



ENDURANCE MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ROANOKE, VA

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2026 Endurance MTB National Championships – Call-Up Procedure FAQ

Why were the call-up procedures updated?

This update was made to improve how riders are staged at the National Championships. With the size of the U.S. and continued growth of mountain bike racing, comparing athletes across regions using a single ranking system has become increasingly difficult. In some cases, regional ranking concentrations have not consistently reflected on-course performance.

The revised approach places greater emphasis on head-to-head competition at National Series events while still incorporating broader USA Cycling ranking data.

Why not rely primarily on USA Cycling rankings?

USA Cycling rankings remain part of the system and continue to be used for call-ups.

However, rankings alone do not always reflect direct competition between athletes from different regions. Incorporating National Series results ensures riders are evaluated more consistently against one another on the national stage.

National Series results determine the call-up order for the front of the field, while USA Cycling rankings continue to determine placement for most riders.

What if an athlete cannot attend National Series events?

Athletes who do not compete in the National Series are still included through USA Cycling rankings, which are applied after the National Series call-up group.

This ensures athletes competing primarily in regional events still have a pathway to a competitive call-up position.

How is the National Series call-up group determined?

The National Series determines the second priority call-up group, following automatic call-ups based on previous National Championship results (returning champions and podium finishers), up to a maximum of 25 start positions.

This group is ordered according to the National Series standings, and only athletes who are officially entered and present at the National Championships will occupy these positions.

As a result, if fewer than 25 eligible National Series athletes are in attendance, the call-up group will be smaller than 25.

How does National Series participation and scoring work if I attend some, all, or only a few events?

There is no minimum participation requirement to be included in the standings.

Only a rider's best three (3) XCO results and best three (3) XCC results count toward the overall standings. These results may come from any combination of events and do not need to be from the same weekends.

Riders who attend multiple events can improve their ranking by replacing lower scores with better ones.

- Riders who attend only 1–2 events are still fully eligible, and their results will count toward their best three
- Riders who do not attend National Series events will still be seeded using USA Cycling rankings after the National Series-ranked group

This structure ensures that both high participation and limited participation athletes can remain competitive within the same system.

Is this intended to favor athletes who can travel more?

No. The structure is designed to balance two priorities:

- Recognizing performance at national-level events
- Maintaining access for athletes primarily competing regionally

Limiting scoring to the best three results per discipline reduces travel pressure while still rewarding top-level performance. Athletes who do not attend National Series events can still earn strong call-up positions through USA Cycling rankings.

Why are National Series events prioritized over other large regional races?

National Series events provide a consistent format and attract riders from across the country. This creates a more direct comparison between athletes, which is essential for determining fair national championship start order.

Are points adjusted for field size or strength of field?

No, points are not adjusted. The system instead relies on:

- Head-to-head competition at National Series events
- A capped number of scoring results (best three XCO and best three XCC)

This maintains a transparent and consistent structure while still rewarding performance.

Why wasn't this communicated earlier?

The update follows a review of previous seasons where limitations in the prior system were identified. The decision was made to implement improvements for the 2026 season rather than delay necessary changes further.

The document date reflects the most recent revision to the structure, not the original publication.

Do these changes affect qualification for Nationals?

No, these updates only affect call-up position (start order). Qualification standards for the National Championships remain unchanged.

Do riders need results in both XCO and XCC to be competitive?

Not necessarily, but both disciplines contribute to the overall standings.

Standings are calculated using:

- Best 3 XCO results (primary weighting)
- Best 3 XCC results (reduced weighting)

For reference:

- XCO winner = 100 points
- XCC winner = 40 points

XCO remains the primary driver, while XCC provides a secondary but meaningful contribution.

How does the XCC National Championship factor into XCO call-ups?

XCC provides an additional pathway to improve call-up position.

A Top 10 finish in the XCC event may improve call-up position after the National Series standings, provided the rider has not already qualified for a higher call-up through another method.

This ensures that strong XCC performances are recognized within the call-up process, providing an additional benefit for eligible riders not already placed in the first or second priority call-up groups, allowing them to improve their start position.

Where can I find current standings?

Standings are updated after each National Series event and can be found here:

<https://usacycling.org/national-series/series-standings>

This includes all applicable categories, 13–14, 15–16, & 17-18.

Will this system change in the future?

The system will be reviewed following the 2026 season. Adjustments may be considered based on participation data, competitive balance, and overall system performance across regions.