



Climbing Escalade Canada
2026 World Climbing Nations Grand Finale – Fukuoka
Athlete Selection Policy

Event: World Climbing Nations Grand Finale – Fukuoka 2026
Disciplines: Boulder and Lead
Competition Dates: November 7–8, 2026
Technical Meeting: November 6, 2026
Location: Iizuka, Fukuoka, Japan
CEC Selection Date: As published on the CEC Athlete Ranking Dashboard
Published: September 14, 2026
Oversight: Climbing Escalade Canada High Performance Director

PREAMBLE

World Climbing has invited Climbing Escalade Canada (CEC) to participate in the 2026 Nations Grand Finale in Fukuoka, Japan. The Nations Grand Finale is a mixed-team international competition contested in Boulder and Lead. This policy establishes the process through which CEC will select athletes to represent Canada at the event. This policy operates in conjunction with the CEC 2026 National Team Policy – Version 3 and applicable World Climbing rules and event requirements. Where mandatory World Climbing requirements conflict with this policy, World Climbing requirements will prevail. The applicable provisions of the CEC 2026 National Team Policy – Version 3 govern decision-making authority for implementing this policy.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

As Canada's National Sport Organization for competition climbing, CEC is responsible for identifying and selecting athletes to represent Canada at international competition. The Nations Grand Finale presents a distinct international opportunity because results are determined through a national team competition format rather than solely through individual athlete rankings.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear, transparent and performance-based process for selecting athletes to represent Canada at the 2026 World Climbing Nations Grand Finale. This policy applies only to selection for this event and does not alter an athlete's National Team Squad status or Continuous National Ranking.

1.3 Objectives

The primary objective is to select the combination of athletes with the greatest demonstrated capacity to contribute to Canadian team performance and podium contention in Boulder and Lead. The selection process will prioritize current international-level competitive performance and support CEC's broader high-performance objective of developing athletes capable of achieving World Championship and Olympic-level results.

1.4 Team Size

World Climbing requires each National Team, for each discipline entered, to include a minimum of:

- two (2) male athletes;
- two (2) female athletes; and
- one (1) coach.



World Climbing permits athletes to compete in both Boulder and Lead. CEC therefore intends to select four (4) competing athletes:

- two (2) women; and
- two (2) men.

All four selected athletes will compete in both Boulder and Lead.

World Climbing also permits one (1) additional male and one (1) additional female athlete to be registered as reserves. CEC is not required to select reserves.

SECTION 2: EVENT FORMAT AND PERFORMANCE CONTEXT

The Nations Grand Finale differs from a conventional World Series competition because athletes compete as representatives of a national team and individual performances contribute to a collective team result. The event contains both qualification and final rounds, with six (6) National Teams participating in qualification and the top four (4) advancing to the final. The competition will be conducted in a flash format.

Boulder

Two athletes from the same National Team attempt each Boulder. Athletes may communicate, exchange information and organize their attempts collectively within the competition time. The final Boulder is an obligatory mixed Boulder for which the coach selects one male and one female athlete.

Lead

The coach allocates two athletes to each available route and determines the athlete climbing order. The team-based format means the coach must consider selected athletes' ability to contribute reliably across the competition. However, athlete selection will remain grounded primarily in demonstrated competitive performance rather than subjective assessments of anticipated team compatibility.

SECTION 3: ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Athlete eligibility will be governed by the eligibility requirements contained in the CEC 2026 National Team Policy – Version 3, together with all applicable World Climbing eligibility, registration and event requirements.

SECTION 4: ATHLETE SELECTION PROCESS

CEC will select two (2) male and two (2) female athletes. Selected athletes will compete in both Boulder and Lead. Athlete selection will be based on the CEC Athlete Ranking Dashboard and the selection date published therein.

The four athletes selected will be:

- the highest-ranked eligible male Boulder athlete;
- the highest-ranked eligible female Boulder athlete;
- the highest-ranked eligible male Lead athlete; and
- the highest-ranked eligible female Lead athlete.

Where the same athlete is selected in both Boulder and Lead, the second athlete from the category will be selected from the highest Canadian World Climbing Team Ranking discipline at the time of selection. Selected athletes must accept their invitation within seven (7) days of notification, consistent with the invitation process established in the CEC National Team Policy.

SECTION 5: INJURY, ILLNESS AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Injury, illness, changes in competition readiness and other exceptional circumstances will be managed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the CEC 2026 National Team Policy – Version 3.

SECTION 6: ATHLETE REPLACEMENT

Where a selected athlete declines, withdraws, becomes ineligible or is unable to compete, athlete replacement will follow the applicable ranked selection order established in Section 4. All athlete replacements must adhere to applicable World Climbing registration and replacement deadlines.

SECTION 7: STAFF SELECTION

One (1) coach will be selected for the event. The HPD and a designated selection committee will select the coach. Coach selection will be based on the objective of providing leading technical, tactical and performance support most likely to assist the Canadian team in achieving the performance objectives of the event.

SECTION 8: FUNDING

World Climbing has indicated that invited National Federations will receive a travel grant intended to contribute toward event expenses. CEC participation remains subject to available funding. CEC will communicate applicable athlete and staff financial arrangements before final travel commitments are made, wherever reasonably possible. Deviation from CEC-approved travel or accommodation arrangements may result in additional costs being borne by the athlete or staff member.

SECTION 9: APPEALS

An athlete directly affected by a selection decision made under this policy may appeal that decision in accordance with the CEC Appeal Policy. Because of international registration and replacement timelines, initiate any appeal immediately after receiving notification of the selection decision.

SECTION 10: POLICY PUBLICATION

CEC will publish this Selection Policy through its official communication channels and distribute it to relevant National Team athletes. CEC will communicate any amendments to affected athletes as soon as reasonably possible.

SECTION 11: TIMELINE

Date	Milestone
September 26, 2026	Selection Policy published
As published on Athlete Ranking Dashboard	CEC athlete selection date
Within 7 days of invitation	Athlete acceptance deadline
[DATE TBC]	World Climbing registration deadline
[DATE TBC]	Final World Climbing athlete replacement/change deadline
November 6, 2026	Technical Meeting / confirmation of attendance
November 7, 2026	Boulder Qualification and Final
November 8, 2026	Lead Qualification and Final



SECTION 12: CONTACT INFORMATION

For clarification regarding this Selection Policy, please contact:

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