



Athlete Representation Review Working Group

Review Report

NGB	USA Climbing
<i>Working Group Personnel</i>	
USOPC AAC Designee	Mark Ladwig
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<i>Support Personnel</i>	
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<i>Session Information</i>	
Date of NGB Submission	December 23, 2020
Date of Report	December 23, 2020

Overview of Submission and Discussion

The NGB, having the approval of its AAC, submitted a set of committees and competitions for review by the Working Group (WG). The submission was provided in due time and was reviewed in advance of the meeting.

The WG noted that as a new discipline in the Olympic Games the NGB has not had time to accumulate a group of athletes who have competed at Delegation Events, leaving them with a very small group of athletes to draw from for governance and leadership roles.

The NGB noted that prior to Olympic inclusion, the Youth World Championships were the premier competitive events in the international competitive sphere. This has further created a situation where the top elite athletes were not necessarily eligible for leadership and governance roles.

Reviewed Competitions	
Competition	IFSC World Championships
NGB Recommendation	Elite International Competition
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite International Competition
Working Group Finding	Elite International Competition from 2010 onward. Podium finishes prior to 2010.
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
<p>The NGB stipulated that the World Championship has progressed substantially in recent years and is on pace to continue this development. However, in previous years when the event was not seen as the premier elite venue of the sport, Team USA may not have always included the top available athletes and the competition was not as clearly elite.</p> <p>The WG agreed that starting in 2010, this competition could be clearly viewed as an Elite International Competition. However, given the lack of consistent elite level competition prior to 2010,</p>	

<p>only competitors who achieved a podium finish could be safely categorized as having been at the Elite International level of competition.</p> <p>In the course of the discussion of this request, the NGB agreed that this was a reasonable accommodation of their needs while preserving the elite nature of athlete eligibility.</p>	
Competition	IFSC World Cup Competitions
NGB Recommendation	Elite International Competition
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite International Competition
Working Group Finding	Elite International Competition
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
<p>The IFSC World Cup is a more recent set of competitions than the World Championships outlined above. Competition in the World Cup is as Team USA, using selection criteria outlined and executed by the NGB.</p>	
Competition	World University Games
NGB Recommendation	Elite International Competition
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite International Competition
Working Group Finding	Elite International Competition
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
<p>The World University championships have been held on two occasions (2016 and 2018). Teams to this event are selected by the NGB, using established NGB selection criteria.</p> <p>This event is age restricted (Under 25) but is an important elite competition for the NGB and for athletes.</p> <p>The NGB acknowledged that future requests to the WG may not include this event. With such a small group of athletes in place absent any delegation events, this event captures a definition of elite that may evolve as more athletes become available through representing Team USA at other competitions.</p>	
Competition	USA Climbing National Championships
NGB Recommendation	Elite Competition for Finalists Only
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite Competition for Finalists Only
Working Group Finding	Elite Competition for Finalists Only
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
<p>The NGB outlined that the finalists at the national championships are elite level athletes who are at or very near the level of Elite International competition. The finalists at national championships vary from 6-8 individuals depending on the event. The national championships referenced here are for "Senior" or "Open" categories only. Age restricted events such as "Junior" or "Masters" were not included in this request, nor included in this finding.</p>	
Competition	Paralimbing World Championships
NGB Recommendation	Elite International Competition
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite International Competition
Working Group Finding	Elite International Competition
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
<p>This is the premier event in Para Climbing competition and competitors are selected by the NGB using established selection processes.</p>	
Competition	Paralimbing World Cup
NGB Recommendation	Elite International Competition
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite International Competition
Working Group Finding	Elite International Competition
<i>Finding Notes</i>	

The NGB selects athletes for World Cup competition via an established selection process. The World Cup for Para athletes has very few events most years (2020 has even fewer) so achieving selection to the World Cup is quite restricted, even by the standard of Elite competition.	
Competition	Paralimbing National Championships
NGB Recommendation	Elite Competition for Finalists Only
NGB AAC Recommendation	Elite Competition for Finalists Only
Working Group Finding	Elite Competition for Finalists Only
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
As with the able-bodied version of the national championships, this is restricted to the 6-8 finalists (depending on event), and this is restricted to elite category competition at Paralimbing nationals.	

Reviewed Committees	
Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominating and Governance • Audit • Ethics • Judicial • Team Selection
NGB Recommendation	Designated
NGB AAC Recommendation	Designated
Working Group Finding	Designated
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
These committees were based on the NGB Bylaws and met the definition of Designated. The NGB clarified to the Working Group that the traditional role of a Compensation Committee was within the purview of the Audit Committee in the case of this NGB. This was also true of the budgeting function.	
Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paralimbing Committee • Coaching Committee • Collegiate Committee • Judges Committee • Routesetting Committee • Rules Committee • Risk Management Committee • Medical Committee • Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force • Competition Belaying Working Group • NCAA Task Force
NGB Recommendation	Other Committees
NGB AAC Recommendation	Other Committees
Working Group Finding	Other Committees
<i>Finding Notes</i>	
The Working Group agreed with the categorization of these committees as Other Committees relative to the USOPC Bylaws. These Other Committees will require athlete representation (at least 20% for 2021 and at least 33% beyond) but will be open to athletes in the “Actively Engaged” category.	