

2024 Speed Format – Olympic Games

VERSION

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1. FORMAT

1.1 Speed competitions adopting this format shall be organised with:

A) A Qualification round comprising:

- 1) a series of races (“Seeding Heats”) equal to the number of competitors, each competitor being scheduled to race once on each lane, to seed competitors from their best recorded results. Where the number of competitors recording a Valid Result in the Qualification (Seeding Heats) is less than ten (10), the eight (8) competitors best ranked following the conclusion of the Seeding Heats in accordance with paragraph 6.7 will qualify to the Final round.
- 2) Where the number of competitors recording a Valid Result in the Qualification (Seeding Heats) is ten (10) or greater, the competitors best ranked in accordance with paragraph 6.7 following the completion of the Seeding Heats will participate in a series of head-head races (“Elimination Heats”) to determine which competitors qualify to the Final round. Where the number of competitors recording a Valid Result in the Qualification (Seeding Heats) is:
 - a) ten (10) or eleven (11), the ten (10) competitors best ranked in accordance with paragraph 6.7 will progress through five (5) “Elimination Heats” to determine which competitors are qualified for the Final round;
 - b) twelve (12) or thirteen (13), the twelve (12) competitors best ranked in accordance with paragraph 6.7 will progress through six (6) Elimination Heats to determine which competitors are qualified for the Final round,
 - c) 14 or more, the 14 competitors best ranked in accordance with paragraph 6.7 will progress through seven (7) Elimination Heats to determine which competitors are qualified for the Final round,

the eight (8) competitors best ranked following the conclusion of the Elimination Heats in accordance with paragraph 6.6 will qualify for the Final round.

B) A Final round with a fixed quota of eight (8) comprising (in order):

- 1) a Quarter-Final stage of four (4) “Quarter Final” races;
- 2) a Semi-Final stage of two (2) “Semi Final” races;
- 3) a “Small Final” race between the losers of the Semi-Final races to determine 3rd and 4th place; and
- 4) a “Big Final” race between the winners of the Semi-Final races to determine 1st and 2nd place.

1.2 The climbing surface, holds, auto-belay and timing systems used for any competition in this format must also be certified by the IFSC are satisfactory for the recording of World Records.



2. STARTING ORDER, RACE PAIRINGS & STARTING LISTS

- 2.1 The starting order and race pairings for each round, stage and heat will be calculated (and published):
- A) In respect of the Qualification (Seeding Heats), following the confirmation of registration held prior to the Technical Meeting for the competition. Amendments to the starting list (i.e. deletions where an athlete is unable or no longer eligible to start) may be made up to one (1) hour prior to the scheduled start time for the Qualification (Seeding Heats) and in the event of such deletions the race pairings will be recalculated. No amendments will be made to the starting list or race pairings after this time.
 - B) In respect of the Qualification (Elimination Heats) and each stage of the Final round, immediately following the publication of results for the preceding round/stage and the sentencing of any appeals in relation to the results of the preceding round/stage. No amendments to the starting list or race pairings will be made where competitors are subsequently unable or no longer eligible to start.
- 2.2 The starting order and race pairings for each round, stage and heat will be determined as follow:
- A) for the Qualification (Seeding Heats):
 - 1) the starting order for Lane A will be determined by random selection; and
 - 2) the starting order for Lane B, will follow the same order as Lane A with a stagger of 50%. e.g. where the Starting List includes 20 or 21 competitors, the competitor starting 11th on Lane A will start 1st on Lane B, race pairings being set by the starting order.
 - B) for the Qualification (Elimination Heats), as set out in Table 1 (Elimination Heats) of Annex 1 (Race/Lane Pairing), which also sets out the lane allocations for each race. Any tied competitors qualified for the Qualification (Elimination Heats) following the Qualification (Seeding Heats) will be assigned to races/lanes by random selection.
 - C) for each stage of the Final round, as set out Table 2 (Final round) of Annex 1 (Race/Lane Pairing), which also sets out the lane allocation for each race. Any tied competitors qualified for the Final round following the Qualification (Elimination Heats) will be assigned to races/lanes for the Quarter-Final stage of the Final round by random selection.
- 2.3 Copies of starting order and race pairings for each round, stage and heat will be made available to all teams participating in the relevant round/stage/heat when published.



