



Press Release

04 August 2016

For immediate release

Climbers delighted with Olympic decision

High hopes of a Scottish competitor in 2020 Tokyo Games

Mountaineering Scotland is delighted at the news competition climbing will be included as an event in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The announcement was made by the International Olympic Committee on Wednesday evening at a press conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, following a campaign by the International Federation of Sports Climbing, actively backed by Mountaineering Scotland and the British Mountaineering Council.

David Gibson, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland said: “This fantastic development will be a real boost for Scotland’s young climbers, their coaches, parents and the many dedicated volunteers who make a real difference to the sport.

“Like them, we’re proud that young Scottish climbers have regularly gained podium places in international competitions as members of the GB Team. We feel we’re well placed to compete internationally, due to the development of coaching and training, and our support for our members of the GB Team, over recent years.

Hopes are set on at least one Scottish climber being chosen as one of the 20 men and 20 women who will be competing in Tokyo.

The climbing event in the Olympics will include three elements: lead, speed and bouldering. With most climbers specialising in one of these disciplines, Olympic hopefuls will have to display excellence in all three.

The three climbing disciplines which will feature in the Olympics are:

Lead climbing: Where a roped climber has one attempt at a technically difficult route of 15 metres or more, success being judged by how far he or she climbs before they fall off

Speed climbing: The 100-metres sprint of climbing. Speed climbing is done by pitting two climbers against each other on a 15-metre standard, overhanging route. Fastest to the top wins.

Bouldering: Climbers are allowed a number of attempts on a short but extremely hard route. It may be only five metres high and the winner will be the person who completes the route, without falling, in the least number of attempts.

David added: "Selection for the Olympic event presents an exciting challenge for climbers and their coaches: we believe that will inspire more young people to take up this excellent sport in years to come."

Ends

Notes for editors

Images for this press release are downloadable here.

General caption is: *Competition is already a popular and well supported sport in Scotland.*

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Further information

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About Mountaineering Scotland

- Mountaineering Scotland is the new name for the Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS), which acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- Mountaineering Council of Scotland remains the registered company name.
- Mountaineering Scotland is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland's mountains.
- Mountaineering Scotland is a membership organisation with over 13,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers.
- The MCofS has launched the ClimbScotland initiative to encourage young people to participate in climbing and support their progression. It offers a dedicated website and a development team, which will introduce young people to climbing at schools, climbing walls and via youth organisations with a range of activities and events, while developing kids clubs and providing specialist support to parents, volunteers and teachers.
- The MCofS is the national governing body for sports climbing. It offers pathways to climbing coaching, organises and promotes a range of regional and national climbing competitions, and manages the Scottish climbing and bouldering teams. It contributes to the management of the GB teams with the ultimate aim of seeing a Scottish athlete achieve a podium position in the Olympic Games.
- The MCofS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP