

WORLD RANKING

WORKING GROUP REPORT



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING

02/04/2021

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposal of the Working Group is based on the approval of the new “Event Quota Structure” from the IFSC General Assembly 2020. The details of the “Event Quota Structure” are available in Appendix I. Starting from such approval, the purpose of the Working Group was to discuss the creation and inclusion of several event’s layers in the structure of IFSC events. Specific focus is given to the ranking points allocated to each event. Therefore, a deep analysis of the current CUWR (Continuously Updated World Ranking) is included in the document.

2. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

	Role in the Working Group	Continent	Country	Position	Name
1	Chair of the Working Group	International	IFSC Board Member	IFSC Vice President	Kobinata Toru
2	Observer	International	Staff	General Director	Piero Rebaudengo
3	Coordinator of the Working Group	International	Staff	Sport Director	Silvia Verdolini
4	Coordinator of the Task Force	International	Staff	Event Officer	Alessandro Di Cato
5	Appointed	Pan America	CAN	President of the Athletes’ Commission	Sean McColl
6	Appointed	Europe	UKR	Athletes’ Commission member	Jenya Kazbekova
7	Appointed by African Council	Africa	RSA	African Council	George Stainton
8	Appointed by Asian Council	Asia	SGP	President Asian Council	Anthony Seah
9	Appointed by European Council	Europe	Staff	Europe Events	Mario Lechner
10	Appointed by Oceania Council	Oceania	NZL	Continental Delegate	David Sanders
11	Appointed by Pan American Council	Pan America	VEN	Continental Delegate	Pablo Hilewski
12	Appointed	Europe	RUS	President of Event Commission	Evgeniy Chernishev
13	Appointed	Asia	CHN	Major Event Organiser	Li Guo Wei
14	Appointed	Pan America	USA	Major Event Organiser	Marc Norman
15	Appointed	Asia	JPN	Major Event Organiser	Shinji Mizumura
16	Appointed	Europe	FRA	Major Event Organiser	Vincent Causse
17	DAV representative ⁱ	Europe	GER	DAV Vice President	Burgi Beste
18	Task Force	Europe	GBR	Technical Delegate	Graeme Alderson
19	Task Force	Europe	NOR	Europe Sport Department	Reino Nicki Horak
20	Task Force	Pan America	CAN	Technical Expert	Malek Taleb
21	Task Force	Asia	CHN	IFSC Judge and Rules Commission member	Jamie Cheng
22	Task Force	Pan America	USA	USAC Rules Commission member	Matt Ornes
23	Task Force	N/A	N/A	Result service provider	Ben Lepasant

ⁱ For presenting motion at Plenary Assembly 2020



3. CURRENT SITUATION – CUWR

According to IFSC Rules, the following IFSC events award CUWR (Continuously Updated World Ranking) points:

- IFSC World Championships
- IFSC World Cups
- IFSC Continental Championships

Complete description of CUWR calculation is available [here](#).

As brief summary, the value of the points assigned for each event is not fixed, but it depends on the presence of the top 30 athletes of the CUWR at that competition. The base points of the competition are multiplied for a Field Factor (FF), which varies between 0 and 1.

CUWR points at event (Y) = Base Points * FF

FF = 0 when no top 30 CUWR athletes attend the competition

FF = 1 when all the top 30 CUWR athletes attend the competition

4. IMPROVEMENTS TO MAKE

4.1. INCLUDE SECOND LAYER EVENTS AND ALL SENIOR IFSC EVENTS IN THE CUWR

The main reason is the importance to push for the development of second layer events. Such events will be used as development tool for the growth of organisers, officials and especially athletes. Assign ranking points to such events will be an incentive for the event organisers to host such events. The IFSC needs an intermediate level of events between world cups and national competitions. It should be noted that the IFSC should fix a maximum number of events counting for ranking purposes, per layer.