3. COMPETITION PROCEDURE

General

- 3.1 The Qualification and Final rounds of the competition may be held on the same or different days.
- 3.2 Each route will be cleaned following:
 - A) the completion of the practice period, and
 - B) the completion of the Qualification (Elimination Heats) for each Category.
- 3.3 During the course of the competition, each competitor must remain in the Competition Area as directed by the Jury President.
- 3.4 In each round, competitors shall be afforded a minimum resting time of five (5) minutes between races other than where any race is re-run pursuant to paragraphs 3.7(C), 3.8 or 3.9.

Speed Practice

- 3.5 Competitors should be allowed a practice period ahead of the Qualification (Seeding Heats). Where organised, the time and arrangements for this practice period should be set out in the Information Sheet for the competition and confirmed at the Technical Meeting.
- 3.6 Where a practice period is held, competitors will be entitled to one (1) practice run on each route. Competitors should not be stopped in the event of a False Start. The practice period:
 - A) should include a demonstration of the false start signal and of the timing equipment; and
 - B) should follow the format of the Qualification (Seeding Heats), each competitor making their attempts in the starting order published for the Qualification (Seeding Heats).

Qualification Round

- 3.7 In the Qualification (Seeding Heats):
 - A) Subject to paragraph (B), (C) and (D) following, each competitor may make one attempt on each lane in the order set out on the Starting List.
 - B) Competitors will be called to start in pairs. If a competitor is not in the Call Zone when called, or does not respond when called, the relevant race will proceed without that competitor.
 - C) In any race where a False Start is made (or a Technical Incident occurs):
 - 1) by (or affecting) one competitor, the competitor who has not made the False Start (or who was affected by the Technical Incident) may re-run alone.
 - 2) by (or affecting) both competitors, the race will be re-run,and in each case, the re-run should take place prior to the next scheduled race.
 - D) Where at the conclusion of the Qualification (Seeding Heats) the quota for the Qualification (Elimination Heats) is exceeded because of ties, the affected competitors will re-run once only on Lane A. Any Valid Results recorded during these re-runs will be used for the purposes of breaking ties only.



3.8 Qualification (Elimination Heats)

- A) The Qualification (Elimination Heats) will take place as a series of "Duel" races. Subject to paragraph (B) and (C) following, each competitor may make one attempt in the order and on the lane set out on the Starting List.
- B) Competitors will be called to each race start in pairs. If one or both competitors are not in the Call Zone when called, do not respond when called, or do not start the race, they shall be recorded as "Did Not Start" or "DNS". The starting competitor (if any) will be declared the winner and no race will be run. The competitor(s) recorded as
- C) In any race where a False Start is made (as determined under paragraph 5.4):
 - 1) by one competitor, the competitor who has not made the False Start will be deemed the winner and the competitor making the False Start the loser and no race will be run.
 - 2) by both competitors, the race will be re-run prior to the next scheduled race.
- D) In any race where a Technical Incident occurs, the relevant race will be re-run prior to the next scheduled race.
- E) In a race where both competitors record either (i) the same Valid Time (as defined in paragraph 5.2) or (ii) Fall (as defined in paragraph 5.3), the relevant race will be re-run. If this re-run fails to produce a winner, no further re-run will take place and the relevant competitors will be ranked according to paragraph 5.5.

