chief Judge shall be made aware of this prior to the comp completion. If the competitor(s) wait until after the competition is over, or is almost over; then results will not be adjusted.
- Competitors shall not work as route setters even on other category problems.
- In the interest of fairness and good sportsmanship, any competitor who knowingly receives a higher score than he or she is entitled to, must notify USA Climbing officials of the scoring discrepancy.

Technical Incidents

- Spinning holds or other technical incidents must be declared by the climber AT THE TIME OF ITS OCCURRENCE. A technical could be a spinning hold, tape stuck to a shoe, or anything else that creates an unfair disadvantage to a competitor that is not the result of an action on the part of the competitor. Obviously, a technical is subject to judgment; however, if the competitor feels he/she is the subject of an unfair disadvantage, they must declare so WHILE THEY ARE ON THE PROBLEM. If the route judge agrees that the incident has created an unfair disadvantage, the competitor will come back to the ground and will be allowed another attempt on the problem, with no penalty incurred. If the route judge does not agree that a technical incident has occurred, the competitor must continue their current attempt on the problem.
- The competitor must specify the nature of the technical incident, and with the agreement of the Route Judge, may continue or cease climbing. If the competitor falls or chooses to cease climbing due to the technical, the attempt will not be counted as a fall.
- The competitor, subject to a confirmed technical incident, shall be allowed a recuperation period in a separate isolation zone and must not be permitted to come into contact with any other person other than USA Climbing or event organizer's officials.
- On completion of a legitimate attempt on a problem, a competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of their permitted attempts on the problem.

10.0

Appeals and Appeals Protocol for Regional and National Championships

- All official appeals shall be in writing and must be accompanied by a \$75.00 appeals fee in order to be considered. Official appeals shall be differentiated from a regular course discussion that might take place between a climber and a Route Judge immediately after an attempt. No written appeal or fee would be required where a question is raised to the Route Judge and is discussed at that time. An Official appeal must be made within 30 minutes of the end of that segment of the competition. If an appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be returned. If the appeal is denied, the appeal fee shall be retained by ABS.
- Appeals made outside the appeals process will be rejected or returned.
- All appeals and official responses to appeals shall be made in English.
- All appeals shall be made by a competitor's current USA Climbing Member Coach or by the competitor. Appeals may not be made by the competitor's parent(s), unless the competitor is hearing or speech impaired.
- Regional Coordinators will act as the Chief Judge at each Regional Championship event unless

otherwise designated. The Chief Judge will be determined and announced prior to the start of every event. The Nationals Chief Judge will be determined and announced prior to the start of the events.

- A competitor may appeal the decision of the route judge to the Chief Judge when he or she has finished the attempt(s). Appeals to the Chief Judge must be filed within 30 minutes after the occurrence of the incident, or in the case of a disputed score, within 30 minutes of the posting of the scores. The Chief Judge will be made available at the climbing venue for at least 30 minutes after results have been posted. At the Regional Championships, an alternate Chief Judge may be appointed at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator.
- At the Championship events (Regional Championships and Nationals), the Chief Judge shall convene an Appeals Jury that should include the Chief Judge, the Route Judge, and the spotter for the problem in question. A decision shall be made as circumstances allow, and may incorporate video footage (when available). The decision shall be made in writing, and handed by the Chief Judge to the person who officially lodged the appeal and/or the USA Climbing Member Coach.
- 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 30 minutes after the publication of the results. The appeal shall be made by the current USA Climbing Member Coach, or by the competitor. The appeal shall be accompanied by the appeal fee.
- The decision of the Appeals Jury shall be final, and not subject to further appeal.

On-Sight Format Competitions

When competing in an on-sight format competition, receipt of any information concerning a problem prior to or during the attempt on the problem is grounds for disqualification of the competitor. Competitors are free to discuss a problem with other competitors in isolation who have not previously climbed/attempted the problem.