Events to be included in CUWR:
World Championships
World Cups
Continental Championships
International Climbing Series
Continental Cups

4.2. EXTEND THE USE AND VALUE OF THE CUWR

The CUWR gives an overview of the climbing situation and level in a certain continent, country or geographical area. Additionally, it could be used as tool to qualify to specific events. CUWR will be used to define the number of country’s quota as per “Event Quota Structure” (Appendix I).

4.3. EXTEND THE NUMBER OF ATHLETES GETTING RANKING POINTS PER EVENT

As of today, only the best 30 ranked athletes receive ranking points. The IFSC shall extend the number of athletes getting ranking points in a specific event. Extension to top 80 athletes is recommended.

4.4. BUILD A SYSTEM OF STATUS POINTS FOR EACH EVENT LAYER WHILE ENSURING ASSIGNED POINTS ARE BALANCED ACROSS EVENTS

The existing IFSC CUWR computation was created several years ago. At that time, it was very important to differentiate among world cups, seen the lack of consistency regarding athletes’ participation. So, the system proposed connect field’s strength with number of points awarded. However, today the IFSC is in a very different situation. The level of world cups is constantly raising, and the athletes’ participation is stable. The new challenge is to differentiate between events of different layers, not anymore amongst world cups. Therefore, the Working Group agreed to move the CUWR system towards a different direction where:

1. Each event type gives a fixed number of *Status Points*

Event	Status points (examples)*
Olympic Games (single discipline)	2500
World Championships	2000
World Cups	1000
Continental Championships	200
International Climbing Series	150
Continental Cups	100

* = Please note that the number represents only the score for the 1st ranked athletes. Refer to appendix II for more details

2. Field points are not relevant anymore at World Cups level. However, they are relevant to differentiate the points collected across Continental Events and International Climbing Series.

Event	Status points (examples)*	Field points [TBD]**	Total points
Olympic Games (single discipline)	2500		2500
World Championships	2000		2000
World Cups	1000		1000
Continental Championships	200	0 < X < 100	200 < X < 300
International Climbing Series	150	0 < X < 100	150 < X < 250
Continental Cups	100	0 < X < 100	100 < X < 200

* = Please note that the number represents only the score for the 1st ranked athletes.

** = New formula to be generated. Current FF formula cannot apply for second layer events.

Please refer to Appendix II to check the point distribution of IFSC World Cups.

Additional reasons to move towards “Status points” instead of “Field Points” at World Cup level are connected with the implementation of the new “Event Quota Structure”. The main points are the following:

- Status points for IFSC World Cups provide a clearer picture for programming the National Federations and athletes’ registrations. The number of points available at each competition are clear and fixed at the beginning of the year
- Fixed WCs points prevents NFs to manipulate the value of competition with their decisions on registrations
- The number of points available at IFSC World Cups, and consequently their value, should not depend from:
 1. Strategic attendance’s decisions of National Federations
 2. Timeline of event organisation. Today, the FF is generated with the competitions organised in the previous 12 months. Therefore, the value of a certain World Cup changes if the competitions is hosted the 1st of April or the 30th of April
- The new “Event Quota Structure” is based on the principle that elite ranked athletes affect the NFs quota for the following season. However, the National Federations shall be free to select their preferred athletes for World Cups. The FF further conditions the WCs’ points available, based on the presence of the elite athletes from previous competitions. Additionally, with the current travel limitations, specific Continents might have easier access to IFSC World Cups during a calendar season. However, points available during the next season should not be conditioned to the presence of specific Continent’s athletes

Lastly, the IFSC already implemented a series of minimum requirements to release World Cup ranking points. Such requirements will be extended to the release of CUWR points and include a minimum number of Countries and athletes’ participation.

