

Utah State University Climbing Team Constitution

Drafted 2023

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ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Utah State University Climbing Team.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

The mission of USU Climbing is to provide a safe and friendly environment in which the climbers of the USU community can develop their climbing skills and compete against and alongside other climbers from USU as well as those in the local climbing community and from other universities and colleges around the region.

ARTICLE III: Members

Member Academics. Membership in the Utah State University Climbing Team is limited to currently enrolled Utah State University students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees. Members must meet Club Sport criteria by maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, and must be registered for a minimum of twelve (12) academic credits (minimum of six (6) credits for graduate students).

Membership with USA Climbing. Registration with USA Climbing is not required for team membership. Students who want to register with USA Climbing must be able to show a valid student ID upon check-in/ registration at USA Climbing (USAC) Collegiate Climbing Series (CCS) competitions. Members must register individually for CCS online through USAC to have their results tracked and to be eligible to compete. Members must check with officers and USAC to be certain they can compete before the competition season.

Member Attendance & Equipment. Members must attend at least one practice a week unless waived by the officers due to injury or special exception. Members who miss practices will be assigned training to participate in on their own time. Members must provide their own rock climbing gear and be previously knowledgeable of its safe and proper usage. This is a competitive team, not an instructional club, so team members are responsible for providing their own climbing gear and using it safely. Officers will enforce risk management and maintain a safe environment for rock climbing. T-shirts and/or tank tops will be designed by the team and purchased to be worn as a uniform at all competitions to represent the team.

Member Club Sports Requirements. USU requires members to follow a set of guidelines to participate in Club Sports, the specifics of which can be found in the USU Club Sports Manual, with which every member must be familiar. This manual will be reviewed as a team with all of the members at the beginning of each competition season. Rules include but are not limited to: maintaining high standards of sportsmanship, prohibiting hazing, following the proper team disciplinary procedures, meeting criteria to retain Club Sport status, etc. Each member must

complete the required forms and waivers with USU Club Sports.

NonDiscrimination Policy. The Utah State University Climbing Team shall not discriminate against any individuals by refusing membership based upon age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation. All who meet the membership eligibility requirements are welcome to try out for the team.

Number of Team Members. For logistical purposes of practicing and competing, membership on the team will be limited to a maximum total of 20 individuals. These members will be chosen as outlined in Article VI: Try Outs. In the case of injury of a member deeming them unable to climb, a spot may open for another member to be selected if they are willing, able, and eligible to compete under these special circumstances. This substitute will be selected by the coach or president and allowed to practice and compete if approved by at least a 2/3 vote of all members.

ARTICLE IV: Officers & Coach & Faculty Advisor

President. The president must meet the criteria for members. A potential president must volunteer for a position in the club presidency and be approved by a majority vote of the team members. Presidency members then must approve whomever volunteers for the position of president. The president of the club is the first line of contact to the Club Sports and ARC rock wall supervisors. The president also serves as the initial point of contact for other universities in cases of inter-collegiate competitions. The president should work closely with other club officers to assist in coordinating events, travel, practices, etc.

The president (who can also serve as coach as previously mentioned) is expected to be knowledgeable about rock climbing and safety, and to be able to effectively recognize any potential hazards. This officer should maintain a safe climbing environment for the team and foster good climbing stewardship, in addition to all other responsibilities outlined under the “President” position in the Club Sports Manual.

Vice President. The president will select an assistant from the 20 team members, or previous leadership, who will then approve the vice president with a majority vote. The vice president must also be approved by the faculty advisor (if applicable). The vice president does not need to be approved by USAC for coaching, but is encouraged to be at least CPR and First Aid certified, along with any other requirements outlined under “Vice President” in the Club Sports Manual. This officer will help the president with any duties necessary and appropriate to run the team, such as scheduling practices and competitions, running training sessions, answering questions, and enforcing rules. If the president cannot perform any duties, the vice president will step in as needed, in addition to other responsibilities outlined in the Club Sports Manual.

Treasurer. The treasurer must be a volunteer from the team members who is responsible, willing, and able to manage the team’s money. The treasurer must be approved by a majority vote of the members, and be approved by the faculty advisor (if applicable). The team can hold fundraisers to help offset the cost of travel and competition fees. The treasurer will manage the team’s money and inform the team whenever appropriate of financial updates. The treasurer will work closely with the officers to plan fundraisers, and discuss competition travel in regards to money, in addition to other responsibilities outlined in the Club Sports Manual.