Isolation Regulations

- All eligible competitors shall register and enter the isolation zone no later than the time specified by the event organizer. A clock will be at the Host Hotel, and also at the check-in area, that can be used for setting your watches. This will be the official clock. If a climber or Coach is not in ISO by the time the respective ISO is closed, he/she shall not be admitted.
- Parents are NOT allowed in isolation AT ANY TIME. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in disqualification of the competitor.
- Only those persons specified below shall be permitted to enter the isolation zone:
 - Eligible competitors
 - USA Climbing officials and USA Climbing authorized volunteers
 - USA Climbing Authorized Member Coaches*
- Coaches must be members of USA Climbing and submit a USA Climbing Membership Application identifying themselves as Coaches, along with a signed copy of the Coaches Code of Conduct form. In addition, each coach must submit current certifications verifying their completion of a first aid/CPR course—must be received in the office by January 31, 2008 to be eligible to enter isolation at the ABS9 National Championships. Only those Coaches meeting these requirements will be permitted to enter the isolation area. Additionally, Coaches must enter the isolation area before the close of isolation, with their climbers. While in isolation and in attendance at the event, Coaches are subject to the same rules and regulations as the competitors. The Chief Judge may, at her/his discretion, reduce the number of USA Climbing Member Coaches allowed to enter the isolation zone.
 - Other persons officially 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.
- Competitors and other persons permitted in the isolation area shall not communicate in any way with any person outside the isolation area.
- No competitors or team officials may re-enter the isolation area once they have left, except when escorted out of and back into isolation by an official escort who will ensure that no communication occurs with individuals not in isolation.
- Appropriate Behavior in Isolation
 - All competitors and Coaches are expected to exhibit respectful and appropriate behavior to other competitors, isolation monitors, gym personnel, and event officials.
 - Coaches should oversee the coaching of their students only, unless requested otherwise, by that particular climber.

- Coaches should report any isolation violation to the iso monitor(s) including but not limited to rough housing, inappropriate language, or cheating of any kind. A third party Coach should refrain from addressing any violation(s) they see, to the climber directly (except in the case of extreme safety hazards).

Route Previews

- In on-sight bouldering competitions, there is no route preview. The allotted time for the attempt includes preview time.
- Coaches and spectators shall not communicate in any way with any competitor until the competitor has finished all of the problems in the round.
- Other than discussions between fellow competitors in isolation who have not previously attempted the problem, competitors shall have no knowledge of any problem other than that obtained during the official time period in which they are allotted to climb.

On-sight Scoring

- In on-sight bouldering competitions, competitors are allowed as many attempts as they would like during the allotted time period.
- The highest-numbered hold controlled is considered the competitor's score with a 20 pt flash bonus and 5 point deductions for each fall up to the climber's high point.
- A competitor's attempt on a problem shall be stopped and the highest-numbered hold in the line of the problem as determined by the Forerunner, shall be scored if he/she:
 - Exceeds the permitted time for the problem
 - Touches any part of the wall surface beyond the marked boundaries of the problem
 - Touches the ground with any part of the body
 - Uses any artificial aid
- A competitor shall be permitted to down-climb at any time during their attempt on a problem as long as he/she does not violate any of the above rules.

In the event of an ordered stop, the highest-numbered hold held along the problem, will be measured.

- The Route Judge shall inform the competitor as to the point to which the competitor was scored when the competitor has returned to the ground.
- If a competitor does not agree with the score, he or she must appeal to the Chief Judge, (see Appeals).
- Discussion with the Route Judge is not permitted by spectators or parents and will be grounds for disqualification of the competitor.

10.0

Disqualification

Cheating in any form will result in immediate disqualification of the competitor from the competition, and may result in the competitor's removal from USA Climbing.

The following infringements shall result in the immediate disqualification of the competitor from the competition:

- The use of non-approved equipment
- Smoking or the use of other tobacco products in the isolation, competition or spectator area
- NO BETA (advice) is permitted to be given to a climber either prior to their attempt on the problem, nor while they are attempting a problem. Giving beta to a climber will result in disqualification of that attempt, and MAY result in disqualification of the climber from the competition.
 - No cell phones, cameras, recording equipment or pagers will be allowed into Isolation.
 - Videotapes may not be used to provide beta to a competitor at any time.
- 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.

