MEMBER
RULEBOOK

V4.0
John Myrick
11/14/11
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1. Welcome to the CCS

We hope the CCS provides a fun safe and challenging atmosphere for you to compete in.

Whether you are a competitor, coach, or hosting facility; it is your responsibility to learn the rules. Please take the time to thoroughly review this document.

CCS Mission:
- To develop a nationwide collegiate climbing competition circuit culminating in a National Championship.
- To provide youth competitors entering college the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.
- To strive for more scholarship opportunities available for our collegiate climbers.
- To grow the sport of indoor rock climbing, specifically at the collegiate level.

Benefits to the Athlete:
- Part of a nationally funded and recognized program (National Governing Body) which has International Olympic Committee and IFSC recognition.
- Exposure for competitions and individual performances.
- Access to information on: climbing, training, coaching, route-setting, judging, etc.
- For those already familiar with USA Climbing; the opportunity to compete in a familiar arena (similar comp circuit to SCS and ABS).
- The opportunity to compete for and represent your school as a member of a collegiate climbing team/club on a national level.

Benefits to the University/College:
- National and International exposure of the school’s climbing program via: online representation on USA Climbing’s website, social media outlets, electronic and other communications, and printed promotional materials.
- Results and rankings tracking posted on USA Climbing’s website.
- Involvement with the initial stages of developing indoor rock climbing at the collegiate level of this sport.
- Increased potential for media coverage for your school’s climbing program.
- Access to USA Climbing’s resources in coaching, route-setting and judging.
- Logistics support such as ribbons, medals, banners and marketing.

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.
Organization of USA Climbing

**Board of Directors**: The USA Climbing Board of Directors governs the affairs and business of USA Climbing.

**Chief Executive Officer**: The CEO shall, 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.

**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@USAClimbinglimbing.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@USAClimbinglimbing.org

CCS Organization

**CCS Director**: The CCS Director oversees all aspects of the CCS including appointing Regional Coordinators and creating the National CCS Schedule. The CCS Director reports to the USA Climbing Chief Executive Officer.

**CCS Regional Coordinators**: Regional Coordinators schedule and manage climbing competitions within their home region. At local events and Regional Championships, the Regional Coordinator is the Chief Judge and is also responsible for announcing the rules and formats, as well as assembling a scoring team. An alternate Chief Judge may be selected at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator.

If this rulebook leaves any unanswered questions regarding the CCS please contact the CCS Director, John Myrick, at ccs@USAClimbinglimbing.org or by phone at 512-775-0378
2. **Membership and Eligibility**

The CCS is open to all valid students of accredited higher learning institutions including Colleges, Universities, Community Colleges, and Junior Colleges. Students may be enrolled at either the undergraduate or graduate level. All participants must be able to show valid student ID’s upon check in/registration at CCS events. Students are eligible to compete so long as they have been a registered student at some point during the current academic year (example: a student that was registered and graduated during the fall term may compete during the spring term).

In order for an athlete to get credit for a competition you must be a CCS member or register as a CCS member within 72 hours of the completion of the event.

To be a member of the CCS you must register with USA Climbing as a CCS member.

Registration is open online at [USA Climbing's CCS website](#).

If you do not register and become a member your results will not be tracked and you won’t be ranked amongst any other CCS members.

CCS membership for a season is $25.

Non USA CLIMBING members that compete at a USA CLIMBING Sanctioned Event must fill out the Non-Member Waiver.

If a CCS Competitor is also a Youth SCS Competitor, their CCS competitions will count towards participation requirements for advancement eligibility to championship events, only if the member is in college and in the Junior Category. CCS competitions will not count for participation requirements for ABS or SCS members that are not in College/not in the Junior Category.
3. Teams

A team must be made up of current students from a particular school and may be undergraduate or graduate level. ID’s may be requested at any CCS event to verify that all team members are from the same school.

There is no limit on team size, although for scoring purposes only the top three male and top three female competitors from each team will be counted. Each team will determine their own criteria for team formation, structure, and function.

All students and teams must be recognized by the school as a club or sports club team, or have some other documented permission from your school in order to compete as a team. This is achieved through the CCS membership process.

When registering, if a "Team" is selected or indicated it is assumed that you are recognized and/or have permission from your school to compete as team.

Any student or team that has not properly secured permission or recognition from their school may still participate in the CCS, but will do so as independents (no school affiliation).

You do not have to be an official club on campus, although it is highly recommended. Many schools offer additional funding for organized clubs, in particular, sports based clubs.

