

To Whom it May Concern:

USA Climbing is the National Governing Body for the sport of competition climbing as recognized by the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee. We promote three competition disciplines: bouldering, sport climbing, and speed climbing. Competition climbing is making its Olympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

USA Climbing is a nearly 20,000 member nationwide organization with climbers from all over the country training at indoor climbing facilities competing in events for the opportunity to represent Team USA internationally at World Cups, the World Championships and the Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo and beyond.


Climbing like many other high performance sports is a skill gained through years of dedication, training, and perseverance to reach the highest levels. Critically, this is accomplished through our diverse indoor climbing facilities across the country. These facilities are essential to developing athletes and have led to the United States being one of only three countries in the world to qualify full quota to the Tokyo Olympic Games. For example, Sender One Climbing, an indoor climbing facility company based in Southern California, hosted the Pan-American Championships at its 30,000 square foot facility located in Los Angeles near LAX International Airport. This event was critical for USA Climbing in qualifying to Team USA athletes to the Tokyo Olympic Games and a US man qualified for the Olympics at the competition. Ironically, that competition, which took place the last weekend of February 2020, was the last international climbing event before the coronavirus pandemic and is regularly referenced with admiration, praise, and a longing for sport again by the International Federation and those who participated.

For these reasons, USA Climbing disagrees with the state of California's categorization of indoor climbing facilities as "family entertainment centers." When an individual or people visit an indoor climbing facility, they go to participate in sport, not entertainment. USA Climbing strongly urges California to re-classify indoor climbing facilities as fitness facilities, not family entertainment centers

Of course, we must all do our part to stop the spread of COVID and USA Climbing as a nationwide organization must and is doing the same. With our indoor climbing facilities across the country, we have launched a virtual competition series to keep our young athletes engaged, active, and support their mental health through the pandemic while minimizing the spread of the virus. These virtual competitions spread participants out over two weeks instead of one day and follow existing local, state, and national regulations such as appropriate social distancing, limited capacity within the facilities, and minimizing inter- and intrastate travel. We do not seek exceptions to the guidelines as outlined by California or any other state. However, we do ask for recognition that climbing is not merely a recreational, fun pursuit. Climbing is an Olympic sport and the facilities as such are not family entertainment centers, but Indoor Sports facilities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marc Norman  
Chief Executive Officer - USA Climbing

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**USA  
CLIMBING**



Where Olympic Journeys Begin