



# GRAVITY MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA

with MONSTER ENERGY PRO DOWNHILL SERIES

**Updated: 06/29/2026**

The 2026 USA Cycling Gravity Mountain Bike National Championships will determine the National Champions in downhill (DH), and dual Slalom (DS). Non-championship races will be offered for athletes in the downhill (DH) and dual slalom (DS) disciplines. This document contains qualification requirements for all events.

All races are run solely under USA Cycling's regulations, except for DH (Elite 17+) which will be run under [UCI regulations](#). The following is a brief overview of USA Cycling National Championship rules for this event. For complete USAC championship regulations, please see [Chapter 7. National Championships](#).

*\*\*\*Individuals attempting to pre-ride the course prior to the event or scheduled practice day(s) or times, if any, may encounter hazards including incomplete course construction or obstructions. The course may also cross private property. Athletes pre-riding the course do so entirely at their own risk.\*\*\**

LICENSING/CITIZENSHIP/RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS	
<b>ALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE AN ACTIVE USA CYCLING MEMBERSHIP AND A CURRENT USA CYCLING RACE LICENSE OR VALID UCI FOREIGN FEDERATION LICENSE AS DEFINED BELOW.</b> Riders must also be licensed for the category in which they are attempting to register. You may purchase, renew and/or request a category upgrade online by logging into your USA Cycling account <a href="#">HERE</a> .	
<b>Elite 17+*</b>	Must be a <b>United States citizen</b> and have a current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA Cycling International License</b> with a USA sporting nationality or</li> <li>• <b>A foreign International License</b> with a USA sporting nationality</li> </ul>
<b>Juniors 16 and under* Amateur Masters</b>	Must be a <b>United States citizen</b> and have a current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA Cycling International License</b> or</li> <li>• <b>A foreign International License</b> or</li> <li>• <b>USA Cycling Domestic Annual License</b></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> Must be a <b>Permanent Resident (verified)</b> and have a current: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>USA Cycling International License</b> or</li> <li>• <b>USA Cycling Domestic Annual License</b></li> </ul>
<b>Non-Championships</b>	Riders must have either a current USA Cycling annual license, valid UCI Foreign Federation license, or purchase a one-day license at race registration.

CLASSES AND CATEGORIES REQUIREMENTS	
DOWNHILL (DH) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES	
A gravity time trial competition consisting of riders racing one at a time, against the clock, down a trail, jeep road, or fire road, or a combination of all three. Downhill races are technically challenging, with courses often featuring a combination of high speeds, jumps, drop-offs, and other technical features.	
At the time of registration, all participants competing in the USA Cycling Gravity National Championships MUST hold the minimum required category for their respective races as noted below.	

Each license allows for promotion to higher categories according to certain guidelines. Upgrades can be based on either experience or points, depending on the level and license type. Please see [Policy VIII Race Category Upgrading and Downgrading](#) for information. If you would like to request an upgrade, please see [upgrade instructions here](#).

Riders will compete in their respective age-group based on their official racing age determined on December 31, 2026. "Racing up" per 1H4(c) is not allowed in this event.

Men	Categories	Women	Categories
Elite 19+*	Pro	Elite 19+*	Pro
Junior 17-18	Pro / Cat 1	Junior 17-18	Pro / Cat 1
Junior 15-16	Pro / Cat 1	Junior 15-16	Pro / Cat 1
Junior 13-14	Cat 1**	Junior 13-14	Cat 1**
Junior 11-12	Cat 1**	Junior 11-12	Cat 1**
Amateur 19-24	Cat 1	Amateur 19-29	Cat 1
Amateur 25-29	Cat 1		
Masters 30-54 (5-year increments)	Pro / Cat 1	Masters 30-49 (5-year increments)	Pro / Cat 1
Masters 55+	Pro / Cat 1***	Masters 50+	Pro / Cat 1***

*Because this event is combined with the Monster Energy Pro Downhill Series, and therefore the following applies:*

\*International riders may compete in the race but are not eligible for the National Championship title. Separate results will be posted: one for the overall event and another exclusively for riders eligible for the National Championship.

\*\* Junior Women 11-12 / 13-14 is restricted to category 1 riders, as the event is part of the Pro Downhill Series.

\*\*\*Master Men and Women 55+ is restricted to pro/category 1 riders, as the event is part of the Pro Downhill Series.

#### DUAL SLALOM (DS) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RACES

A gated gravity competition where two competitors race head-to-head down two similar, but separate, courses. Following a qualification round, riders race against each other in an elimination format (heats) to determine a winner. Dual slalom courses often feature bermed corners, jumps, and other technical trail features.

Men	Categories	Women	Categories
Elite/Pro	Pro	Elite/Pro	Pro
Junior 11-12	No category restrictions	Women's 11-14	No category restrictions
Junior 13-14	No category restrictions	Women's 15-18	No category restrictions
Junior 15-16	Cat 1	Women's 19+	No category restrictions
Junior 17-18	Cat 1		
Amateur 19-29	Cat 1		
Masters 30-39	Cat 1		
Masters 40+	Cat 1		

#### NON-CHAMPIONSHIP RACES (all ages and genders)

Downhill (DH)	Cat 2 or Novice
Dual Slalom (DS)	Cat 2 or Novice

#### GENERAL REGULATIONS

##### COMPETITION RACING AGE

Riders will compete in their respective age-group based on their official racing age determined on December 31, 2026.

##### UCI COMPETITIONS

The following categories will be run under applicable UCI/USAC regulations and will be submitted to the UCI for results and associated ranking.

- Downhill - Men & Women – Elite (19+)
- Downhill - Men & Women – Junior (17-18)

- \*This event will be run with a single start list but separate podiums for the 17–18-year-old riders. These riders will be noted by an asterisk on start lists.

### **PRO RIDERS – MASTERS AGE GROUPS**

The Masters classes are restricted by age. Category restrictions will apply as listed below in the Category and Field Size section.

Entry into the Elite race at Nationals does not prohibit riders from competing in the Masters events. However, riders meeting one or more of the following criteria must enter the Elite categories, thus ineligible for entry into the Master's event:

1. Has a racing age of 30 years or older and has been a member of any UCI Registered Team at any time in the current mountain bike season, or
2. Has a racing age of 30 years or older and has competed in any elite UCI World Cups, World Championships, Pan American Championship, Pan American or Olympic Games within the current calendar year, or
3. Has a racing age of 30 years or older and has 1 or more points in the UCI individual downhill ranking published on July 29, 2025.

### **DH SEEDING & FINALS PROCEDURES**

Amateur downhill seeding will consider the returning national champion, aged-up national champion and then USA Cycling DH rankings. For the Elite/Pro events, the returning national champion, UCI DHI rankings, and then USA Cycling DH rankings will be used for seeding. USA Cycling DH rankings will be frozen and pulled on July 24, 2025, at 8 a.m. EST and will be posted on the event website for rider review.

Riders must start their seeding run to advance to the finals. Finals will be run based on the slowest to fastest seeding.

The rider's race clock starts at his or her assigned start time and will not be adjusted, and no new start time will be assigned. Racers who miss their assigned start will not be allowed to start their run until the last rider of either their own category or the very end of the competition, depending on available time gaps between categories, this is at the discretion of race management and officials. Decisions regarding this regulation, in cases of force majeure, may be taken by the officials in consultation with the Race Director.