Requirements for forming official clubs and applying for sports club status varies from school to school. For details concerning clubs and sports clubs please consult the appropriate office at your school.
4. Season Composition

The CCS will take place during the Spring Semester. CCS Regions do not correspond to the ABS/SCS Regions. Each region will ideally be comprised of five-six events, with “Local” level competitions and a “Regional Championship.” It is also possible for a region to have more or less than five events; however each region will have only one Regional Championship per season.

All interested schools wishing to host an event will work with their Regional Coordinators to schedule the competitions. The last event in each series will be deemed the Regional championship and will culminate the series with individual and team champions. Team scores will not be officially tracked during the course of the regular season but will be tracked and announced at the culmination of the series at the Regional Championship. Following the regional series there will be an “Open National Championship”. The National Championship will be held during the fourth weekend in April or within one week of that weekend.

If a private Gym is hosting a CCS Event there must be an official affiliation between the school and the private gym. This is achieved through the "Host Agreement Form". There are spaces for the Private Gym Administrators and School Officials to sign which demonstrates that the two entities are entering into the event with knowingly in cooperation.

Redpoint and Onsight Formats are acceptable for any event. Participating venues must use the uniform point scale for Red Point formats. Detailed rules concerning formats are included in section 8 of this rulebook.

CCS events may not also be ABS or SCS events. If need be, you may hold an ABS or SCS event one day prior, one day after the CCS event, or during a different part of the same day as an SCS or ABS event. If multiple events are held, each event will require separate sanctioning fees.

Speed competitions may be included in any event but will only contribute towards the team score at the Regional Championship and National Championship.

The National Championship will be an Open Tournament and will include Difficulty and Speed components. The difficulty component may include lead (leading will be an option but not mandatory), top roping, and bouldering.

CCS competitors should not be awarded prizes other than the items provided by USA Climbing and the CCS.
5. Series Scoring

Individual and team scores will be tallied and tracked at each event. However, only Individual rankings and awards will be given out at the regular season events. Team scores from each regular season event will accrue and be summed up for final team ranking at the culmination of the Regional Championship. The Regional Championship will be conducted using the same or similar format as all other local level events in the region. Final awards for team and individual placement are given out at the conclusion of the Regional Championship. The scores at the Regional Championships are not weighted in any way.

At the conclusion of the Regional Championship, each competitor’s final score will be based on the four highest placement/point values. The lowest score for all competitors will be dropped at the end of the series unless there are less than five events in the series. For example, if a climber competes in all five events, only the top four scores will be counted.

Individual scores/ranking at each event will be based on the raw score achieved by each competitor. Only the top three men and top three women from each team will be counted for the team score- per event. Individual and team champions will be determined by the cumulative score for the entire series.

Individual points will be based on the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 and below</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a CCS event is held in conjunction with an existing event, CCS competitors may be registered in both events unless the CCS competitor is also a routesetter. For example, if John Doe registers in a given category such as beginner intermediate or advanced he or she would be eligible for prizes in that category as well as having their scores be counted for the CCS. Their placement within a given category has no bearing on their ranking within the CCS. That ranking is based solely on the raw score compared to the other CCS competitors. Ribbons and or medals may be awarded to CCS competitors/teams but no extra prizes.

If an event is solely a CCS event no prizes shall be awarded for the place finishers other than the ribbons or medals provided by USA Climbing/CCS.

Any other prizes given out shall be raffled or given away randomly.
6. Safety

Safety is of the utmost concern to USA Climbing.

The competition 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.

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.

Belayers shall be trained to belay in a competent manner.

For bouldering problems, 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.

Each route or 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.

The Chief Judge and/or Chief Routesetter shall inspect each route or boulder problem prior to the start of each round of a competition to ensure the maintenance of the safety standards.

All competitors shall adhere to the host gym’s policies and manufacturers’ guidelines.

Manufacturers recommend attaching the climbing rope to the harness with a figure 8 knot with a follow through.

USA Climbing recognizes that some gyms utilize a pre-tied rope as a method of tying-in. In this case, Petzl recommends using two opposite-facing auto-locking carabiners at the tie-in point (see graphic below).

