

The logo for the Climbing Wall Association (CWA) features the letters 'CWA' in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below it, the words 'CLIMBING WALL' and 'ASSOCIATION' are stacked in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, enclosed within a dark blue rounded rectangular shape. The background of the entire page is a photograph of an indoor climbing gym with a red and grey wall and several people, including a woman climbing and two men watching.

CLIMBING WALL
ASSOCIATION

Climbing Wall Association

PRS Certification Standards

April 2024

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PRS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STANDARD

Responsible Position: CWA

Date Created: 2024

Date Last Revised: February 2024

STATEMENT OF STANDARD

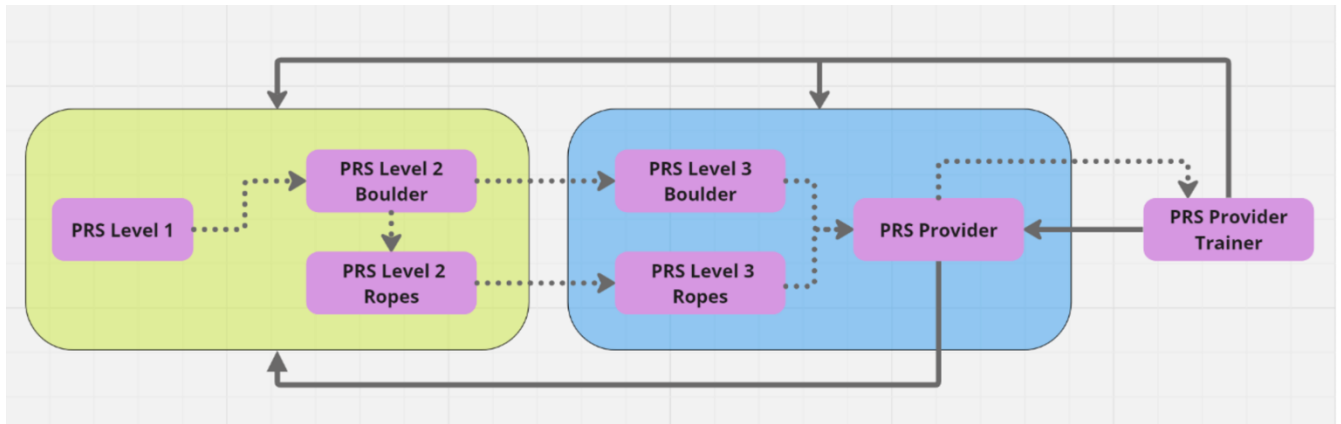
The **mission** of the PRS Certification Program is to:

- Create and maintain quality guidelines, training programs, and resources.
- Monitor and share industry information, trends, and progress.
- Educate climbing facilities on the value of certification and training for routesetters and the contributions and professionalism of routesetters.

The scope of the PRS Program Standard is climbing facility routesetting practices and skills. Specifically, the scope includes the following areas:

- Impart knowledge routesetters need to provide quality product
- Industry Practices for indoor climbing facilities
- Use of PPE appropriate for routesetting
- Risk Management principles in route design and construction
- The role of routesetters within the scope of climbing facility operations

PROFESSIONAL ROUTESETTING (PRS) CERTIFICATION PATHWAY



Key to the Graphic

- The dotted line represents the certification required as a prerequisite to the next certification.
- The solid line represents who does the training for the certification level.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

PRS Introduction to Routesetting

All prospective candidates are eligible to complete the CWA Introduction to Routesetting through the CWA website.

PRS Level 1 Certified

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Ability to demonstrate and understand climbing movement up to V2
- Can lift 50 pounds (25 kg)
- Complete CWA Introduction to Routesetting
- Willing and able to work on a ladder

Recommended: 50 hours of setting experience, but not required.

PRS Level 2 Boulder

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older

- Ability to demonstrate and understand climbing movement up to V4
- Completed PRS Level 1

150 hours of setting experience suggested, but not required.

PRS Level 2 Ropes

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Completed PRS Level 2 boulder
- Ability to demonstrate and understand climbing movement up to 5.10
- WAH Level 1 (or concurrently enrolled)

150 hours of setting experience suggested, but not required.

