



IFSC

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Annual Report 2020



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President's message



“2020 has been an extremely intense year. We have suffered so much but we have also learned a lot.”

Dear Sport Climbing family,

To find the right words is not easy this time. I get mixed feelings when looking back on 2020. What a year!

Sometimes we have the impression that the days, weeks, and months of our lives have been stolen and that they won't come back. We have experienced hard times: being forced to see the sky through the window, unable to embrace our friends, with their smiles hidden by a mask. When the storm hit us, we thought it would not last long.

One year later we are still here, caught in the tunnel, with flashes of normality lighting up our lives. Even now, when we see a light in the distance, we realise that we are far from climbing at full strength again.

But not all has been lost: our passion and our determination have not diminished and they will lead us towards new horizons. We reacted strongly and adapted to new circumstances.

The IFSC Executive Board met every week during the peak of the crisis in 2020. Every month, we spoke with IFSC members to encourage each other and share information, hopes and fears.

We organised two plenary assemblies through our computer screens. One in spring to approve the 2019 financial reports, and one in autumn, where we concluded the IFSC Strategic Plan 2020-2028 after a process that lasted almost two years and involved all of our members. The unanimous approval of the plan has been, beyond doubt, a milestone in IFSC history.

Sadly, the IFSC 2020 calendar was devastated by COVID-19. Nevertheless, during a summer break in the storm we ran a memorable World Cup in Briançon, France, to spread a message of hope. Regrettably, we have not yet been able to provide a similar stage for our paraclimbers.

Later in the year, against all odds, we also succeeded in reaching the end of the Tokyo 2020 qualification process, with all but one of the continental qualifying events completed in Moscow, Russia; Sydney, Australia; and Cape Town, South Africa.

We also managed to conclude round two of the Olympic dream in 2020. In December we were included in the schedule for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, which follows our debut at Tokyo 2020. We also doubled the number of medals and increased the number of athletes in Paris by 60 per cent compared to Tokyo – the only sport on the programme to do so.

Previously, we entered a new partnership with the International Olympic Committee. In Lausanne, Switzerland, the IOC recognised our credibility and our work. They granted us a generous donation for the purpose of financially supporting the IFSC in these hard times, creating a solid and strong base for us to jump into the future.

Quietly but confidently, we moved towards round one of the Paralympic dream with a dynamic and enthusiastic ad hoc Paraclimbing Committee.

Also on the positive side, with great effort we were able to protect our IFSC team. Thanks to support funds received from the Italian government and the proper use of our resources, we guaranteed financial stability for our staff, despite lockdowns and other restrictive measures.

All in all, 2020 has been an extremely intense year. A very busy year, with more than two hundred teleconferences and endless challenges and trials. We have suffered so much but we have also learned a lot.

We have climbed the best we could, and I am sure we have built stronger foundations. The sport and the IFSC family will grow, day after day together with our maturity, the way our athletes deserve and the way we want.

Better days will come: our passion and our deeds will make them brighter. Stay strong!

World up. Keep climbing.

Marco Maria Sclaris
IFSC President

Secretary General's message

Dear Sport Climbing family,

The year we just passed will be remembered for a long time.

The coronavirus pandemic changed our lives in a way that no one could have imagined. The IFSC itself had to question some of its basic principles of hosting in-person annual meetings when it decided to hold the first virtual Plenary Assembly in its history in November. Many federations have felt the pain of this change and we are offering support – financially and with other resources.

The uniqueness of the year 2020 also offered a wide range of opportunities.

After record-breaking staff growth in 2019, 2020 was the year that the IFSC became even stronger by presenting a comprehensive Strategic Plan and restructuring the organisation. These changes helped build a solid foundation for the years to come, as a more homogeneous group of extraordinary professionals, fully dedicated to Sport Climbing.

As we grow professionally, we are also supporting gender parity in having two athlete board members: one man and one woman. We are striving for equity on our Executive Board, among our officials, coaches, and routesetters, as well as encouraging our Member Federations to do the same. Additionally, this year we are sponsoring women to attend courses in how to educate and work within their National Federations to support equality and diversity in other ways.

Seven new Member Federations joined the IFSC in 2020: Fiji, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia and Uganda, bringing freshness and enthusiasm to the Sport Climbing community. It is the highest number of new National Federations that the IFSC ever welcomed over a one-year span.

Growth of an International Federation comes with opportunities to bring the sport to new territories. That includes big cities such as Los Angeles, USA, which hosted a very successful Pan American Championships in February and March, and countries with huge

potential and passionate fan bases such as South Africa, where Cape Town became the first city to welcome an IFSC competition on African soil. Other cities include Seoul, South Korea, and Jakarta, Indonesia, which were announced as World Cup hosts in September.

Great things are also on the way for Paraclimbing. The IFSC Strategic Plan 2020-2028 includes the goal to bring the sport to the Paralympic Games Los Angeles 2028. This is an ambitious target. We are already planning multiple Paraclimbing world cups and the Sport Department and Paraclimbing Committee are putting huge emphasis on this objective.

Looking forward, I am sure we will succeed with all our ambitious targets. As always, keep climbing!



Debra Gawrych
IFSC Secretary General



“The uniqueness of the year 2020 offered us a wide range of opportunities.”

10 things you may not know about Sport Climbing



2018

Sport Climbing made its debut at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018. Austria's Sandra Lettner and Japan's Keita Dohi took gold in the girls' and boys' Combined events, respectively.

04

2007

Founded on 27 January 2007 in Frankfurt, Germany, the IFSC is one of the youngest International Sports Federations recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).



01



The IFSC is a member of many different associations:

- Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF)
 - Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF)
 - Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF)
 - International World Games Association (IWGA)
 - International University Sports Federation (FISU)
- The IFSC is also recognised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC).

03

02

3 disciplines + 1 combined

When asked to pick one of its three disciplines to be included on the Olympic programme, the IFSC decided to create a fourth – combining Boulder, Lead, and Speed, to give each an equal opportunity and visibility.



Along with the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024, Sport Climbing has been included on the sports programme of:

- Asian Youth Games Shantou 2021
- The World Games Birmingham 2022
- European Championships Munich 2022
- Asian Games Hangzhou 2022
- Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games Bangkok-Chonburi 2022
- Pan American Games Santiago 2023
- Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026

05

1985

Records of the first international climbing competition date back to 1985 in Bardonecchia, Italy – one of the cities that hosted events during the Olympic Winter Games Torino 2006.

06

2008

The first IFSC Paraclimbing Cup was organised in Moscow, Russia, in 2008. In the framework of an IFSC Boulder and Speed World Cup, athletes from Belarus, Italy, Russia and Ukraine competed. Eleven years later, more than 150 paraclimbers from 24 countries competed in the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships 2019 in Briançon, France.

07



08

Many Sport Climbing athletes are also successful outdoor climbers: the only two men to have climbed a grade 9c ascent – Alexander Megos of Germany and Adam Ondra of the Czech Republic – are frequent World Cup participants and medallists, and will compete at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.



09

Similarly, France's Julia Chanourdie and Italy's Laura Rogora – who will both compete at Tokyo 2020 – are two of only three women in the world to have ever climbed a grade 9b – the third being Angela Eiter of Austria, who won 25 World Cup gold medals between 2003 and 2012.



10

Sport Climbing is the only vertical bottom-to-top sport on the Olympic programme of Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.



2020 AT
A GLANCE



IFSC milestones: 2007-2020



**27 JANUARY
2007**

The International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) is established by 57 National Federations in Frankfurt, Germany.



**19 AUGUST
2014**

Sport Climbing and three other sports take part in the 'Sports Lab' at the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014.



**7-10 OCTOBER
2018**

The first Olympic medals in the history of Sport Climbing are awarded in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the third edition of the Youth Olympic Games.

**25 SEPTEMBER
2019**

To accommodate a growing number of full-time employees, the IFSC moves to a new headquarters located in Corso Vinzaglio in central Torino, Italy.



**12 FEBRUARY
2010**

Having first given recognition in December 2007, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) officially recognises the IFSC, welcoming Sport Climbing into the Olympic family.



**3 AUGUST
2016**

At the 129th IOC Session in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sport Climbing is approved as an additional sport on the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 programme.



**20-21 AUGUST
2019**

The first Olympic quota places are awarded to athletes competing at the 2019 IFSC Climbing World Championships in Hachioji, Japan.

**2 DECEMBER
2019**

Piero Rebaudengo, Olympic Games Los Angeles 1984 bronze medallist, joins the IFSC as its first General Director, an appointment brought about by the increase in IFSC staff numbers in 2019.



IFSC events: 2020

25 FEBRUARY - 1 MARCH

Allannah Yip of Canada and Colin Duffy of the United States win the available Olympic quota places at the IFSC Pan American Championships in Los Angeles, USA.



23 MARCH

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 are postponed until 2021.



18 MAY

The IFSC debuts on Chinese social media platforms Douyin and Weibo.

22 AUGUST

The first and only IFSC World Cup of the season is organised in Briançon, France. Adam Ondra of the Czech Republic and Laura Rogora of Italy top the podium.



28 NOVEMBER

Russian climbers Viktoriia Meshkova and Aleksei Rubtsov book their tickets to the Games of the XXXII Olympiad at the IFSC European Championships in Moscow, Russia.

4 MARCH

The XV IFSC Plenary Assembly – originally scheduled to take place in Limassol, Cyprus, on 13 to 14 March – is officially postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1 MAY

To properly assess and deal with the challenges caused by the pandemic, the IFSC creates the Climbing During COVID-19 Working Group.

2 AUGUST

The IFSC streams the IFSC Connected Speed Knockout presented by Japan Airlines: the first virtual competition in the history of the Federation. Aleksandra Kalucka of Poland and Rahmad Adi of Indonesia take the win.



13-14 NOVEMBER

For the first time ever, the IFSC Plenary Assembly takes place virtually. The two-day meeting opens with a video message from IOC President Thomas Bach.



7 DECEMBER

The IOC Executive Board officially confirms the inclusion of Sport Climbing on the sports programme of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

17-20 DECEMBER

The IFSC African Championships in Cape Town, South Africa, are the first IFSC competition ever to be held on African soil. Home favourites Christopher Cosser and Erin Sterkenburg rule the men's and women's events, respectively, to qualify for Tokyo 2020.



19-20 DECEMBER

Two more berths at Tokyo 2020 are awarded at the IFSC Oceania Championships in Sydney, Australia, to athletes Oceania Mackenzie and Tom O'Halloran.



Tribute to the departed

Au revoir, Luce

Prodigious talent Luce Douady sadly passed away in June 2020.

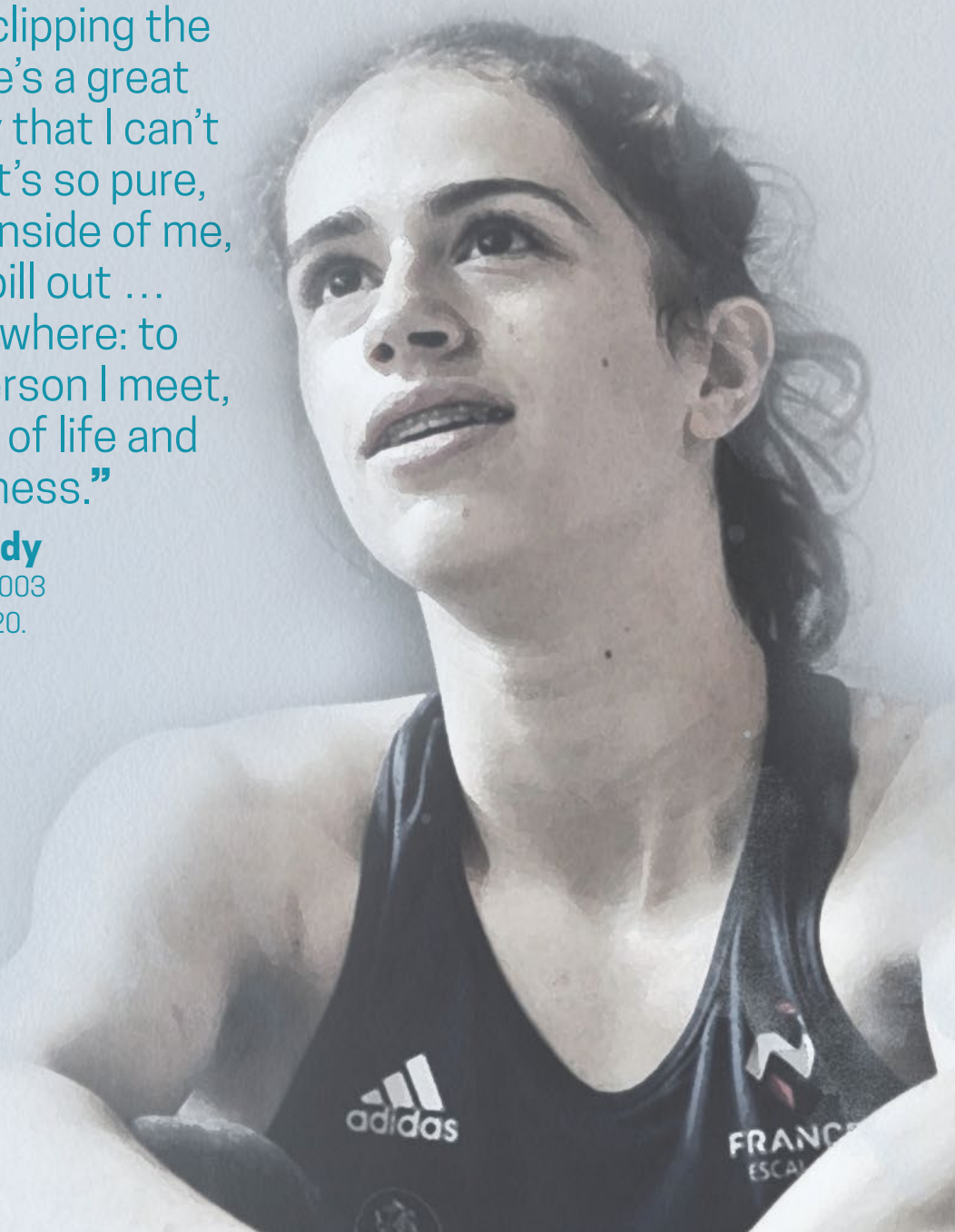
“I picture myself clipping the anchor, and there’s a great release, I feel a joy that I can’t conceal; a joy that’s so pure, so true, so strong inside of me, that it has to spill out ...

I spread it everywhere: to each face, each person I meet, I pass on my love of life and my cheerfulness.”

Luce Douady

17 November 2003

- 14 June 2020.





Sport Climbing lost a rising star on 14 June 2020 when 16-year-old Luce Douady of France tragically lost her life following a fatal fall from a cliff edge in south-eastern France.

The young talent stormed onto the international youth circuit in 2017, winning numerous European medals in Boulder and Lead. Luce's promising career peaked in 2019 with a gold medal in the Youth A women's Boulder event at the IFSC Youth World Championships in Arco, Italy, and a bronze medal in the Lead event at the same championships.

Luce made her senior World Cup debut in 2019 in Vail, Colorado, USA, finishing an impressive fifth at the age of just 15. The young athlete then added a bronze medal to her growing collection in the senior Lead European Championships 2019, held in Edinburgh, Great Britain, before competing in the IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019 in Japan and Lead world cups in Chamonix, France, and Inzai, Japan.

A tremendous talent on rock as well as on the competition circuit, Luce bagged her first 8b+ on rock in May 2020, with headlines labelling her the "future of climbing".

The Sport Climbing community is mourning the loss of this bright young athlete, and the IFSC's thoughts remain with Luce's family, friends, and teammates.



IFSC MOURNS PASSING OF DR PIERRE BELLEUDY

A respected member of the IFSC Medical Commission, Dr Pierre Belleudy passed away on 17 November 2020. The IFSC expressed its deepest condolences to his family, friends and to the Fédération Française de la Montagne et de l'Escalade, which Dr Belleudy proudly served and represented for nearly 20 years.



Honours

1 Youth World Championships **gold medal**

1 Youth World Championships **bronze medal**

1 European Championships **bronze medal**

1 European Youth Championships **silver medal**

2 European Youth Cup **silver medals**

7 European Youth Cup **gold medals**



The road to Paris starts here!

Sport Climbing's inclusion on the sports programme for the Olympic Games Paris 2024 was officially confirmed during an International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board meeting held in December 2020, marking a crucial milestone in the sport's evolution.

