



COLLEGIATE MOUNTAIN BIKE

★★ **NATIONAL** ★★
CHAMPIONSHIPS

GRAND JUNCTION, CO

TECHNICAL GUIDE



NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

COLLEGIATE MOUNTAIN BIKE | GRAND JUNCTION, CO
OCTOBER 7-11, 2026

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The Grand Junction Sports Commission is pleased to welcome back USA Cycling and all of the top collegiate riders for the 2026 Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships! We are honored to host the nation's best teams and athletes again at the beautiful Powderhorn Mountain Resort. It's truly our privilege to support this event and showcase everything that makes Grand Junction a great place to live, work, and play.

Nestled between the red rock canyons of the Colorado National Monument and the alpine forests of the Grand Mesa, Grand Junction boasts an unmatched combination of world-class biking trails, breathtaking scenery, and small town hospitality. Whether you're here to compete for the stars and stripes jersey or cheer on your favorite rider, we hope you'll take time to discover all that western Colorado has to offer.

Mountain biking isn't just a sport here; it's part of our identity. With countless miles of intense singletrack, legendary trail systems, and a wide range of landscapes to explore, Grand Junction has quickly become one of the country's top mountain biking destinations. From the technical and challenging climbs of Lunch Loops, the flowing rides of Kokopelli or 18 Road, and the gravity-fueled descents at Powderhorn Mountain Resort, there is truly something for every rider. Beyond the trails, enjoy vibrant downtowns filled with locally owned restaurants, classic Colorado craft breweries, boutique shops, local art, and much more. Explore nearby wineries and orchards in Palisade, take in the stunning views of the Colorado National Monument, or experience the mountain bike paradise of Fruita.

Hosting the USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships is more than an event for our community; it's part of our culture. We are grateful to USA Cycling, the dedicated volunteers, sponsors, and community partners whose hard work has made this championship possible.

From our team to yours, race hard, race fast, and most importantly, enjoy your time in western Colorado!

The Grand Junction Sports Commission

Ben Snyder
Executive Director



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Race Staff

Tori Trice—Project Director
Tobin Behling—Race/Technical Director
Art Daves - Production Director
Valecia Frasier—Operations Manager
Kyle Knott - USA Cycling, Director of National Championships
Vanessa Drummond—USA Cycling, Collegiate Manager
Sabrina Potter - USA Cycling, Marketing Manager
Liz Reardon—USA Cycling, Events Service Manager
Eric O'Connell—Announcer
Ainslie MacEachran—Announcer
Jon Gallagher—One2Go Timing
Devon Alvarez—One2Go Timing
John Jett—One2Go Timing
John Delay—Operations
Jeff Lee—Operations
Earl Walker—Operations
Frank Sotomayor—Operations

Officials

Jurgen Heise—Chief Commissaire
Cath Jett—Chief Judge
Nicholas Rossi—Assistant Judge
Julie Renquin—Race Secretary
David Fowkes—Commissaire
Cyndi Smith—Commissaire

Local Organizing Committee

Ben Snyder - Grand Junction Sports Commission - Executive Director
Sam Smith - Grand Junction Sports Commission - Operations Coordinator
Kate Ellyson - Grand Junction Sports Commission - Marketing Coordinator
Ryan Robinson - Powderhorn - Assistant General Manager
Teanna Allen - Powderhorn - Marketing & Sales Supervisor
Troy Meyeraan - Powderhorn - Director Mountain Operations
Jerome Gardner - Powderhorn - Manager Ski/Bike Patrol
Kressen Piper - Powderhorn - Marketing Specialist
James Miller – Powderhorn - Bike Shop Supervisor
Austin Roberts – Powderhorn - Ski/Bike Patrol Supervisor
Kim Jennings – Powderhorn - Guest Services Supervisor



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EVENT INFO

VENUE ADDRESS

48338 Powderhorn Rd, Mesa, CO 81643

WEBSITE

<https://mtbnats.usacycling.org/coll-mtb>

TRAVEL PLANNING

Grand Junction Travel Planning: <https://www.grandjunctionsports.org/triptips>

AIRPORTS

Grand Junction Regional Airport (GJT): 39 miles

Montrose Airport (MTJ): 65 miles

MEDICAL

Intermountain Health - St. Marys Regional Hospital: 40 miles

2635 N 7th St, Grand Junction, CO 81501

REGISTRATION INFO

[LINK HERE](#)

Onsite registrations must be completed by 12pm the day prior to competition.

