



# **NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM POLICY**

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# **1. NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM**

## **1.1. Introduction**

As the National Sport Organization for Sport Climbing in Canada, Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC) is responsible for identifying, selecting, and supporting athletes with the highest potential for success on the international stage. The mission of the National Team Program is to set a high standard for performance, fostering an environment that promotes excellence, competitiveness and well-being.

The National Team (NT) Program is aligned with CEC's mission to support and elevate Canadian competition climbers and paraclimbers in achieving excellence, and to lead the development of a high-performance system that enables success at the highest levels of sport, including at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The NT Program also aligns with the strategic objectives of our key funding partners, including Sport Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), and Own the Podium (OTP). This alignment provides athletes with the opportunities they need to excel while fostering a robust development pipeline for the future of Canadian Sport Climbing.

The National Team Program is governed by the National Team Policy (NT Policy).

## **1.2. Objective**

The objective of the National Team Program is to achieve and sustain podium results at upcoming and subsequent Olympic Games and World Championships. Participating in other international competitions is integral to athlete and program development and helps achieve this objective. Performance at these events is a significant achievement, but the primary objective is to deliver results at the Olympic Games and World Championships.

## **1.3. Purpose of National Team Policy (NT Policy)**

The CEC's National Team Policy establishes a consistent, transparent system for identifying, selecting, and ranking athletes for inclusion in the National Team Program based on performances across multiple levels of competition. The policy also outlines the process for selecting athletes for quota-limited climbing competitions to which Canada is invited. Embedded within this system of ranking and selecting athletes is CEC's Continuous National Ranking (CNR). The CNR considers athletes' competitive results from relevant national and international competitions and is calculated in real time on a rolling basis.

- For the disciplines of Boulder and Lead climbing, results are converted to Ranking Points using the calculations detailed in Section 3.1 below.
- For the Speed discipline, an average time-based ranking is maintained, as described in Section 3.2 below.

## **1.4. Scope**

The scope of this policy is limited to the identification, selection, and ranking of CEC's high-performance athletes for the National Climbing Team for the disciplines of Boulder, Lead, and Speed, primarily for the International Federation of Sport Climbing (WORLD CLIMBING) and the WORLD CLIMBING's Pan American Council events (e.g. World

Championships and Cups, Pan American Championships and Cups).

Athlete selection for major Games (e.g., Pan American, World, and Olympic Games) or for Qualification competitions leading to major Games may be conducted through separate processes, including the publication of standalone CEC selection criteria or the use of externally conducted athlete selection (e.g., WORLD CLIMBING CUWR).

In circumstances where athlete selection may be required due to unforeseen events added to the competition calendar, ranking and selection may be conducted outside the National Team Program, provided selection protocols are in line with the general spirit of the criteria contained therein, at the discretion of the High Performance Director and approved by the CEC Board of Directors.

### **1.5.Policy Implementation and Leadership**

This policy is implemented and led by the High Performance Director. The following group support the High Performance Director in its functions relating to the National Team Program:

- High Performance Governance Committee: responsible for the oversight and adherence to the high performance selection policies.
- Continuous National Ranking Working Group: provides expertise on the Continuous National Ranking (CNR)
- Performance Advisory Group (PAG): advisory committee that will support the High Performance Director by providing expert advice on matters dealing with physical and mental performance.
- Integrated Support Team (IST): coordinated group of sport science, sport medicine, and performance-support professionals who work together with coaches and athletes to optimize training, health, and performance within CEC's high-performance environment.

The National Team Policy has been reviewed by the CEC Athletes' Commission and approved by the CEC Board of Directors. Communication regarding athlete rankings and selection will be delivered via electronic channels, the CEC's Athlete Ranking Dashboard, and the CEC's official communication channels (website, newsletter, social media).

### **1.6.Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure that the processes and language align with the achievement of the stated NT Program objectives.