PRS Level 3 Boulder

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Ability to demonstrate and understand climbing movement up to V4
- Have completed PRS Level 2 Boulder
- 600 hours of setting experience

PRS Level 3 Ropes

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Ability to demonstrate and understand climbing movement up to 5.10
- Have completed PRS Level 2 Ropes
- WAH Level 2
- 600 hours of setting experience

PRS Providers

- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older
- Ability to demonstrate and understand climbing movement up to V4-V6 and 5.10-5.12
- PRS Providers have completed and are certified CWA PRS Level 3 Boulder and Ropes
- WAH Level 2
- First Aid certification from a course of 5.5-6 hours
- 2000 hours of setting experience with instructional or management experience

PRS Provider Trainers

- Assess alternative pathway and/or reciprocity requests for prospective CWI candidates.
- Maintain regular attendance at CWA PRS Certification Standards Committee meetings.
- Work in collaboration with the Certification Standards Committee members reporting any challenges, concerns with content, content delivery and course logistics.
- Abide by the rules governing certification outlined in the CWA Certification Program Policy Manual.
- Offer PRS and PRS Provider certification courses and assessments.
- Complete the certification course administration requirements for candidates in the certification program.
- Review resources and tools, develop resources and/or deliver instruction and assessment for prospective PRS programs and offerings.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The common responsibilities of those involved in the PRS Certification program are outlined below:

- Act in accordance with the certification's scope.
- Maintain the requirements of certification as outlined in the Certification Program Policy Manual.
- Comply with PRS Certification Standard practices as outlined in the student manual and the CWA Routesetting Guide.
- Use equipment that meets the CWA Certification Standard for setting activities.
- Cultivate a setting environment that reinforces risk management, trust, and learning.
- Use WAH appropriate practices when setting.

PRS Introduction to Routesetting

- Obtain practical routesetting experience.

PRS Level 1

- Work on a setting team under direct supervision.

PRS Level 2 Boulder

- Use appropriate communication skills with stakeholders (clients, facility employees, owners, operators).
- Demonstrate sound judgement and follow risk management strategies.
- Work on a setting team.
- Participate in forerunning on boulders.

PRS Level 2 Rope

- Use appropriate communication skills among the stakeholders (clients, facility employees, owners, operators).
- Demonstrate sound judgement and follow risk management strategies.
- Work on a setting team.
- Participate in forerunning on roped routes.

PRS Level 3 Boulder

- Use appropriate communication skills among the stakeholders (clients, facility employees, owners, operators).
- Demonstrate sound judgement and implement risk management strategies
- Supervise a team setting bouldering routes.
- Participate in forerunning on boulders.
- Prepared for apprenticeship as a head routesetter for a bouldering facility.

PRS Level 3 Rope

- Use appropriate communication skills among the stakeholders (clients, facility employees, owners, operators).
- Demonstrate sound judgement and implement risk management strategies.
- Supervise a team setting roped routes.
- Participate in forerunning on roped routes.
- Prepared for apprenticeship as a head routesetter.

PRS Providers

- Enroll prospective PRS Level 1, 2 and/or 3 candidates in the online learning course.
- Pay the course fee on behalf of the candidates required at the time of enrollment.
- Answer questions PRD candidates may have regarding online content.
- Clearly communicate and manage the course logistics.
- Conduct assessment of prospective PRS Level 1 and 2 certificants.
- Deliver activities allowing PRS Level 1 and 2 registrants to demonstrate they can meet or exceed the minimum standard for certification.
- Record the results of assessment in the online learning course assessment tool, along with any personal notes regarding the course delivery. Personal notes may help the Certification committee and/or the CWA in reviewing the certification decision if a review is required.
- Abide by the rules governing certification outlined in the CWA Certification Program Policy Manual.

PRS Provider Trainers

- Confer certification to PRS Certification Standards candidates meeting the minimum certification standards.
- Complete the certification course administration requirements for candidates in the certification program.
- Maintain regular attendance at CWA PRS Certification Standards Committee meetings.
- Use the CWA provided assessment criteria when reviewing candidates for PRS Level 3 Ropes, Boulder and Provider certification.
- Work with the CWA in the course delivery and documenting the assessment results of the registered candidates.
- Work in collaboration with the Certification Standards Committee members reporting any challenges, concerns with content, content delivery and course logistics.
- Abide by the rules governing certification outlined in the CWA Certification Program Policy Manual.

ROUTESETTING PROGRAM CERTIFICATION

The Routesetting Standards can be found within the Routesetting Guide. This document can be found on the CWA website.

CONTINUING EDUCATION AND RENEWAL

Certifications expire after a three-year period. Renewal of certification can occur in the following ways:

- Retake the PRS certification process in its entirety
- Participate in the PRS renewal course

Continued professional development and practice is recommended for certified Work at Height technicians. However, practical skills review by a certified PRS Provider or Provider Trainer is required to maintain certification.

RELATED DOCUMENTS, FORMS, AND TOOLS

- The CWA Industry Practices
- The WAH Student Manuals
- The CWA Certification Program Policy Manual
- The CWA PRS Provider Program Manual
- PRS Routesetting Guide
- Activity Planning Tool
- PRS Assessment Tools for each level of certification

NOTE: Employees should have awareness and training for any specific facility Emergency Action plan



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