Final Round

3.9 Final round:

- A) The Final Round will take place as a series of stages, each consisting of a number of "Duel" races where the winner of each race in any stage proceeds forward to the next stage. Subject to paragraph (B) and (C) following, each competitor may make attempts in the order and on the lanes set out on the Starting Lists for each stage. A presentation of all Semi-Finalists will be made before the first Semi-Final race.
- B) Competitors will be called to start each race in pairs. If one or both competitors are not in the Call Zone when called, do not respond when called, or do not start the race, they shall be recorded as "Did Not Start" or "DNS" **and will not be eligible to start in any subsequent stage/heat**. The starting competitor (if any) will be declared the winner and no race will be run.
- C) In any race where a False Start is made (as determined under paragraph 5.4):
 - 1) by one competitor, the competitor who has not made the False Start will be deemed the winner and the competitor making the False Start the loser and, with the exception of the [Small Final and the Big Final] only, no race will be run.
 - 2) by both competitors, the race will be re-run prior to the next scheduled race.
- D) In any race where a Technical Incident occurs, the relevant race will be re-run prior to the next scheduled race.



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

- E) In a race where both competitors both competitors record either (i) the same Valid Time (as defined in paragraph 5.2) or (ii) Fall (as defined in paragraph 5.3), the relevant race will be re-run. If this re-run fails to produce a winner, no further re-run will take place and the relevant competitors will be ranked according to paragraph 5.5.



4. CLIMBING PROCEDURE

4.1 All races shall be started with a clearly audible signal initiated by an assigned Starter, who will not be an IFSC Official. The source of the starting signal should be positioned as near possible equidistant from both competitors.

4.2 Each race shall use a common starting protocol:

- A) On being called to the start of a route, each competitor should, within 10 seconds of being called, position the starting pad as appropriate for their preferred starting position. During this period competitors may touch (only) the first holds on the route and must remain on the ground;
- B) Having prepared the starting pad or within 10 seconds of being called, each competitor should present themselves to the belayer, who shall confirm that
 - 1) the competitor's harness is properly fastened; and
 - 2) the competitor's harness is safely connected to the automatic belay system or top-rope.
- C) Following (B), each competitor should take up an assembly position as designated by the Starter, not more than two (2) meters in front of and facing away from the wall.
- D) At the command 'At your marks', each competitor will without delay take a position with both hands and one foot on their preferred starting holds, and one foot on the starting pad.
- E) Once all competitors are motionless in their starting positions, the Starter shall announce 'Ready', and initiate the timing system.
- F) If for any reason following the command 'At your marks' but prior to the Starter announcing 'Ready':
 - 1) the Starter is not satisfied that the race can proceed; or
 - 2) a competitor raises a hand to indicate that they are not ready to start,the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position.

If a competitor fails to comply with (A) through (D), or by any action disturbs other competitors, the Starter shall order all competitors to return to the assembly position. **The Jury President may issue a Yellow Card to the offending competitor.**

4.3 In any race where one or both competitors make a False Start, then in addition to any recall signal made by the timing system, the Starter shall also declare "Stop!" as soon as possible. A competitor ignoring the recall signal will not be given any additional time to recuperate ahead of any re-run.

4.4 A competitor who falls/slips in the course of an race may attempt to complete the race. The IFSC Judge will make a determination in this case whether any time recorded by the competitor is a "Valid Time" or a whether the competitor's result should be recorded as a "Fall".



5. JUDGING AND SCORING

Valid & Invalid Results

5.1 A competitor's attempt in any race will be recorded as either:

- A) A "**Valid Result**", where the competitor records a Valid Time, a Fall or makes a False Start;
or
- B) An "**Invalid Result**" where the competitor:
 - 1) is recorded as "Did Not Start" or "DNS"; or
 - 2) is the subject of a technical disqualification during the course of the race ("Disqualified" or "DSQ"); or
 - 3) is disqualified for non-technical reasons prior to (or where the relevant race is the last race during which they are scheduled to participate in any round, following) the race ("Disqualified for Behaviour" or "DQB").

5.2 A "**Valid Time**" will be recorded where the relevant competitor has struck the top timing pad/switch with either hand and stopped the timer. The time recorded will be the period between the Starting Signal and the time at which the timer is stopped and will be:

- A) measured and recorded to an accuracy of at least 1/1000s; and
- B) displayed rounded down to the nearest 1/100s other than where necessary to show a tie-break.

n.b. A Valid Time cannot be recorded in a race where any competitor records a False Start.