### **1.7.Principles**

Several strategic principles related to athletic development and performance at the global level have been applied while creating this policy, including:

- International results will be valued more than national results.
- The level of international performance is relative, with Olympic- and World-level results valued more highly than Continental-level results.
- Performance consistency will be valued more than singular achievements.
- Competition between athletes within the National Team Program contributes to high-performance development.
- The currentness of the performances used for selection encourages continuous participation.
- Competition opportunities must align with an athlete's performance trajectory.

## 1.8. Definitions

The following terms will be used throughout this document:

- 1.8.1. Athlete Ranking Dashboard:** A public-facing document that shows athletes' selection for target competitions, managed and updated by the High Performance Director.
- 1.8.2. CNR-Eligible Events:** refers to the list of competitions where CEC athletes can earn CNR points.
- 1.8.3. Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR):** WORLD CLIMBING rolling twelve-month ranking used for country quota allocation, event running orders and qualification processes.
- 1.8.4. Event Field Size (N):** the number of participating athletes at an event
- 1.8.5. Event Points:** points assigned to an athlete's competitive result after the CNR calculation has been performed.
- 1.8.6. Event Point Total:** refers to the accumulation of an athlete's best two Event Points.
- 1.8.7. Event Team:** the team of athletes, coaches and staff selected to attend a specific competition.
- 1.8.8. Event Type:** refers to the level or series of climbing competition:
  - 1.8.8.1. Major Games - Olympic Games, World Games, Youth Olympic Games and Pan American Games
  - 1.8.8.2. WORLD CLIMBING World - Open World Championships (WCH), World Cups (WC), and Youth World Championships (YWC)
  - 1.8.8.3. Continental - Open Pan American Championships, Pan American Cups and North American Series (NACS) Events
  - 1.8.8.4. National - CEC Open Nationals and HP Competitions (CEC-sanctioned events)
- 1.8.9. Performance Criteria:** Minimum achievement required to be selected on a National Team Squad
- 1.8.10. Performance Objective:** Competitive performance target set for each National Team Squad
- 1.8.11. Position Points:** points assigned based on an athlete's placement in a competition.
- 1.8.12. Position Point Cutoffs:** the minimum competitive placement for which Position Points will be awarded within the CNR policy
- 1.8.13. Size of Field (SZoF):** refers to the total number of eligible athletes taking part in a given event.
- 1.8.14. Size of Field Factor (SZoFF):** refers to a calculated number based on the SZoF that either increases or decreases the weight of Position Points.

- 1.8.15. Speed Average Time:** the mean of an athlete's valid competition runs on the standard WORLD CLIMBING 15-metre speed wall, calculated to provide a stable indicator of their typical performance as per Section 3.2
- 1.8.16. Speed Personal Best Time:** the fastest valid run an athlete has ever recorded on the standard WORLD CLIMBING-certified 15-metre speed wall under official competition or approved timing conditions.
- 1.8.17. Standard Size of Field (SN):** average size of field for a specific event type, discipline and category derived from historical and predictive data
- 1.8.18. Strength of Field (SToF):** refers to the overall quality and competitiveness of the participants in a specific competition. It reflects the event's challenge based on the collective ability, rankings, and past performance of the participating athletes.
- 1.8.19. Strength of Field Factor (SToFF):** refers to a calculated number based on the SToF that either increases or decreases the weight of Position Points.

## 1.9. Interpretation

If any provision of this Policy, when read in isolation, could reasonably be interpreted in more than one way, it shall be interpreted in a manner that is consistent with CEC's past practice, and with the Objective, Purpose, and Principles set out in Section 1 of this Policy.

Where uncertainty remains after applying Section 1, the High Performance Director, in consultation with the High Performance Governance Committee as appropriate, will determine the interpretation in a manner consistent with the overall spirit and intent of the National Team Program and CEC's high-performance strategy.

In the event of any inconsistency or discrepancy between the English and French versions of this Policy, the English version shall prevail.