No day of registrations will be accepted.

ELIGIBILITY & RULES

[LINK HERE](#)

All riders wishing to race in downhill must check if they need to qualify before registering.

For how to qualify, please reference this Eligibility & Rules document.

EVENT SCHEDULE

[LINK HERE](#)

USA CYCLING RULE BOOK

[LINK HERE](#)

CLOTHING

Riders must follow USAC cycling clothing regulations for collegiate teams.



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DOWNHILL (DHI) INFORMATION

The race registration fee for DHI includes lift tickets for course inspection, practices and racing. Coaches lift tickets are available through online registration. Spectator lift tickets are available on site.

All racers are **REQUIRED** to take one walking course inspection and at least two downhill practice runs prior to seeding. Racers not meeting these requirements will not be allowed to race.

Start lists and Call-Up: Start lists and call-ups will be posted as soon as possible, after registration closes the day before competition or after seeding. All start lists will be posted online.

Re-runs will only be granted for those riders already on course when a medical or other course hold occurs. These riders must report to the official at the finish line to request the re-run. Re-runs will not be granted to faster riders blocked by slower riders. Slower riders are expected to yield to faster riders.

DUAL SLALOM INFORMATION

Athletes are encouraged to inspect the dual slalom course at the earliest opportunity. Practices with gate use are indicated in the schedule. Practicing outside of scheduled timeframes will result in disqualification.

Qualification/Bracketing

Riders will complete a qualifying run in each lane on a first-come basis. They will be seeded based on the combined time from both runs. Please note that the penalty during qualifying runs for missing gates, false starting, etc. is disqualification (see USAC Rule 8G4). Maximum bracket size at National Championship Dual Slalom events is no greater than round of 32 (USAC Rule appendix B1).

In bracket competition, riders will be timed by differential (at the finish) with a maximum differential time of 1.5 seconds. Riders on the top of the bracket will assume the red/right lane first and will take one run on each course. Riders will advance based on differential time. Ties are broken by the second run winner (Rule 5E2(f-ii)).

XCO/XCC/TEAM RELAY INFORMATION

Athletes are encouraged to inspect the XCO/XCC/Team Relay courses at the earliest opportunity. Practice times are indicated in the schedule. Only team soigneurs and mechanics are allowed in the Feed Zone, no spectators. Staging/Start/Finish/Feed-Tech Zone for riders will be located near the resort lodge area. More information on Team Relay can be found in the Rules & Eligibility Document.



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PARKING

General parking will be offered on-site at no charge.

Team and rider parking will be available at the base of the mountain at Powderhorn Resort

TEAM VEHICLES & TRAILERS

To reserve your team parking area at Powderhorn, you must email Vanessa Drummond no later than October 1, 2026 with your needs, vehicle and trailer descriptions, and desired arrival schedule. Space is limited, and will be assigned and marked out by the Race Staff.

There will not be power options for those bringing RV's or buses. Please plan on providing your own power source. All generators used to power larger vehicles may be run between 9:00 am – 8:00pm

AWARDS

All awards ceremonies will be held on site at the venue. In case of inclement weather, awards will be held in the main lodge. Refer to the event schedule for award ceremony times.

Men's and Women's individual race winners and team relay will be 5 deep. Individual and team omnium standings will be awarded 3 deep. All winners are required to participate in the award ceremonies. No bikes will be allowed on the podium during the ceremonies. All racers shall appear wearing only team/club racing clothing identical to that worn in the competition. In cold or inclement weather, team issued outerwear may be authorized.

PRIZES

No Prize money will be awarded at Collegiate Mountain Bike Nationals

MEDICAL

Powderhorn Resort Mountain Patrol and Intermountain Health will be providing medical support for all races. Medical tents can be found near the finish lines adjacent to the main lodge building.

MECHANICAL SUPPORT

Neutral Support will be onsite and location will be announced in Communique #1



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RESULTS

Results will be available online live via my.raceresults.com. The protest period is 15 minutes after the race has concluded, after which time they become FINAL. Final results will be posted to the USA Cycling website.

RADIOS

While riding in training or competitions, riders may not use radios, telephones, or other communication devices. No earpieces may be worn. Audio playback devices are forbidden.

NUMBER PLATES

Riders must display number plates at all times on all courses for practice and race sessions. All coaches of riding on the courses will be required to sign a waiver and pick up a “coach” plate at registration. Plates must be displayed on bikes at all times.

