



ELIGIBILITY CODE

VERSION
No 2

DATE
January 2026

DISTRIBUTION

World Climbing National Federations
World Climbing Technical Commissions
World Climbing Continental Councils
World Climbing Executive Board Members
Local Organising Committees

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1 INTERNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 Competitors and team officials will have *International Eligibility* if they meet the following conditions:
 - A) they have been registered for an *International Licence* by a National Federation and the licence is valid for the current calendar year,
 - B) they have agreed to be governed and bound by the *Competition Rules*, all applicable competition regulations and any other requirements issued by the IFSC, and
 - C) they have not had their *International Eligibility* suspended or revoked.
- 1.2 A person who does not have *International Eligibility*, or who is in breach of any condition imposed on their *International Eligibility*, shall not participate in any competition to which the *Competition Rules* or this code apply in whole or in part.
- 1.3 A team competing with, as part of the team, a competitor or team official who is in breach of this code may be disqualified from the relevant competition.

Events Requiring International Eligibility

- 1.4 *International Eligibility* is required for the following events:
 - A) the Olympic Games and other games recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
 - B) world and continental championship events approved by World Climbing.
 - C) Cup/series events approved by the World Climbing or one of its continental councils.
 - D) events including “World Climbing” in their titles.
 - E) any event approved as an Olympic qualifying event.
 - F) any event designated by a National Federation within its jurisdiction requiring participants to satisfy the requirements for *International Eligibility*.
 - G) any other event designated by World Climbing requiring participants to satisfy the requirements for *International Eligibility*.

2 INTERNATIONAL LICENCES

- 2.1 Each International Licence is valid for the calendar year in which it is issued. i.e., expiring on 31st of December.
- 2.2 National Federations may apply for and renew International Licences by submitting a completed official application form. An International Licence will be activated following a successful application and receipt by World Climbing of the licence fee.
- 2.3 A competitor may represent only one National Federation in any given year.
- 2.4 Team officials may, with the agreement of the relevant National Federations, represent more than one National Federation.

2.5 The scale of all fees shall be decided and published annually by the IFSC.

3 NATIONALITY CRITERIA

Competitors

3.1 A competitor must be a national of the country they represent and hold a passport for that country.

3.2 A competitor who has represented one country and who has either (i) another nationality, (ii) changed their nationality, or (iii) acquired a new nationality; may seek a change to their country of registration under the following conditions:

- A) they have not previously changed their country of registration within the last 4 years,
- B) the National Federation of the country they propose to represent makes a written application to World Climbing requesting the change (a **Transfer Request**).

Team Officials (Sight Guides)

3.3 Sight Guides must be a national of the country they represent and hold a passport for that country.

3.4 A Sight Guide who has represented one country and who has either (i) another nationality, (ii) changed their nationality, or (iii) acquired a new nationality; may seek a change to their country of registration under the conditions set out in §3.2

Team Officials (excluding Sight Guides)

3.5 No restrictions on nationality are applied for Team Officials who do not hold a licence as a Sight Guide.

3.6 A Team Official who has represented one country may seek a change to their country of registration at any time by submitting a Transfer Request to World Climbing.

Transfer Requests

3.7 A Transfer Request must include (i) the reasons for the proposed change and (ii) the written agreement of the National Federation for the country previously represented by the competitor.

3.8 A Transfer Request made:

- A) before 1st March in any year (or, if earlier, the registration deadline of the first international competition in that year), if approved, may take effect in the same year,
- B) at any later time, if approved, will take effect only in the following year,

Disputes

3.9 In exceptional circumstances, World Climbing may make decision(s) of a general or individual nature concerning any question of nationality (including authorising a change of nationality not otherwise permitted), and may issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence, and any applicable waiting periods.



- 3.10 All applications and disputes in relation to nationality criteria shall be determined by the IFSC Sport Director.
- 3.11 The penalty for a breach of the nationality criteria shall be at the discretion of the World Climbing Executive Board. The World Climbing Executive Board may delegate authority to make decisions in relation to any breach to the Disciplinary Commission.

4 COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 International competitions in any discipline must include events for both men's and women's sex categories.
- 4.2 World Climbing may also approve the organization of competitions for a **mixed** category including athletes from both men's and women's sex categories.

