



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 PAN-AMERICAN CONTINENTAL ROAD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Elite Men and Women
March 17-22, 2026
Monteria, Cordoba, Colombia

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the Pan American Continental Championship Team ("Team"). In cases where there are available start positions after the automatic qualification process, any available positions may be filled via discretionary nomination.

There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into Pan American Continental Championship at the nation, event and individual levels. Those requirements can be found on the UCI website under rules and regulations – Pan American Continental Championship: <https://www.uci.org/inside-uci/constitutions-regulations/regulations>

ELIGIBILITY

- Elite Men: Racing age 19 and over
- Elite Women: Racing age 19 and over
- Athlete must be eligible to represent the United States in a UCI competition.
- Athletes must have a valid UCI International Racing License and meet all eligibility requirements of USA Cycling and the UCI.
- Athletes must be in good standing with USA Cycling, UCI, U.S. Center for SafeSport and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

USA Cycling will prioritize selecting riders for the Time Trial for the Pan American Continental Championships to maximize our chances of earning additional World Championship Time Trial starting positions. These athletes may also compete in the Road Race, with additional road riders selected as needed, though we may choose not to fill all available quota spots based on strategic considerations.

USA Cycling plans to field ONLY an Elite Women's Team for the 2026 Pan Am Continental Road Championships. USA Cycling is not planning to send an Elite Men's, Juniors or U23 Team to the 2026 Pan Am Continental Road Championships.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

USA Cycling will provide an economy-class round-trip ticket, including baggage fees. 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.

USAC POLICY FOR FUNDING CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONS FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

As per the current UCI rule 9.2.009, the Continental Champion may earn an additional quota position by name in the first World Championships following the awarding of the title of Continental Champion.

Because the Continental Championships are held months prior to the actual World Championships, and the level of competition at the Continental Championships is not the international standard found in most automatic qualification criteria for USA Cycling's Team nominations for World Championship Teams, USA Cycling has established the following policy:

Funding of Continental Champions by USA Cycling for World Championship Teams is contingent upon the rider meeting the funding levels as outlined in the World Championship Team selection document. If a rider does not meet these requirements, but chooses to ride in the World Championships, they will do so at their own expense.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Petitions:

February 16, 2026

Team Selection:

Week of February 23, 2026

Eligible athletes can submit interest in the event [here](#).

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – Elite Women & Men: Time Trial

USA Cycling Sport Performance staff are responsible for applying the respective selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Selection Committee.

Maximum Quota Positions: Women and Men: Up to 2

A. OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

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.

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2025 World Championships in the same event and category 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.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria.

B. DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA

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** – 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-three finish) in the past 24 months at the Road World Championships, Olympic Games, Pan American Games, Pan American Continental Championships or US Nationals in the same event and category and has demonstrated the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results training in the past 12 months; Or,
 - Finishing on the podium (top-three finish) in two or more UCI World Tour, .Pro, and .1 time trials on courses similar in profile, length, and demands to the event for which they are being considered, in the past 12 months.
2. **Future Medal Capable** – 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 by demonstrating a recent trend of improvement in key performance indicators outlined in the Data to Support Discretionary Selection in UCI World Tour, .Pro, .1 and .2 races 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 Selections

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):

- Times on courses (or portions of courses) of similar length or course profile and/or in similar environmental conditions to this event;
- Athlete power data
- Aerodynamic drag data
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Consistency of results
- Race results
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)

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

- Head to head competition results
- Race results
- Sport Performance staff's assessment of an athlete's ability to meet the performance demands of the event
- Sport Performance staff's assessment of an athlete's ability to meet the performance demands required to execute USA Cycling's strategy or race plan

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – Elite Women & Men: Road Race

USA Cycling Sport Performance staff are responsible for applying the respective selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the Selection Committee.

Maximum Quota Positions: Women and Men - Up to 6

A. OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

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.