![Graphic from the Petzl harness guide](image-url)

All equipment used in a competition shall comply with UIAA standards unless otherwise specified by the ICC, or under exceptional circumstances, by the Jury President through the authority delegated to him/her by the ICC. Within these general requirements, competitors in lead and speed competitions shall use a UIAA-approved single rope provided by the organizers.
The following safety precautions shall be observed in the equipping of routes:

- Each protection point to be used during a round of competition shall be equipped with a quickdraw with a carabiner to which a competitor shall connect the rope. The possibility of cross-loading the carabiner shall be minimized.
- Where an extension of a normal quickdraw is required, a continuous (machine-sewn) tape sling of at least the same strength shall be used in place of the normal, shorter quickdraw. Knotted rope or tape slings shall not be permitted.
- 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.
7. **Competition Formats**

**General Rules for Competition Formats:**

- Local competitions may be Redpoint, Modified Redpoint, On-sight or Flash format or any other format per rules.
- Regional and National level events may involve a speed climbing component.
- Routes must NOT be available for competitors to climb or view prior to the event.
- It is the responsibility of the color-blind climber to notify the gym and the USA Climbing Regional Coordinator at least 48 hours before the competition that the routes will need to be numbered to accommodate the color-blind climber.

**Redpoint Competition Formats**

A redpoint format competition allows multiple attempts on a route or boulder problem and the opportunity to watch other competitors climb on the route prior to an attempt. Points are awarded only for the completion of the climb. Falls are tallied on each competitor’s scorecard for all climbs. Falls will be used for tie-break scenarios between competitors with identical raw scores.

Redpoint format competitions may be composed of any combination of bouldering, top-robe, or lead routes. Each climb will be worth a specific number of points based on that climb’s estimated difficulty level.

Unlimited attempts are permitted on each route.

Climbers should be permitted a minimum of three hours to climb. This time can be extended (but not shortened) at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator, Chief Judge and/or the gym for very large competitions.

Climbers should be given a “five minute warning” near the end of the event. At the end of those five minutes any climbers still on the wall (on an official attempt) will be allowed to continue. The Regional Coordinator may choose to allow competitors with their scorecards in a queue to also make one last attempt (time permitting). Otherwise, climbers MUST turn in their scorecard at the immediate conclusion of the climbing period.

Each competitor’s best 5 completed/scored routes will be added together for a final score. This may be a combination of sport climbs/top ropes and boulder problems. A typical combination type of red point comp would require the competitor to turn his or her top two boulder problems and top three sport climbs/top ropes.

Ties will be decided in favor of the climber who used fewer attempts, i.e. falls will break ties. Falls are counted **only** for the top five scores. If ties cannot be broken by comparing the number of falls, then the tie will be awarded as such. For example: If two climbers have an identical score and an identical number of falls for their top five routes, and are both tied for first place, both climbers will be awarded first place points. The climber with the next highest point total, and fewest number of falls, will be awarded third place, and so on.
Beta may be given to a competitor before or after attempting a climb, but NOT while the competitor is making an attempt.

Route setting for Redpoint Formats:
- If a route is to be used BOTH as a lead route and a top-roped route, care should be taken to ensure that the route is safe to climb BOTH ways (i.e. watch for unsafe swings on overhanging routes, or unsafe clips when the route is to be led.)
- If a route is used both as a lead and a top-roped route, we recommend that it be given two distinct route numbers, with a higher score given for leading 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, but the first attempt will be marked as a fall. Once a competitor attempts/climbs a route on top-rope, he/she may not then attempt the same route as a lead climb.

General Redpoint Competition Format Requirements:
- The organizer will prepare at least 30, but not more than 70 routes and/or boulder problems for climbers to attempt.
- Each route will be worth a specific number of points based on that route's anticipated difficulty.
- Each competitor may choose which climbs to attempt.
- Unlimited attempts are allowed on any given route.
- Competitor may try as many climbs as they wish, or as time allows.
- Competitors must declare their intention to attempt a route by handing their scorecard to the route judge who will call climbers in order (unless peer judging is utilized).
- Upon successful completion of a route, the judge will award the appropriate number of points and note this award on the score card.
- 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 route.
- The number of falls on each route will also be noted.
- If the competitor flashes the route the score card shall be marked with a zero with a slash through the zero, in the falls column or be left blank.
## Uniform Points Scale for Redpoint Formats:

### Redpoint Scoring Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Redpoint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V0-</td>
<td>775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V0</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V0+</td>
<td>825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1-</td>
<td>850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V1+</td>
<td>925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V2+</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V3-</td>
<td>1075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V3+</td>
<td>1150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V4-</td>
<td>1175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V4</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V4+</td>
<td>1225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5</td>
<td>1230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5</td>
<td>1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V5+</td>
<td>1260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V6</td>
<td>1275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V6+</td>
<td>1280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V7-</td>
<td>1290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V7</td>
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<tr>
<td>V10</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V10+</td>
<td>1475</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flash Formats