5.3 A "**Fall**" will be recorded where the relevant competitor, in the course of an attempt, either:

- A) strikes the top timing pad/switch with either hand but fails to stop the timer;
- B) [falls/slips and arrests any fall/slip other than using the highest hold Controlled/Used prior to the fall/slip;
- C) uses the side edges or the top edges of the wall for climbing; or][¹
- D) touches the ground with any part of the body after having started.

5.4 A "**False Start**" will be recorded where, following the Starter declaring 'Ready!':

- A) one competitor records a Reaction Time less than 0.100s, that competitor shall be recorded as having made a False Start;
- B) both competitors record a Reaction Time less than 0.100s, the competitor with the lowest (fastest) Reaction Time shall be recorded as having made the False Start.

n.b. where both competitors in a race record the same sub-0.100s Reaction Time, no result will be recorded for either competitor and the race will be re-run as set out in Pursuant to paragraphs 3.8

¹ It makes more sense for (B) and (C) to be recorded as technical disqualifications. i.e. no result is recorded, but no penalty is incurred. Whilst this approach is common, it's not been followed in the IFSC Rules historically.



and/or 3.9.

Duel Races

- 5.5 Where any race is run as a “Dual”, the result of each race (including any race re-run in accordance with paragraphs 3.8 or 3.9) will be determined as follow:
- A) Where one or both competitors are not in the Call Zone when called, do not respond when called, or do not start the race, they shall be recorded as “Did Not Start” or “DNS”. The starting competitor (if any) will be declared the winner.
 - B) Where a competitor is determined to have made a False Start in accordance with paragraph 5.4, the competitor who has not made the False Start will be deemed the winner and the competitor making the False Start the loser.
 - C) Where both competitors start:
 - 1) where the competitors each record (different) Valid Times, the competitor who records the fastest (or only) Valid Time will be deemed the winner and the other competitor the loser;
 - 2) where both competitors each record the same Valid Time or Fall, the tie will be broken by comparing the competitors’ recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times). The faster competitor will be deemed the winner and the other competitor the loser;



6. RANKING

General Ranking:

6.1 The General Ranking shall be determined in the order following:

- A) competitors having a Final ranking, in that order; and
- B) competitors not having a Final ranking, in order of their Qualification ranking,

where any stage in the Final round is cancelled, the competition will be considered concluded and the General Ranking will be calculated after the last completed stage, the race winners in the last completed stage being ranked relative to each other by comparing the times recorded by each competitor through the competition (excluding practice times).

6.2 Any competitor Disqualified for Behaviour during the competition period, or disqualified at, or in relation to any breach of the WADA Code only, following the relevant competition will be unranked in the General Ranking (and/or the relevant round) and their result marked with the appropriate Invalid Results Mark

Final ranking:

6.3 Any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start their Quarter-Final race will be unranked in the Final and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.

6.4 Competitors starting the round, will be ranked in the round in order of the last stage in which they competed and within each stage in the following order:

- A) The race winners in that stage as determined in accordance with paragraphs 5.5(a) through (C);
- B) The race losers in that stage as determined in accordance with paragraph 5.5(B) or (C), ranked relative to each other by comparing the competitors' recorded times in the competition (excluding practice times); and
- C) any competitors recorded as "DNS" in accordance with paragraph 5.5(A),

and in each of (A) and (B), comparisons will include times recorded in any completed stage of the Final round, the Qualification (Seeding Heats) and Qualification (Elimination Heats), but exclude practice times.

Qualification ranking

6.5 Competitors starting the round will be ranked in the round in the order following:

- A) Any competitors with a ranking from the Qualification (Elimination Heats), in order of their ranking from those heats; followed by
- B) Any competitors with a ranking from the Qualification (Seeding Heats) who did not start in the Qualification (Elimination Heats), in order of that ranking.

