



## New Sport of The World Games: Competition Climbing

After the 2002 IWGA Annual General Meeting voted to admit the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation (UIAA) as a new member and the Duisburg Organizing Committee agreed to have competition climbing included in The 7th World Games 2005, UIAA officials expressed their satisfaction.

“I appreciate the confidence of the IWGA members and assure them that competition climbing will do The World Games proud”, declared UIAA President Ian McNaught-Davis to the delegates gathered in Colorado Springs, USA, on November 22, 2002.



Ian McNaught-Davis

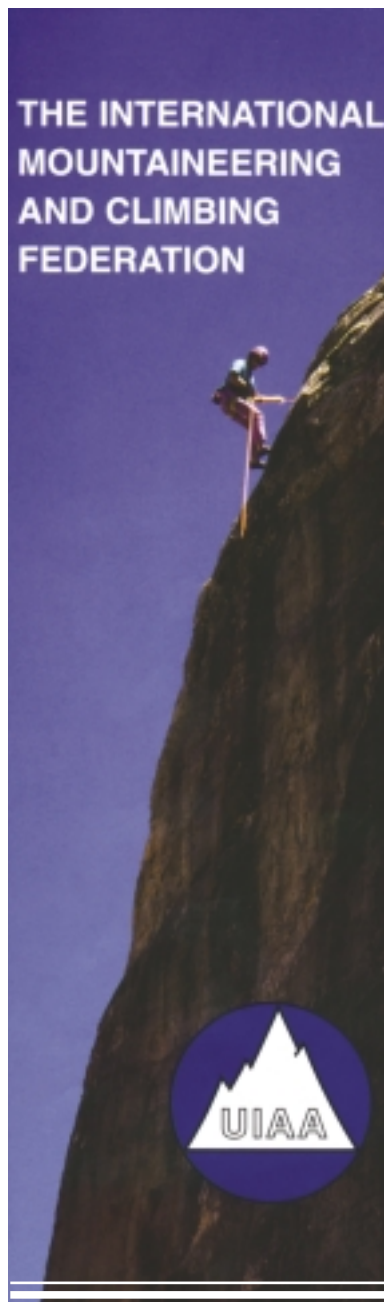
The Secretary General of the UIAA International Council for Competition Climbing (UIAA-ICC), Reindert Lenselink, was equally sincere: “The result of the vote was expected. Still, it is fantastic for it to be confirmed that competition climbing will be part of The World Games 2005 Duisburg.”

## UIAA

As the UIAA joins the ranks and files of the IWGA, and as competition climbing’s première in The World Games is just two years and five months away, it’s time for THE WORLD GAMES FORUM to take a closer look at both.

From its inception in 1857, the *Alpine Club* fostered fraternizing among climbers from both sides of the Alps and led – through a series of

increasingly international congresses – to the emergence of a worldwide mountaineering organization: **Union Internationale des Associations d’Alpinisme**, the International Union of Mountaineering Associations .



Formally founded in Chamonix, FRA, in 1932, UIAA is currently made up of 88 member federations (1932: 18 members) and administers all forms of mountaineering which have

developed over the course of nearly two centuries: ascents, expeditions, extreme forms of skiing ... and competition climbing.

## Competition Climbing

One of the most prolific mountaineers of all times, George Ingle Finch, who reached 8’200 meters on Mount Everest in 1922, is frequently quoted on this topic: “Mountaineering is not a sport, but a way of life!”



The UIAA, too, professes in its policy papers that mountaineering’s mechanisms are *in search of spiritual objectives* – that the sport should never be defined as *mere quest of achievement* alone. Every ascent is *a form of renascence for those who undertake it*, the climber’s *act of faith depending on the exploration of his or her self*.

There appears to be at least some contradiction between the above and term competition climbing. After all, this sport pits one climber against another in order to determine the winner. It consists of completing the most problems on the wall – without the benefit of ropes (*Bouldering*), of ascending higher on the wall than the opponents (*Difficulty*), and of all-out racing to the top of the wall (*Speed*). Highest and fastest man or woman wins; and yes, the athletes are required to use ropes for *Difficulty* and *Speed*!