The date 7 December 2020 had been marked in the IFSC calendar for over a year, as the world governing body for Sport Climbing awaited a decision by the IOC Executive Board to make official what the 134th IOC Session had provisionally approved on 25 June 2019: the inclusion of Sport Climbing on the sports programme of the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

Finally, at the end of a challenging and exhausting year for the entire global sports movement, Sport Climbing was confirmed for the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad.

"We are grateful to the IOC Executive Board for confirming our inclusion in the Olympic Games Paris 2024," said IFSC President Marco Sclaris. **"This result comes from the hard work done in the last year by those who believed in the dream: the IFSC Executive Board, National Federations, athletes, officials, and staff. We are going through the toughest time in our history, but being climbers means the harder the challenge we face, the better we perform."**

The decision signalled another high-water mark in the history of the IFSC, following on from the sport's inclusion at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018 and coming just eight months before its highly anticipated debut at Tokyo 2020.

The IOC Executive Board also agreed to add Speed as a separate event to Boulder and Lead, bringing the total number of gold medals for Sport Climbing at Paris 2024 to four – two more than at Tokyo 2020. The number of participating athletes will grow to 68 for Paris 2024, a significant increase from the 40 that will compete at Tokyo 2020 in August.

IFSC Secretary General Debra Gawrych also voiced her enthusiasm: **"It is astounding to look back and see how much we have achieved since our foundation in 2007,"** she declared moments after the announcement. **"The inclusion in the Paris**

2024 sports programme is a fundamental cornerstone in the IFSC Strategic Plan, and we are as prepared and determined as we have ever been to make a brilliant debut at Tokyo 2020, and an even better encore at Paris 2024."

In addition to Sport Climbing, three other sports – breaking, skateboarding and surfing – were added to the Paris 2024 sports programme. The Games of the XXXIII Olympiad are scheduled to take place in the French capital from 26 July to 11 August 2024.





DAKAR
2026



Sport Climbing's Youth Olympic encore postponed to 2026

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) made the decision to delay the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Dakar 2022 by four years, meaning Sport Climbing's return to the competition will wait until 2026.

Following a debut to remember at the YOG Buenos Aires 2018, Sport Climbing's second YOG appearance in Dakar, Senegal, has been delayed as the Games were postponed from 2022 to 2026.

The sport first featured as a demonstration event at the YOG Nanjing 2014 in China, before being added as an official sport on the programme of the YOG in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where 42 athletes – 21 boys and 21 girls – competed at the Parque Urbano for Sport Climbing's first Youth Olympic medals.

In December 2019, the IOC approved the programme for the first Olympic event ever to be organised in Africa – the YOG Dakar 2022 – marking Sport Climbing's involvement in its third straight Summer YOG.

Originally scheduled from 22 October to 9 November 2022, the Games were officially

postponed to 2026 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a proposal from Senegal President Macky Sall which was welcomed by IOC President Thomas Bach. The new dates of the postponed Dakar YOG have yet to be announced, but the Sport Climbing competition will feature 24 young athletes competing in Boulder at the Iba Mar Diop Stadium.

Thirty-three sports will feature on the programme of the YOG Dakar 2026, including all four of the youth-focused sports added in December 2020 to the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

For the first time in Olympic history full gender parity will be achieved at Dakar 2026. Over 4,500 athletes representing every National Olympic Committee are expected to participate in Dakar, with an equal number of male and female athletes and equal gender representation in each event.



young athletes
will compete
in Boulder at
Dakar 2026

Above

(Left to right) Shuta Tanaka (JPN), Keita Dohi (JPN), and Sam Avezou (FRA) at the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018.

The Sport Climbing roadmap

Thanks to the promising growth of the IFSC, it is more important than ever to have a clear vision of how the sport should progress during the coming years.

The IFSC has been diligently focused on preparations for the debut of Sport Climbing at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, since the inclusion of the sport on the Olympic programme by the International Olympic Committee on 3 August 2016.

Planning ahead, it was envisioned that the IFSC would enter a new era post-Tokyo 2020, one in which the Federation would take a more proactive role in the development and promotion of Sport Climbing across the globe, asserting itself as the world governing body for this exciting new Olympic sport that is passionately supported by a unique community of athletes, fans and other stakeholders.

In order to be sufficiently prepared, the IFSC spent the bulk of 2019 working on its Strategic Plan 2020-2028, which was presented to the XVI IFSC Plenary Assembly in November 2020 by Secretary General Debra Gawrych.

The document is the outcome of a long and productive collaboration with the IFSC's most important stakeholders – the Member Federations. The vision, mission and key objectives of the IFSC were all defined throughout 2019 at events such as the XIV IFSC Plenary Assembly in Tokyo, Japan, the IFSC Member Federations Workshop in Arco, Italy, and the first Climbing Summit in Torino, Italy.

Left
Ned Middlehurst
(AUS).

Strategic Plan 2020-2028

VISION

To make the world a better place through Sport Climbing.

MISSION

To grow the Sport Climbing community and to foster the furtherance of Sport Climbing worldwide.

To effectively and efficiently govern, develop, showcase, and promote Sport Climbing through sustainable events for athletes, Member Federations, and key stakeholders.

Key objectives



Showcase Sport Climbing through events



Develop Sport Climbing



Strengthen membership and governance



Increase IFSC brand awareness



Promote Sport Climbing globally

Competition Plan 2021-2028

2021

2022

Left
(Top to bottom)
Lauren Bair (USA)
and Luana Riscado
(BRA).



**Olympic
Games
Tokyo 2020**

**Climbing and
Paraclimbing
World
Championships
2021**

**IFSC
Climbing and
Paraclimbing
World Cup
Series
2021**

**IFSC
Climbing and
Paraclimbing
World Cup
Series
2022**

**Youth World
Championships
2021**

**Youth World
Championships
2022**

Sport Climbing competitions represent the core activity of the IFSC. Moving forward, the IFSC has made it its goal to raise the standards of delivery of World Cup competitions, World Championships and all future IFSC events in terms of competition level, facilities and operations, for the benefit of all stakeholders.

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

2028



Olympic Games Paris 2024



Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026



Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028

Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships 2023

Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships 2025

Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships 2027

Continental Olympic Qualification 2023

International Olympic Qualification 2024

Continental Olympic Qualification 2027

International Olympic Qualification 2028

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Cup Series 2023

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Cup Series 2024

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Cup Series 2025

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Cup Series 2026

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Cup Series 2027

IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Cup Series 2028

Youth World Championships 2023

Youth World Championships 2024

Youth World Championships 2025

Youth World Championships 2026

Youth World Championships 2027

Youth World Championships 2028



TOKYO 2020





Sport Climbing's Olympic debut postponed

The IFSC fully backed the historic decision to postpone the Olympic Games, focusing on further developing and promoting the sport in the build-up to the rescheduled Games in 2021.

Since 2016, the IFSC has been counting down the days until Sport Climbing's highly anticipated debut at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in Japan. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2020 a decision was made by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to postpone the Games of the XXXII Olympiad by a year.

With the decision receiving full support from the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, the Japanese Government, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, 33 International Federations unanimously approved the rescheduled dates: 23 July to 8 August 2021. Backing the postponement fully, IFSC President Marco Scolaris shared messages of hope and unity with IFSC Member Federations, officials, Executive Board members, and staff:

"Day after day, it became clear that the postponement of the Games was the only way to guarantee a fair and collective participation at Tokyo 2020. The IFSC welcomes and supports the decision taken by the IOC, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, the Government of Japan, and all of the authorities involved."

"The outbreak of the coronavirus forced us all to take unprecedented measures to contain the pandemic - ultimately this one."

Right now, all of our efforts have to be focused on the end of this pandemic. There will be time for competing, there will be time for sports. Now the world is ill, but one day we will celebrate its recovery with our world cups and championships. We will climb the world again!"

Following a teleconference with IOC President Thomas Bach and the presidents of all Summer Olympic Federations, it was confirmed that all Olympic qualified athletes in receipt of validation from their respective National Olympic Committee at the time of the postponement would maintain their qualified status for the Games in 2021.

In July 2020, the IFSC gratefully accepted essential financial support from the IOC, enabling it to continue its work to further develop and promote Sport Climbing during a challenging year.

"It's been encouraging to feel the support and solidarity of the International Olympic Committee and of IOC President Thomas Bach all along this unbelievable, challenging crisis," said President Scolaris.

"The investment they made in us, in our future, is a precious milestone in the history of our young Federation."

**SAME GAMES,
NEW DATES**



4
days of Sport Climbing
(held between
3-6 August 2021)



40
Sport Climbing athletes



2
medal events





Tokyo test event delivers positive outcome

There may have been no athletes or fans present due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Sport Climbing test event in Tokyo was a great success.

Tokyo's Aomi Urban Sports Park hosted a test event for Sport Climbing on 6 and 7 March 2020, just five months ahead of the originally scheduled dates of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Following the completion of the walls, designed by IFSC partner Entre-Prises, the test event allowed the routesetting of IFSC Catalogue T20 holds, macros and volumes for the first time within the Olympic venue.

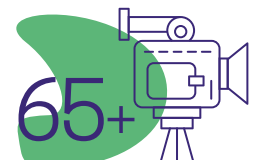
Alongside OMEGA, the Olympic Games Official Timekeeper, and Atos, Worldwide IT Partner for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, IFSC judges conducted testing of the results system, video adjudication system, and timers. Olympic Broadcasting Services supported the IFSC in identifying camera positions, and the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee press team outlined suitable photo positions, which will ensure that the best moments of Sport Climbing will be showcased during the Games.

Although athletes were not permitted to participate due to COVID-19 restrictions, the IFSC Multi-Sport Games Department reported a successful test event, with officials in place of athletes, and is confident that the venue,

facilities, and technologies adopted for the Games meet Olympic standards.

With more than 65 Japanese and international media representatives present, the IFSC was delighted at the global attention surrounding Sport Climbing's READY STEADY TOKYO event. Tokyo 2020 Games Delivery Officer Hidemasa Nakamura, Tokyo 2020 Sport Director Koji Murofushi, and team officials representing National Olympic Committees also took the opportunity to visit Sport Climbing's Olympic venue during the event.

Following the postponement of the Games until 2021, the IFSC confirmed that the walls have been dismantled and all Sport Climbing equipment is being securely stored in Tokyo until Games time.



Japanese and international media representatives attended the test event





Yip and Duffy grab final Olympic places for Pan America

Victory brought an added bonus for the Canadian climber and her US counterpart in the men's event – two tickets to Tokyo 2020.

The week from 25 February to 1 March 2020 saw the first of the 2020 IFSC continental championships take place in Los Angeles, USA. Forty-eight athletes congregated at Sender One climbing gym for the Pan American Championships, competing for the coveted two remaining Pan American spots at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in the Combined event.

Canada's Alannah Yip won the women's event and ultimately a ticket to Tokyo, with Alejandra Contreras of Chile and Lauren Bair of the USA placing second and third respectively. As the only athlete to achieve three tops in Boulder and later performing well in Lead, Yip earned the second Canadian spot for Tokyo 2020.

"I'm overwhelmed, so excited, so happy. I worked so hard to be here," said an overjoyed Yip. **"For a couple of days it didn't look great; I wasn't able to pull it together mentally and physically, both in the pre-qualification and qualification rounds, but I eventually found the fire."**

"I get to go to Tokyo, and I get to go with an amazing team. I've known Sean [McColl] since I was born – we're family friends – and to be able to go to the Olympics with him means a lot to me."

Above
Alannah Yip (CAN).
Below
(Left to right) Zach Galla (USA), Colin Duffy (USA), and Zander Waller (USA).

Colin Duffy of the USA finished first in the men's event after winning in Lead and a strong performance in Boulder, thus becoming the fourth and final US athlete to earn a place at Tokyo 2020. The men's Combined podium was occupied by two more US climbers, Zach Galla and Zander Waller.

"I'm pretty excited. It's not really sunk in yet, but it's amazing," Duffy said. **"I kind of knew the circumstances and realised that, 'Oh, I have to climb fast!', so I tried to cruise my way through it."**

With the final Pan American qualifying places for the Olympic Games up for grabs during the championships, the competition received attention from a number of broadcasters across the continent. In Canada, CBC Online covered the event live, while the Panam Sports Channel offered live coverage across Pan America. NBC Olympic Channel: Home of Team USA showed delayed coverage of the championships in the USA.





Russia dominates on home soil

The host nation won 12 out of a possible 24 medals at the IFSC European Championships in Moscow.



A total of 95 athletes competed in the long-awaited IFSC European Championships 2020, which took place at the Irina Viner-Usmanova Gymnastics Palace in Moscow, Russia. Originally scheduled for March 2020, the championships, which culminated in a highly anticipated Combined event, were held from 21 to 28 November.

In the opening Speed round of the championships, all eyes were on Luliia Kaplina of Russia, who became only the second woman in history to top the Speed wall in under seven seconds. With a time of 6.964 seconds, the Russian athlete set a new women's Speed world record.

Russia was dominant throughout the championships, bagging 12 of a possible 24 medals and securing the two Olympic places in the Combined event. Sport Climbing veteran Aleksei Rubtsov won the final European quota place for Tokyo in the men's event.

"It is one of the most amazing feelings in my life," said Rubtsov. **"For me it was impressive and hard to fight for the Olympics. I had a serious injury before the World Championships and I thought I had missed both of my chances to go to the Olympics, but the pandemic gave**

me one last chance because I had more time to recover, and now I feel ready to compete again."

Rubtsov's compatriot, Viktoriia Meshkova, was stellar throughout the women's event, taking gold in Boulder, Lead and Combined to earn the remaining European place at the Olympic Games.

"It feels incredible!" Meshkova exclaimed. **"I finished the last Lead route and I was satisfied that I had done everything I could. I didn't believe I could do it. My coaches and I have been going at it for so long and here it is - my ticket to the Olympics that I thought was so unattainable."**

"Two qualifying seasons, quarantine for COVID-19, a lot of nerves and changes. The Olympic Games are worth it."

For the first time ever, Polish State broadcaster TVP covered an IFSC competition, broadcasting the Combined finals live. In addition to the livestream coverage provided by the Olympic Channel, other broadcasters included BBC Online in Great Britain, Sport5 in Israel, SSR/SSG in Switzerland, ZDF/ARD in Germany and RTV in Slovenia.

**RECORD-BREAKER:
WOMEN'S 15M
SPEED WORLD
RECORD**



6.964

seconds

Luliia Kaplina

21 November 2020



RECENT RECORDS

6.995 seconds

Aries Susanti

Rahayu

19 October 2019

7.101 seconds

YiLing Song

26 April 2019

7.320 seconds

Luliia Kaplina

22 July 2017

7.380 seconds

Luliia Kaplina

30 April 2017

7.460 seconds

Luliia Kaplina

23 April 2017

Above

Aleksei Rubtsov
(RUS).



Sweet success in Sydney for Australian duo

Oceania Mackenzie and Tom O'Halloran triumphed in their respective Combined events to earn their places at Tokyo 2020.

The IFSC Oceania Championships 2020 took place from 19 to 20 December at the Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym in Australia. Seventeen athletes from Australia and New Zealand competed in the two-day competition, which saw two quota places for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 awarded to Australia.

With a perfect Combined score of 1.0, Australia's Oceania Mackenzie dominated the women's event, topping each Boulder effortlessly and becoming the only competitor to top the Lead route. Mackenzie secured her position at Tokyo 2020, with her compatriots Angie Scarth-Johnson and Ella Easton completing the podium line-up.

"It was very stressful, but I'm so happy," said Mackenzie. **"I was a little nervous warming up and getting all my stuff together, but once I started climbing I was like 'OK, this is good!' I had a very good time."**

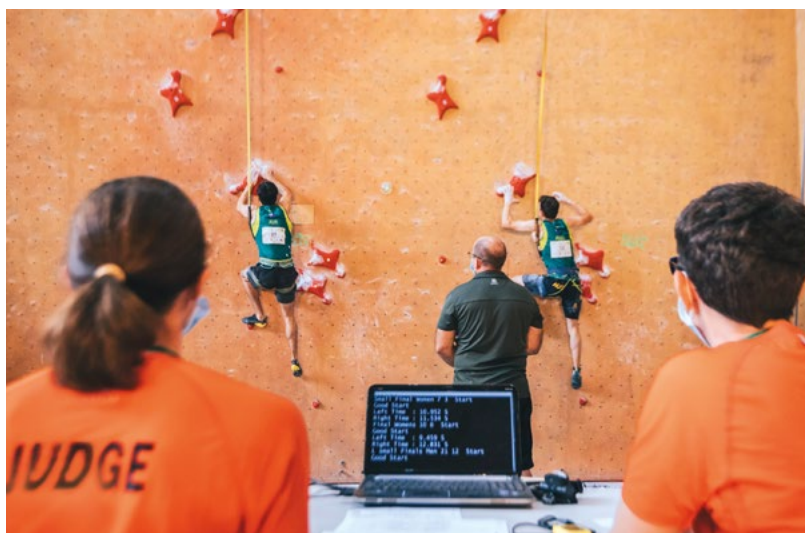
In the men's event, Tom O'Halloran, also of Australia, came out triumphant. O'Halloran

finished second in each discipline of the Combined event, concluding with a first-place score of 8.0 and a spot at Tokyo 2020. His teammates Ben Abel and James Kassay placed second and third respectively.