6.6 Qualification (Elimination Heats)

- A) Any competitor who fails or is ineligible to start their Elimination Heat will be unranked within the Qualification (Elimination Heats) and their result marked Did Not Start or with another appropriate IRM.



- B) Any competitor starting their Elimination Heat will be ranked in the order following:
- 1) each race winner as determined in accordance with paragraphs 5.5(a) through (C), ranked relative to each other by comparing each competitors' recorded times in the competition;
 - 2) each race loser as determined in accordance with paragraph 5.5(B) or (C), ranked relative to each other by comparing each competitors' recorded times in the competition,

and in each case, comparisons of time will including times recorded in both Qualification (Seeding Heats) and Qualification (Elimination Heats), but exclude practice times.

6.7 Qualification (Seeding Heats):

- A) A competitor will be unranked in the Qualification (Seeding Heats) where, following the completion of all Seeding Heats:
- 1) they have failed to record a Valid Result in at least one race.
- B) Subject to (A) above, competitors who record a Valid Result in either or both of their races will be ranked as follow:
- 1) any competitors who (i) have not recorded a False Start in a race and (ii) have recorded at least one Valid Time, ranked in ascending order of their best (or only) time, measured to 1/1000s. Where two (or more) competitors have the same best Valid Time, their relative ranking will be determined as follow:
 - a) where the competitors have a second Valid Time, by comparison of these times;
 - b) where a competitor has a second Valid Time, ranked ahead of a competitor with no second Valid Time;
 - c) where no competitor has a second Valid Time, ranking competitors who have recorded two results ahead of any having recorded only one result.
 - 2) after (1), any competitors who:
 - a) have started at least one race; and
 - b) have not recorded a False Start in any race; and
 - c) have recorded no Valid Time (e.g., have recorded a "Fall" in one or both races) ranking competitors who have recorded two results ahead of any having recorded only one result,
 - 3) after (2), any competitors who recorded a False Start in one or both races. Where multiple competitors have recorded a False Start, their relative ranking will be determined as follow:



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

- a) where the competitors have a Valid Time, by comparison of these times;
 - b) where a competitor has a Valid Time, ahead of a competitor with no Valid Time;
 - c) where no competitor has a Valid Time, ranked in the order following:
 - i) any competitors whose second result is a Fall;
 - ii) any competitors whose second result is a False Start;
 - iii) any competitors who have recorded only one result]
- C) if, following the above ranking procedure, the quota for the Qualification (Elimination Heats) is exceeded as a result of ties, the tied competitors shall re-run on Lane A until all relevant ties are broken. The times recorded in these attempts will be used only to determine which competitors qualify for the Final round and for no other purpose.

ANNEX 1 – RACE/LANE PAIRINGS

Table 1

Qualification (Elimination Heats)