5. CONTINENTAL SITUATION

	Asia	Africa	Europe	Oceania	Pan America
<i>IFSC Full Members</i>	16	3	37	2	17
<i>IFSC Continental Members</i>	7	4	5	1	0
<i>IFSC Observer Members</i>	0	0	2	0	0
<i>Continental Championships</i>	Regularly organised every year	Combined Championships for Olympic qualification 2020	Regularly organised every two years	Organised 3 times in the last 10 years. Recently only in New Caledonia. Additional Combined Championships for Olympic qualification	Organised in 2010, 2012 and 2018. Additional Combined Championships for Olympic qualification
<i>Continental Youth Championships</i>	Regularly organised every year	Combined Youth Championships for YOG qualification 2018	Regularly organised every year	Organised once for the qualification to YOG 2018	Organised 5 times in the last 10 years
<i>Continental Cups</i>	Depending on Event Organiser's request. Sporadically organised in the last years, not structured so far	NO	Concept started in 2019. Events for development of 2nd level athletes	NO	NO
<i>Continental Youth Cups</i>	NO	NO	Several events. Historical focus of Europe	NO	NO
<i>Other events</i>	International Climbing Series (Speed stars Hiroshima, China Open, etc.) Asian K (age lower than 16)	NO	International Climbing Series (Studio Bloc, CWIF, etc.)	NO	NO

After an analysis of the current situation of each Continent, it appears clear that policies and possibilities of each Continent are very different among them. Only Europe has started to plan the development of second layer senior events. Therefore, it is premature to include only Continental Cups into the CUWR. By doing so, the IFSC will create an unbalanced and unfair situation across Continents, where only athletes of a specific Continent would be able to access the international ranking.

6. INTERNATIONAL CLIMBING SERIES

After taking into account the continental situation and with the intention to keep on supporting sport development at all levels, the IFSC finds it important to continue develop a second layer of competitions by organising alternative international events, open to athletes worldwide. Such events should be organised strategically to support and to compensate to the inexistence of continental cups. As international events, they will not have restrictions and limitation to the international participation. In this way, possibility to get ranking points is fair for the athletes of the five IFSC Continents.

Such events, the International Climbing Series, already exist in the portfolio of IFSC events. The further step will be to include them into the CUWR, as for chapter 4.1. However, it is agreed that IFSC office should place limitations and regulations to the International Climbing Series. Such regulations should be:

1. Respect of IFSC international rules
2. Use of IFSC result service
3. Nominations of international jury president from IFSC office
4. Anti-doping test
5. Competitions open to all Continents
6. Included into IFSC calendar

During these years the IFSC office has been approached by cities and private entities that want to invest into the sport for international events. Such investment in the sport shall be maximised, and supported with customised model. Being able to answer to the market requests is very important to avoid

- a) Loss of opportunities compared to other sports. Other sports will be ready with attractive model for cities and investors.
- b) Such private entities do not see IFSC as the right partner to establish new sport climbing events into the market. Big entities could then decide to run different event model by themselves.

7. BENCHMARK OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS

For the analysis, we took as benchmark other individual sports as sport climbing.

Golf	Tennis	Archery
http://www.owgr.com/about?tabID=%7bA01A4052-F0DF-4DDE-9BE2-940A54F2CA50%7d	https://www.atptour.com/	https://ifscorg-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/silvia_verdolini_ifsc-climbing_org/Eegzx9bt6VFEgkB5a-MriZgBkzwyXsGFzDEdbuNiq5gSTQ?e=KaafTp
Each Golf event gives access to ranking points. The number of points depend on: - Status of the event - Number of strong athletes attending	Fixed number of points assigned depending on Status of event. No field factor, the status of the event decides how many points you get. Access is reserved first to athletes with a minimum number of points. First progression is made at National level with open tournament. Once you reach a certain level you can ask for invitation to the lower-level ATP tournament	All approved tournaments could give ranking points. Only the tournaments with less than 9 athletes give 0 points. However, elite events (WCs, WCHs) are protected, they always give more points than other international events. The number of points given depend from a Field Factor (how many strong athletes attend the event), quantity factor and time factor. 96 athletes are ranked, per event
Canoeing	Shooting	Ski
Discussion with IF	https://ifscorg-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/silvia_verdolini_ifsc-climbing_org/EWMBZlillaFLsgwz5b_pliQBplMaicisXhg2G85xdkd5TQ?e=6hcfmK	https://ifscorg-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/person/silvia_verdolini_ifsc-climbing_org/EbDBJZnSuUBEgeyeL2OLJncBc7khYXo9McfecI9Vy5kRPw?e=7fcEVE
Democratic quota to access WCs. No real connection between layers of events	No Continental Cups included into the ranking. Ranking is between the best 30 and best 50 of each event (depending on status of each event). Number of points is fixed according to a specific table, and do not depend to the Field Factor. It is status based	Several international events included into the World Ranking, respecting FIS rules and approved into the FIS calendar. Each event gives a different value in points, depending on how many strong athletes attend. Elite events have higher points by default