"You only get one go in your life to try and be an Olympian," said O'Halloran shortly after the finals. **"I had some pretty serious ups and downs with my motivation. I nearly pulled out because it was just too difficult - the training, the juggle with work and family life, missing out on time with my daughter and partner."**

"The thing that kept me going was: 'What am I going to feel like the morning of the competition when I'm not there?'"

Above
Oceania Mackenzie
(AUS).





Out of Africa, into Tokyo

South Africans Christopher Cossier and Erin Sterkenburg will showcase African climbing on the biggest stage of all after victories in the first IFSC competition ever to be held on African soil.

Twenty-two athletes from Uganda and South Africa battled for two African quota places for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 at the IFSC African Championships 2020, held at the CityROCK Climbing Gym in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 20 December.

Following a neck-and-neck battle with his South African teammate David Naude, Christopher Cossier placed first in the men's event. With the fastest Speed climb of 6.91 seconds and as the only athlete to achieve a top in Lead, Cossier came out on top with a Combined score of 4.0 to take the first Olympic quota place. Naude, who participated in the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018, finished second, with compatriot Calrin Curtis taking third.

“Qualifying for and being eligible to compete at the inaugural Olympics featuring Sport Climbing is an amazing opportunity for me,” said Cossier. **“This will give me the chance to showcase climbing in Africa and hopefully put me in a position to grow climbing on the African continent.”**

Competing in only the third IFSC competition of her career after the 2018 and 2019 IFSC Youth World Championships, Erin Sterkenburg led the way in the women's event. Sterkenburg walked away with a perfect score of 1.0, having placed first in each round of the competition. Fellow South Africans Georgiana Dorward and Tegwen Oates placed second and third respectively.

“It still feels surreal to have qualified for the Olympics, and I am so excited to have the opportunity to compete with some of the best climbers in the world,” said Sterkenburg.

“I am so excited to have the opportunity to compete with the best climbers in the world.”

Erin Sterkenburg, South Africa



YOUNG AT HEART



combined age of Christopher Cossier and Erin Sterkenburg when they qualified for Tokyo 2020

Above
Christopher Cossier (RSA).

Left
Credo Kasemire (UGA).

IFSC Asian Championships Xiamen 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19

Continent-wide travel restrictions left cancellation of the championships as the only fair option to athletes.

Following a series of postponements and relocations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFSC, in accordance with the IFSC Asian Council and the Chinese Mountaineering Association, announced in December the cancellation of the 2020 IFSC Asian Championships.

The championships, which should have seen Asian climbers compete for the remaining two Asian slots at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, were initially planned for April in Chongqing, China. In May, Xiamen, China, was unveiled as the new host city for the competition, with the rescheduled dates set for 10 to 13 December. However, as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions, the difficult decision was made to cancel the championships.

As per the Sport Climbing Qualification System for the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo, the final Asian Olympic quota places were selected based on the athletes' performances during the IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019. Using

said system, South Korea was victorious in the battle for the remaining Asian spots at the Games, with Chaehyun Seo and compatriot Jongwon Chon qualifying for the women's and men's events, respectively, at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

"It is a great honour to be able to participate on the big stage of the Olympics as the first Sport Climbing national team of South Korea," said Seo. **"I will do my best in the coming months to achieve a good result at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020."**

"I am very happy to be a qualified climber for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 as I have always been dreaming of participating in the Olympic Games since Sport Climbing was officially included on the programme," said Chon. **"I am sure that I will show the best outcome ever at the Games by training hard."**



Left
Chaehyun Seo (KOR).
Right
Jongwon Chon (KOR).



Tokyo tripartite quota places reallocated

Anouck Jaubert and Michael Piccolruaz will compete at the Olympic Games after Sport Climbing received no Tripartite applications.



Above
Anouck Jaubert (FRA).
Below
Michael Piccolruaz (ITA).

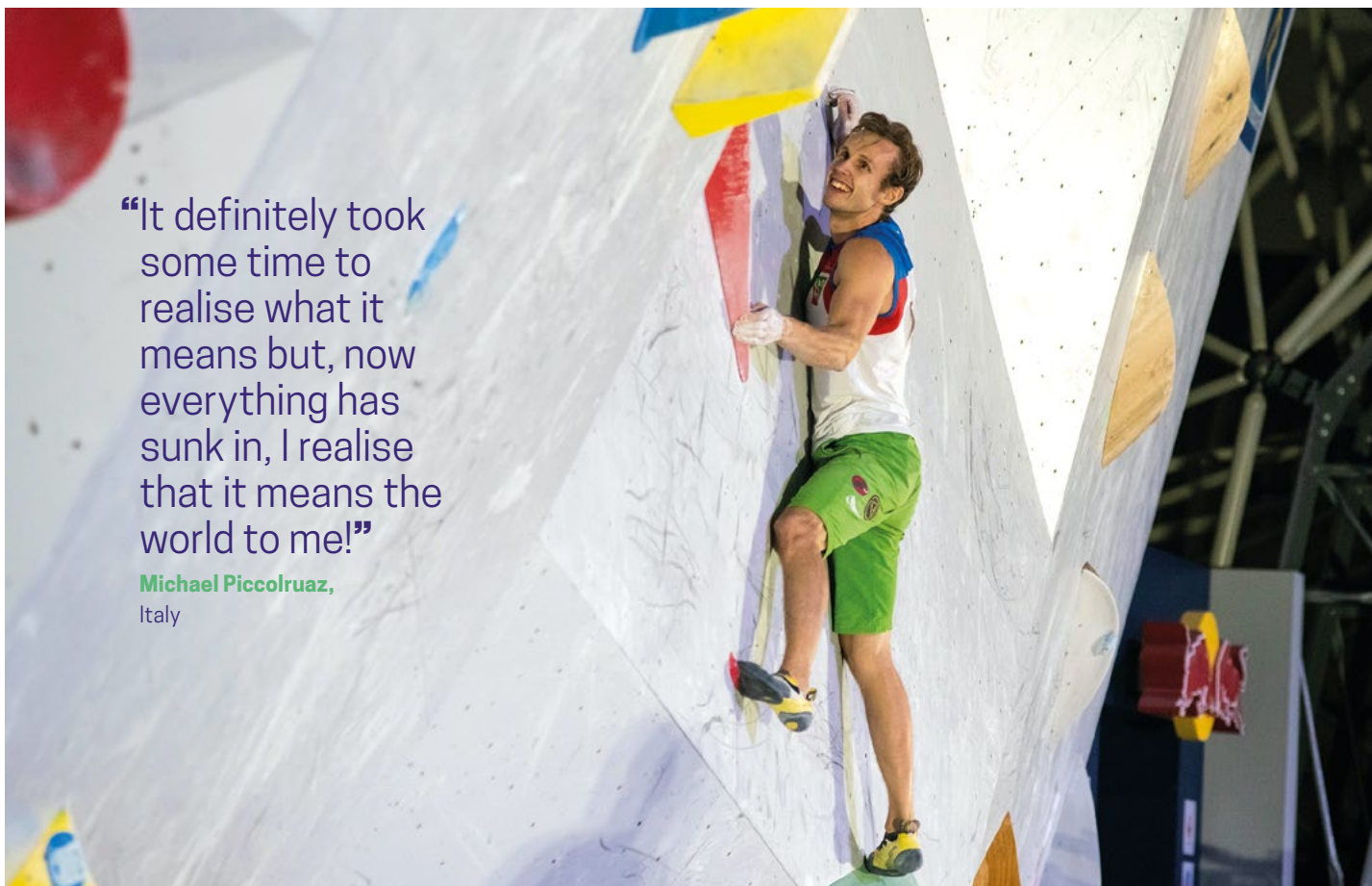
In April 2020, the IFSC announced that two Tripartite Commission quota places would not be allocated for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 due to a lack of applications. The places were instead awarded to Anouck Jaubert of France and Michael Piccolruaz of Italy.

Tripartite Commission quota places allow National Olympic Committees that have traditionally sent small delegations to the Olympic Games to be represented at the upcoming edition of the Games. The Sport Climbing Qualification System for Tokyo 2020 offered two athletes – one man and one woman – the chance to qualify with a Tripartite invitation. However, as no Tripartite applications were received for Sport Climbing, these positions were reallocated according to the IFSC Qualification System.

Jaubert and Piccolruaz were the lucky recipients of the quota places based on their placings during the IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019, where they finished 11th and 14th respectively in the women's and men's Combined events.

“The battle to get my ticket for the Olympic Games was very long and tough,” said Jaubert. **“Securing it has definitely been a big relief. I'm so pleased that I will have the opportunity to defend the French colours in Tokyo! I am ready for the fight!”**

“Getting the ticket for Tokyo 2020 feels quite surreal!” said Piccolruaz. **“It definitely took some time to realise what it means but, now everything has sunk in, I realise that it means the world to me!”**



“It definitely took some time to realise what it means but, now everything has sunk in, I realise that it means the world to me!”

Michael Piccolruaz,
Italy

Sport Climbing's first Olympians

Following the six qualification events for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, 40 athletes have been confirmed by their respective National Olympic Committees to compete in Japan.

WOMEN

1. **Janja Garnbret** [Slovenia]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
2. **Akiyo Noguchi** [Japan]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
3. **Shauna Coxsey** [Great Britain]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
4. **Aleksandra Mirosław** [Poland]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
5. **Miho Nonaka** [Japan]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
6. **Petra Klingler** [Switzerland]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
7. **Brooke Raboutou** [USA]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
8. **Jessica Pilz** [Austria]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
9. **Julia Chanourdie** [France]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
10. **Mia Krampf** [Slovenia]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
11. **Iuliia Kaplina** [Russia]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
12. **Kyra Condie** [USA]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
13. **Laura Rogora** [Italy]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
14. **YiLing Song** [China]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
15. **Alannah Yip** [Canada]
Qualified: IFSC Pan American Championships Los Angeles 2020
16. **Anouck Jaubert** [France]
Qualified: Tripartite Commission quota place reallocation
17. **Viktorii Meshkova** [Russia]
Qualified: IFSC European Championships Moscow 2020
18. **Erin Sterkenburg** [South Africa]
Qualified: IFSC African Championships Cape Town 2020
19. **Oceania Mackenzie** [Australia]
Qualified: IFSC Oceania Championships Sydney 2020
20. **Chaehyun Seo** [South Korea]
Qualified: IFSC Asian quota place



Top
Alannah Yip (CAN).
Middle
Viktorii Meshkova (RUS).
Bottom
Erin Sterkenburg (RSA).

MEN

1. **Tomoa Narasaki** [Japan]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
2. **Jakob Schubert** [Austria]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
3. **Rishat Khaibullin** [Kazakhstan]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
4. **Kai Harada** [Japan]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
5. **Mickael Mawem** [France]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
6. **Alexander Megos** [Germany]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
7. **Ludovico Fossali** [Italy]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
8. **Sean McColl** [Canada]
Qualified: IFSC Climbing World Championships Hachioji 2019
9. **Adam Ondra** [Czech Republic]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
10. **Bassa Mawem** [France]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
11. **Jan Hojer** [Germany]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
12. **YuFei Pan** [China]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
13. **Alberto Ginés López** [Spain]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
14. **Nathaniel Coleman** [USA]
Qualified: IFSC Combined Qualifier Toulouse 2019
15. **Colin Duffy** [USA]
Qualified: IFSC Pan American Championships Los Angeles 2020



16. **Michael Piccolruaz** [Italy]
Qualified: Tripartite Commission quota place reallocation
17. **Aleksei Rubtsov** [Russia]
Qualified: IFSC European Championships Moscow 2020
18. **Christopher Cosser** [South Africa]
Qualified: IFSC African Championships Cape Town 2020
19. **Tom O'Halloran** [Australia]
Qualified: IFSC Oceania Championships Sydney 2020
20. **Jongwon Chon** [South Korea]
Qualified: IFSC Asian quota place



Top
Bassa Mawem (FRA).
Middle
Jakob Schubert (AUT).
Bottom
Tom O'Halloran (AUS).





IFSC
SPORT

Left
Julia Fiser (AUT).



IFSC CLIMBING
WORLD CUP
BRIANÇON SERRE CHEVALIER 2020

Success for Ondra and Rogora in sole World Cup of 2020 season

From 21 to 22 August 2020, the French commune of Briançon welcomed the first and only World Cup of the 2020 Sport Climbing season.

The IFSC worked tirelessly alongside the Fédération Française de la Montagne et de l'Escalade (FFME) to deliver a World Cup in Briançon for the 10th consecutive year, while dutifully abiding by national COVID-19 regulations.

A total of 98 athletes competed at Briançon's Parc des Sports, with 17 athletes vying for a podium position in the finals in front of a masked yet electrified audience.

Italy's Laura Rogora climbed her way to the top of the final route calmly and confidently, clipping the chains with just 32 seconds left on the clock to secure her first World Cup win, as well as the first World Cup podium finish of her career.

Janja Garnbret of Slovenia added a silver medal to her impressive World Cup collection. She was the only other athlete to achieve a top in the women's finals, but finished runner-up after a lower ranking in the semifinals. Meanwhile, Fanny Gibert of France participated in her first ever Lead finals, concluding with 42 to claim a bronze medal and dedicating her climb to her late teammate Luce Douady.

In the men's event, Czech climbing star Adam Ondra was the only athlete to achieve a top, winning his 23rd World Cup gold medal.

Slovenia's Domen Skofic took silver with 41, while Jakob Schubert of Austria followed in third place with 38+.

Thanks to numerous broadcasting deals secured by the IFSC, the IFSC World Cup Briançon 2020 achieved the highest level of broadcasting coverage in its 10-year history.

Live finals coverage was provided by NBC Olympic Channel; Home of Team USA, French channel L'Equipe, Japanese network J-Sports and Czech national public broadcaster CTV Sports. In Slovenia, the women's finals were broadcast live on RTV, with the men's finals aired delayed-as-live following the competition. ESPN Latin America streamed the World Cup live on its OTT platform, in addition to offering television coverage, while the semifinals and finals were both streamed by the Olympic Channel.

In order to protect all involved at the World Cup, a series of guidelines were implemented concerning hygiene, social distancing and the use of personal protective equipment.

The guidelines included limited entry to the athlete isolation zone, the wearing of masks in isolation, and the use of personal warm-up equipment only. Following guidance from the local authorities, the number of spectators on site was also strictly limited.

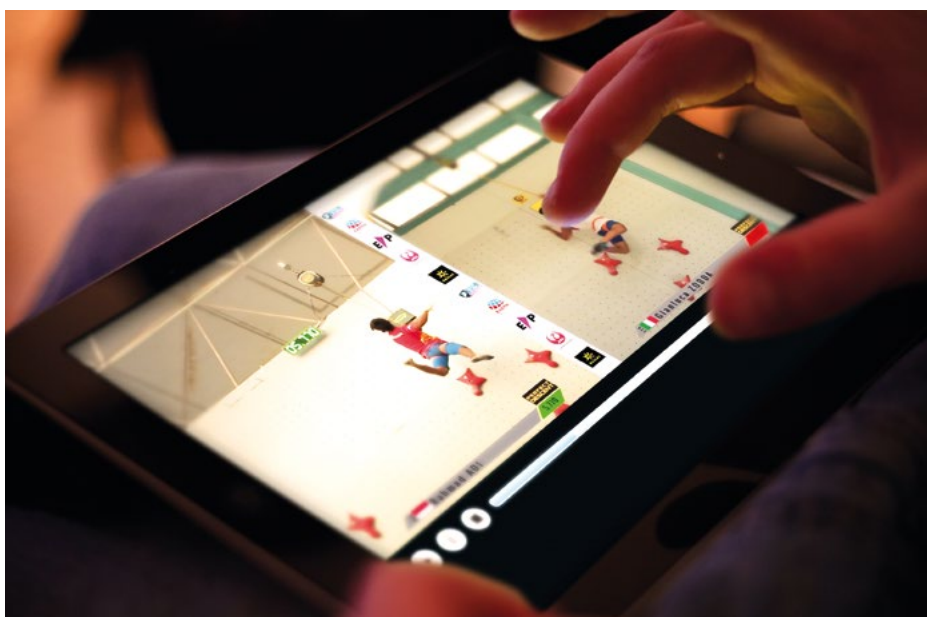
As some athletes were not able to travel due to restrictions, no points were awarded at the competition.