Safety Officer. This role can also be a secondary role of another presidency member but is still just as important. The safety officer must be certified in CPR/First Aid/AED, and provide documentation to the Competitive Sports Office. The safety officer must report any injury that occurs at team practices or events. They are responsible for completing an Incident/Injury Report form and submit it to the Athletic Training Office within 24 hours or the next working day after each occurrence. The safety officer is responsible for monitoring and providing general supervision for all team events, assuring that all policies and procedures are being followed. The safety officer is responsible for submitting the Travel Roster to the Competitive Sports Coordinator on time (including room assignments, vehicle assignments, emergency contact and A numbers of travelers).

Event Coordinator. The event coordinator is responsible for planning and executing club social events, out-of-town trips for competitions or recreation, service events, and fundraising opportunities. In addition, the event coordinator shall attend Club Sport Council meetings, plan club trips, handle correspondence in relation to the team, maintain membership lists and contact information, maintain records of forms and files, and maintain stats for the team, in addition to other responsibilities outlined in the Club Sports Manual.

Outdoor Program's Liaison. The OP liaison will preferably be a faculty member from the USU Climbing Wall or Outdoor Program located in the Aggie Recreation Center. If no faculty there are willing or able, then the team can seek candidates who are familiar with rock climbing and who have time to dedicate to the team. The liaison will work closely with the supervisors in charge of the wall to maintain good connection and communication.

Social Media Coordinator. The social media coordinator will be in charge and have access to any/all social media accounts under the club's name. The main purpose will be to help advertise events to both the public and the team. While also having creative liberty to post updates and current events relative to the team. Creative liberty is encouraged so posts, reels, stories, etc. can be posted as long as they are relative to USU, the team or the climbing community. However this individual is expected to maintain integrity and follow and respect individuals and university policy.

ARTICLE V: Meetings & Facilities

Practices. Practices will be held for two hours, two times weekly for the team members, and will be run by the officers (particularly the president serving as coach). The team will meet at the Aggie Recreation Center climbing wall. Specific scheduling will occur each semester to coordinate with officers and team members.

USAC Competitions (If Applicable). For those who participate in USAC: they frequently update their requirements for competitions, but generally (as of the time of this draft) a competitor must attend at least one Local competition in their Region to be eligible for the Regional Championship. To progress to the National Championship, a competitor must have competed in a Local competition and the Regional Championship. These different levels of competitions have varying fees and associated travel expenses. All team members must commit to attend at least the Local and Regional competitions. These dates should be announced by the time of tryouts, so all members will know the dates of the competitions. The Utah Region has

grown significantly, so these competitions will be within a relatively short drive typically to the Salt Lake City area, while Nationals will be a more complicated and expensive trip since it is generally held in California. The Local and Regional competitions should not warrant any missed days of school, while Nationals may require around 3 days of missed school.

Local non-USAC Climbing Competitions. The team will be expected to attend at least one competition per semester within the region (unless waived by the coaches). This can include but not limited to university competitions, local gym competitions, or competitions run by USU. The roster for the competitions will vary based on each competition's format.

ARTICLE VI: Try Outs

Try outs will be held at the beginning of the fall semester as scheduled by the president in conjunction with the USU Outdoor Program's Climbing Wall in the Aggie Recreation Center (ARC). The specifics of try outs may change over time, but should fulfill necessary requirements for any competitor to succeed in climbing competitions. Try outs will be advertised in the ARC with flyers, and on social media as a shareable Event. Try outs will be scheduled by the officers, run mainly by the president, and supervised by the faculty advisor if applicable. Every student trying out must fulfill the academic requirements to participate in Club Sports and must be aware of the time commitment, safety expectations, etc. involved with being on the team.

Students will try out on different climbing routes at the wall. Since the team is in need of climbers at a variety of levels, each student trying out will climb problems at various difficulties in order to assess their skill level. The final members of the team will consist of those who perform the best at their respective skill level, e.g. V0-V3 or V4-V6. This decision will also be based on surveys/interviews to gauge commitment and team compatibility. The final members, including the officers, will become the climbing team. If there are more than 20 competent, eligible, strong climbers, substitutes will be considered to help cover the team in case of injury or other circumstances.

ARTICLE VII: Budget & Fundraising & Dues

The budget will be determined by the officers in coordination with an advisor. Members are responsible for their own climbing equipment. Fundraisers can be used to raise money for team T-shirts and/or tank tops, competition fees, USAC registration fees, and competition travel expenses. Specific fundraisers will be determined by the team members' interests and time commitment abilities. Dues will be determined upon formation of the initial team with input on the members' financial ability.

ARTICLE VIII: Amending the Club By-Laws and Constitution

Any amendments to the club by-laws and constitution must be agreed upon by a majority of the club officers before being put into effect.