Age Categories

- 4.3 International competitions may be organised for adult or youth age groups defined relative to the competitors' birth year as set out in Table 1 (**Adult**) or Table 2 (**Youth**).
- 4.4 An individual will be eligible to compete in an age group competition under this code if they are within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification. Individuals must be able to provide proof of their age through presentation of a valid passport or other officially recognised national identity document.
- 4.5 An individual who fails or refuses to provide such proof will not be eligible to compete.

Sex Categories

- 4.6 An athlete will be eligible to compete in a men's (or mixed) category if they were assigned male at birth and have always been recognised as a male throughout their life.
- 4.7 An athlete will be eligible to compete in a women's (or mixed) category if they were assigned female at birth and have always been recognised as a female throughout their life.
- 4.8 Exceptions to §4.6 and §4.7 may be made as set out in the **IFSC Policy Statement on Gender Identity and Transsexuality (2018)**.
- 4.9 An athlete who fails to comply with these requirements will not be eligible to compete.

5 SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 *International Eligibility* may be suspended, revoked or made conditional by a National Federation for events within its own jurisdiction or, separately by World Climbing, in each case:
 - A) for a serious breach of the *Competition Rules* or applicable competition regulations,
 - B) as a result of either in-competition disciplinary action or a decision of the Disciplinary Commission,



- C) for competing, within the preceding 2 years, in an event that the competitor knew or should reasonably have known was a *Prohibited Event*.
- 5.2 The procedures for reviewing and appealing decisions of a National Federation or World Climbing under this code are set out within the Disciplinary Code.
- 5.3 After a decision to suspend, revoke or impose conditions on *Competition Eligibility* and/or *International Eligibility* has become final, World Climbing will report the decision to all National Federations and other constituent bodies, which may also suspend eligibility for events held within their own jurisdiction.

Reinstatement of International Eligibility

- 5.4 A competitor may apply to the Disciplinary Commission for their *International Eligibility* to be reinstated, or have any conditions imposed upon it removed or amended:
 - A) If they establish substantial, changed circumstances justifying the change; or
 - B) following the end date set for any time limited conditions or period of suspension.

Table 1 – Adult Competitions

Year	Age Group	
	Open	Veteran
2025	2008 or earlier	1985 or earlier
2026	2009 or earlier	1986 or earlier
2027	2010 or earlier	1987 or earlier
2028	2011 or earlier	1988 or earlier
2029	2012 or earlier	1989 or earlier

Table 2 – Youth Competitions

Year	Age Group		
	U17	U19	U21
2025	2009, 2010	2007, 2008	2005, 2006
2026	2010, 2011	2008, 2009	2006, 2007
2027	2011, 2012	2009, 2010	2007, 2008
2028	2012, 2013	2010, 2011	2008, 2009
2029	2013, 2014	2011, 2012	2009, 2010

GLOSSARY

The glossary contains words/phrases which need clarification or explanation beyond the detail in the rules and/or which are not always easily translated into other languages.

International Eligibility means a general entitlement to take part in international Climbing and Para Climbing competitions.

Prohibited Event means an event:

- that is described as a world championship or uses the word "world", either in the title of the event or otherwise, which is not approved by the IFSC,
- permitting or requiring advertising beyond that permitted by the World Climbing, or
- has been listed on the World Climbing website on a list maintained for this purpose.

Team Official means an individual officially designated by a National Federation to accompany or support athletes in competitions sanctioned by World Climbing. Team Officials may be appointed in any of the following roles:

- **Team Manager (Ao):** Responsible for administrative and logistical management of the team, including entries, accommodations, and communication with officials.
- **Coach (Ao):** Responsible for athlete training, technical guidance, and competition strategy. Must hold a valid World Climbing coaching licence.
- **Medical Staff (Ao):** Responsible for athlete medical care and injury management; must hold appropriate medical certification.
- **Sight Guide (Ab):** means an individual designated by a National Federation to assist a visually impaired para-climber in-competition. Sight Guides provide verbal guidance and orientation to help the competitor navigate the route safely and effectively,
- **Support Staff (As):** Responsible for non-technical assistance, such as logistical support, as approved by the National Federation.