



# ENDURANCE MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

ROANOKE, VA

Updated: 03/11/2026

## Qualifying for Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships (Junior 15–16 & 17–18)

Since its introduction in 2024, the qualification process for Juniors (15–16 and 17–18) at the USA Cycling Endurance National Championships (XCO & XCC) has provided a streamlined experience for all athletes. This established structure offers a clear, obtainable path directly to the finals, ensuring the event remains accessible and easy for everyone to navigate. This process remains the standard for the 2026 season.

- Automatic Qualification: Riders may qualify directly for the National Championship finals (XCO only) by meeting the specific criteria below.
- Last-Chance Qualifier (LCQ): An on-site LCQ race will be available for riders who do not qualify automatically, providing an opportunity to compete for the remaining positions.

The qualification system applies to both Junior Men and Women, where applicable. Qualifier races are required only if the number of registered riders in the respective age/gender category reaches 120 or more for XCO. If registration is below this threshold, all riders in that category will automatically qualify for the finals without a qualifier.

### Qualification – Cross-Country (XCO)

For the Junior 15–16 and Junior 17–18 categories, a maximum of 120 riders per category will qualify for the XCO National Championship Final.

### Automatic Qualification (First 100 Positions)

The first 100 positions in each age group will be allocated in the following order:

1. Defending and aged-up 2025 XCO National Champions.
2. Remaining podium places in the specific age group in 2025 XCO National Championships:
  - a. This protection applies only to riders who remain in the same age category in 2026 as they competed in at the 2025 National Championships
    - i. Junior 17–18: 2nd–3rd place
    - ii. Junior 15–16: 2nd–5th place
3. National Series Event Automatic Qualifiers:
  - a. The top 15 junior riders in each age group at every Category 1 XCO National Series event will earn an automatic position in the National Championship Final.
    - i. *Race directors have been asked to open the Junior 15–16 category to both Category 1 and Category 2 riders.*

- b. For events with more than 100 starters in the applicable category, this allocation extends to the top 25 riders.
4. Any remaining positions within the first 100 will be allocated in the following order:
  - a. UCI Individual Rankings\* (Junior 17–18 only)
  - b. Final XC National Series standings (Top 50 ranked riders, per category)
  - c. USA Cycling XCO Rankings\*

### **On-Site Qualification (Final 20 Positions)**

The remaining 20 positions in each category will be filled through an on-site qualifier held **in advance of the National Championship Final**. (Exact date will be listed once the schedule is finalized)

### **Discipline Notes**

- XCO: Only UCI events will count for automatic qualification in the 17–18 category. In the 15–16 category, only events with Category 1/2 riders will count (identified as the National Championship Qualifier event). If multiple Category 1/2 15–16 events are held on the same weekend, each will count toward automatic qualification. The top 15 eligible 15–16 riders (regardless of category) will automatically qualify.
- XCC: No automatic qualifications for 2026.

*NOTE: Automatic qualification does not have any implication on call-up positions for the finals.*

### **Important Dates and Notes**

*DATES BELOW ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON FINAL SCHEDULES AND REGISTRATION WINDOWS. FINAL DATES WILL BE UPDATED BY MAY 1, 2026.*

\*UCI rankings are based on the last published rankings as of July 14, 2026. USA Cycling rankings are pulled as of July 14, 2026, at 8:00 am ET.

\*\*All riders who qualify for an automatic position and plan to race Nationals MUST pre-register on BikeReg no later than **July 9, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET**. Riders registering after this deadline, including on-site registration, will be entered into the LCQ regardless of prior results or rankings.

\*\*\*The final qualified rider list (100 riders per field) will be released on Tuesday, July 14, by 12:00 pm ET. All other registered riders will be automatically entered into the LCQ.

Current rankings can be found using the following links:

- [Junior Men 17-18](#) and [Junior Women 17-18](#)
- [Junior Men 15-16](#) and [Junior Women 15-16](#)