A flash format competition resembles an on-sight competition but without isolation. Each category/gender will climb one or more routes in an identified order with only one attempt allowed per route. If more than one route is used per category, the routes should be progressively higher in difficulty. There will be a pre-determined running order of climbers. Prior to the start of the competition, forerunners will climb the routes, demonstrating the proper sequence and technique to be used. All competitors are allowed to watch the forerunner climb his or her routes. Competitors may watch other competitors climb. The highest point reached on the route is scored in accordance with USA Climbing rules for on-sight format competitions.

On-sight Formats

These rules apply to all on-sight competitions, sport climbing and bouldering.

In an on-sight route, the climber will not see any other person climb the route prior to attempting it 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 route prior to their attempt. Climbers are scored based on the highest hold reached.

During an on-sight competition: Each route shall be allocated a predetermined time in which a competitor may attempt the route. If a lead route, the one-minute tie-in period shall NOT be included in this time, but shall be separate and in addition to the allocated route time. Each competitor will have a 1-minute transition period in which to make his/her way to the next problem/route.

During an on-sight competition: 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. 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. The 40-second start time is required at the Championship events, but optional and at the discretion of the Chief Judge at Local level on-sight competitions.

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

On-sight format Local events, during the sport climbing season, may include a combination of bouldering, top rope and lead climbing.

The following modified on-sight formats are sanctioned by USA Climbing:

One-round, designated routes for each category, multi-route, single attempt ONLY.

The gym will set 4-5 routes per category.
Climbers are not permitted to watch others’ attempts before they climb the routes themselves.

Climbers are permitted a preview of their routes prior to climbing, however.

Climbers are kept in isolation and are brought out one at a time to climb.

Each of the routes is climbed in sequence, with a set amount of time permitted to climb each route - (time somewhat dependent on wall height). A separate rest period MAY be given between routes.

Only one attempt is permitted on each route.

The highest point reached on the route is scored in accordance with USA Climbing rules for on-sight format competitions.

**One-round, designated routes for each category, multi-route, MULTIPLE attempt.**

**Format as per on-sight single attempt**

Every competitor has a set amount of time to climb each route.

Every competitor may make as many attempts as possible in the specified time period.

Scoring is based on highest point reached, in accordance with USA Climbing rules for on-sight scoring, with number of attempts used to break ties. The number of attempts counted is the number required to achieve the highest point. (i.e. if the highest point is reached on attempt number 2, attempt number 3 is not counted.) If a lead-climbing competitor falls during his or her attempt, the rope will be pulled—the competitor will not be required to untie from the rope—and the competitor may attempt the route again, provided he or she is not over the allotted time for that route.

**One-round, all climbers attempt all routes, one attempt ONLY.**

In this format, the gym will set between 8 and 12 routes varying from easy to hard, adjusted for the ability of climbers in the region.

All climbers attempt every route, in order of easiest to hardest. For large regions, two sets of routes may be set, so that two sets of climbers are climbing simultaneously. The same routes must be used for all climbers in a category. In other words, do not have half of the Youth A boys on one set and the other half on another set. A set period of time is permitted on each route.

**Multiple round, with isolation**

There must be both a qualifying round and a finals round of competition.

There may also be a semi-final round
Only one attempt is permitted on each route. The highest point reached on the route is scored in accordance with USA Climbing rules for National Championships.

Scores are zeroed between rounds with count backs to break ties.

At the discretion of the Chief Judge, a “flash” format may be used in the qualifying round only.

**Redpoint Qualifier with Onsight Final**

There will be a Single round redpoint format qualifier followed be an onsight final round. The redpoint qualifier round will be between 3.5-4 hours in length. The top ten men and women will advance from qualifiers to the finals. If there are ties for the final spot all tied competitors will advance. In the onsight final there will be a combination of roped climbs and or boulder problems. Ties in top three places will be broken with a super final. The scores are zeroed between the qualifiers and finals.
8. General Competition Rules

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 routes for a comp. If this is not the case, any person shall make the Regional Coordinator and/or Chief Judge aware of this immediately upon discovery. Appropriate action will be taken by the Regional Coordinator and/or Chief Judge to eliminate those routes from the comp or disqualify and/or adjust scores of all competitors who had prior knowledge of the climbs. The Regional Coordinator and/or Chief Judge shall be made aware of this prior to the completion of the competition. If the competitor(s) wait until after the competition is over, or is almost over; then results will not be adjusted.

