

## JUNIOR GRAVEL SERIES 2026: ELEVATE YOUR GAME

The path to the National Team starts on the gravel.

The Junior Gravel Series returns for an exciting 2026 season, providing the nation's top junior riders (ages 15–18) with a premier platform to compete, earn points, and gain exposure to national-level development opportunities. This series is designed to reward performance, consistency, and competitive depth across a diverse and challenging national calendar.

### 2026 Series Structure & Calendar

The 2026 Junior Gravel Series will consist of 10 events, combining established cornerstone races with new additions that expand geographic reach and competitive opportunity.

### 2026 Junior Gravel Series Schedule

- **Rouge Roubaix XXII** – Saint Francisville, LA | February 28, 2026
- **Valley of Tears** – Turkey, TX | March 7, 2026
- **Sea Otter Classic** – Monterey, CA | April 17, 2026
- **Unbound Gravel** – Emporia, KS | May 30, 2026
- **Rothrock Grit Gravel Grinder** – State College, PA | June 6, 2026
- **Dirty Dino Gravel Race** – Vernal, UT | June 13, 2026
- **SBT GRVL** – Steamboat Springs, CO | June 28, 2026
- **Dust Bowl 100** – Eminence, IN | July 25, 2026
- **Core4** – Iowa City, IA | August 15, 2026
- **USA Cycling Gravel National Championship** – La Crescent, MN | September 12, 2026

*A Google Maps list showing the geographic distribution of all 2026 Junior Gravel Series event locations is available here:*

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6i7kcyVpXQ6RNo8r7>

### 2026 Series Structure & Calendar

Registration for each Junior Gravel Series event is managed directly by the individual event organizers. Registration close dates, event websites, and contact information are listed below for reference. Riders and families should use the event-specific registration links for entry and direct any registration-related questions (including entry status, categories, or technical issues) to the event contact listed.

*\*Dates are subject to change based on information received from the individual events*

Event	Registration Closes	Event Contact	Registration Link
Rouge Roubaix XXII	Feb 22, 2026	<a href="mailto:RougeRoubaix@gmail.com">RougeRoubaix@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.rougeroubaix.com/">https://www.rougeroubaix.com/</a>
Valley of Tears	Mar 5, 2026	<a href="mailto:micah@valleyoftearsgravel.com">micah@valleyoftearsgravel.com</a>	<a href="https://www.movemint.cc/events/valleyoftears">https://www.movemint.cc/events/valleyoftears</a>
Sea Otter Classic	Apr 9, 2026	<a href="mailto:seaotter@ltevents.zendesk.com">seaotter@ltevents.zendesk.com</a>	<a href="https://www.seaotterclassic.com/gravel/">https://www.seaotterclassic.com/gravel/</a>
Unbound Gravel	Apr 1, 2026	<a href="mailto:unboundgravel@ltevents.zendesk.com">unboundgravel@ltevents.zendesk.com</a>	<a href="https://www.unboundgravel.com/events-junior/">https://www.unboundgravel.com/events-junior/</a>

Event	Registration Closes	Event Contact	Registration Link
Rothrock Grit Gravel Grinder	Jun 3, 2026	<a href="mailto:T.Rissmiller@hotmail.com">T.Rissmiller@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://rothrock.hvwcycling.com/rothrock-grit-gravel-grinder/">https://rothrock.hvwcycling.com/rothrock-grit-gravel-grinder/</a>
Dirty Dino Gravel Race	Jun 13, 2026	<a href="mailto:breanne@utahgravelseries.com">breanne@utahgravelseries.com</a>	<a href="https://utahgravelseries.com/dirtydino">https://utahgravelseries.com/dirtydino</a>
SBT GRVL	May 1, 2026	<a href="mailto:info@sbtgrvl.com">info@sbtgrvl.com</a>	<a href="http://sbtgrvl.com/">http://sbtgrvl.com/</a>
Dust Bowl 100	Jul 17, 2026	<a href="mailto:elevateendurancellc@gmail.com">elevateendurancellc@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.dustbowl100.com/">https://www.dustbowl100.com/</a>
Core4	Aug 11, 2026	<a href="mailto:info@core4.bike">info@core4.bike</a>	<a href="https://www.core4.bike/">https://www.core4.bike/</a>
USA Cycling Gravel National Championship	TBD	<a href="mailto:Nationalevents@usacycling.org">Nationalevents@usacycling.org</a>	<a href="https://gravelnats.usacycling.org/">https://gravelnats.usacycling.org/</a>

## Eligibility & Licensing Requirements

To be eligible for inclusion in the Overall Junior Gravel Series Standings, riders must hold a valid annual USA Cycling license for the 2026 season.

- Individual Events: A USA Cycling license is not required to compete in individual Junior Gravel Series events (excluding the USA Cycling Gravel National Championship, which follows standard USA Cycling licensing requirements).
- Overall Series Eligibility: Only riders holding an active annual USA Cycling license will be eligible to earn points toward, and be ranked in, the Overall Series Standings.

Riders without an annual license may compete in eligible events and earn event results, but will not be included in the overall series rankings.

## Incentives & Rewards

- National Championship Entry: Any junior rider (15–16 or 17–18 categories) who wins an individual series race will receive free entry into the 2026 USA Cycling Gravel National Championship.
- Talent ID Camp Consideration (October 2026):
  - The 17–18 Overall Series Champion will receive an automatic invite to the Talent ID Camp, pending continued program offering.
  - Riders in the 15–16 category will not receive an automatic invite, but will be evaluated for selection based on performance throughout the season.

## How to Qualify for Overall Standings

The series utilizes a cumulative points system across all sanctioned events.

- Minimum Starts: Riders must compete in a minimum of 3 races to be included in the official Overall Series Standings.
- Standings Calculation: Once the 3-race minimum is met, the Overall Series Champion is determined by total accumulated points across the season.

## Revised 2026 Point Scoring System

All series events will utilize a scoring system that rewards both finishing position and field size.

#### Standard Placement Points (P)

1st: 50 | 2nd: 45 | 3rd: 41 | 4th: 37 | 5th: 34 | 6th: 31 | 7th: 28 | 8th: 26  
9th: 24 | 10th: 22 | 11th: 20 | 12th: 18 | 13th: 17 | 14th: 16 | 15th: 15 | 16th: 14  
17th: 13 | 18th: 12 | 19th: 11 | 20th: 10 | 21st: 9 | 22nd: 8 | 23rd: 7 | 24th: 6  
25th: 5 | 26th: 4 | 27th: 3 | 28th: 2 | 29th–30th: 1

All other starters not disqualified will receive 1 point.

#### Starter Bonus Points (B)

Riders receive a Starter Bonus equal to the total number of starters in their field.

Total Points = Placement Points (P) + Starter Bonus (B)

Example:

- Winner in a 50-rider field:  $50 + 50 = 100$  points
- Winner in a 10-rider field:  $50 + 10 = 60$  points