## 2. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION & SQUADS

### 2.1.1. National Team Program Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for selection to the NT Program, athletes must meet and maintain all requirements as follows:

- Hold a valid CEC Athlete License and be in good standing with CEC
- Abide by all CEC Rules & Policies, including, but not limited to, the Community Code of Conduct
- Hold a valid Canadian Passport, expiring no earlier than 6 months before the date of the event(s) attending (if applicable)
- Act in accordance with other national and international policies, and comply with the education and reporting requirements of these programs, as directed.
  - Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) and the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS)
  - Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP)
  - World Anti-Doping Program (WADA)
  - WORLD CLIMBING RedS Requirements (as applicable)
- Sign and abide by the CEC High Performance Athlete Agreement

- Be eligible to compete under the WORLD CLIMBING Eligibility Code: <https://www.ifsc-climbing.org/resources/competitions>
- Follow all training/competition plans and reporting as outlined by the HPD or the Performance Advisory Group (PAG), in collaboration with the Integrated Support Team (IST)
- Participate in all meetings (in person or virtual) set by the HPD or PAG.
- Participate in fitness and IST assessment, including performance monitoring as requested by the HPD or PAG.
- Be willing and able to participate in international events if selected.

## **2.2.National Team Squads**

### **2.2.1. Elite Squad**

Athletes selected to the Elite Squad are demonstrating consistency as World Cup competitors. These athletes are ultimately focused on qualifying for the Olympics, with a secondary focus on achieving consistent WORLD CLIMBING semifinal results, and progressing to the Final round at WORLD CLIMBING World Cups (WC) and World Championships (WCH). These athletes will have first selection priority for international events.

### **2.2.2. Performance Squad**

Athletes selected to the Performance Squad are demonstrating consistency as World Cup and NACS competitors, focused on obtaining a WORLD CLIMBING Top 40 ranking or better. Performance Squad athletes aim to consistently podium at NACS events. These athletes will have second selection priority for international events.

### **2.2.3. Development Squad**

Athletes who demonstrate consistency as continental and national competitors, and are focused on securing final-round participation in NACS events or better, will be placed in the Development Squad. These athletes are focused on continental and national performances. Development Squad athletes consistently aim to deliver strong finishes at NACS events. These athletes will have third selection priority for international events.

Table 1 consolidates the relevant information related to the CEC National Team Squads.

Table 1. CEC National Team Squad Overview

	<b>Elite Squad</b>	<b>Performance Squad</b>	<b>Development Squad</b>
<b>Athlete Profile</b>	Consistent WORLD CLIMBING World Cup competitors aiming for Olympic qualification	Consistent WORLD CLIMBING World Cup & NACS competitors aiming for WORLD CLIMBING Top 40	Consistent continental and national competitors aiming for NACS finals or better
<b>Boulder and Lead Performance Criteria</b>	One of:  Provides an extra WORLD CLIMBING WC quota to CEC by placing in the Top 40 in the previous season 2× WC/WCH semis 1× WC/WCH Top 10	Two of:  Podium at NACS/Pan Am Cup Finalist at PanAm Champs WC/WCH Top 50% field result Highest High Performance Competition ranking not on Elite	One of:  Meet 1× Performance Squad criteria Podium at Open Nationals Finalist at NACS/Pan Am Cup Top 10 PanAm Champs Final round Youth Worlds
<b>Speed Performance Criteria</b>	One of:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure an extra WORLD CLIMBING WC quota for Canada</li> <li>2× Top 16 Speed at WC/WCH</li> <li>1× Top 8 Speed at WC/WCH</li> <li>Speed Qualifying Time</li> </ul>	Two of them in the same calendar year:  Podium at NACS/Pan Am Cups Top 8 at PanAm Championships WC/WCH Top 50% field result Highest High Performance Competition ranking not on Elite Speed Qualifying Time	One of:  Meet 1× Performance Squad criteria Podium at Open Nationals Top 4 at NACS/Pan Am Cups Top 8 PanAm Championships Top 16 Youth Worlds Speed Qualifying Time
<b>Speed Qualifying Times Criteria</b>	Average cutoff time to make a WORLD CLIMBING World Cup/World Championships Top 16 during the previous WORLD CLIMBING season. Must occur during a published timed round of a CNR-eligible competition	Average time cutoff to make a WORLD CLIMBING World Cup/World Championships top 50% of the field during the previous WORLD CLIMBING WC season. Must occur during a published timed round of a CNR-eligible competition	Performance Squad time plus 0.5s. May occur during CNR-eligible competitions during the Qualification/Final rounds or as per the criteria noted in Appendix A
<b>Boulder and Lead Concurrent Criterion</b>	NA	Top 10 CNR at time of intake	Top 10 CNR at time of intake
<b>Initial Intake</b>	On Jan 1, an athlete must have met the Squad Performance Criteria and the Concurrent Criterion in the prior calendar year	On Jan 1, an athlete must have met Squad Performance (from Continental and WORLD CLIMBING World events in the prior calendar year only) and be in the CNR Top 10	On Jan 1, an athlete must have met Squad Performance (from Continental and WORLD CLIMBING World events in the prior calendar year only) and be in the CNR Top 10
<b>Ongoing Intake</b>	An athlete may be added at any time if Squad Performance, Speed Time, and Concurrent criteria are met in the current calendar year.	An athlete may be added at any time if Squad Performance, Speed Time, and Concurrent criteria are met in the current calendar year.	An athlete may be added at any time if Squad Performance, Speed Time, and Concurrent criteria are met in the current calendar year.

