



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 PAN AMERICAN BMX FREESTYLE CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
ELITE MEN AND WOMEN
September 19-20, 2026
San Jose, Costa Rica

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination for the 2026 Pan American BMX Freestyle Championships Team ("Team"). In cases with available start positions after the automatic qualification process, any available positions may be filled via discretionary nominations.

There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into 2026 UCI BMX Freestyle Continental Championship at the nation, event, and individual levels. Those requirements are on the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) website under rules and regulations – Continental Championships:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/761l7gh5x5an/743a3SDhh2QyzX3OCHeIJ3/4e910eb9bcb6f1b91c1333698fc54a48/10-CC-20260101-E.pdf>

ELIGIBILITY

- Men Elite: ages 15 and over
- Women Elite: ages 15 and over
- Athletes must be eligible to represent the United States in a UCI competition
- Athletes must have a valid UCI International License and meet all eligibility requirements of USA Cycling and the UCI
- All athletes must be in good standing with USA Cycling, UCI, the US Center for SafeSport and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA)

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

The BMX Freestyle Continental Championships selection strategy is designed to support athlete development and progression at the international level. The primary objective of this event is to provide emerging athletes with meaningful international competition opportunities, including the opportunity to earn UCI ranking points. Selection will prioritize developing riders who would benefit from international exposure and competitive experience, rather than athletes who are already established elite performers. Emphasis will be placed on athletes demonstrating progression, competitive readiness, and the potential to advance toward future World Cup and World Championship participation.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Level 1: USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 3 pieces of luggage: Up to two bikes, plus one suitcase each under 50lbs (excess weight or additional bag

charges are the athlete's responsibility). USA Cycling will also provide competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at the event location, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling.

Level 2: Athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee ("Fee") of \$500.00 payable on or before the date outlined in this document. This Fee includes: registration, two jerseys, casual clothing, and administration expenses. *Athletes are responsible for their airfare, baggage and accommodation expenses.*

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Petitions:

August 17, 2026

Selection of Team:

Week of August 24, 2026

Submit an athlete [petition](#).

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – Elite Men and Women

USA Cycling Sports Performance staff are responsible for applying the respective selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the [Selection Committee](#).

Maximum Quota Positions:

Men: Up to two (2)

Women: Up to two (2)

The following criteria are considered in priority order with all quota positions being filled through Criterion 1 first, then through Criterion 2 if quota positions remain, and so on.

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top twelve (12) at a UCI Freestyle Park World Cup event between January 1, 2026 and August 2, 2026 will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete with the highest placing will be nominated first, the second highest placed athlete will be nominated second, and so on.
 - b. If two or more athletes achieve the same placing, the athlete with highest UCI Elite Individual Ranking as of Aug 2, 2026 will be nominated first, the second highest ranked athlete will be nominated second, and so on.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the two (2) highest-ranked athletes in the UCI BMX Freestyle Elite Men and Women Individual rankings as of August 2, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.

Level 2 Funding

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria.

DISCRETIONARY SELECTION PROCEDURES

If after application of the Objective Criteria above, additional quota positions remain, USA Cycling may, but is not required to, nominate athletes to the Team through discretionary criteria. The following criteria are considered in priority order, with all quota positions being filled through Criterion 1 first, then 2 if positions remain, and so on.