Laser pointers are prohibited from use at any time.

All belayers MUST be certified to belay by the gym personnel.

Belayers exhibiting unsafe practices will be replaced.

The belayer must 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 may result in disqualification of the attempt or of the competitor.

Spotters should not have any physical contact with the climber during a bouldering attempt.

For bouldering problems, the route judge should not serve as both spotter and judge.

Only climbers, spotters and judges are permitted to be in crowded bouldering areas. All others should stand away from crowded areas and fall zones.

Routesetting Guidelines:

- All routes MUST be clearly taped for the entire route.
- Routes may NOT be designated solely by hold color, unless the route is completely isolated on the wall from other routes.
- Team members may not compete in any event in which they were route setters or competition officials. In order to compete in an event hosted at your home gym you are not allowed in that facility during competition preparation. You must not have access to see any of the competition routes or problems.
- 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:
  - 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;
  - 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.
Climbing Guidelines:

- The entire surface of the climbing wall shall be permitted to be used for climbing with the following exceptions:
  - 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.
  - Bolt hangers and quickdraws are not permitted to be used as hand holds or foot holds at any time.
  - Neither the side edges nor the top edge of the wall shall be used for climbing, unless specifically designated as part of the route/problem.
  - At Championship events, each route shall be allocated a pre-determined period in which a competitor may attempt the route. This period shall include a 40 second final preparation period at the base of the route.
  - A climber’s attempt shall be deemed to have started when both feet have left the ground.
  - 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.
  - The climber must CONTROL the finish hold on a roped route, but is not required to match hands to receive points for completion of that route. 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 route.
  - No Flying Starts, climbers must establish on the wall before making the first move unless it is a designated jump start.
  - Jump starts are permitted but must be clearly marked and noted.
  - Weighting of the rope will be considered a fall.
  - Each competitor’s attempt shall be deemed to have started when both feet have left the ground.
  - Rules regarding starting positions may be set by the Chief Judge.
  - 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 route. They will also announce the time remaining, at any point, at the competitor’s request.
  - Rules and instructions regarding a route may be given by the Route Judge prior to a competitor’s attempt. These rules and instructions shall be given in full to all competitors climbing on a particular route.
  - 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.
  - Climbers may not receive coaching or advice from any individual while attempting an on-sight route. Encouragement and cheering are acceptable but coaching is not. When competing in an on-sight format competition, receipt of any information concerning a route prior to or during the attempt on the route is grounds for immediate disqualification of the competitor.
  - 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.

- The refusal by a competitor to obey the instruction of a Route Judge to terminate their attempt on a route shall result in the disqualification of the competitor.
- Competitors should not work as route setters even on other category routes.
- 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.
- Speed climbing starting position: Each climber shall prepare for his/her speed climbing attempt by placing one or both hands on the designated starting hold(s), and one foot on the wall. One foot must remain on the floor.

**Lead Climbing Guidelines:***

- In the interest of safety, pre-clipping the first quickdraw on a lead climb route is permissible only at the discretion of the head routesetter. If pre-clipping is to be allowed on a certain route, all climbers will be made aware during their preview period.

**Skipped Clips:**
- During an attempt on a lead climb route, each competitor shall clip each quickdraw in sequence. If a competitor clips out of sequence, he/she will be immediately called off the route and the highest hold and in-sequence clip will be scored.
- Each quickdraw must be clipped before the lowest part of the competitor’s body has moved above the lowest carabiner connected to a quickdraw, or in the case of a traverse or roof section of the route, before the competitor’s body has moved beyond a clipped quickdraw in the line of the route as defined by the Forerunner.
- The Route Judge shall notify the competitor to clip the quickdraw, if it is apparent that the competitor is about to skip a clip and the safety of the climber is compromised. The judge shall say, “[climber’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 carabiner connected to a quickdraw, 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.