	<b>Elite Squad</b>	<b>Performance Squad</b>	<b>Development Squad</b>
<b>Ranking Within Squad</b>	WORLD CLIMBING CUWR	CEC CNR	CEC CNR
<b>Non-CEC Quota-Based Event Invitation Priority</b>	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
<b>CEC Event Invitation Priority</b>	Direct invitation to Senior Nationals & HP Competitions, discipline-specific	Direct invitation to Senior Nationals & HP Competitions, discipline-specific	Direct invitation to Senior Nationals & HP Competitions, discipline-specific
<b>Support and Benefits</b>	CSI Registration Practitioner Network National Coach support (if available) Funding (if available) Paid WORLD CLIMBING fees (license and event registrations) Official Team Uniform Free Canada-based NACS entry, discipline-specific	CSI Registration Practitioner Network Paid WORLD CLIMBING fees (license and event registrations) Official Team Uniform (CEC budget dependent) Free Canada-based NACS entry, discipline-specific	Practitioner Network Paid WORLD CLIMBING fees (license and event registrations) Official Team Uniform (CEC budget dependent) Free Canada-based NACS entry, discipline-specific
<b>Performance Planning and Reporting</b>	Required:  Athlete Capacity Assessment, Individual Performance Plan, and Yearly Training Plan Weekly Performance Planning meetings with HPD or designate Training/Wellness Log World Cup Pre-competition Performance Planning meeting World Cup Competition Review and Debrief meeting with HPD or designate National Team Meeting attendance	Required:  Athlete Capacity Assessment, Individual Performance Plan, and Yearly Training Plan Weekly Performance Planning meetings with HPD or designate Training/Wellness Log World Cup Pre-competition Performance Planning meeting World Cup Competition Review and Debrief meeting with HPD or designate National Team Meeting attendance	Required:  Athlete Capacity Assessment, Individual Performance Plan, and Yearly Training Plan Monthly Performance Planning meetings with HPD or designate Training/Wellness Log World Cup Pre-competition Performance Planning meeting World Cup Competition Review and Debrief meeting with HPD or designate National Team Meeting attendance

## 2.3. National Team Squad Intakes

**2.3.1. Initial Intake** takes place on January 1, as detailed in the table above. Initial intake to CEC’s NT Program will not consider athlete results from the previous calendar year’s National events.

**2.3.2. Ongoing Intake** may occur at any time during the current calendar year when squad performance criteria are met. Results from the current year’s National events will be considered for the NT Program Ongoing Intake.