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2025 World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the Team.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athlete already nominated to the 2026 Pan American Continental Championship Team for Time Trial will be nominated to the Team.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who places in the top five (5) in a 2026 one day UCI World Tour (1.UWT/WWT) on courses similar in profile, length, and demands as the 2026 World Championships road course between the dates of January 1, 2026, and February 16, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest placing athlete will be nominated first, the second highest placing athlete nominated second, and so on.
 - b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency, with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who places in the top five (5) in a 2026 European one day UCI 1.PRO on courses similar in profile, length, and demands as the 2026 World Championships road course between the dates of January 1, 2026, and February 16, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest placing athlete will be nominated first, the second highest placing athlete nominated second, and so on.
 - b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency, with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria.

B. DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA

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** - 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-three finish) in the past 24 months at the Road World Championships, Olympic Games, Pan American Games, Pan American Continental Championships or US Nationals in the same event and category and has demonstrated the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in UCI World Tour, .Pro, and .1 races in the past 12 months; Or,
 - In the past 12 months, at a UCI World Tour, .Pro, or .1 race with courses similar in profile, length, and demands to the event for which they are being considered, finishing on:
 - 2 or more podiums (top-three finish) in a one-day stage race; or,
 - 2 or more podiums (top-three finish) on stages of a stage race (does not have to be within the same stage race); or,
 - A combination of 2 or more podiums (top-three finish) between one-day stage race and stages of a stage race (e.g., 1 one-day race podium and 1 stage win).
2. **Maximize Team Performance** - USA Cycling may nominate athletes who Maximize Team Performance to the Team. For road races, it is necessary to select the best team and not necessarily the best individual athlete(s). Team chemistry and the ability of an athlete to fulfill a specific role on the team are vital for success. Building a cohesive team is key to achieving the best possible result.
- Subjective judgement is required to select the athletes who will work together as an effective team and contribute to the execution of USA Cycling's strategy for team success. Where reasonable, USA Cycling will use objective measures to support subjective judgements under this criterion.
3. **Future Medal Capable** - 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 by demonstrating a recent trend of improvement in key performance indicators outlined in the Data to Support Discretionary Selection in UCI World Tour, .Pro, .1, and .2 races or training.
4. **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 Selections

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):

- Times on courses (or portions of courses) of similar length or course profile and/or in similar environmental conditions to this event;
- Athlete power data
- Aerodynamic drag data
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Consistency of results
- Race results
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)

For Athletes who maximize team performance (in no particular order):

- Teamwork: The willingness to accept a role that leads to team success
- Maturity: Exhibiting an ability to adjust to various situations and dealing with adversity
- Coachability: exhibiting the ability to process and incorporate input from staff
- Positive Attitude: Exhibiting enthusiasm and support of teammates
- Demonstrated tactical proficiency
- Demonstrated technical proficiency
- Previous experience fulfilling similar roles
- Evidence of ability to meet the physical requirements of the specific event
- Demonstrated willingness to work selflessly for team objectives

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

- Head to head competition results
- Race results
- Sport Performance staff's assessment of an athlete's ability to meet the performance demands of the event
- Sport Performance staff's assessment of an athlete's ability to meet the performance demands required to execute USA Cycling's strategy or race 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 **February 23rd** 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 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:**
USA Cycling will provide one economy-class, airfare ticket, including baggage fees. USA Cycling will also provide competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at event location, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling.

USAC POLICY FOR FUNDING CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONS FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

As per the current UCI rule 9.2.009, the Continental Champion may earn an additional quota position by name in the first World Championships following the awarding of the title of Continental Champion.

Because the Continental Championships are held months prior to the actual World Championships, and the level of competition at the Continental Championships is not the international standard found in most automatic qualification criteria for USA Cycling's Team nominations for World Championship Teams, USA Cycling has established the following policy:

Funding of Continental Champions by USA Cycling for World Championship Teams is contingent upon the rider meeting the funding levels as outlined in the World Championship Team selection document. If a rider does not meet these requirements, but chooses to ride in the World Championships, they will do so at their own expense.

10. **Casual and Competition Clothing:** As a member of the Team, representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, athletes will be provided with competition clothing which they will be required to wear during all training sessions and competitions. Athletes will also be provided with casual clothing that they will be required to wear at official Team functions and while participating as a member of the Team. Failure to comply with Team clothing rules can lead to disciplinary actions, including removal from the Team.