EQUIPMENT

All riders are required to wear a securely buckled helmet when on a bike, per USAC Rule 1J1. Riders competing in the downhill and dual slalom races are required to wear full-face helmets, per USAC Rule 1J2

Maps

Maps will be posted on the USA Cycling National Championship website for this event on Monday, October 5th - the day after Powderhorn Resort Bike Park closes for the season.



SEVERE WEATHER GUIDELINES

When looking at weather conditions, the safety of the athletes, spectators, staff, and volunteers is the utmost priority. While often providing an additional challenge, adverse weather in its extremes may result in hypothermia, heat exhaustion or other dangerous conditions. In preparation for the upcoming Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships, USA Cycling and our host, Powderhorn Resort, have created the following plan to help mitigate any weather-related risks while respecting the unique racing conditions of the sport.

In the case of severe weather, the following group would be empaneled to make decisions regarding the conduct of the race(s):

Kyle Knott - USAC Director of National Championships
Vanessa Drummond - USAC Manager of Collegiate Cycling
Jurgen Heise - Chief Commissaire
Ben Snyder - Local Organizing Committee
Teanna Allen - Powderhorn Resort
Ryan Robinson - Powderhorn Resort
Tobin Behling - Technical/Race Director
Art Daves - Production Director
Tori Trice - Project Director

CONVENING THE PANEL

- * This panel would be immediately convened under the following circumstances and will refer to the "Crisis Communications Plan"
- * A NOAA special weather statement is issued for the race venue.
- * Severe cold/heat and/or wind anticipated within 72 hours.
- * Freezing rain, heavy snow or other threatening precipitation is forecast.
- * Other atmospheric conditions that could affect the health and welfare of athletes, spectators, staff, and volunteers.
- * Road / Trail conditions, travel and transportation to and from the venue, poses danger to volunteers, staff, spectators, or athletes.
- * Other onsite event, such as a major medical incident or protest

Any member of the panel is empowered to request that the group convene based on conditions out-side of those mentioned above.



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ACTIONS

The following actions may be taken based on the forecast and conditions:

- * No direct action/monitor situation
- * Modification of the course
- * Change of start times (e.g. later starts when warmer or precipitation has stopped)
- * Combining of classes and categories
- * Shortening of individual races
- * Change of start date
- * Cancellation

In addition to the above actions affecting race participants, the following actions may be considered in relation to spectators, staff and volunteers:

- * Increased medical staffing
- * Warming/cooling areas provided
- * Decrease in shift times/exposure
- * In the event that a DH final cannot be completed or run, the seeding results will be considered the final results.

These lists are not exhaustive, and may be used in combination or separately on different days or at different times.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Status updates, and if needed revised schedules, will be communicated to the affected parties through a variety of methods:

- * Posting at the venue at pre-designated notice areas.
- * An e-mail update will be sent directly to registered athletes/participants by USA Cycling
- * USA Cycling will utilize its social media platforms to provide outreach to spectators and volunteers
- * Venue announcements will be used in the case of on-site modifications and notifications, using Public Address System and posted materials at Race Office/Awards Stage.
- * Credentialed media will be provided with updates through USA Cycling communications staff
- * Relay to parking staff as well as post on boards throughout the venue.



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Event Information - Doping Control

This event is subject to doping control. All athletes at this competition are subject to drug testing conducted by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and/or the International Federation (IF) under an in-competition testing program. This section is intended to give an overview of the key points relevant to this program and the testing that can be conducted at the event.

What substances are prohibited?

As a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code, USADA tests for substances and methods found on the World Anti-Doping Agency Prohibited List. It's important that athletes are aware of the substances and methods on the [Prohibited List](#), as an athlete subject to testing is responsible for any prohibited substance found in their body, regardless of intent. It's also important to understand that certain substances are prohibited at all times, while others are prohibited only during the competition period. In some cases, some substances are only prohibited in a certain sport.

What about medications?

Athletes need to be aware of the prohibited status of any medication they are taking, whether it be an over-the-counter or prescription medication. The easiest way to check the status of an athlete's medication is to use USADA's [Global DRO](#) service, which allows athletes to search for generic and name brand products, as well as specific ingredients. Given that the Prohibited List changes each year and medication formulations can also change, it's important for athletes to regularly check the status of their medications.

It's also important to understand that dietary supplements are not medications. They are regulated and manufactured differently, which means that USADA is unable to provide guidance on the safety and efficacy of specific dietary supplement products. If an athlete chooses to use dietary supplements in spite of the risks, athletes can reduce their risk by using only third-party certified products. For more information, visit USADA's [Supplement Connect](#) resource.