8. TIMELINE

Date	Actions
November 2020, IFSC Plenary Assembly	Approval of the new Event Quota Structure
March 2021	Publication of IFSC COVID addendum, postponement of implementation timeline
2021 season	Extension to top 80 CUWR points and implementation of status points for WCs and WCH
During 2021 season	Mathematical simulation and definition of field point system
2022 season	Implementation of status points system for CCHs and ICS, inclusion in CUWR
2022 season	Collection of CUWR points for quotas purposes
2023 season	Implementation of status points system for CCs, inclusion in CUWR
2023 season	New World Cup quotas

APPENDIX I – EVENT QUOTA STRUCTURE

Approved by IFSC General Assembly on November 2020

Timeline of implementation reviewed – Reference to 2021 COVID addendum to IFSC rules

Ref: IFSC Strategic Planning, Key Objective 3 - *Showcase sport climbing through events – Developing a layered event structure with a performance-based selection of athletes by using World Ranking points to determine the quota system.*

This proposed event quota structure will allow for a targeted selection of athletes and efficient qualification system across events, effectively reducing the total number of participants by both qualifying the best performing athletes and federations while still allowing access to all member federations. The solution proposed with this vote it is a significant step in the direction of a layered event structure, and a short-term compromise to move towards such vision.

1. Event Quota Structure World Cups

After analysing different options, the following one has been considered the best option in the interest of all stakeholders. Quota for IFSC World Cup (per gender per discipline):

1. Top 10 athletes of the World Ranking are pre-qualified to IFSC World Cups. *This is the same as the current rules.*
2. Fixed minimum guaranteed quota of 2 for all National Federations.
3. Maximum of additional 3 quotas for each NFs depending on performance.
NFs with athletes ranked between 11th and 40th place at the World Ranking can add maximum 3 athletes. This quota plus the fixed minimum guaranteed quota of 2 will give the possibility to NFs to send to WCs the same number of athletes as of today (max 5 quotas). See table below for further clarification.
4. The Host Country Quota is fixed to 4 athletes per gender per NF.

1. Pre-qualified athletes	2. Fixed minimum guaranteed quota (for all NFs)	3a. Number of ranked athletes between 11 th and 40 th place of the 2021 World Ranking	3b. Spots gained by each NF	4. Host Country Quota	Total quota for IFSC World Cup
variable	2	≥3	3	4	5 + pre-qualified + host country quota
variable	2	2	2	4	4 + pre-qualified + host country quota
variable	2	1	1	4	3 + pre-qualified + host country quota
variable	2	0	0	4	2 + pre-qualified + host country quota

2. Basic Principles

Some basic principles have been respected during the analysis and the proposal of alternative solutions for the quota system of IFSC World Cups:

- Consistency across disciplines;
- Possibility for all National Federations to send athletes to World Cups;
- Use the variable “sport performance” to select high-quality athletes that deserve to attend IFSC World Cups.

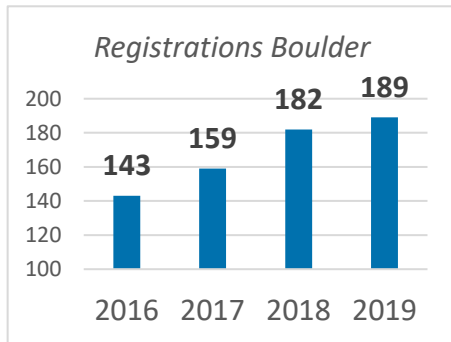
3. Why the IFSC needs a revised Event Quota Structure for World Cups?