**2.3.3. Expiration of Assignment**

Athletes will remain on the NT Program for the entire calendar year, provided they maintain eligibility requirements, or until they advise CEC of their intent to resign from the team. All National Team Program assignments will expire on December 31st.

### **3.CONTINUOUS NATIONAL RANKING**

CEC’s Continuous National Ranking system standardizes and quantifies athletes' competitive results at the National, Continental, and International levels, enabling inclusion in a single numerical ranking. The resulting athlete ranking from this system will be used to identify and rank athletes for selection to the National Team Program and to determine selection priority within each of the three National Team Squads. The Boulder and Lead disciplines use a system based on an athlete's final placement in a CNR-eligible event compared with other competitors. In contrast, the Speed discipline uses an athlete's Speed wall run times.

The variables used in the CNR system are reviewed annually and updated if necessary. The review includes: past event participation data; changes to competition quotas and selection rules; anticipated changes in event participation; stakeholders’ suggestions; lead indicator analysis; and strategic development paths. Annual updates to CNR variables will be posted to this policy and reflected in the Athlete Ranking Dashboard.

#### **3.1.Calculation of the Boulder and Lead Continuous National Ranking**

Event Points are calculated by multiplying an athlete’s *Position Points* earned at a competition by the *Strength of Field Factor (SToFF)* and *Size of Field Factor (SZoFF)* for that competition, as seen below:

$\text{Event Points} = (\text{Position Points}) \times (\text{Strength of Field Factor}) \times (\text{Size of Field Factor})$
--

Position Points are determined by using the values in the Position Points Tables published in Schedule A. Position Points are given for competition placements down to a predetermined Point Cutoff published in Table 2.

The Strength of Field Factor adjusts the weight of the Position Points based on how difficult it was for the athlete to achieve the result, considering the competition's field of other athletes. For events with more highly ranked competitors, the Strength of Field Factor increases the weight of position points. Conversely, for events with fewer highly ranked competitors, the Strength of Field Factor reduces the weight of the position points. Strength of Field Factors are published in Schedule B.

The Size of Field Factor adjusts the weight of the Position Points based on the size of an event field relative to the Standard Size of Field for that event type, discipline, and category, as per Schedule C. The Size of Field Factor increases the value of the position points for events that have more than the standard number of athletes in the field. In contrast, the Size of Field Factor reduces the position points for events with fewer than the standard number of athletes. The Size of the Field Factors are published in Schedule D.

Table 2 consolidates the relevant information used in the Boulder and Lead CNR Position Point calculation.

Table 2: CNR Event Point Calculation Variables

Event Type*	Point Cutoff	Strength of Field Factor Schedule B	Size of Field Factor Schedule D
Olympic Games	N/A	N/A	N/A
World Championships and World Cups	Top 75% of the field	Based on the number of current CUWR Top 40 athletes present at the event	If $N \geq SN$ ; $((N-SN)/2)/SN+1$ If $N < SN$ ; $(N-SN)/SN+1$ Does not apply to semifinalists and finalists
Olympic Qualifying Series	Top 75% of the field	Based on the number of current CUWR Top 40 athletes present at the event	N/A
World Games	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pan American Games	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pan American Championships	Top 40	N/A	N/A
Youth Olympic Games	N/A	N/A	N/A
Youth World Championships	Semifinals	Based on the number of current CUWR Top 40 athletes present at the event	N/A
Pan American Cups	Top 60% of the field	N/A	N/A
North American Cups	Smaller of top 60% and top 40	N/A	If $N \geq SN$ ; $((N-SN)/2)/SN+1$ If $N < SN$ ; $(N-SN)/SN+1$
CEC-sanctioned national competitions	Top 20	Based on the number of Elite and Performance Squad athletes present at the event	N/A

\*Event types may be added pending an external sport organization change

**3.1.1. CNR point Attribution - Transition Year**

To support a smooth transition from the previous to the revised policy, the 2026 competitive year will be treated as a transition year with a hybrid point attribution system. The 2027 competitive year will use only the revised point attribution process.

