



Torino, 04 August 2021

IFSC OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The health and well-being of our athletes is of utmost importance to the IFSC. We take the matter of deliberately induced underweight climbers seriously. The IFSC Medical and Anti-Doping Commission is tasked with maintaining Sport Climbing on a physical and psychological level, which includes protecting athletes from eating disorders. They work closely with the IFSC Athletes' Commission to ensure that the needs and concerns of the athletes, within the framework of the modern competition programme, are looked after.

Body Mass Index (BMI) testing in Sport Climbing was first introduced in 2006 and became a regular screening process from 2012 at all IFSC World Championships and World Cup events. During all World Cup events this year, athletes competing in the semi-finals and finals have been screened to ensure they are healthy for competition. The same procedures are in place for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Any athlete that does not meet the minimum levels requires medical confirmation from their National Federation to be eligible to compete.

When a BMI screening falls below the parameters, the athlete and the National Federation are informed, and assistance is provided to initiate a support group (that can include National Federation personnel, trainers, doctors, nutritionists, psychologists) to help the affected athlete.

The IFSC raises awareness of the issue, educates and informs its athletes and National Federations, and it is the responsibility of the National Federations to support the affected athletes with medical, psychological and nutritional help.

The IFSC takes the health of its athletes very seriously and will continue, through the IFSC Medical and Anti-Doping Commission, to monitor, advise and educate the Sport Climbing community on this issue.

The IFSC does not comment on inquiries relating to individual athletes.