Above
Laura Rogora
(ITA).



Adi and Kalucka make history in first Connected Speed Knockout

Indonesia and Poland celebrated victories in the inaugural competition that was streamed across the globe on the IFSC's social media platforms.



GOING GLOBAL



With over 50 athletes representing nine nations and climbing in seven different locations around the world, the IFSC Connected Speed Knockout presented by Japan Airlines was the first of its kind in Sport Climbing.

Athletes from Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Poland and Russia competed in the initial qualification round, with the top 16 climbers in the overall rankings advancing to the finals. The final phase of the competition followed the same knockout pattern as a standard Speed World Cup, but with the peculiarity of athletes battling head-to-head from different countries.

With all climbing pre-recorded in late July, the competition was streamed as live across the IFSC's official social media channels on 2 August. Fans had the option of watching on YouTube or Facebook across the globe and on Weibo in China.

Results were concealed from all competitors prior to the competition's streaming, so that athletes received the

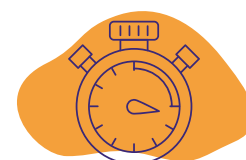
results at the same time as the general public watching online.

Tapping the finish pad at 5.770 seconds, Rahmad Adi of Indonesia took the win in the men's knockout, having also recorded the fastest time in the qualification round. Following closely in second place was Gianluca Zodda of Italy, while Russia's Vladislav Deulin finished third.

"I'm very happy because this is the first competition of the year during the pandemic. This is a very good competition format for both myself and the Indonesian team. It's special for me," said Adi following the virtual competition.

In the women's event, Poland's Aleksandra Kalucka triumphed with a time of 7.460 seconds. Elizaveta Ivanova of Russia placed second, and Giulia Randi of Italy finished third.

"This new format was strange for me because my emotions were between competition and training mode. It was also fun to have to wait for the results," said Kalucka.



5.770
winning men's time
(Rahmad Adi)

7.460
winning women's time
(Aleksandra Kalucka)



Sport Climbing joins the sports programme at Munich 2022

Around 300 climbers will feature in the multi-sport European Championships in Germany.

The European Championships are an 11-day celebration of world-class sport, bringing together existing individual continental championships into one coordinated event, staged every four years.

Following the success of the inaugural event in 2018, in 2022 the respective European Championships in Sport Climbing, beach volleyball, canoe sprint and table tennis will join those in athletics, cycling, gymnastics, rowing and triathlon for the

second edition of the multi-sport event, from 11 to 21 August.

Across the nine sports on the programme, 4,400 athletes from 50 countries are set to compete in a total of 158 medal events at the Munich Olympic Park in Germany. During the seven-day Sport Climbing competition at the Königsplatz venue in downtown Munich from 11 to 18 August, around 300 male and female athletes will compete in eight medal events.

“In these difficult times, we are proud to be welcomed to a great event like the European Championships 2022,” said IFSC President Marco Scolaris. **“Looking forward to our event in Munich is a sign of recognition of the IFSC and of the work we have done over the years. This achievement encourages the IFSC to continue on its project of the reorganisation of its Councils for the development of the sport. After inclusion in the Asian Games in 2018, now also in Europe we are moving to another level.”**

President of the IFSC European Council, Wolfgang Wabel, added that the inclusion of Sport Climbing on the Munich 2022 programme is a tremendous step for the sport.

“It is a fantastic opportunity to see Sport Climbing being included in the European Championships 2022 in Munich,” said Wabel. **“Sport Climbing will have its official European Championships 2022 alongside eight other Olympic sports, and with a venue located in the centre of Munich, a great audience is guaranteed. The IFSC and IFSC Europe, in close connection with the local organising committee and the German Alpine Club (DAV), will organise a successful and sustainable event. Being included in another multi-sport competition – with 158 medal events, 4,400 athletes, 11 days of exciting competitions, and many side events – defines the next step in the development of our sport.”**





Birmingham releases sports programme as World Games are moved to 2022

Sport Climbing will make its fifth appearance at the Games, with 72 athletes set to compete in six medal events.

Following the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the International World Games Association and Birmingham Organising Committee confirmed the movement of the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, to 2022.

Over 3,600 athletes are set to compete at the 11th edition of the World Games, scheduled from 7 to 17 July 2022, with 54 disciplines across 30 different sports and a total of 207 medal events.

This will be the fifth World Games appearance for Sport Climbing and the second in which all three disciplines of the sport have been included. With competitions in Boulder, Lead, and Speed included in the programme, six of the Games' events and 18 medals in total are assigned to Sport Climbing.

The Sport Climbing competition will run for three days – 14 to 16 July 2022 – and feature 72 climbers competing at the Sloss Furnaces – an outdoor venue close to the University of Alabama, which will also host beach handball, breaking, and parkour.

SWEET HOME ALABAMA

7-17 July 2022



Sport Climbing athletes



days of Sport Climbing



medal events



appearance at the World Games

Sport Climbing on the ascent in Asia

With the popularity of Sport Climbing accelerating across Asia, the sport is set to feature on the programme of three upcoming multi-sport events in the continent.



ASIAN YOUTH GAMES SHANTOU 2021



Scheduled to take place in Shantou, China, from 20 to 28 November 2021, the third edition of the Asian Youth Games will see 2,500 athletes aged 14-17 competing in 158 events across 18 different disciplines.

Following the approval of the Olympic Council of Asia and the Chinese Olympic Committee, the IFSC Asian Council received confirmation of Sport Climbing's place on the programme in September 2020. Four medal events are confirmed for Sport Climbing, with men's and women's Lead and Speed events to be held from 21 to 23 November 2021.

The motto of the Games is 'Surging Waves, Dynamic Youth'.



ASIAN GAMES HANGZHOU 2022



After making its Asian Games debut at Jakarta-Palembang 2018, Sport Climbing is set to make a second appearance on the programme at the 10th edition of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China.

The third Chinese city to host the Games after Beijing in 1990 and Guangzhou in 2010, Hangzhou will welcome 10,000 athletes across 42 different sports from 10 to 25 September 2022.

'Heart to Heart, @Future' is the motto of the event.



ASIAN INDOOR AND MARTIAL ARTS GAMES BANGKOK-CHONBURI 2022



Originally scheduled for 21 to 30 May 2021, the sixth edition of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games will take place in Bangkok and Chonburi, Thailand, from 10 to 20 March 2022.

The Games, whose motto is 'Garland of Hope', will feature 31 disciplines in 29 sports, as well as two demonstration sports. There will be six Sport Climbing medal events.



Francis Lo of the IFSC Asian Council has been appointed Sport Climbing's Technical Delegate for all three Asian multi-sport events.



Pan American dream! Sport Climbing to make debut at Santiago 2023

The decision taken in December 2020 means Sport Climbing will join 37 other sports at the largest multi-sport event in the Americas.

SAY HELLO TO SANTIAGO

20 October - 5 November 2023



Sport Climbing scaled another peak at the LVIII General Assembly of Panam Sports, after a vote secured the sport's place on the programme of the Pan American Games Santiago 2023.

IFSC President Marco Sclaris joined IFSC Pan American Council President Maria Izquierdo for the announcement, which took place virtually during a two-day assembly in December 2020.

The XIX Pan American Games are scheduled to take place from 20 October to 5 November 2023 in the Chilean capital of Santiago, which was selected as the host city during the Association of National Olympic Committees General Assembly in November 2017. As the largest multi-sport event in the Americas, over 6,000 athletes will participate in the Games, competing in 38 different sports. The slogan of the Games is 'United by passion'.

"This is excellent news for Sport Climbing, and a fantastic achievement for our sport within the Pan American region," said IFSC President Sclaris. **"I would like to thank Panam Sports President Neven Ilic and our friends from the Olympic Movement in the Americas for believing in our sport, which is truly unique. We are looking forward to working with you to bring Sport Climbing to the Pan American Games and to share our sport with the Americas."**

Izquierdo added that the decision would bring some much-needed cheer to athletes during the pandemic.

"Sport Climbing athletes from the Americas are being offered an additional and wonderful opportunity to showcase their talent," she said. **"We are immensely grateful to Panam Sports for making the decision to incorporate Sport Climbing into the next edition of the Games. This is the kind of news that will help the spirit of athletes and the whole Pan American Sport Climbing community during these difficult times."**





Left
Jaqueline Fritz
(GER).

Paraclimbing soars to new heights

The IFSC has planned a roadmap for the future of the sport and formed a new Paraclimbing Committee, as it targets a Paralympic debut at Los Angeles 2028.

Within its Strategic Plan for 2020-2028, the IFSC pledged to professionalise Paraclimbing to meet International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards, with the goal of achieving the sport's inclusion on the Paralympic Games programme, starting with the Paralympic Games Los Angeles 2028. To reach this milestone, a roadmap was developed with the following objectives:

- Improve the Paraclimbing classification process to meet the international standard set by the IPC by adopting classification rules and implementing training, evaluation, and classification systems;
- Rethink the Paraclimbing categories in terms of numbers and merging scheme;
- Create an expert pool of Paraclimbing routesetters, supporting the group with training opportunities and guidelines; and

- Encourage National Federations to organise competitions at both a national and international level to increase the number of athletes and grow the Paraclimbing community.

To oversee the rapid development of Paraclimbing, a new Paraclimbing Committee was formed with the election of two athletes' representatives during the IFSC Paraclimbing World Championships Briançon 2019. The IFSC Executive Board also selected two coach representatives, two Paraclimbing experts, and one Paraclimbing routesetter.

The work of the committee focused on three key areas in 2019 and 2020:

- Classification: The IFSC Paraclimbing Committee strived to improve the previous classification system in terms of classifier personnel,

Below
Members of the Japan Paraclimbing Team.





Left
Sho Aita (JPN).

classification rules, and assessment methods.

- Competitions: A supporting document for event organisers was developed, containing competition formats, the number of available routes, wall types, etc.
- Routesetting: A pool of Paraclimbing routesetters was put in place, with guidelines drafted on setting for different Paraclimbing categories.

To make Paraclimbing information more accessible, the IFSC website was restructured in July 2020, offering three pages dedicated to Paraclimbing, its development and classification.

“As Paraclimbing has grown enormously in recent years, there was an urgent need to have a central point of information about activities and information,” said Sebastian Depke, Athletes’ Representative and Chair of the IFSC Paraclimbing Committee.

“I am happy to see the IFSC website updated – a very important step to develop and promote the sport!”

“Changes to the Paraclimbing classification rules are part of the constant process of evaluation and necessary as we push for Paraclimbing’s inclusion in the Paralympics Games. I understand the disappointment athletes may face due to these changes, and I encourage you to not let your passion for the sport die as these changes are implemented. I am thankful for the IFSC’s dedication to the growth and professionalism of Paraclimbing internationally and am excited for what the future of Paraclimbing holds.”

Jessica Sparte, Athletes’ Representative on the IFSC Paraclimbing Committee

Olympian Andrea Zorzi makes special appearance at pre-season seminar

The former Italian volleyball star known as Zorro shared his Olympic experiences on the final day of the IFSC Officials Seminar, which looked ahead to the 2020 calendar.

Olympian and former Italian volleyball player Andrea Zorzi joined IFSC officials in Torino, Italy, for the final day of the annual IFSC Officials Seminar, which took place from 14 to 16 February 2020.

The seminar, which is held in advance of each Sport Climbing season to prepare for the upcoming calendar of competitions, officially commenced with a series of welcome addresses from IFSC President Marco Sclaris, Vice-President Toru Kobinata, and General Director Piero Rebaudengo.

Following a debrief of the 2019 season, the focus shifted to the 2020 calendar and, in particular, the implementation of the IFSC Official Sport Equipment Catalogue. Jury presidents, judges and technical delegates were introduced to the new IFSC results system, operated by Vertical-Life, with routesetters reviewing guidelines, tasks and the routesetter career path.

IFSC Multi-Sport Games Director Jérôme Meyer also updated officials on developments ahead of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, with officials nominated for

the Games participating in an additional coordination meeting.

Special guest Zorzi – a three-time Olympian and silver medallist at the Olympic Games Atlanta 1996 – joined the final day of the seminar. Popularly known as Zorro, Zorzi was declared the World’s Best Player by the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball in 1991. The former Italian national team player shared tales of his time as a professional athlete, including his motivations for participating in three editions of the Olympic Games – 1988, 1992 and 1996. He also discussed the development of volleyball over the years, in contrast to Sport Climbing as a young and rapidly evolving sport.

“Mr Zorzi's experience as an Olympian is a great inspiration to our officials – his knowledge of the Games is invaluable.”

Silvia Verdolini, IFSC Sport Director

Below
Torino, Italy,
where the IFSC is
headquartered.



New ways of meeting for the new season

The IFSC held a series of virtual meetings with event organisers to discuss plans and timelines for the 2021 competitions.

In the closing week of November 2020, members of the IFSC Sport Department met virtually with the local organising teams of the 2021 competition season to formally begin preparations ahead of the new year.

With a reduced calendar of competitions having taken place in 2020, conversations covered a range of topics from COVID-19 backup plans and routesetting dates, to sport equipment and the implementation of the new IFSC results system, produced by

Vertical-Life. The IFSC Communications and Marketing departments joined further discussions surrounding branding, broadcasting and media, in addition to the IFSC production team's requirements.

Timelines were laid out in advance of the upcoming season, with a detailed plan prepared for the next steps for each competition, in particular with regard to the health and wellbeing of the athletes and all other stakeholders involved.



Left
Domen
Skofic (SLO).



IFSC successfully launches new results system with Vertical-Life

After being implemented at several international competitions in 2020, the software will be widely used in the 2021 season, including at the World Championships.

In January 2020, Italian-based software developers Vertical-Life met with the IFSC to present and fully install a new database and results system ahead of the 2020 Sport Climbing season.

Despite the eventual disruption to the competition calendar, the Vertical-Life system was successfully launched and tested at a number of international competitions throughout the year, including the IFSC Pan American Championships in Los Angeles, USA, in February and March, and the

IFSC World Cup in Briançon, France, in August. The software is expected to be used more extensively in 2021, providing live results and updates at all World Cup competitions, the Youth World Championships in Voronezh, Russia, and the World Championships in Moscow, Russia.

The IFSC is encouraging Member Federations to implement the system at a national level, underlining its user-friendliness and ease of data entry – features that will bring valuable support to competition judges. By promoting the usage of its new results system, the IFSC aims to drive the progression of National Federations and the growth of Sport Climbing globally, while allowing Vertical-Life to further develop the application.

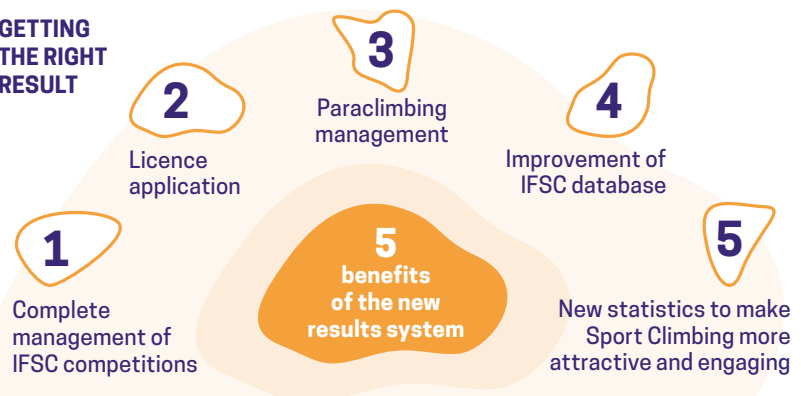
IFSC Sport Director Silvia Verdolini believes the results system will continue to advance in the future, through the help of National Federations.