**Z-Clipping:**
- The Route Judge shall inform a competitor if they are about to z-clip. The Route Judge will say in a loud, clear voice, “[climber’s name] you’re z-clipping.”
- If the climber z-clips without being warned against doing so, the Route Judge shall notify the climber as soon as the z-clip is observed, and the climber will be allowed to fix the z-clip and continue climbing. If the climber falls while correcting a z-clip, they will not receive the .01 points for making the clip.
- The z-clip must be fixed before clipping the next draw. If the competitor fails to correct a z-clip, they will not receive credit for any upward movement past the point where their foot passed the last correctly clipped quickdraw.
• Back Clipping:
  o While USA Climbing encourages all competitors to practice safe clipping techniques, back clipping is not a violation of USA Climbing or UIAA rules, and will not be grounds for termination of an attempt on a route, nor will a competitor be warned to correct a back clipped quickdraw during competition.

• Incorrect Clip:
  o In the case of two routes being close enough in proximity that a climber mistakenly clips a quickdraw on the wrong route, the Judge shall immediately instruct the climber to correct the clip. Once the incorrect clip is un-clipped the competitor can continue his/her attempt on the route. There will be no credit or score for clipping a clip that is not on the route.

• Skipping Holds:
  o Competitors will be scored based solely on the number of holds that they have controlled, touched the usable surface of, or touched, and whether they clipped. There is NO point advantage in skipping a hold unless the climber CONTROLLED the hold they were going for. For example, in the case of a competitor controlling Hold #10, skipping Hold #11 and touching the usable surface of Hold #12 before falling, the competitor would be scored as controlling Hold #10, and touching the usable surface of NEXT hold, regardless of what number hold that is. In other words, the climber would only get points for Hold #12 if he/she CONTROLLED Hold #12. Likewise, if a subsequent competitor controlled Hold #10 (the same as the previous climber) and touched the usable surface of Hold #11 (but did NOT control it) both climbers would have the same score.

Isolation Regulations (On-Sight Competitions)

All eligible competitors shall register and enter the isolation zone no later than the time specified by the event organizer. A digital clock will be on display in the so check-in area. Iso will close at the published time—no exceptions.

Only Competitors, Coaches and authorized competition personnel shall be permitted to enter the isolation zone:

Coaches must enter the isolation area before the close of isolation, with their climbers. Authorized team coaches may enter the isolation area once, per session. Once a coach leaves isolation, that coach cannot return to isolation during that session.

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 team 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).

No recording or communication devices, including but not limited to, video cameras, cell phones, walkie-talkies, etc. are allowed into isolation.

Route Previews (On-sight Competitions)

Competitors who are registered in a particular round shall be permitted an observation period before the start of a competition during which they shall be allowed to study the route.

Team coach and/or any other persons with the exception of USA Climbing event officials shall not be permitted to accompany the competitors during the observation period.

While in the observation area, all competitors shall consider themselves as being under the regulations governing the isolation zone.

The observation time period shall be decided by the Chief Judge in consultation with the Forerunner but should not exceed six (6) minutes except in the cases of long routes.

Competitors must remain within the designated observation zone during the observation period, and are not permitted to climb on the wall or stand on any equipment or furniture.

During the observation period, competitors may use binoculars to observe the route and make hand-drawn sketches and notes. No other observation or recording equipment shall be permitted.

During the observation period the competitors may touch the starting hold(s) without leaving the ground with both of their feet. No other hold(s) may be touched. If a hold other than the starting hold(s) is/are touched, a yellow card may be issued (section 10.6.9).
Competitors shall not communicate in any way with any person outside the observation area.

Spectators shall not communicate in any way with any competitor inside the observation area.

Other than discussions between fellow competitors in isolation who have not previously attempted the route, competitors shall have no knowledge of any route other than that obtained during the official observation period.

At the end of the observation period competitors shall immediately return to the isolation zone or they may be disqualified.

In the event of a super final the chief judge may decide not to permit an observation period.

Transit Zone (On-sight Competitions)

Competitors shall proceed to the transit zone upon receiving official instruction to leave the isolation zone.

The competitors shall not be accompanied by any person other than an authorized official – no coaches.

If ropes are not made available in the transition zone, competitors shall be permitted a minimum of one minute to tie-in to the rope at the base of the route, prior to his or her start of an attempt of the route.

All climbing equipment and the knot used shall be inspected and approved by an authorized official both for safety and compliance with other USA Climbing regulations before the competitor shall be permitted to proceed with his or her attempt on the route.

Each competitor shall be ready to leave the transit zone and enter the arena when instructed to do so. Any delay may result in immediate disqualification.

Technical Incidents (Difficulty- Bouldering or Roped Climbing)

Definition of a Technical Incident – A technical shall be defined as:

A. A broken or spinning hold,
B. A short-rope on a lead climb,
C. Tape stuck to a shoe, or
D. An open wound
E. Anything else that creates an unfair disadvantage to a competitor that is not the result of an action on the part of the competitor.