1. **Medal Capable Athletes** – USA Cycling may nominate Medal Capable athletes to the Team. A Medal Capable athlete has clearly demonstrated the ability to produce a medal winning result in the competition for which the athlete is being selected by achieving one of the following criteria:
 - Winning a medal (top 3 finish) in the past 24 months at the UCI BMX Freestyle Pan American Championships, World Championships or Olympic Games and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in World Cups, National Championships, or HC events in the past 12 months; or,
 - Beating the 2024 UCI BMX Freestyle Pan American Championship, World Championship or Olympic medalists or the current top-ranked UCI Elite athletes in World Cup Competition on courses similar to the event that the athlete is being selected for on multiple occasions in the past 12 months.
2. **Future Medal Capable Athletes** - USA Cycling may nominate Future Medal Capable athletes to the Team. A Future Medal Capable athlete has the potential to produce a medal-winning result within three years at the event they are being selected for. This is demonstrated through a recent trend of improvement in key performance indicators outlined in the Data to Support Discretionary Selections in World Cups or training.
3. **Best Predicted Finish** – USA Cycling may nominate athletes to the Team based on Best Predicted Finish. USA Cycling will determine which athlete or athletes it predicts will finish highest in the event for which they are being selected using Data to Support Discretionary Selections. This forecast aims to provide an evidence-based estimate of the athlete's final standing.

Data to Support Discretionary Selection Criteria

USA Cycling considers data useful when making discretionary selections. USA Cycling can consider the following datapoints (but does not have to consider all of them):

For all criteria (in no particular order):

- Difficulty (refers to not only the tricks performed but also the placement of the tricks within the

- course and the combinations used)
- Height (amplitude of the tricks performed)
- Flow
- Originality (tricks and lines) and versatility
- Style
- Progression
- Variety of tricks (refers to a good mix of standard airs, rotations, grinds,...)
- Risk factor
- Landings
- Use of the course
- Execution
- Coachability
- Ability to enhance team chemistry

For choosing between two or more athletes under the same criterion (in no particular order):

- Competition results in Top Level Competitions
- Head-to-head competition results
- Sport Performance staff's assessment of an athlete's ability to meet the performance demands of the course and Protected Competition
- Sport Performance staff's assessment of an athlete's ability to meet the performance demands required to execute USA Cycling's strategy or competition plan

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE TEAM

1. Athletes who are eligible for selection to the Team will be contacted by USA Cycling by phone and/or email the week of **August 25th** of their (non)selection. Selected athletes must commit to a position on the Team within 72 hours from notification by USA Cycling or they may forfeit their place on the Team.
2. If an athlete declines a spot on the Team (or fails to commit as per #1 above), that spot will then be filled in accordance with the procedures described above. An athlete declining a position must submit their declination in writing.

Alternates: An athlete who is withdrawn from the Team due to illness, injury or any other reason may be replaced in accordance with the Team procedures described above or by a previously nominated Alternate.

3. Athletes named to the Team are required to maintain fitness and prepare properly for the event's travel and competition. An athlete is required to report any situation that may affect the athlete's ability to travel and compete to their Discipline Director in a timely fashion.
4. Alteration: USA Cycling reserves the right, based on consultation with the UCI, the USOPC, and the State Department, to alter the conditions of travel for this team trip if conditions in the host country warrant.
5. Anti-Doping Requirements: Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, UCI, ITA, USADA, USA Cycling

and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, UCI, ITA, USADA, USA Cycling and USOPC Rules, as applicable.

6. An athlete may be removed from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, UCI, ITA, USADA, USA Cycling, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy, and USA Cycling's Safe Sport Program, as applicable.
7. An athlete may be removed from the Team for an injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Cycling provides certification that the athlete has a debilitating condition. If the athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they will be removed from the Team.
8. In addition to the Eligibility Criteria outlined above, each athlete 18 years of age or older must complete and pass USA Cycling's background screen and SafeSport training program. All athletes under 18 years of age must complete SafeSport for Youth training and USA Cycling's onboarding. Athletes in both age categories must sign the National Team Program Agreement.
9. Financial Responsibility: Service fee is due by **September 13th**.

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10. Casual and Competition Clothing:

As a member of a Team representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, athletes will be provided with competition clothing that must be worn during all official training sessions and competitions. Athletes will also be provided with casual clothing that is required to be worn at official Team functions and while participating in activities as a Team member.

All competition and casual clothing worn must be the **current edition issued by USA Cycling**, accurately representing current sponsors and partners. **Clothing from previous years or editions is not permitted** under any circumstances.

Failure to comply with Team clothing requirements may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Team.