“We are extremely happy to take our collaboration with Vertical-Life to the next level,” she said. **“They created a complete, effective, and user-friendly application and the tests that we have been able to run so far have been completely satisfying. I’m sure many enhancements will continue to be implemented, and National Federations can play a big role in this.”**

Vertical-Life Product Manager Ben Lepesant added that the updated software will allow National Federations to host elite competitions.

“After two years of development and a successful launch in 2020, we are now ready to support National Federations with an up-to-date, flexible, and stable competition management software solution,” he said. **“It’s our goal at Vertical-Life to support a key stakeholder in the industry in hosting competitions at the highest possible level.”**

GETTING THE RIGHT RESULT



IFSC releases 2020/2021 Official Sport Equipment Catalogue

Now in its second edition, the catalogue is a vital tool in ensuring a fair field of play at all competitions.

The second edition of the IFSC Official Sport Equipment Catalogue (Category: Holds, Macros, and Volumes) was released in December 2020.

First launched in 2019, the catalogue is aimed at providing fair and consistent fields of play at each competition on the IFSC calendar. The IFSC enforces the use of authorised macros, holds and volumes to ensure that each local event organiser is able to deliver the same level of experience for

athletes, officials, broadcasters, spectators and sponsors alike.

A wide range of elements is necessary to guarantee versatile routesetting and a higher standard of competition, with a minimum of three different providers for holds, macros, and volumes required per competition. The catalogue is also in compliance with Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter with regard to the display and sizing of logos on each item of equipment.

AUTHORISED HOLDS PRODUCERS	AUTHORISED MACROS PRODUCERS	AUTHORISED VOLUMES PRODUCERS
AIX	360 Holds	Supper
Cheeta	Agripp Holds	AIX
Geckoking	Art Line	AOT – Atelier Oeuf Trigueros
Qiqi	Cheeta	Blocz
Entre-Prises	Geckoking	Cheeta
Aztec	Qiqi	Geckoking
eXpression holds	Core Climbing	Qiqi
Flathold	Illusion	Illusion
eGrips	Entre-Prises	Entre-Prises
Ibex Climbing Holds	Aztec	Aztec
Kilter	Flathold	Kando Holds
Digital Climbing	Bluepill	Rockcity
Euroholds	Digital Climbing	Squadra
Rock Candy Holds	Rockcity	Skalodrom.Ru
Rockcity	Squadra	Li Feng
Squadra	Skalodrom.Ru	
Lapis	Li Feng	
Skalodrom.Ru	XCULT	
Teknik Handholds		
Li Feng		
Volx Holds		
WATAAAH		

Brands that appear in multiple categories of the catalogue are listed in white

ITA to protect against doping in Sport Climbing

The IFSC teamed up with the International Testing Agency (ITA) in November 2020 to receive neutral anti-doping support in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.



CLEAN WAY TO THE TOP

#KeepingClimbingReal



Established by the International Olympic Committee in 2018 following the approval of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the ITA offers neutral anti-doping services, free from sporting or political influences, to International Federations and other sporting organisations requiring anti-doping support.

In November 2020, the agency based in Lausanne, Switzerland, was contracted to manage the fight against doping in Sport Climbing, assisting the IFSC in fulfilling its duties in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code. As such, the ITA will be responsible for establishing and managing a

organising doping tests outside of competitions, as well as monitoring the whereabouts of athletes within the pool. Applications for Therapeutic Use Exemptions, granted to athletes with an illness or condition requiring them to use a substance listed on the WADA Prohibited List, will also be administered by the ITA.

As part of the partnership, the ITA provided the IFSC with a set of guidelines for the clean sport section of the Federation's website. Working closely to develop this segment with Dr Paolo Orione, IFSC Anti-Doping Officer, the IFSC launched the restructured anti-doping pages prior to the start of the 2021 Sport Climbing season.

Above
Alejandra Contreras (CHI).

New Working Group prioritises safe return to climbing

Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the newly formed Climbing During COVID-19 Working Group put a series of guidelines and measures in place for the return to competition.

Led by IFSC technical delegates Graeme Alderson (GBR) and Fabrizio Minnino (ITA), the Climbing During COVID-19 Working Group was launched in May 2020 with the goal of producing guidelines and recommendations for the restart of Sport Climbing – both in gyms and at competitions – in a safe environment.

The first outcome of the Working Group was a collection of best practices and case studies, made available on a dedicated page of the IFSC website following consultations with the IFSC Medical Commission, Sport Department and representatives of many Member Federations.

As the year unfolded, the Climbing During COVID-19 Working Group met regularly and continued conversations with the IFSC Athletes' Commission, Medical Commission, Technical Commissions and other experts.

"I want to express my personal gratitude, and that of the IFSC, to all those who committed themselves to overcoming this challenge," said IFSC President Marco Scolari in May 2020. **"The light is at the end of the tunnel and we are doing everything in our power to be ready when the time to climb again comes. Any additional resources from Member Federations are welcome and will contribute to the goal of the Working Group, so I invite them all to share with us."**

Thanks to the efforts of the Working Group, an addendum to the IFSC Rules was published prior to the first World Cup of the 2020 season in Briançon, France. The addendum impacts not only the IFSC Rules, but also the Event Organiser Handbook, implementing instructions for social distancing, the use of masks and other measures to produce a COVID-safe competition.



MEMBERS

Graeme Alderson (GBR)
Co-Chair

Fabrizio Minnino (ITA)
Co-Chair

Shauna Coxsey (GBR)
Athletes' Representative

Wolfgang Wabel (GER)
IFSC Executive Board
Member

Working Group proposes format for Paris 2024 new event

Boulder and Lead will separate from Speed in a stand-alone event at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, with the IFSC working to develop the new format.

In June 2019, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session unanimously approved the proposal to include Sport Climbing on the programme of the Olympic Games Paris 2024. With four medal events proposed for Paris – one per gender in Speed and one per gender in a collective Boulder & Lead event – the IFSC formed a new Working Group in 2020, tasked by the IFSC Executive Board to prepare a model for the two-discipline format.

Chaired by IFSC Vice President Kobinata Toru, the Working Group prepared two potential models ahead of the IOC Executive Board’s final decision on the Paris 2024 sports programme in December 2020:

1. A ranking-based model that would multiply each athlete’s rankings from the two disciplines for a combined score. Similar to the three-discipline Combined event on the programme for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the lower the score, the better the ranking.
2. A performance model that would produce a combined score based on each athlete’s overall performance in Boulder and Lead.

The scores from each discipline would be converted using a points system, with the points then added for a total score. In this model, a higher score correlates to a better result.

In addition to analysing the scoring systems associated with other disciplines at the Olympic Games, the Working Group has conducted a thorough comparison of the two models by simulating results using past competition data and consulting with a range of experts.

A decision on the format to be used at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 is expected to be made in mid-2021.

“It was fantastic to have the support of a vast number of people to discuss such an important topic,” said Vice President Toru.

“We hope that the Boulder and Lead format is welcomed by all of our stakeholders and we wish for it to be a great success at the Olympic Games in Paris.”

Chair of the Working Group:
Kobinata Toru (JPN)

Working Group members:
Piero Rebaudengo (ITA); Silvia Verdolini (ITA); Jérôme Meyer (FRA); Sean McColl (CAN); Ievgeniia Kazbekova (UKR); Charlotte Durif (FRA); Vincent Caussé (FRA); Graeme Alderson (GBR); Fabrizio Minnino (ITA); Adam Pustelnik (POL); Hiroshi Okano (JPN); Tim Hatch (GBR); Tjil Smitz (BEL); Heiko Wilhelm (AUT); Sebastian Powell (CAN); Qingfu Wang (CHN); Lumír Návrat (CZE); David Macià (ESP); Damien You (FRA); Zoe Spriggins (GBR); Urs Stoecker (GER); Davide Manzoni (ITA); Hiroshi Yasui (JPN); Sanga Kim (KOR); Evgeniy Chernyshev (RUS); Luka Fonda (SLO); Kevin Hemund (SUI); Marc Norman (USA).



Right
Valentina Aguado (ARG).

Surge in registrations prompts new competition framework

A Working Group has been tasked with creating a sustainable Sport Climbing competition structure.

More than 30 of the IFSC's 95 Member Federations currently send athletes to compete at world cups on a regular basis, with each federation receiving five quota places per gender and discipline, and the host country gaining an additional five places. Athletes in the top 10 of the World Ranking, also per gender and discipline, are automatically prequalified to compete in each IFSC World Cup.

With this in mind, and considering the rapid rate at which athlete registrations have increased in recent years – Speed World Cup

Above
Allison Vest
(CAN).

Chair of the Working Group:
Kobinata Toru (JPN)

Working Group members:

Piero Rebaudengo (ITA); Silvia Verdolini (ITA); Alessandro Di Cato (ITA); Sean McColl (CAN); Ievgeniia Kazbekova (UKR); George Stainton (RSA); Anthony Seah (SGP); Mario Lechner (AUT); David Sanders (NZL); Pablo Hilewski (VEN); Andrew Wilson (CAN); Evgeniy Chernyshev (RUS); Li Guo Wei (CHN); Marc Norman (USA); Shinji Mizumura (JPN); Vincent Caussé (FRA); Burgi Beste (GER); Tim Hatch (GBR); Tiji Smits (BEL); Graeme Alderson (GBR); Reino Horak (NOR); Malek Taleb (CAN); Ying Cheng (CHN); Matt Ornes (USA); Ben Lepesant (LUX).

registrations increased by 200 per cent from 2016 to 2019, for example – the XVI IFSC Plenary Assembly in November 2020 voted to approve the Event Quota Structure.

The structure allows for a targeted selection of athletes and an efficient qualification system across competitions, therefore reducing the number of participants by qualifying only the best-performing athletes, while still allowing access to all Member Federations. A reduced athlete quota and tiered competition framework was proposed in the structure, which is to be developed by the IFSC World Ranking Task Force and Working Group.

Due to the unusual and unpredictable competition seasons during the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFSC Sport Department recommended postponing the implementation of the Event Quota Structure until the 2022 season, concerning the collection of points, with restricted quotas to come into effect the following year.

Subsequent to the approval of the Plenary Assembly, the Working Group has been tasked by the IFSC Executive Board to recommend a World Ranking system that will work in synergy with the Event Quota Structure.

Chaired by IFSC Vice President Kobinata Toru, the group discussed a competition structure that will develop Sport Climbing in line with the IFSC Strategic Plan. An intermediate level of competition will allow athletes, officials, and event organisers to progress from a national level towards that of a World Cup, creating increased opportunities to progress for all stakeholders.



INSIDE THE IFSC



IFSC organises in-writing Assembly to approve key items

The XV IFSC Plenary Assembly gathered virtually in May, following the postponement of the in-person meeting.

The XV IFSC Plenary Assembly met on 29 May 2020 in-writing to vote on three key items: the minutes of the XIV IFSC Plenary Assembly in March 2019, the 2019 Audit and Financial Reports, and the 2020 Budget, all of which were approved.

A total of 37 Member Federations voted before the deadline of 26 May, with a majority of 19 votes being required for approval.

The Plenary Assembly was held in-writing to allow Member Federations to vote on the shortlisted items, despite the postponement of the previously scheduled in-person Plenary Assembly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Right
Adam Ondra
(CZE).

KEY OUTCOMES

Approval of the minutes of the XIV IFSC Plenary Assembly in March 2019

Approval of the 2019 Audit and Financial Reports

Approval of the 2020 Budget

IOC and ASOIF Presidents open historic IFSC Plenary Assembly

Presidents Thomas Bach and Francesco Ricci Bitti praised the IFSC for its continued work, and reaffirmed their excitement at Sport Climbing's inclusion on the Olympic sport schedule.

Originally scheduled to be held in Limassol, Cyprus, on 13 and 14 March 2020, the XVI Plenary Assembly of the IFSC was held virtually on 13 and 14 November 2020, with over 100 delegates representing more than 60 Member Federations connecting from around the world.

The opening session of the Assembly began with a video message from International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach. In his message, the IOC President congratulated the IFSC and its delegates for overcoming the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and their ability to organise a virtual congress.

“We have seen over the past weeks and months that whether in sport or in life, we are always stronger together. This is why we are happy to have such reliable partners, like the IFSC, at our side,” Bach told the congress.

IFSC President Marco Scolaris, IFSC Secretary General Debra Gawrych and IFSC General Director Piero Rebaudengo led the discussion from the IFSC headquarters in Torino, Italy, with IFSC staff members alternating on the virtual podium to present the work completed during the previous 18 months. An online chat function was available for attendees who wanted to comment or ask a question.

The session also saw three candidates present their bids for the organisation of the 2023 IFSC Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships. The President of the Swiss Alpine Club, Françoise Jaquet, presented a bid from Swiss capital Bern, which emerged victorious after securing 28 votes from IFSC members. Seoul, South Korea, received nine votes while Chongqing, China, received seven votes.

The World Championships are the headline competition on the IFSC calendar and take place every two years. The last edition in 2019 was held in Hachioji, Japan.

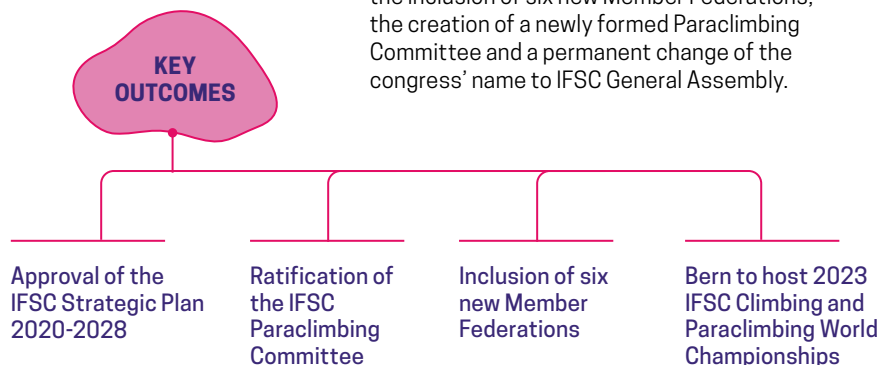


Above
(Left to right) IFSC Secretary General Debra Gawrych, IFSC President Marco Scolaris, and IFSC General Director Piero Rebaudengo.

The second half of the two-day Assembly was opened by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) President Francesco Ricci Bitti, who recalled the pleasure of welcoming the IFSC as an associate member in 2017 during a video message.

“You are contributing to the evolution of the Olympic Games in terms of feelings with young people. Your sport is a very young one, even urban, and so your future is bright. Good luck and enjoy having a successful meeting today,” Ricci Bitti said.

The XVI IFSC Plenary Assembly also ratified the inclusion of six new Member Federations, the creation of a newly formed Paraclimbing Committee and a permanent change of the congress' name to IFSC General Assembly.



Financial Report 2020

Thanks to continued growth and the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) support, the IFSC had a largely positive year financially.

Despite the unfavourable circumstances of a year blighted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFSC's financial results for 2020 were positive, not only due to additional revenues from the IOC contribution and major sponsorship and broadcasting deals, but also thanks to the prudent management of expenditures.

New internal financial policies were released to enhance the use of resources and support more consistent and efficient administrative and financial operations.

The Executive Board compensation policy, previously based on the number of attended meetings and events, was temporarily revised for the 2020 season to recognise involvement in IFSC activities in the absence of physical meetings.

MAJOR VARIATIONS FROM 2020 APPROVED BUDGET

The main changes from the 2020 Approved Budget can be summarised as:

- **IOC funds/COVID-19 contribution:** Around 30 per cent of the funds were used in 2020 to maintain IFSC structural functions, otherwise affected by the decrease in activities and relevant revenues, and to cover delayed payments of Member Federations and endemic partners. More than 10 per cent of the contribution was assigned to designated funds aimed at supporting sport development projects, in accordance with the approved Strategic Plan. The remaining portion of the donation was earmarked to cover potential crises in the future and the insolvency of debtors.
- **Sponsorship and broadcasting rights:** Dentsu's payment of the second instalment of the 2020 fees, cautiously not included in the budget, was finally confirmed. Costs for commissions

increased proportionally as the basis of calculation is a percentage of the revenues.

- **Competitions in 2020:** Income generated by competitions in 2020 – calendar, registrations, and athletes' licence fees – was slightly higher than expected thanks to the confirmation of the World Cup in Briançon, France, and four Continental Championships. Increased expenses for related operations were also reflected in costs.
- **Financial adjustments:** The exchange difference of the non-Euro bank accounts balance was calculated as of 31 December 2020. Solutions to mitigate future risk are currently under evaluation.