Spinning holds or other technical incidents must be declared by the climber AT THE TIME OF ITS OCCURRENCE.

If the competitor feels he/she is the subject of an unfair disadvantage while climbing, he/she must declare so WHILE ON THE ROUTE. If the route judge agrees that the incident has created
an unfair disadvantage, the competitor will be lowered to the ground and will be allowed another attempt on the route, with no penalty incurred (see 8.8.7). If the route judge does not agree that a technical incident has occurred, the competitor must continue his/her current attempt on the route.

During a redpoint competition, if a competitor falls and claims that a technical incident precipitated the fall, the competitor shall advise the route judge. If the technical incident is confirmed the climber shall be allowed to re-climb the route, and the attempt with the confirmed technical will not be marked on the scorecard.

During an on-sight 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.

During an on-sight competition, 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 during that period.

The minimum recuperation time shall be fifteen minutes; the maximum recuperation period shall be equal to 2 minutes for each hand hold the competitor made use of prior to the technical incident (up to 20 minutes), but not less than 15 minutes.

The chief judge shall slot the next attempt of the competitor based on the competitor’s requested recuperation period. All concerned competitors shall be informed of the re-slotting.

On completion of a legitimate attempt on a route, a competitor shall be recorded as having achieved the best result of his/her permitted attempts on the route.

A Technical Incident in speed climbing competitions is defined as:

A. A broken or spinning hold,
B. A too-loose or too-tight rope which either assists or hinders a competitor,
C. Any other 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.

If a competitor suffers a technical incident during a speed climbing head-to-head round, and interrupts his/her attempt, his/her competitor shall be instructed to stop climbing. Both competitors shall be given the opportunity to restart their attempts after the repair has been affected.

**Scoring – Sport Climbing**

At a redpoint competition, the competitor shall earn all route points upon completion of the route. All falls shall be tallied by the route judge as noted in section 8.

**At an on-sight sport climbing competition**, a competitor's attempt on a route shall be stopped and the highest hold held or touched, (or in the case of a traverse or roof section of the route,
the furthest hold held or touched) in the line of the route as determined by the Forerunner, shall be scored if he/she:

- Falls
- Exceeds the permitted time for the route
- Touches any part of the wall surface beyond the marked boundaries of the route
- Uses the side edges or top edges of the wall, unless designated as part of the route/problem
- Fails to clip a quickdraw before his/her lowest-placed foot has moved beyond the bottom carabiner of the draw, whether or not the Route Judge has warned them to make the clip
- Fails to obey a Route Judge's command to correct a z-clip
- Touches the ground with any part of the body
- Weights the rope
- Uses any artificial aid

A competitor shall be permitted to down-climb at any time during his/her attempt on a route as long as he/she does not violate any of the above rules.

In the event of a fall, ordered stop, or a fall while down climbing, the highest hold held along the route, will be determined.

In the case of an equal hold held between two or more competitors, the competitor who makes useful movement off the hold will be considered better.

In the case of two or more competitors making useful movement off a hold, the competitor who touches the usable part of any scored hold further along the route will be considered better.

At an on-sight competition: If a competitor falls during his or her attempt, he or she may receive partial credit as follows:

If prior to falling, a competitor makes useful movement off of a controlled hold, he or she will receive an additional .3 points. If, prior to falling, the competitor makes useful movement off of a controlled hold and touches the useable surface of the next scored hold, he or she will receive an additional .5 points.

At an on-sight competition: "Holds" and "usable parts of holds" are those considered as such by the Route Judge and/or forerunner. If a competitor touches a point devoid of holds, this point will not be counted. Whether or not a hold was held will be determined by the Route Judge. This will mean holding the hold "in control" or holding it for two or more seconds. Useful movement off a hold is a movement by the competitor, as determined by the Route Judge, after the competitor has "held" the hold. Utilizing this scoring system is at the discretion of the Chief Judge.

At an on-sight competition: Competitors in lead-climbing categories will receive .01 points for each quickdraw that is successfully and correctly clipped.

At an on-sight competition: 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 parents or guardians, and will be grounds for disqualification of the competitor.

