



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF **SPORT CLIMBING**
www.ifsc-climbing.org



OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SPORT CLIMBING: SPORT CLIMBING IS HERE: IFSC GOT A TICKET FOR TOKYO 2020 OLYMPICS

Sport Climbing was one of the eight sports shortlisted by the Tokyo 2020 Additional Event Programme Panel. On August 7-8 2015, they presented their bid in Tokyo. Today begins a new era for Sport Climbing as it is officially proposed as a new sport for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games by the Tokyo 2020 Additional Event Programme Panel.

An honor and a recognition

"It is a great honor to have been chosen. We thank the Tokyo 2020 Additional Event Programme Panel for this fantastic opportunity and the recognition within the Olympic Movement. Of course, there is still a long way to go, and all of us at the IFSC are deeply committed to meeting the challenges ahead. Together with our athletes and the National Federations, we are reaching new heights", says Marco Sclaris, the IFSC President.

It is also the recognition of the tremendous growth of Sport Climbing in recent years. Worldwide, the sport counted 25 million climbers in 2013, while in 2015, figures are estimated at 35 million. 50% are under 25 years of age, thanks to the latest trend of urban/action sports.

A perfect reflection of the Olympic values

On August 7-8, IFSC and JMA (Japanese Mountaineering Association) representatives met the Tokyo 2020 Additional Event Programme Panel and joined forces to show that Sport Climbing perfectly embodies the Olympic Movement and its core values, as well as its youth appeal and popularity in the Japanese society.

Sport Climbing can be practiced anywhere. It's a worldwide sport, enthusiasts are present in a huge number of countries. It's a sport for the young, popular and also good for developing strength, flexibility and analytical skills. As a competitive sport, events can be held in spectacular venues for breathtaking shows, inciting intense emotions in the spectators. Last but not least, it represents the only basic human movement not yet included in the Olympic Games. Sport Climbing brings the missing vertical dimension to the world's most prestigious sport event.

A bright future for Sport Climbing in Japan

Recent years have seen an impressive growth of climbing gyms in Japan. The country is fostering a lively and vibrant climbing community and several world-class athletes, in both senior and youth categories.

"Now more than ever, we are convinced that Sport Climbing would be the perfect complement to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games program, and be a source of inspiration to the 500,000 Japanese climbers and all the spectators who will discover this sport in real conditions" says Yagihara Kunio, JMA President.

Preparing for the next step

The IFSC is now fully dedicated to the next steps that will take to the final decision at the 129th IOC Session in Rio in August 2016. Until then, the IFSC will continue to work with the Athletes and the National Federations to reinforce and improve its organization to prove the solidity of this choice.



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VIDEOS

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/ifscchannel>

PHOTOS

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