Please see the section below for details.

### **3.1.2. Calendar Year 2026**

As of January 1, 2026, an athlete's total points are the sum of their three (3) highest event points over the previous twenty-four (24) months after applying the following rules:

- 3.1.2.1. Event points older than twelve (12) months are decayed to 85% of their original values
- 3.1.2.2. Only one event point older than twelve (12) months will be considered, of any event type (including NACS)
- 3.1.2.3. Up to two NACS in the year 2026 can be considered toward an athlete's total points.

### **3.1.3. Calendar Year 2027**

As of January 1, 2027, an athlete's total points are the sum of their two (2) highest event points over the previous twelve (12) months.

### **3.1.4. Tie Breaker**

CNR points are rounded to the first decimal place on the CNR tables. The ranking is calculated using the full decimal string, and in the event of an apparent tie, additional decimal places will be added to the CNR table to show the difference in points. In the event of a true tie within the same squad, the tie will be broken by the athletes' competitive results at the most recent National Championships. If both tied athletes did not compete at the last National Championships, the ties will be broken by their result at the last CNR event at which they both competed. If both tied athletes have not competed at the same CNR event, the HPD will conduct the athlete selection and provide a written rationale to the affected athletes.

## **3.2. Calculation of the Speed Continuous National Ranking**

The CNR for Speed climbing athletes is based on a calculation of the athlete's average best speed climbing times earned at CNR-eligible competitions. Speed-climbing times considered for the CNR ranking will be from the event qualification and final rounds; warm-up times will not be included. An athlete's average speed climbing time score will be used to rank them within their current National Team squad.

An athlete's best three (3) speed climbing runs will be averaged to determine the athlete's ranking on the Speed CNR. Speed climbing run times considered for inclusion in an athlete's average run time score will expire on the twelve (12)-month anniversary of the event date (defined as the last day of the Speed climbing competition).

### **3.2.1. Starting Year 2026**

Speed athlete rankings will be based on times achieved in CNR-eligible competitions over the last 12 months. The athlete's best three (3) Speed times will be averaged, and athletes will be ranked by their average Speed CNR.

### **3.2.2. Speed Ranking Tie Breaker**

CNR-eligible speed times will be recorded with as many decimal places as publicly available. Average and best speed times will be published using three decimal places whenever possible. In the event of a tie in an athlete's average time to three decimal places, additional decimal places will be shown until the tie is broken.

### **3.3.CNR-Eligible Events**

CEC will publish the list of CNR-eligible events for each discipline on the National Team Dashboard and the CEC website as soon as relevant federations and councils publish their competition calendars. Those calendars are subject to change, and CEC will adapt as quickly as possible to any changes and notify NT Program athletes of updates to the CNR-Eligible Event list. Should two National Championships occur within 12 months, only the most recent edition will count towards the athlete's ranking and squad eligibility.

### **3.4.CNR Updates and Anticipated CNR**

The CNR will be updated after each eligible event, allowing athletes to track their ranking in close-to-real time.

An anticipated CNR is calculated as of a specified date for event invitations. It only anticipates the retirement and decay of event points; it does not anticipate the addition of earned points at upcoming competitions.

## **4.EVENT SELECTION**

### **4.1.Objective**

CEC will carefully endorse Canadian athletes to participate in continental and international events. The goal is to ensure that athletes have meaningful competition opportunities for which they are technically, tactically, physically and mentally prepared.

### **4.2.Selection Process**

#### **4.2.1. Major Games**

A specific Nomination Process will be posted for Major Games, depending on the international qualification process, including, but not limited to, the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Pan American Games, the World Games, and the Youth Olympic Games.

#### **4.2.2. WORLD CLIMBING Events**

The WORLD CLIMBING allocates quotas by discipline and category. The HPD will clearly identify the Canadian quotas on the National Team Dashboard.

##### **4.2.2.1. WORLD CLIMBING World Events**

Selection to the World Championships and World Cups is limited to athletes on the National Team Program who are age-eligible.