Athletes or their support team can also speak to an expert by phone during business hours by calling (719) 785-2000 and selecting option 2.



What if I need to take a prohibited medication?

In some situations, an athlete may have an illness or condition that requires the use of a medication listed on the World Anti-Doping Agency's Prohibited List. A Therapeutic Use Exemption or TUE provides permission for an athlete to have a prohibited substance in their body at the time of a drug test. The process for obtaining a TUE is thorough and balances the need to allow athletes access to critical medication while upholding clean athletes' rights to compete on a clean and level playing field. TUE requirements also vary based on the competition level of the athlete and nationality.

If an athlete is diagnosed with a medical condition requiring treatment with a prohibited substance or method, they should **apply for a TUE as soon as possible, but at least 30 days prior to an event or competition**. U.S. Athletes interested in obtaining a TUE should visit USADA's [TUE page](#). International Athletes should contact their National Anti-Doping Organization if they are a national-level athlete, or their International Federation if they are an international-level athlete.

How will I be notified of testing?

This drug testing program allows for athletes to be selected for testing at a competition (in-competition testing) without any advance notice. Athletes will be notified of their selection for doping control by a Doping Control Officer (DCO) or a notifying chaperone. At the time of notification, the athlete will be informed of their rights and responsibilities during the sample collection process and will be asked to provide photo identification.

What does the sample collection process include?

Athletes selected for testing are subject to both blood and urine testing. The processes are designed to be both effective in preserving the integrity of the sample, yet as safe and comfortable for the athlete as possible. Understanding the processes, as well as an athlete's rights and responsibilities, can help to make the sample collection process less intimidating. For example, athletes will be required to provide a urine sample of 90 mL under direct observation of a DCO or a witnessing chaperone of the same gender. There are additional considerations for minor athletes and athletes with impairments. Most notably, minor athletes are encouraged to be accompanied by a representative of their choice.

Learn more about the sample collection processes [here](#).



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What if an athlete is returning to sport from retirement?

Under the rules, athletes who were previously eligible for out-of-competition (no-advance-notice) testing before [officially retiring](#) have a six-month waiting period before they can compete (should they choose to return to competition) and must again be subject to out-of-competition testing during this reinstatement period. The athlete is not permitted to compete in any USA Cycling sanctioned events or UCI sanctioned events. If you have an athlete in this situation, please email AthleteConnect@USADA.org. F

Additional Resources

Athletes can also visit USADA's [Anti-Doping 101 page](#) to find more important information for athletes, coaches, family members, and other athlete support people.



MAAPP/SAFE SPORT

Athlete safety and well-being are of the utmost importance to USA Cycling. To help create and foster a safe environment that is free from misconduct and abuse at all USA Cycling events, please review USA Cycling's Safe Sport Program [Policies](#), including reporting [requirements](#) and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies ([MAAPP](#)). All Participants at USA Cycling sanctioned events must abide by these policies.

Prohibited Conduct

All participants at this event are expected to refrain from engaging in Prohibited Conduct as defined by the US Center for SafeSport [Code](#). Prohibited Conduct includes but is not limited to the following: sexual misconduct, emotional misconduct, physical misconduct, bullying, harassment, hazing, and violations of the [MAAPP](#).

These policies have been adopted by USA Cycling to establish clear boundaries between participants in cycling and to reduce isolated one-on-one interactions between minors and adults in cycling. These policies apply during all USA Cycling events, including before, during, and returning from the event: [One-on-One Interactions](#); [Meeting & Training Sessions](#); [Athletic Training Modalities](#); [Locker Rooms](#); [Transportation](#); [Lodging](#); [Electronic Communications](#).

Reporting Requirements

Adult Participants are required to report violations of USA Cycling's Safe Sport Program, including violations of the [MAAPP](#). The mandatory reporting requirements apply to adult participants, however, USA Cycling encourages anyone who becomes aware of or experiences misconduct or abuse to report those allegations via the links provided below. While USA Cycling is committed to providing a safe environment for all participants, the organization can't address behaviors or problems it is unaware of, so your engagement in reporting is instrumental in ensuring safety for all.

Report suspected or known incidents of *sexual misconduct* directly to the US Center for SafeSport: <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/>

Report *other forms of misconduct*, including physical misconduct, emotional misconduct, and MAAPP violations, to USA Cycling: <https://usacycling.org/safesport/report-other-misconduct>