Together with the general vision and improvement of IFSC World Cups, the necessity to change the current quota system is strictly related to the general trend of registrations. Here below some statistics related to the participation of athletes in the past three years.

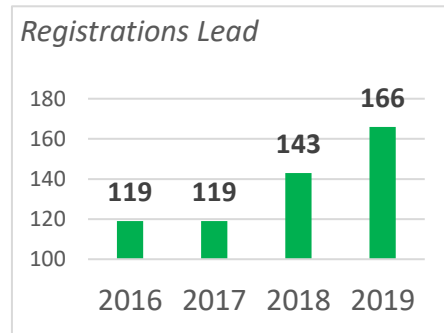
These figures clearly demonstrate an increase of registrations across the years, for all the disciplines. Such numbers lead to operational difficulties in the running of the event of all the disciplines. During the last 2-3 years we observed the increase of negative consequences for the sport. Among many:

- Munich registrations: 250 athletes in 2017 and 230 in 2018;
- Athletes' time in isolation during qualifications: up to 5 hours;
- Event Staff working hours: from 6 am till 11 pm;
- Incertitude of the programme and risk to cancel rounds;
- Significant performance discrepancies from athletes, reduction of event value and level.

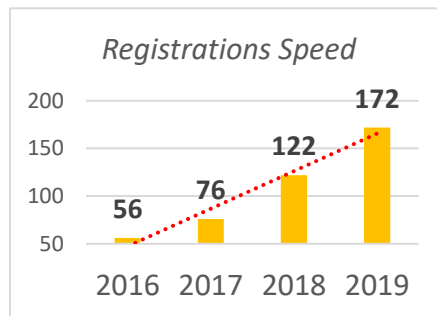
All these factors contribute to make Sport Climbing World Cups, with the current quota model, unsustainable in the medium term.



+ 32% from 2016 to



+ 39% from 2016 to



+ 200% from 2016 to

4. Current situation – What will happen if we do not do anything?

The crucial analysis to make when referring to the total number of registrations is related to the quota system for each National Federation. At the moment, for each IFSC World Cup the rules allow:

- 5 quotas for each gender and discipline for each National Federation
- Top 10 athletes of the World Ranking are prequalified to each World Cup, for each gender and discipline.
- Host Country quota, additional 5 athletes (per gender/discipline) for the hosting country

The current number of IFSC members is 91 with around 30 Federations sending athletes regularly to each IFSC World Cup. With the growing popularity of Sport Climbing, we expect an increase of registrations during the next years. If we do not change the current quota system, the IFSC strongly risks to be forced to cancel rounds or entire events, due to unsustainable number of athletes attending. Alternatively, the IFSC will be obliged to significantly restrict access to the events, with negative impact on the athletes.

To avoid such negative consequences for all stakeholders, the IFSC released a plan to anticipate issues and give to all National Federations the needed time to react.

APPENDIX II – POINTS DISTRIBUTION WORLD CUPS

Rank	Points		Rank	Points		Rank	Points		Rank	Points
1	1000		21	145		41	14		61	4
2	805		22	130		42	13		62	4
3	690		23	120		43	12		63	4
4	610		24	105		44	11		64	3
5	545		25	95		45	11		65	3
6	495		26	84		46	10		66	3
7	455		27	73		47	9		67	3
8	415		28	63		48	9		68	3
9	380		29	56		49	8		69	2
10	350		30	48		50	8		70	2
11	325		31	42		51	7		71	2
12	300		32	37		52	7		72	2
13	280		33	33		53	7		73	2
14	260		34	30		54	6		74	2
15	240		35	27		55	6		75	1
16	220		36	24		56	6		76	1
17	205		37	21		57	5		77	1
18	185		38	19		58	5		78	1
19	170		39	17		59	5		79	1
20	155		40	15		60	4		80	1