Selections will be based on Squad priority and current or anticipated Continuous National Ranking (CNR). Athlete selections will be tracked on the National Team Dashboard.

##### **4.2.2.2. WORLD CLIMBING Continental Events**

Athlete selection for quota-bound WORLD CLIMBING continental competitions will consider Squad priority, current or anticipated Continuous National Ranking (CNR) and may include strategic programs and athlete development prioritization. They may extend beyond the National Team Program through published selection protocols approved by the CEC Board of Directors. Non-National Team athletes will not be considered part of the National Team Program for team benefit purposes, but will be bound by the same eligibility criteria as National Team members.

#### **4.2.3. Other Quota-bound Events**

Selection for quota-bound events not covered above will be established by the HPD and HPGC and approved by the CEC Board of Directors.

#### **4.2.4. Selection Timeline**

Event Team Selections may be made at multiple points throughout the calendar year. This allows adjustments to selection priorities and creates more opportunities for athletes to be selected for events.

Event selection dates will be published on the National Team Dashboard based on the following considerations:

- Published competition calendars from federations and councils
- Clustering of competitions in time and geographic proximity to each other
- Entry visa application requirements
- Allowing multiple ranking point adjustments during the season to encourage internal competition amongst Squad members

Notice of selection to an Event Team will be provided to eligible athletes at least 1 month before the event registration deadline. However, every effort will be made to position event team selections as far in advance as possible. Athlete selection status will be tracked on the National Team Dashboard. Event selection dates are subject to change as external competition calendars and/or timelines evolve.

## **5.REMOVAL FROM NT Program**

The HPD, in collaboration with the High Performance Governance Committee (HPGC), can remove an athlete from the NT Program for failure to comply with athlete requirements and/or codes of conduct. Athletes will receive a warning before being removed from the NT Program. An athlete who was removed may be reinstated, provided they resume compliance with NT Program requirements.

## **6.RETIREMENT & COMPETITION PAUSE PROCESS**

CEC is committed to supporting its athletes at all stages of their sporting careers, including the transition to retirement or a pause from competing. The purpose of this policy clause is to provide a clear and supportive process for athletes who retire or temporarily suspend their involvement with Climbing Escalade Canada, ensuring a smooth transition from their competitive careers to their future endeavours.

### **6.1.Notification of Intent to Retire or Pausing**

- Athletes must notify the CEC High Performance Director in writing as soon as possible.
- The notification must include which discipline(s) this situation applies to.
- In situations where an athlete does not provide notice to CEC but has made a public declaration clearly communicating their retirement, CEC may treat that declaration as official notice after three unsuccessful attempts to contact the athlete.

### **6.2.Ranking**

- Retired or Paused athletes will be removed from CEC's CNR and National Team squads following their last ranking-eligible event. Athlete's CNR ranking points (Boulder and Lead) or average time (Speed) calculation may be frozen during the approved pause period following that:
  - The request is approved by the HPD and ratified by the HPGC

- A ranking point/average time freeze will be valid for a maximum of twelve (12) months and occur only once each Summer Olympic Games cycle.
- The ranking point/average time freeze will not start or must be lifted within six months before the start of the WORLD CLIMBING published Olympic Games qualification process.

## **7.EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

An athlete who is progressing in their sporting career but experiences a setback due to an injury, illness, pregnancy, life event, or other unforeseen circumstance may be afforded additional flexibility regarding event invitations and other CEC decisions; these situations are referred to as "Exceptional Circumstances." This clause does not apply to Major Games events that have specific selection and replacement policies.

### **7.1.Notice**

Sufficient notice must be given in writing to the CEC High Performance Director, and must include the following documentation:

- Explanation of the exceptional circumstances
- Doctor or physiotherapist's note confirming the situation or injury and the recovery plan (if applicable)
- Recovery plan and timelines (if applicable)
- Return to the competition plan

A sufficient notice is defined as including time for new invitations, travel arrangements and registration changes, before the replacement deadline:

- WORLD CLIMBING Events: 5 days before the event-specific replacement deadline.
- Other international events: will be determined on an event-by-event basis.