PROVISIONS AND OPERATING FUNDS

The profit generated as a result of the operating revenues described above – partnerships, broadcasting rights, competitions – has been allocated to provisions for risk and the operating fund. Additionally, a total of €70,000 EUR, corresponding to accounts receivable prior to 1 January 2020, has been allocated to the provision for bad debts.

AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of commercial accounting as set out in the Swiss Code of Obligations (Art. 957 to 963 CO). The 2020 statements were audited by Dr Andrea Barabino, who received a four-year mandate from the IFSC Plenary Assembly in 2017. Furthermore, the IFSC Executive Board appointed Ernst & Young (EY) as its External Auditing Firm for additional certification. The Board will also propose the appointment of EY as the auditor for the 2021 financial year at the 2021 General Assembly.

AIRENTI & BARABINO
STUDIO TRIBUTARIO AZIENDALE E SOCIETARIO
ASSOCIAZIONE PROFESSIONALE

Report by the statutory auditor to the Plenary Assembly
2021 of
IFSC - International Federation of Sport Climbing

As statutory auditor, I have audited the accompanying profit & loss statement and balance sheet of IFSC – International Federation of Sport Climbing for the year ended December 31, 2020.

The result of my audit is that, in my opinion, the above financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Federation as of 31st December 2020 in all material respects, and of the results of its operations for the year then ended, in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted for non-profit organizations.

I planned and performed my audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.
I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

The Board is responsible for the presentation of these financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control, relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

My responsibility is to express an opinion based on my audit. I confirm that I meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Torino, 3/3/2021

The Auditor in charge

Andrea Barabino



Balance sheet

International Federation of Sport Climbing As at 31 December 2020

	31 DEC 2020	31 DEC 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable (net of provision for bad debts)	203,551.54	328,934.60
Deferred expenses	22,689.61	-
Cash		
Cash On Hand	1,826.83	1,846.06
Crédit Suisse-checking USD	259,678.67	851,541.78
Crédit Suisse-checking CHF	267,945.04	93,508.77
Crédit Suisse-checking EUR	2,475,879.25	216,688.49
Fineco-checking	2,397.42	6,935.19
Genius Card	6,398.93	2,078.30
Paypal	3,184.42	3,153.52
UniCredit Credit Card	1,095.13	678.87
UnicreditCard Business Easy 1008	3,446.64	2,643.83
UnicreditCard Business Easy 9667	1,741.90	-
Unicredit-checking	84,528.45	53,582.61
Total Cash	3,108,122.68	1,232,657.42
Cash - Continental Councils		
IFSC Asian Council - Crédit Suisse-checking	69,395.90	-
IFSC European Council - Unicredit-checking	90,191.63	92,470.39
IFSC Pan American Council - Crédit Suisse-checking	8,519.58	-
Total Cash - Continental Councils	168,107.11	92,470.39
Total Current Assets	3,502,470.94	1,654,062.41
Fixed Assets		
Property & Equipment		
Computer Equipment	31,879.03	19,535.97
Office Equipment	12,345.41	12,226.32
Total Property & Equipment	44,224.44	31,762.29
Total Fixed Assets	44,224.44	31,762.29
Intangible Assets		
IFSC Identity - Trademark	7,571.68	7,756.16
Total Intangible Assets	7,571.68	7,756.16
Other Assets		
Long-term Investments	200,000.00	200,000.00
Total Other Assets	200,000.00	200,000.00
Total Assets	3,754,267.06	1,893,580.86

BALANCE SHEET

International Federation of Sport Climbing

	31 DEC 2020	31 DEC 2019
Liabilities & Equity		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	271,999.38	420,323.67
Accounts Payable to be received	47,973.17	-
Deferred Revenues	416,824.22	-
Provisions for risk	50,000.00	-
Total Current Liabilities	786,796.77	420,323.67
Non-current Financial Liabilities		
COVID-19 Bridge Loan	332,963.37	-
Total Non-current Financial Liabilities	332,963.37	-
Designated Funds		
Development Funds	228,725.40	-
IOC Contribution Fund	850,000.00	-
Total Designated Funds	1,078,725.40	-
Operating Fund		
Operating Fund, including current year result	1,259,316.11	1,176,791.78
Total Operating Fund	1,259,316.11	1,176,791.78
Equity		
Member Funds	296,465.41	296,465.41
Total Equity	296,465.41	296,465.41
Total Liabilities & Equity	3,754,267.06	1,893,580.86

Profit and Loss

International Federation of Sport Climbing For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
Operating Revenues		
Administration		
Annual Fee	183,500.75	171,895.00
Golden Members	5,000.00	35,000.00
Interest Income	0.60	1.97
Total Administration	188,501.35	206,896.97
Continental Councils		
Continental Members Fees	7,695.65	10,867.05
Total Continental Councils	7,695.65	10,867.05
IOC Funds		
IOC Annual Funds	70,223.48	68,736.50
IOC Funds / Covid-19 Contribution	587,876.56	-
Total IOC Funds	658,100.04	68,736.50
Marketing & Communications		
Broadcasting Rights	541,970.72	902,023.85
Sponsorship	645,455.82	1,146,574.51
Total Marketing & Communications	1,187,426.54	2,048,598.36
Olympic Preparation		
IOC & TOCOG Funds for the Olympic Preparation	194,493.55	143,562.20
Total Olympic Preparation	194,493.55	143,562.20
Sport		
Appeal	280.00	1,120.00
Athlete Licence	29,365.00	91,595.00
Calendar Fees	103,200.00	502,884.42
Official Sport Equipment	56,317.47	164,445.12
Registration Fees	4,350.00	223,600.00
Total Sport	193,512.47	983,644.54
Total Operating Revenues	2,429,729.60	3,462,305.62

PROFIT AND LOSS

International Federation of Sport Climbing

	2020	2019
Operating Costs		
Administration		
Administration Department travel expenses	7,562.31	12,179.56
Bank costs	2,819.14	6,639.47
Board Expenses		
Board Expenses / Indemnity & Per Diem	61,929.13	58,333.01
Board Expenses / Travel Expenses	27,675.35	86,512.23
Total Board Expenses	89,604.48	144,845.24
Hospitality	5,852.44	12,405.82
Insurance	40,355.62	36,783.97
International Representation & Governance	15,761.32	5,183.48
IT (general operations)	5,039.09	-
Legal	105,139.90	96,395.77
Membership Fee / International Associations	5,624.44	5,411.41
Office expenses and administration	91,994.24	80,626.41
Salaries & Social Charges		
Net Salaries	398,947.50	380,676.91
Taxes and Social Charges	333,830.15	155,670.84
Severance Pay	32,758.62	-
Total Salaries & Social Charges	765,536.27	536,347.75
Sustainability	5,017.43	-
Total Administration	1,140,306.68	936,818.88
Anti-Doping		
Anti-Doping	21,672.90	39,478.38
Total Anti-Doping	21,672.90	39,478.38
Commissions		
Athletes Commission	-	897.17
Appeals & Disciplinary Commission	487.50	2,198.34
Ethics Commission	2,000.00	825.60
Total Commissions	2,487.50	3,921.11
Continental Councils		
Continental Councils Return Fees	7,794.24	10,867.17
Total Continental Councils	7,794.24	10,867.17
Marketing & Communications		
Communication Department travel expenses	18,325.68	70,979.42
Corporate Communication	36,146.14	59,484.09
Digital tools	82,306.01	30,500.00
Media Relations and Tools	7,786.52	43,430.00
Promotion	253,967.04	231,082.69
Webcasting	112,890.25	458,316.41
Website	1,528.30	8,028.00
Total Marketing & Communications	512,949.94	901,820.61

PROFIT AND LOSS

International Federation of Sport Climbing

	2020	2019
Olympic Preparation		
Olympic Preparation / Bid & Promotion	-	3,325.04
Olympic Preparation / Consultants Travel Expenses & Meetings	16,909.38	43,429.08
Olympic Preparation / Consulting	142,323.81	138,687.71
Olympic Preparation / Development Projects	-	9,204.00
Olympic Preparation / Events	49,725.67	88,756.48
Total Olympic Preparation	208,958.86	283,402.31
Paralimning Commission		
Paralimning Activities	372.50	24,397.25
Total Paralimning Commission	372.50	24,397.25
Sport		
Competitions		
Event preparation meetings	4,820.38	7,985.52
Judges & JP	11,172.58	53,140.75
Routesetting	57,055.76	203,993.49
Solidarity	2,360.59	11,900.00
Technical Delegates	6,010.54	24,816.04
Trophies	4,839.62	5,289.59
World Championships	-	359,119.00
Total Competitions	86,259.47	666,244.39
SD Administration		
Licencing (expenses)	4,091.19	20,824.86
SD Administration - IT tools	89,731.73	59,523.25
Sport Department Consultancy	-	13,282.00
Sport Department travel expenses	10,813.36	31,321.06
Total SD Administration	104,636.28	124,951.17
Total Sport	190,895.75	791,195.56
Total Operating Costs	2,085,438.37	2,991,901.27
Gross Operating Profit	344,291.23	470,404.35

PROFIT AND LOSS

International Federation of Sport Climbing

	2020	2019
Non-Operating Revenues		
European Council - Income	19,163.37	69,027.19
Pan-American Council - Income	9,181.76	-
Asian Council - Income	72,577.18	-
Total Non-Operating Revenues	100,922.31	69,027.19
Non-Operating Costs		
Asian Council - Expenditures	(40.23)	-
European Council - Expenditure	(21,442.13)	(42,217.79)
Pan-American Council - Expenditure	(40.23)	-
Depreciation Expense	(12,712.29)	(8,407.60)
Total Non-Operating Costs	(34,234.88)	(50,625.39)
Financial Adjustments		
Foreign Currency Gains and Losses	(137,954.33)	5,065.00
Total Financial Adjustments	(137,954.33)	5,065.00
Allocation / Use Operating Fund & Provisions		
Allocation to Operating Fund / Provisions	(273,024.33)	(450,782.96)
Allowance for Bad Debts	-	(43,088.19)
Total Allocation / Use Operating Fund & Provisions	(273,024.33)	(493,871.15)
Net Profit	-	-



HOVER

ULTRALIGHT HARNESS

In 2020, we launched one of the most lightweight climbing harnesses on the market—Hover. Only 200g, it is featherlight, comfortable and flexible, ideal for rock climbing and ice climbing where every gram counts.

77% lighter Made of ultralight, high-molecular polyethylene, its magic loop is 77% lighter than traditional belay loop without compromise on strength.

40% stronger Rated 30kN, its belay loop is 40% stronger than traditional belay loop. (CE requirement for the belay loop is 15kN and most brands make belay loops at 20kN.)

Custom design Kailas offers custom harnesses in a variety of colors and sizes. You can put anything you like to get your own custom harness!



Integrated construction The Magic Belay Loop features an integrated construction that improves strength and eliminates overlap of stitching webbing, offering maximum safety and comfort.

MAGIC BELAY LOOP
Weight: 4.6g
Strength: 30kN
Integrated construction

TRADITIONAL BELAY LOOP
Weight: 19.7g
Strength: 22kN
Non-integrated construction





Above
Molly Thompson-Smith (GBR).



Latest ASOIF review certifies IFSC growth and improvement

ASOIF President Ricci Bitti congratulated the IFSC on its progress achieved in recent years.

Published on 16 June 2020, the third governance review of full and associate members of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) placed the IFSC in group B – the third of four tiers in which the highest achievable level is A1.

The evaluation for the 2020 ASOIF review took the form of a self-assessment questionnaire that International Federations completed between November 2019 and January 2020, followed by an independent review of the responses. The questionnaire consisted of 50 measurable indicators covering five principles or sections: transparency, integrity, democracy, development, and control mechanisms.



The IFSC was also mentioned in a list of examples of good governance practices, specifically with regard to:

- **Organisational structure;**
- **Term limits for elected officials;**
- **Representation of stakeholders; and**
- **Equal opportunities to participate at the General Assembly.**

In addition to progressing from group C to group B, the IFSC greatly improved its performance compared to the report published in 2018, moving from a moderated score of 73 to 127, thanks to significant advancements in all five areas.

“A lot of progress has been achieved over the past years and the overall trend is clearly positive,” said ASOIF President and Governance Task Force Chair Francesco Ricci Bitti after the release of the review. **“Certain reforms take longer to be implemented as they require changes to the statutes or the approval of the General Assembly. The results we are sharing today are a snapshot of the current commitment of our members.”**

“We are very proud of being the highest-ranked Federation among the associate members,” commented IFSC General Director Piero Rebaudengo. **“A lot of work was still in progress at the time of the moderation in February 2020, and we’re confident that the IFSC, with its governance and staff, will continue to positively evolve in the future.”**

The Sport Climbing family keeps growing

In 2020, seven new National Federations joined the IFSC, increasing the total number of Member Federations to 95, in 93 different countries and territories.

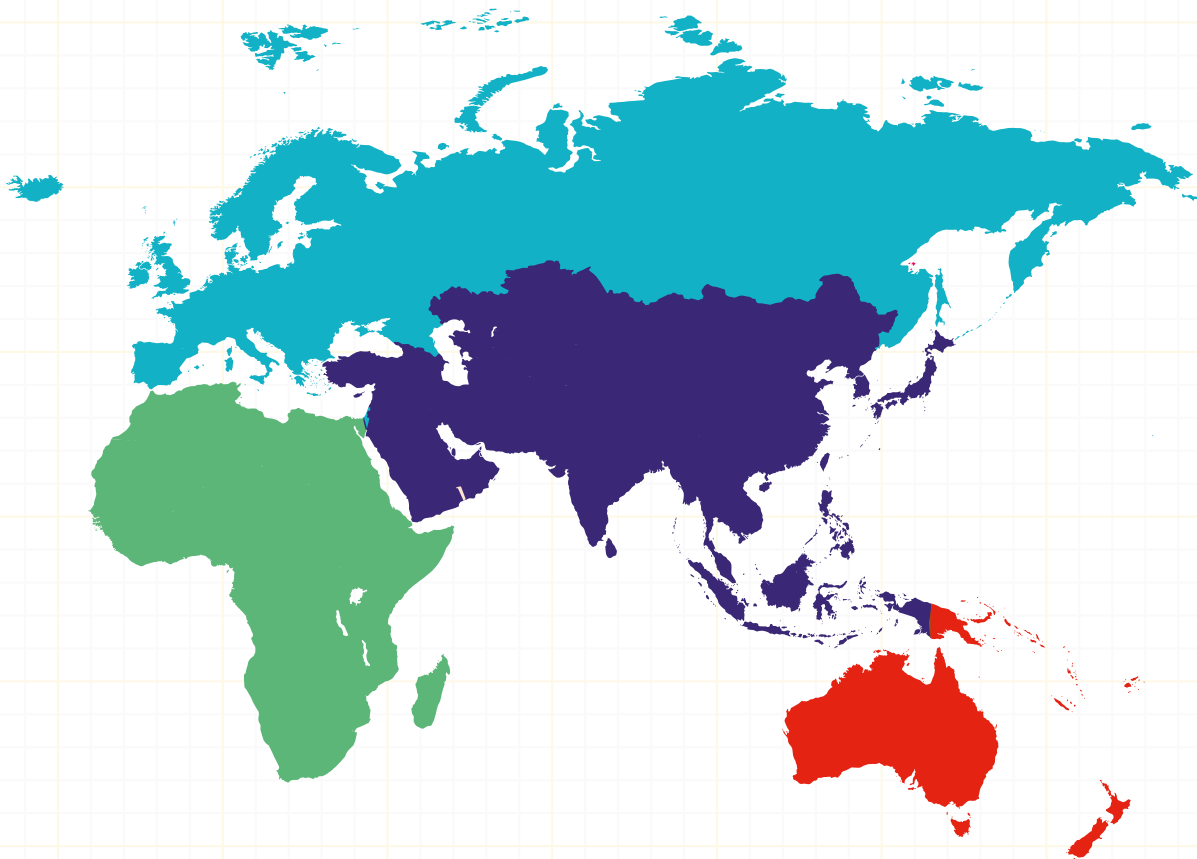
Six of the new Member Federations were ratified by the XVI IFSC Plenary Assembly: two continental members – Sport Climbing Fiji (SCF) and the Uganda Sport Climbing Federation (USCF) – and four full members: Malta Sport for All (MSFA); Mauritius Sport Climbing Federation (MSCF); Nepal Climbing Sport Association (NCSA); and Saudi Climbing and Hiking Federation (SACHF).