Ties in the top three places at Regional or National Championships

The Regional Championship will be the final competition of regional series. The season’s points for individuals and official teams will be tallied. Awards will be given out for performance at “Regionals” that day as well as the awards for the entire season for individuals and official teams. All CCS Regional Results will be announced upon the completion of the Regional Championships. If there are ties within 1-3rd place at the event the ties must be broken. If there is a tie for 1-3rd place in overall series results those ties must also be broken. A Super Final will be used to break these ties. A route or boulder problem in which neither of the competitors has climbed during the competition and that is harder than anything the competitors climbed during the competition shall be used for the Super Final. The Super Final will be done in an Onsight Format. Once it is known that there is a tie and the route has been chosen, unbeknownst to the climbers, the climbers will be put into an isolation area. The running order will be decided in a random manner. Onsight scoring methods as described previously in this section shall be used. The climbers will have a six minute preview period. Once the preview is complete the first climber will stay out and make their attempt. The climber shall remain facing away from the route until it is time to go. The climber will be tied in using a figure eight knot if necessary. Once the climber turns around their time begins and they must begin climbing within approximately 40 seconds. The climber will be warned twice to begin climbing. If they do not start they will be given a score of zero. The climbing time for the Super Final will be eight minutes. Once their attempt is over the next climber will be brought out to begin their attempt. If there are any ties within 1-3rd place at “Nationals”, the ties will be broken in the same way as listed above.

Competition Rules – Speed Climbing

Each category shall be run following the completion of the Sport climbing discipline for that category. There must be at least a thirty (30) minute rest period between the Sport and Speed Climbing competitions to allow competitors to rest and to preview the speed routes.

Speed Climbing Competitions at CCS competitions shall consist of one round. Each climber will climb two routes in succession. Ranking will be based on the cumulative time from both routes. A randomized running order, for each category, shall be posted prior to the start of the competition.

The routes shall be forerun prior to the start of the round.

After each competitor’s attempt on a route, s/he must be made aware of his/her individual time on the route. The time shall be written on the competitor’s scorecard and s/he shall acknowledge their agreement with said time by initialing their scorecard.
Route Timing:

- When a mechanical-electric timing system suffers a failure during any attempt, a technical incident shall be declared for all competitors in the round and/or heat. Manual timing shall then not be used to determine the result of the attempt.
- If manual timing is used, each route shall be timed by two judges each operating a stopwatch. The time of each competitor for completing his/her attempt shall be recorded by the Judge taking into account the average of the stop watches, and eliminating obvious timing errors.

Speed Climbing Procedure:

- 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 mark.”
- At the command “At your marks,” each climber 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. One hand shall be on the starting handhold. The other hand shall be in the air, not touching the climbing wall or any handholds.
- Once the climbers are in the starting position, the judge shall call “Ready.” Unless any of the competitors clearly states that s/he is not ready, the judge shall call “Attention.” After a short pause (less) the Judge shall call “Go.” All verbal instructions shall be given in a loud and clearly audible voice.
- If a mechanical-electrical timing system is used, the Judge may use a short (less than two (2) seconds) loud, clearly audible starting signal.
- 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. Unless the competitor clearly indicates that s/he is not ready when the Judge calls “Ready,” no appeal against the starting instruction will be allowed.
- 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.
- 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.
- A competitor committing two false starts in the same round shall be disqualified.
- During an attempt on a route, if the climber falls they may get back on the route and finish.
- There shall be a max time of one minute. If a competitor is attempting a route and the attempt reaches the one minute mark, the attempt will be over and a time of one minute shall be recorded for the competitor’s time.

Technical Incidents- Speed

A technical incident in speed competitions is defined as:
A. A broken or spinning hold;
B. A tight rope which either assists or hinders a competitor;
C. A failure of the timing system;
D. Tape stuck to a shoe;
E. An open wound, or,
F. Any other occurrence that results in an unfair advantage or disadvantage to a competitor, which is not the result of an action on the part of the competitor.

- It is the competitor’s responsibility to ensure that his/her clothing, chalk bag and any other equipment is properly secured. There are no grounds for a technical if the above-mentioned items impede the competitor.
- 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.
- If a competitor suffers a technical incident that interrupts his/her attempt, his/her opponent competitor(s) shall continue to climb. If the technical incident is confirmed, then both competitors shall re-start the round.
- Once a technical has been confirmed, a recuperation time of five (5) minutes, shall be allowed for competitor affected by a technical incident. After the recuperation period, the competitor shall re-run both routes, back to back, against another competitor or a “rabbit.”
- The best time for each route will be recorded for a competitor re-running the routes due to a confirmed technical.