### **7.2.Return to Competition**

#### **7.2.1. Short Absence**

In the event of an exceptional circumstance that has prevented the athlete from participating in an event, they will provide CEC with evidence of readiness when requesting consideration for quota-restricted events. If the athlete provides sufficient notice for CEC to invite a substitute to the event, the athlete will be invited to one equivalent event in the next round of invites (when possible).

- If the athlete has not provided sufficient notice to CEC to invite a substitute to the event, they will not be given a replacement event. They will return to the regular invitation rotation within their squad.
- If more than one event was included in an invitation, the athlete may attend the other event(s) for which they accepted the invitation, in accordance with the provided return-to-competition plan.
- If an athlete repeatedly misses events they were selected for without sufficient notice, the HPD may determine that further restrictions are required.

#### **7.2.2. Long Absence**

After an exceptional circumstance that has kept the athlete away from more than one event, the athlete will provide CEC with evidence of readiness when requesting consideration for quota-restricted events.

#### **7.2.3. Return to Competition**

7.2.3.1. The High Performance Director, in collaboration with the Performance Advisory Group, will, on a case-by-case basis, develop a recovery plan and a return-to-competition plan with the athlete. Quota event invites will be at the discretion of the High Performance Director.

7.2.3.2. Guidelines:

- If athletes return to competition in the same season, they are reintegrated into the same squad they were in before their injury.
- If athletes have missed opportunities to attend events to meet squad qualifying criteria, OR athletes have missed the whole season:
  - Athletes in the Elite and Performance Squads are reintegrated into the squad at a lower level than their pre-injury squad
  - Athletes in the Development Squad are reintegrated into that squad

### **7.3.Conflict Exemptions**

Athletes who have a personal or athletic event that conflicts with a CEC event can apply to CEC for an exemption. Conflict Exemption applications must be made in writing to the CEC High Performance Director no later than 4 weeks before the date of the event in question. Late Event Exemption requests will not be considered.

Examples are:

- An exam that cannot be moved (must show proof that the instructor/institution is unwilling to move the exam).
- Other climbing events or opportunities with greater alignment towards athlete or Program objectives than the CEC event are anticipated.

## **8.APPEALS**

Athletes have the right to appeal decisions made under this policy. To fill an appeal, please refer to the [CEC Appeal Policy](#).

## **Appendix A**

### **Development Squad – Speed Qualifying Times**

Speed athletes who wish to submit a qualifying time for Development Squad consideration may do so under the following conditions.

#### **Times from competitions (non-CNR or ineligible CNR rounds)**

Athletes may submit times recorded at a non-CNR competition (e.g. provincial event), or in a round of a CNR-eligible event that is not eligible for CNR (e.g., warm-up or unofficial qualification round), provided that an approved electronic timing system was used. The athlete emails the High Performance Director (HPD) with a link or reference to the official scoring/results system that clearly shows the time.

#### **Times from practice**

Athletes may also submit times recorded in training, provided that all of the following criteria are met:

1. The attempt is conducted under the supervision of a CEC Screened Coach (registered CEC coach).
2. A video recording of the performance is provided.
3. The video is a single continuous take with no cuts or edits.
4. The athlete's face is clearly visible.
5. Before starting, the athlete must face the camera to ensure clear identification, then turn to the wall to begin the attempt.
6. The video must show the entire start sequence, including the timer's auditory beeps.
7. At the end of the attempt, the video must clearly show the final time, including a zoomed-in view of the timer display.

## Appendix B

<b>Version Control Table</b>		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Change Summary / Description</b>
1.0	December 09, 2025	Initial version - Board Approval

This Policy hereby supersedes and replaces the following documents, which are now rendered inactive:

- CEC-HP-00 – NEW 2025 National Team Policy (version 2025-03)
- CEC-HP-02 – Continuous National Ranking (version 3.2 – May 2025)