

SPORT CLIMBING HAS A GREAT FUTURE AHEAD

The 2020 Olympic dream ended today.

Sport Climbing was one of eight sports vying for a last place at the 2020 Olympics. On 29 May, each sport presented its bid to the IOC Executive Board in St Petersburg, Russia, before the final shortlist was announced.

“First of all congratulations and best wishes to the athletes of the three selected sports for the final vote on 7 September at the 125th Session in Buenos Aires. Despite we climb day by day higher faster and stronger, we did not make it. Now it is time to go climbing again” says Marco Sclaris, IFSC President.

On 29 May, four IFSC representatives met the IOC Executive Board, willing to showcase Sport Climbing’s universal values:



Mr. Marco Maria Sclaris
Italy
Born 1958
IFSC President since its foundation (2007)



Ms. Debra Gawrych
USA
Born 1957
IFSC Secretary General

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Mr. Jérôme Meyer
 France
 Born 1979
 IFSC Sport Manager
 2007-2009: President of the IFSC Athletes Commission
 2008: IFSC European Champion (Bouldering)



Ms. Evgeniya Malamid
 Russia
 Born 1987
 Member of the IFSC Athletes Commission
 2012 World Championship: 8th (Lead)
 2012 World ranking: 7th in Lead

«Competition climbing has been an important part of our sport for a long time. It's an exciting and challenging event both for the participants and the spectators. Speed climbing involves climbers racing up identical routes to see who can get to the top in the fastest time; Lead climbing (with ropes) tests the endurance of climbers as they compete to see who can get highest; Bouldering (without ropes) is the ultimate climbing test of strength and power. We also have some excellent young climbers who will be sport climbing's future role models. All the assets are in our hands now. The trend is upward and we will devote ourselves to the growth of our sport all around the world», adds Jerome Meyer, IFSC Sport Manager.

Keep Growing... Keep Climbing

«No matter what the result is today, we are building our future, day by day, growing and enjoying it. Climbing is already done in a huge number of countries around the world and can be practiced anywhere. As a sport for the young it is immensely popular and effective for developing personal responsibility. It is also a fantastic spectacle to watch on site or on TV », states Debbie Gawrych, IFSC Secretary General.

Scolaris ends: "We remain convinced that Sport Climbing would perfectly complete the Olympic Games program. We will continue our efforts to share our values and our lifestyle with young generations and develop new marketing opportunities in the outdoor marketplace, which is huge and constantly growing. Our mission remains to support the growth of Sport Climbing around the world and to organize state-of-the-art events bringing together the best international athletes. We can count on the young and vibrant climbing community as well as enthusiastic professional climbers to help us in this task."

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About the international climbing community:

A large worldwide climbing community:

- 25 million climbers in 140 countries on the five continents

A community with a unique profile:

- Climbers are young - median age is 19 (39% under 18) but practice until age 60 and above
- The number of female climbers is very high (38% vs. usual maximum 31%)

IFSC key figures:

- 81 active Member Federations (almost all of them organizing their own national championships)
- Bi-annual World Championships (since 1991)
- Annual World Youth Championships (since 1992)
- 40 international events per year

_FOR MORE INFORMATION

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/ifscchannel

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For a selection of photos available shortly after each event, please visit the Photo Gallery on www.ifsc-climbing.org

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