



July 25, 2017  
Boulder, CO

Zach Galla  
Ross Fulkerson  
Brooke Raboutou  
Ashima Shiraishi  
Arabella Jariel

To our 2017 World Youth Championships and (potential) 2017 Youth Pan American FYA and MYA **Combined** athletes:

It provides me no pleasure to say it, but no USA Climbing athletes will be eligible to receive an invitation to compete at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. And before I go any further, please also understand that US athletes in skateboarding, surfing, skateboarding, softball/baseball, and karate (the other 4 new sports that are part of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics) are also ineligible to compete at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

The United States Olympic Committee has informed us of the following background regarding this news.

To start, the United States Olympic Committee has a fixed number of athletes (across all sports) that it can include at the Youth Olympic Games.

The USOC explained that it prioritized athletes and teams for participation in a way that is consistent with its sport performance principles. In this case, the principles used in its decision included:

1. The sport must be a recognized member of the USOC (National Federation) at the time of YOG's quota allocation by the USOC (December 2016).
2. The sport/discipline is on the 2020 Olympic program or is likely to be on the 2020 Olympic program.
3. There is a link between YOG's performances and top international senior level competitors as part of the athlete pipeline.
4. The sport must be committed to meeting the qualification standards established by the International Federation.



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The primary impediment for climbing (as for skateboarding and surfing) was that USA Climbing had applied for recognized membership in the USOC but had not yet been granted recognition as of December 2016. USA Climbing is currently at the tail end of the application process, and the USOC Executive Board anticipates making its final decision in October 2017. All things point to this being a favorable vote for USA Climbing.

And there you have it – again, it's not news that I relish delivering, but it is news that we felt necessary to communicate.

As always, thank you for representing our sport so well domestically and internationally – we're looking forward to growing closer to the USOC over the coming years, and we all recognize that athletes of your caliber are our future Olympians.

Sincerely,



Kynan Waggoner  
Chief Executive Officer

USA Climbing  
501C3  
Federal EIN 91-1899953



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