The following infringements shall result in the immediate disqualification of the competitor from the competition and shall also result in revocation of membership in USA Climbing:

- Distracting or interfering with any competitor who is preparing for, or attempting, a problem
 - Distracting or interfering with any official while they are carrying out their duties
 - Failure to comply with the instructions of the official judges and/or the organizer's officials
 - The use of prohibited drugs at any point during the event, including but not limited to, registration, check-in and any hotel stay specifically for the event.
 - The use of abusive, insulting and/or violent words and/or behavior towards anyone in the competition area, the isolation/transit zones while under the regulations governing the competition area and isolation/transit zones
 - 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.

Disqualifications pertaining to on-sight competitions:

The following infringements shall result in the immediate disqualification of the competitor from the competition:

- Arrival at the isolation zone after the specified closing time
- Observing the problems from outside the permitted observation zone

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:

- Gathering information on a problem on which he/she is to attempt
- Gathering and communicating information to other competitors
- Falsifying scorecards

**** 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.**

Procedure for Disqualification

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.

1. Any and all suspected infringements must be reported to the chief judge FIRST. Only the chief judge may approach a competitor under disqualification proceedings.
2. Upon receiving a report of an infringement (either in writing or by verbal testimony), a chief judge must research the situation to determine if the infringement was: intentional, accidental, put anyone in danger, blatantly violated any rules, gave the competitors a distinct advantage, etc.
 - The research process may include but is not limited to interviewing judges, ISO monitors, spectators, other competitors, etc.
 - 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.
 - All proceedings are confidential and this point should be stressed to everyone involved.

**** Anytime a person under the age of 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.**

- If the infringement is found to be unsubstantiated, the Chief Judge will drop the charge with no consequences to the accused competitor.
- If the infringement is found to be substantiated, the 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 disqualification (red card). If the infringement caused or could have caused harm to any climber, spectator, judge, etc., or if the infringement could be classified as cheating that was purposely

instigated by the climber, then the competitor will be issued a red card which means the climber is disqualified.

- Anyone found guilty of knowingly falsely accusing a competitor of an infringement will receive a red card.
- Anyone except the Chief Judge, who approaches a climber and accuses them of an infringement will be removed from the event. If the accuser is a competitor, they will receive a red card.
- Spectators, parents and Coaches shall be held to the same yellow/red card standard as the competitors for any infringement as determined necessary by the chief judge.

All red card violations will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of USA Climbing and could result in the revocation of the competitor's membership in USA Climbing. In this case, no membership or entry fee refunds are given.

Organization of USA Climbing

USA Climbing is the national and international sanctioning body for competition climbing in the United States. It is composed of you, the climbers, and is governed by a Board of Directors. Coaches, parents, industry supporters and volunteers are an integral component of this organization.

President

Jim Concannon

Vice-President

Bob Broun

Executive Director

Anne-Worley Bauknight

Executive Committee

Jim Concannon, Bob Broun, Anne-Worley Bauknight

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Jim Concannon
Dave Hudson
Dave Rowland
Mark Vasta
John Myrick
Mike Lyons

Information in this handbook is constantly under revision and is subject to change.

YOUTH U.S. TEAM CODE OF CONDUCT

A reminder that you are representing the United States, and you agree to the following:

1. To be respectful and considerate towards fellow athletes, Coaches, officials and members of the public at all times.
2. U.S. Team Members are expected to adhere to the curfews set by the Coach(es) at events.
3. U.S. Team members are expected to attend all official functions, including but not limited to, meetings and practices, and be dressed as designated by the Coach(es) and/or USA Climbing representatives.
4. U.S. Team members are asked to wear their Team Uniforms to all official functions.
5. Absolutely NO drinking, smoking or drug use will be tolerated.
6. Profanity and inappropriate gestures are not permitted at any time. The Coach(es) and/or officials will take whatever action is deemed appropriate.
7. All team members will conduct themselves in a mature and sportsmanlike manner at all times, as representatives of the team, USA Climbing, and the United States of America. U.S. Team Members will demonstrate sportsmanship, honesty, and integrity before, during and after all functions related to climbing.
8. All U.S. Team Members are responsible for their own actions. USA Climbing, its Coaches, volunteers and representatives will not be held responsible for the actions of any team member, and/or their family members.
9. Current U.S. Team uniforms, including but not limited to: visors, tops, and jackets, are not to be traded or given away.

Violation of any of the above may result in removal from the U.S. Team and revocation of membership in USA Climbing.