Finally, on 10 December 2020, the Executive Board of the IFSC approved the inclusion of the Federación Puertorriqueña de Escalada (FEDPR), representing Puerto Rico.



■ **Pan America, 17:**
Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Canada;
Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica;
Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala;
Honduras; Mexico; Panama; Peru;
Puerto Rico; United States of
America; Venezuela.

■ **Africa, 8:**
Algeria; Botswana; Cameroon;
Mauritius; Rwanda; Senegal;
South Africa; Uganda.

**■ Europe, 43:**

Andorra; Armenia; Austria; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Belgium; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Georgia; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Hungary; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Malta; Netherlands; North Macedonia; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Russia; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; Ukraine.

■ Asia, 23:

Cambodia; Chinese Taipei; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran; Japan; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Macau, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; China; Philippines; South Korea; Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Uzbekistan.

■ Oceania, 4:

Australia; Fiji; New Caledonia; New Zealand.



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WALL SUPPLIER FOR
IFSC COMPETITIONS

IFSC Climbing World Cup Villars 2019 - © Photo : Eddie Fowke

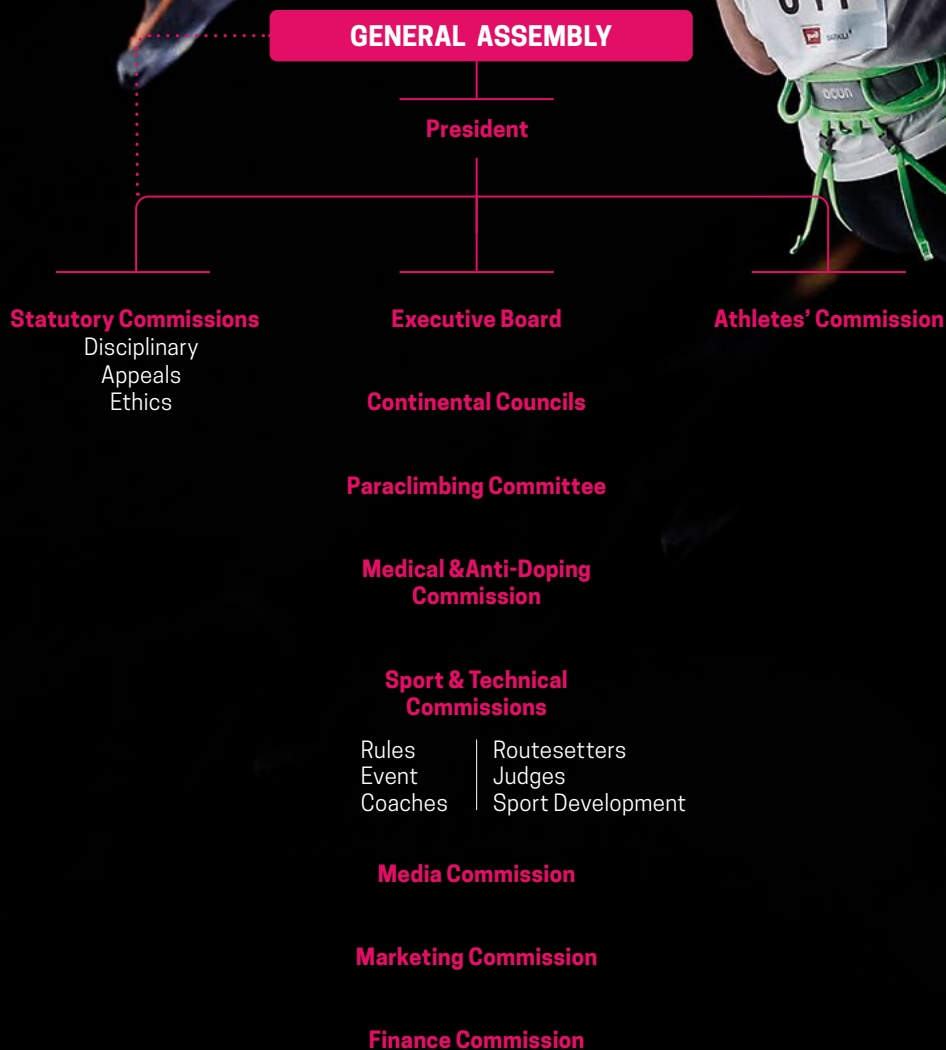


**WALL SUPPLIER FOR
 INTERNATIONAL
 COMPETITIONS**



**LOCAL PRESENCE
 AND PARTNERS
 AROUND THE WORLD**

IFSC STRUCTURE



Above
(Left to right) Marcin Dzienski (POL) and Anze Peharc (SLO).

IFSC EXECUTIVE BOARD

IFSC President:

Marco Maria SCOLARIS (ITA)

IFSC Secretary General:

Debra GAWRYCH (USA)

IFSC Vice President Sport/

Events: Kobinata TORU (JPN)

IFSC Vice President

Communications: Zhixin LI (CHN)

IFSC Vice President Treasurer

and Finances: Pierre-Henri

PAILLASSON (FRA)

Athletes' Representative:

Sean MCCOLL (CAN)

Athletes' Representative:

Shauna COXSEY (GBR)

Asian Council Representative:

Anthony SEAH (SGP)

European Council

Representative:

Wolfgang WABEL (GER)

Oceanian Council

Representative:

Romain THEVENOT (AUS)

Pan American Council

Representative:

Maria IZQUIERDO (CAN)

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IFSC ASIAN COUNCIL

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Secretary General:

Ding XIANGHUA (CHN)

1st Vice President:

Somboon

UTHAIVANKHUL (THA)

Vice President Treasurer:

Francis LO SHU-CHUNG (HGK)

Vice President East Asia:

Frederick YU KA-CHI (HGK)

Vice President South East Asia:

Jaka HIDAYAT

Vice President South Asia:

Deebas BIKRAM SHAH (NEP)

Vice President West Asia:

Mahmoud HASHEMI (IRI)

Vice President Project:

Rasip ISNIN (SGP)

Athletes' Representative:

Jaha KIM (KOR)

IFSC EUROPEAN COUNCIL

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Wolfgang WABEL (GER)

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Secretary General:

Colin KNOWLES (GBR)

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Alain CARRIERE (FRA)

Member:

Evgeniy

CHERNYSHEV (RUS)

Athletes' Representative:

Charlotte DURIF (FRA)

Auditor:

Dr Cristian FEDERICI (ITA)

IFSC OCEANIAN COUNCIL

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Vice President Sports:

Philippe

BOQUET (New Caledonia)

Secretary:

David SANDERS (NZL)

Treasurer:

Naomi CLEARY (AUS)

Member:

Pierre CAUBERT

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Member:

Sarah HAY (NZL)

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Vice President Sport

Development:

Pablo HILEWSKI (VEN)

Vice President

Communications:

Rogelio ALVARADO (PAN)

Vice President Events:

Meder VALDEZ (GUA)

Treasurer:

Peter

TORCICOLLO (USA)

Member:

Marcello

ROMILLO (ARG)

Member:

Martin LASCANO

GONZALEZ (ARG)

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APPEALS COMMISSION

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TRAINA (ITA)

Member: Ian FULLAGAR (AUS)

ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION

President: Renato

NICOLAI (ITA)

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

President: Sean MCCOLL (CAN)

Vice President:

Shauna COXSEY (GBR)

Speed Representative:

Anna TSYGANOVA (RUS)

Speed Representative:

Dmitrii TIMOFEEV (RUS)

Boulder and Lead

Representative:

Ievgeniia KAZBEKOVA (UKR)

Boulder and Lead

Representative:

Gregor VEZONIK (SLO)

Boulder and Lead

Representative:

Jakob SCHUBERT (AUT)

Boulder Representative:

Kokoro FUJII (JPN)

Boulder Representative:

Kyra CONDIE (USA)

Speed Representative:

Stanislav KOKORIN (RUS)

Appointed by the IFSC

President: Charlotte DURIF (FRA)

DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

President: Ian ALDERSON (GBR)

Member: Sarun LORHIPAT (THA)

ETHICS COMMISSION

President: Marc

LE MENESTREL (FRA)

PARACLIMBING COMMITTEE

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Athletes' Representative:

Jessica SPORTE (USA)

Expert:

Sian SPENCER (AUS)

Expert:

Wayne GEAREY (USA)

Coaches' Representative:

Rotem JACOBS (ISR)

Coaches' Representative:

Naoya SUZUKI (JPN)

Routesetters' Representative:

Christophe CAZIN (FRA)

MEDICAL COMMISSION

Director: Dr Eugen

BURTSCHER (AUT)

Member:

Davide

BATTISTELLA (ITA)

Member:

Dr Phil GOEBEL (AUS)

Member:

Dr Anil GURTOO (INA)

Member:

Dr Tomoyuki

ROKKAKU (JPN)

Member:

Volker SCHOEFFL (GER)

Member:

Armen

TER-MINASYAN (RUS)

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- JUDGES' COMMISSION

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ALTNER (GER)

Member:

Werner

GÄCHTER (AUT)

Member: Bruce MITCHELL (USA)

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

- COACHES' COMMISSION

Director: Zhao LEI (CHN)

Member: Heiko WILHELM (AUT)

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

- ROUTESSETTERS' COMMISSION

Director: Percy BISHTON (GBR)

Member:

Christian BINDHAMMER (GER)

Member:

Romain CABESSUT (FRA)

Member:

Chris DANIELSON (USA)

Member:

Hiroshi OKANO (JPN)

Member:

Matthias

WOITZUCK (AUT)

Additional Member:

Adam

PUSTELNIK (POL)

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

- EVENTS COMMISSION

Director: Evgenii

CHERNYSHEV (RUS)

Member:

Burgi BESTE (GER)

Member:

Emilie GHEUX (FRA)

Member:

Damien

O'SULLIVAN (IRL)

Member:

Urban PRIMOZI (SLO)

Member:

Michael SCHÖPF (AUT)

Member:

Tim VAN DER

LINDEN (NED)

Member:

Marc NORMAN (USA)

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

- RULES COMMISSION

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LEONARDON (FRA)

Member:

Tim HATCH (GBR)

Member:

Jamie YING

CHENG (CHN)

Member:

Stanley YEO (SGP)

Coaches' Representative:

Ellie HOWARD (AUT)

Routesetters' Representative:

Jan ZBRANEK (CZE)

Temporary Member:

Werner GÄCHTER (AUT)

Temporary Member:

Johannes ALTNER (GER)

IFSC STAFF



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



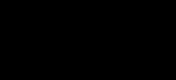
BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



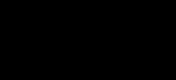
BUENOS
AIRES
2018



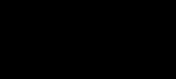
BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



BUENOS
AIRES
2018



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Left
Chair of the IFSC
Ethics Commission,
Professor Marc
Le Menestrel.

Voices of IFSC Leaders

In 2020, an exclusive series of interviews saw IFSC leaders share their thoughts on the future of Sport Climbing.

Professor Marc Le Menestrel, Chair of the IFSC Ethics Commission, interviewed 12 leaders of the IFSC between May and August 2020, enquiring about their backgrounds, roles, challenges, and what they think it takes to enhance performance both on and off the field of play.

The result of these conversations was a document entitled 'Voices of IFSC Leaders', an expression of the powerful and inspiring values of people deeply passionate about and committed to the development of our sport. The document, which is largely a collection of direct quotes from the interviews, highlights the fundamental aspects of the IFSC organisational culture,

objectives, and challenges. Feedback from a questionnaire distributed in 2019 to IFSC Board Members, stakeholders, and officials is also included.

Interviews will continue in 2021 to give all leaders of the sport the opportunity to express their views on the values and future of Sport Climbing. Such work on organisational identity complements the IFSC Strategic Plan 2020-2028, particularly during a period where the future is uncertain, as it helps to define the organisation's core values and goals. Working together will help us become more resilient towards unexpected events and build on our successes.

“Working at the IFSC is really working towards the development of Sport Climbing. We are making history and it is a privilege to live that, to be part of it, to participate in the decisions being taken. This is an amazing journey.”

IFSC continues its support of climbing cancer charity

Despite the pandemic, IFSC Official Charity Climbers Against Cancer (CAC) continued battling cancer in 2020, with over €8,000 EUR donated at the IFSC World Cup in Briançon, France.

Founded in 2013 by the late British climber and IFSC Honorary Member John Ellison, IFSC Official Charity CAC aims to rally together the support and camaraderie of the climbing community to raise awareness of the disease, as well as much-needed funding for cancer research. Following the loss of our beloved friend of Sport Climbing in December 2015, when John sadly lost his battle with cancer, the IFSC vowed to continue its support of CAC.

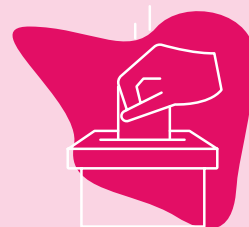
At the sole World Cup of the 2020 season in Briançon, the IFSC proudly distributed 250 face masks featuring the IFSC and CAC logos. In return for the masks, spectators of the Lead World Cup donated a total of €620 EUR to the charity. Also in Briançon, the family of the late Luce Douady, the 16-year-old French athlete who passed away tragically following an accident in June 2020, presented a cheque worth €7,500 EUR to CAC. Ambassador

Sheila McCarron was present at the World Cup to accept both donations on behalf of the charity.

CAC made a donation of £25,000 GBP to the National Cancer Centre of Korea in 2020, following £75,000 GBP of donations the previous year, split between three cancer research institutes in Italy, Singapore and the USA. The charity plans to donate £50,000 GBP to research in Mexico and Germany in 2021.

“You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.”

John Ellison,
22 July 1963 – 27 December 2015.



2020 FIGURES

€620

EUR

donations raised
in Briançon

€7,500

EUR

cheque donated by the
family of Luce Douady

£25,000

GBP

donated by CAC to the
National Cancer Centre
of Korea

Right

(Left to right) The family of the late Luce Douady (FRA), CAC Ambassador Sheila McCarron, FFME President Pierre You, and IFSC President Marco Scolaris.



Sport Climbing campaigns for sustainable future

In line with its strategic vision to make the world a better place through sport, the IFSC published a set of sustainability guidelines in May 2020 and joined Compensaid to offset its carbon emissions.

With issues such as climate change, economic inequality, and social injustice impacting communities across the globe, sustainability is a major challenge not only for the general public, but also for the sporting world. By harnessing the power of sport to motivate and inspire large numbers of people, the IFSC has an opportunity and a duty to actively contribute to global sustainability.

As part of its pledge to make the world a better place through Sport Climbing, the IFSC published a set of sustainability guidelines in May 2020. Produced in close collaboration with Wolfgang Wabel, President of the IFSC European Council, the guidelines provide event organisers and Member Federations with information to maximise the positive environmental, social, and economic impacts that Sport Climbing can have, in particular on the five focus areas outlined by the International Olympic Committee: infrastructure and natural sites, sourcing and resource management, mobility, workforce, and climate.

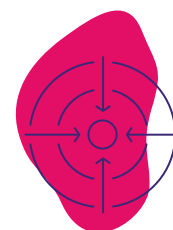
As part of its bid to become more sustainable, the IFSC proudly joined Compensaid in 2020 – a programme that

supports the development and production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). SAF is a synthetically produced jet fuel that, as the first real alternative to fossil jet fuels, reduces CO₂ emissions by up to 80 per cent.

The Federation's first Compensaid payment was made in July 2020, compensating for the CO₂ emitted during flights taken by IFSC staff and officials in the first six months of the year.

“While some of us were already using this system on an individual basis, to mitigate the impact of our travels on the environment we made the decision to allocate a regular, active contribution to Compensaid,” said IFSC President Marco Scolaris.

“Sustainability has always been one of Sport Climbing's pillars and, on top of that, it is part of who we are. A significant example comes from the staff working at the IFSC headquarters in Torino, Italy, who all come to the office by foot or public transportation. Therefore, to be part of this programme is a natural step for the IFSC – a small one, but full of significance.”



5 FOCUS AREAS

- 1 Infrastructure and natural sites
- 2 Sourcing and resource management
- 3 Mobility
- 4 Workforce
- 5 Climate

Above
Zach Galla (USA).



OBSESS SON
OUTDOOR BROADCAST SERVICES



COMMUNICATIONS & TV



Social media statistics continue to soar

The IFSC once again increased its social media followership in 2020, and registered its most viewed video online in November.