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #14

2	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #13

3	A	Qualifier #3
	B	Qualifier #12

4	A	Qualifier #4
	B	Qualifier #11

5	A	Qualifier #5
	B	Qualifier #10

6	A	Qualifier #6
	B	Qualifier #9

7	A	Qualifier #7
	B	Qualifier #8

Table 2

Final round

Quarterfinal Heats

1	A	Qualifier #1
	B	Qualifier #8

2	A	Qualifier #4
	B	Qualifier #5

3	A	Qualifier #2
	B	Qualifier #7

4	A	Qualifier #3
	B	Qualifier #6

Semifinal Heats

5	A	Winner Race 1
	B	Winner Race 2

6	A	Winner Race 3
	B	Winner Race 4

Small & Big Finals

7	A	Loser Race 5
	B	Loser Race 6

8	A	Winner Race 5
	B	Winner Race 6



ANNEX 2 – SPEED RECORDS

1. SPEED RECORDS

- 1.1 The IFSC recognises World, Olympic and Continental speed records for the following Categories:
 - A) Men (aged 16 or over in the year of the event)
 - B) Women (aged 16 or over in the year of the event)
- 1.2 A record may be set only during scoring races (i.e. not during any practice period or any race which is abandoned or cancelled) and where:
 - A) the Climbing Surface, Artificial Holds, timing and auto-belay systems have been certified by the IFSC to meet the requirements for a world record;
 - B) the competition has been designated, in advance, by the IFSC Sport Department as a “Record Event”;
 - C) a Jury President has been appointed by the IFSC Sport Department; and
 - D) the Event Organiser has provided for anti-doping tests on any competitor recording a time lower than or equal to the current record in compliance with the national regulations governing international sport in their country, the World Anti-Doping Code, the IFSC Anti-Doping Policy and Procedure and the IFSC Disciplinary Rules.
- 1.3 IFSC speed records are recorded and displayed rounded down to 0.010s in order to allow comparison between times recorded in different competitions and on different climbing structures, recognising the temporary nature of the structures and allowed build tolerances.
- 1.4 Subject to article 2 above, when a record-setting time is first recorded:
 - A) the time will be designated as a record and the Jury President will record the competition, the round in which the race took place, the name, category and nationality of the competitor and the date/time of the race;
 - B) if multiple competitors in the same race each record a record-setting time:
 - 1) where the relevant competitors record different times when measured to the nearest 1/1000s, the record will be held by the race-winning competitor; or
 - 2) where the relevant competitors record the same time when measured to the nearest 1/1000s, the record will be held jointly by each of the competitors,
- 1.5 A record-setting time may be invalidated where either:
 - A) the timing system in use is ruled faulty during the course of the competition; or
 - B) no anti-doping test is performed on or reported for the relevant competitor;
 - C) the relevant competitor is Disqualified [or Disqualified for Behaviour] at the relevant competition, or
 - D) the relevant competitor is disqualified at, or in relation to any breach of the WADA Code only, following the relevant competition.



ANNEX 3 – TECHNICAL INCIDENTS & APPEALS

1. TECHNICAL INCIDENTS

1.1 Only Official Video Recordings, and at the discretion of the Jury President any official IFSC broadcast video recording, shall be used for the purposes of determining Technical Incidents and Appeals. The Official Video Recordings must as a minimum record:

- A) the starting position for both lanes;
- B) the top timing pad/switch for both lanes; and
- C) the attempt of each pair of competitors in each race.

1.2 A Technical Incident:

- A) in relation to a competitor's attempt, they must notified to the Jury President by either the affected competitor or a relevant team official before the start of the next race. No Technical Incident may be awarded where notification is made after the Starter has called 'At your marks' for the next following race.
- B) in relation to the performance of the timing system may be made only in relation to some evident or systematic error.

1.3 The Jury President shall determine whether a Technical Incident has occurred:

- A) in order to make this determination, the Jury President may as necessary:
 - 1) review the official video recordings;
 - 2) require the timing system (or any part of the system) to be tested.
- B) where a Technical Incident is confirmed and:
 - 1) can be remedied and is considered to have affected a single race, the competitors directly affected by the failure shall re-run their attempts; or
 - 2) cannot be remedied or is considered to have affected all competitors in the relevant stage, the Jury President shall either:
 - a) cancel the affected and all subsequent stages; or
 - b) abandon and restart the stage

2. APPEALS

2.1 No Appeal may be made in relation to the validity of a Reaction Time recorded by an automatic timing system approved by the IFSC.

2.2 An Appeal concerning:

- A) the judgment of:
 - 1) a competitor's attempt in any race; or
 - 2) the result of any race in the Qualification (Elimination Heats) or the Final round, must be made before the start of the next race. No Appeal may be awarded where



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

notification is made after the Starter has called 'At your marks' for the next following race. The next race shall not start before the appeal has been decided. Such appeals may be made verbally and no Appeal Fee will be applicable.

- B) the published result or ranking of a competitor, must be made in writing and:
- 1) in respect of any appeal concerning the Qualification (Seeding Heats), within five (5) minutes of the publication of the Official Results; or
 - 2) in respect of the Qualification (Elimination Heats) or the Final round, upon publication of the relevant result/ranking.