AUDIENCE NUMBERS

600,000

combined audience on the big four social media platforms, and Weibo and Douyin:



101,974

(+8,805 compared to 2019)



159,773

(comparison not available)



27,534

(+2,700 compared to 2019)



180,182

(+14,492 compared to 2019)



VIDEOS

2,106,825

hours of video watched on the IFSC YouTube channel

More than **1,000** videos streamed/uploaded on YouTube

78,480 hours of video watched on the IFSC Facebook page



2.6 million

views and more than **230,000** clicks of a video clip of Slovenia's Jernej Kruder on 23 November 2020 - the IFSC's highest-ever engagement with a video on Facebook



7,760

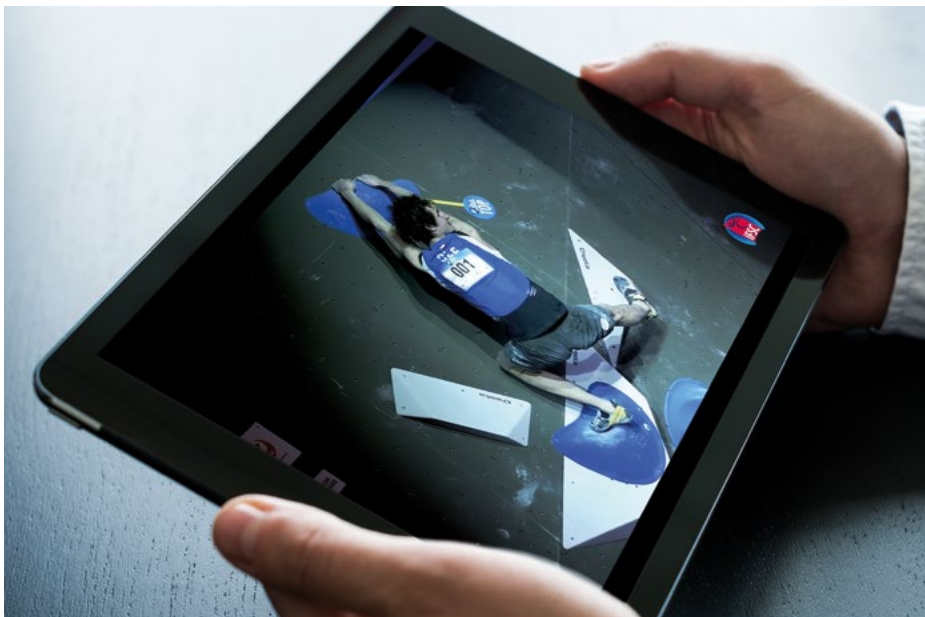


141,000

* Both channels opened in 2020 specifically for the Chinese audience

A fresh approach to audience activation

During the pandemic-disrupted competition season, the IFSC developed new methods to fill the climbing content void on social media, including the first virtual Sport Climbing competition.



With the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupting the 2020 Sport Climbing season, the IFSC was forced to come up with innovative, non-competition related content to engage its audience in new ways.

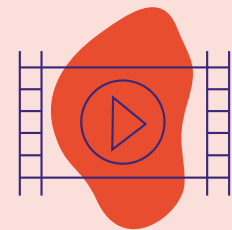
Keeping athletes at the heart of its social media channels, the IFSC focused on athlete-generated content ranging from home training and workout videos to comical clips and motivational messages. Twenty-four episodes of a new IFSC Golden Memories series were released throughout the year, highlighting the past achievements of 24 athletes representing 16 different nations. Czech climbing star Adam Ondra's performance at the IFSC Boulder World Cup Meiringen 2019 received the highest number of YouTube views, with over 22,000, followed closely by Slovenian Janja Garnbret's historical sixth consecutive Boulder World Cup win in Vail, Colorado, USA, in June 2019, with more than 20,000 views.

On Facebook, the competition void was filled with live replays of previous seasons on the IFSC official page, with the Olympic Channel streaming two Sport Climbing events from the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018. Quizzes entertained users on Instagram Stories and Twitter while also testing their knowledge of the history of

the sport. Questions such as "Why do you climb?" were also posed to generate engagement with IFSC followers.

Targeting a previously untapped audience in China, the IFSC made its debut on Chinese social media platforms Douyin and Weibo in May 2020. The channels are managed externally by Shanghai-based media production company Yahao Sports, alongside Dentsu Inc. and Synca Creations Inc., and by the close of 2020 had secured over 100,000 followers and surpassed 1 million views on Douyin – the original version of TikTok – in addition to more than 5,000 followers on the microblogging platform Weibo.

During the unprecedented period in which physical competitions were unable to be organised, the first ever virtual Sport Climbing competition was streamed 'as-live' on Facebook on 2 August 2020. The IFSC Connected Speed Knockout presented by Japan Airlines featured 54 athletes from nine countries competing in seven locations worldwide. The virtual event received over 20,000 minutes of viewing time by the end of 2020 – the fifth most-watched video on the IFSC Facebook page during this period. On YouTube the competition was viewed for over 240,000 minutes, while in China it was watched for 63,000 minutes on Weibo.



VIRTUAL ENTERTAINMENT

24

episodes of IFSC Golden Memories

22,000

YouTube views of Adam Ondra's Golden Memories episode

1 million

views on Douyin

5,000

Weibo followers

20,000

minutes' viewing time of the IFSC Connected Speed Knockout on Facebook

IFSC secures series of .sport domains

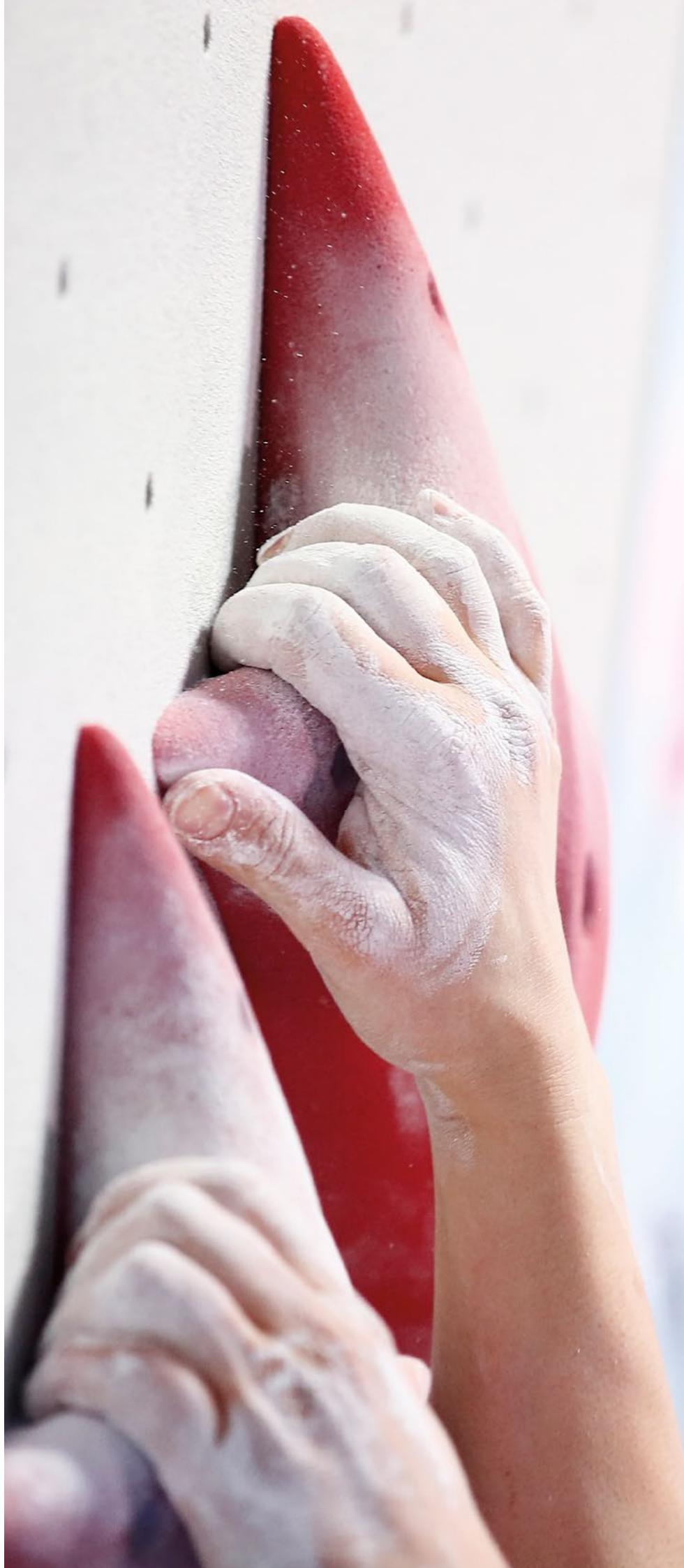
Strengthening its digital brand identity, the IFSC joined over 1,000 sporting bodies in obtaining a unique set of online domains.

The IFSC, in collaboration with the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF), is pleased to announce that it has secured a series of web domains using the .sport domain extension.

More than 1,000 sporting organisations have so far registered to use the dedicated .sport domain, which is operated by GAISF. GAISF's ownership protects the integrity of the extension, ensuring that only fully qualified organisations such as governing bodies, clubs, and businesses can use it. Furthermore, to ensure that domain names ending in .sport are allocated to parties whose role matches the expectations for the respective domain name, every registration must go through a stringent validation process.

By obtaining a series of .sport domain names, the IFSC continues to strengthen its brand identity in the digital world as the global leader of Sport Climbing. Moreover, the .sport domain increases search engine optimisation (SEO) visibility, thus improving the domain's web browser ranking.

The IFSC portfolio features an initial list of domain names including ifsc.sport, ifsc-climbing.sport, and sport-climbing.sport, in addition to an extended group of domains tailored to the IFSC's Member Federations. Should IFSC members wish to use the .sport domains, the IFSC will make them available at a reduced annual fee.



Website work conducted during competition hiatus

The hiatus from hosting Sport Climbing competitions gave the IFSC additional time to review and carry out updates to its website.

With a lack of competitions in 2020 due to the pandemic, the IFSC Communications Department used the surplus time to make both front-end and back-end improvements to the IFSC website.

After a review of the page layouts, changes were made to increase their user-friendliness, make content more readily available, and enhance their overall look and feel. A completely new Member Federations page was launched to replace the previous one, adding additional information and country flags. Other pages updated include those of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, Speed World Record Overview, Anti-Doping, and multiple commissions.

As Paraclimbing is evolving at a rapid rate, three new pages were developed for the sport in July 2020. They include an overview and history of Paraclimbing, details of the sport's development plan, and classification materials. A new page was also created for the Climbing During COVID-19 Working Group



that lists information and resources for a safe return to climbing in both gyms and competitions.

A considerable amount of HTML optimisation work was carried out in the back-end of the website, with coding and tagging made consistent across each individual page, thus improving search engine rankings and ensuring that web browsers display all website content correctly.

**IFSC TEAMS
UP WITH MSM**

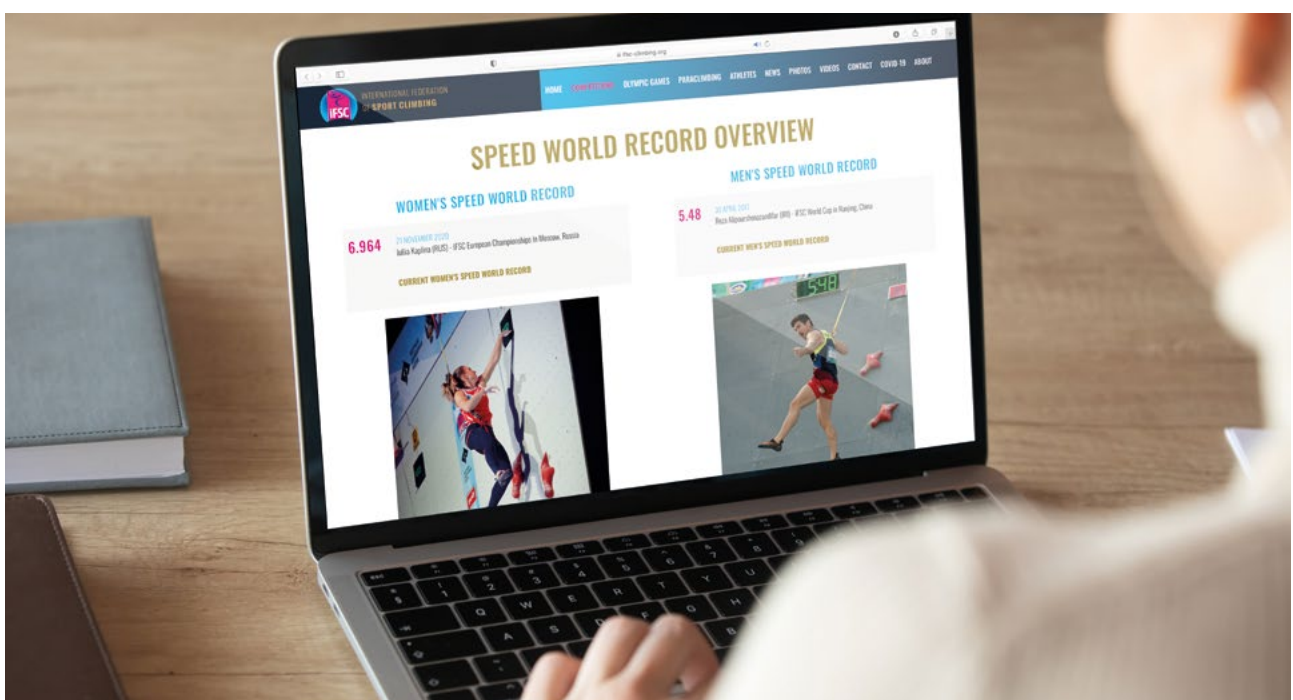


In September 2020, the IFSC was delighted to team up with public relations and communications consultancy firm MSM PR & Communications.

Working with a number of well-known clients in the sporting world, the Lausanne, Switzerland-based agency is labelled as the 'premier boutique PR agency' in the sports industry.

The IFSC is proud to be working closely with MSM, who are providing advisory services in the approach to, during, and after Sport Climbing's long-awaited debut at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Above
Rachel Maia
(NZL).



-  — **AZAM Media**
(Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Ghana, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)
-  — **BBC Online**
(Great Britain)
-  — **Canal+**
(France)
-  — **CBC Online**
(Canada)
-  — **Channel 1** (Israel)
-  — **CTV Sports**
(Czech Republic)
-  — **Dubai Sports Channel**
(Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinian Territories, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Djibouti, Somalia, and Eritrea)
-  — **Eclat**
(South Korea)
-  — **ELTA TV**
(Chinese Taipei)
-  — **ESPN Latin America**
(Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela)
-  — **FreeSports**
(Great Britain)
-  — **FTP**
(Vietnam)
-  — **J Sports**
(Japan)
-  — **K-Vision**
(Indonesia)
-  — **L'Equipe**
(France)
-  — **Match TV**
(Russia)
-  — **NBC Olympic Channel: Home of Team USA**
(USA)
-  — **Olympic Channel**
(International)
-  — **ORF**
(Austria)
-  — **NHK**
(Japan)
-  — **Panam Sports Channel**
(Pan America)
-  — **Premier Sports** (Great Britain)
-  — **RTV**
(Slovenia)
-  — **Sport5**
(Israel)
-  — **SRG/SSR** (Switzerland)
-  — **TVP**
(Poland)
-  — **TV1**
(Indonesia)
-  — **Vidio**
(Indonesia)
-  — **VL Sports**
(Chinese Taipei)
-  — **ZDF/ARD**
(Germany)

Catalogue T20

Official Holds, Macros, and Volumes for Sport Climbing Events at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020

Released in November 2019, Catalogue T20 lists the holds, macros, and volumes selected for Sport Climbing at the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020. All brands are featured as IFSC Authorised Producers within the 2019 Official Sport Equipment Catalogue, which lists manufacturers permitted in IFSC competitions. Catalogue T20 aims to promote fairness within the Sport Climbing competitions at the Games by offering a wide range of predetermined holds, macros, and volumes.

T20 CATALOGUE OFFICIAL HOLDS PRODUCER



T20 CATALOGUE OFFICIAL MACROS PRODUCER



T20 CATALOGUE OFFICIAL VOLUMES PRODUCER





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