



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA  
2026 UCI CYCLOCROSS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
January 30 – February 01, 2026  
Hulst, Netherlands

### SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 UCI Cyclocross World Championship Team (“Team”). In cases where there are available start positions after the automatic qualification process, any available positions **may** be filled via discretionary criteria.

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

### ELIGIBILITY

- Elite Men and Women – Aged 19 and over as of December 31, 2026 (born on or after January 1, 2007)
- U23 Men and Women – Aged 19-22 as of December 31, 2026 (born in 2003 through 2007)
- Junior Men and Women – Aged 17-18 as of December 31, 2026 (born in 2008 through 2009)
- All nominees must have a valid UCI International Racing License and meet all eligibility requirements of USA Cycling and the UCI.
- All nominees must be in good standing with USA Cycling, UCI, U.S. Center for SafeSport and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).
- All Elite M/W nominees must have finished a minimum of two World Cups in the top 50% of all finishers in 2025-2026 World Cup events between November 23, 2025, and January 5, 2026.
  - Or have finished in the Top twenty (20) one time in a 2025-2026 World Cup round.
- All U23 M/W and Junior M/W nominees must have finished a minimum of one World Cup in the top 75% of all finishers in 2025-2026 World Cup events between November 23, 2025, and January 5, 2026.
  - Or have finished in the Top ten (10) one time in a 2025-2026 World Cup round or a Top 3 in a C1 SuperPrestige, X20, or Exact Cross event.

### EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

The primary objective is to select athletes who have demonstrated an ability to be competitive (e.g., finished within the top 15 on multiple occasions) in 2025-2026 World Cup competitions in their respective categories. Also, consideration will be given to athletes who have demonstrated a positive performance trend in cyclocross World Cup Competitions while finishing in the top half of their respective World Cup finishers during the 2025-2026 cyclocross season.

*USA Cycling may choose not to fill all available quota positions.*

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Level 1: Funded**

USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 3 pieces of luggage: Up to two bikes or one bike and one wheel case, plus one suitcase each under 50lbs (excess weight or additional bag charges are the responsibility of the athlete). 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.

### **Level 2: Partially-Funded**

Athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee of \$1500.00, payable on or before the date outlined in this document ("Fee"). This Fee includes 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. Athletes are responsible for their airfare and baggage expenses.

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

<b>Qualification Period:</b>	August 1, 2025 - January 5, 2026
<b>Deadline for Expression of Interest:</b>	January 5, 2026
<b>Team Selection:</b>	Week of January 9, 2026

## **CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM - ELITE MEN AND WOMEN**

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:** Up to 7 each

### **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.

### **Funding Level 1**

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year's 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 placing in the top ten (10) at a UCI Elite World Cup event between November 23, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during the qualification period.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same highest placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI Elite Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of December 31, 2025, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest placing will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifteen (15) in the 2025-2026 UCI Elite Individual Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.

#### **Funding Level 2**

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top ten (10) of a SuperPrestige, X20 or Exact Cross event, between December 1, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in the order of their placing, starting with highest placing first, the second highest placing second, and so on.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest ranking will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top twenty-five (25) in the UCI Elite Individual Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.
6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifty (50) in the UCI Elite Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.

- a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.
7. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2025 USA Cycling Elite Cyclocross National Championship, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
8. 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 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 World Championships and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in World Cups in the past 12 months; or,
  - Beating the 2025 World Championship medalists or the current top-ranked UCI Elite athletes in World Cups 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 by demonstrating a recent trend of improvement in key performance indicators outlined in the Data to Support Discretionary Selections (Appendix A) 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 (Appendix A). This forecast aims to provide an evidence-based estimate of the athlete's final standing.

#### **CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – U23 MEN AND WOMEN**

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:** Up to 7

#### **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.

##### **Funding Level 1**

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year's 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 placing in the top ten (10) at a UCI Elite or U23 World Cup event between November 23, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during the qualification period.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same highest placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI Elite Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest ranking will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifteen (15) in the 2025-2026 UCI U23 Individual Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.

##### **Funding Level 2**

4. If quota positions remain after the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top fifteen (15) of a SuperPrestige, X20 or Exact Cross event, between October 1, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in the order of their placing, starting with highest placing first, the second highest placing second, and so on.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI U23 Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest placing will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.

5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top twenty-five (25) in the UCI U23 Individual Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.
6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifty (50) in the 2024 UCI U23 Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.
7. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2025 USA Cycling U23 Cyclocross National Championship, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
8. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria as outlined below.

#### **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 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 World Championships and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in World Cups in the past 12 months; or,
  - Beating the 2024 World Championship medalists or the current top-ranked UCI U23 athletes in World Cups 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 by demonstrating a recent trend of improvement in key performance indicators outlined in the Data to Support Discretionary Selections (Appendix A) 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 (Appendix A). This forecast aims to provide an evidence-based estimate of the athlete's final standing.

### **CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – JUNIOR MEN AND WOMEN**

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:** Up to 7

#### **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.

#### **Funding Level 1**

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year's 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 placing in the top ten (10) at a UCI Junior World Cup event between November 23, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during the qualification period.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same highest placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI Junior Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest ranking will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifteen (15) in the 2025-2026 UCI Junior Individual Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.

- a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.

## **Funding Level 2**

4. If quota positions remain after the preceding criteria, any Jr Men athlete placing in the top five (5) of a SuperPrestige, X20 or Exact Cross event, between October 1, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in the order of their placing, starting with highest placing first, the second highest placing second, and so on.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI Junior Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest ranking will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
5. If quota positions remain after the preceding criteria, any Jr Women athlete placing in the top twenty (20) in the Elite Category of a SuperPrestige, X20 or Exact Cross event, between October 1, 2025, and January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in the order of their placing, starting with highest placing first, the second highest placing second, and so on.
  - b. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing, the athlete(s) with the highest UCI Junior Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest ranking will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top twenty-five (25) in the UCI Junior Individual Cyclocross World Cup Standings as of January 5, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and so on.
7. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifty (50) in the UCI Junior Cyclocross Individual rankings as of January 6, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete(s) with the highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest will be nominated second, and



so on.

8. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2025 USA Cycling Junior Cyclocross National Championship, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
9. 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 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 World Championships and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in World Cups in the past 12 months; or,
  - Beating the 2024 World Championship medalists or the current top-ranked UCI Junior athletes in World Cups 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 by demonstrating a recent trend of improvement in key performance indicators outlined in the Data to Support Discretionary Selections (Appendix A) 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 (Appendix A). This forecast aims to provide an evidence-based estimate of the athlete's final standing.

## **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 January 9<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.
8. Financial Responsibility: Fee is due by **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**Level 1:** USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 3 pieces of luggage: up to two bikes or one bike and one wheel case, plus one suitcase each under 50lbs (excess weight or additional bag charges are the responsibility of the athlete). 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.

**Level 2:** Athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee of \$1500.00 by the date outlined in this document ("Fee"). This Fee includes: 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. Athletes are responsible for their airfare and baggage expenses.

9. 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.

## Appendix A

### 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
- Consistency of results
- Race results
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Times (overall and splits) relevant to the event in consideration
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Average speed
- UCI Individual Rankings
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)
- Fitness/form/training stress-balance/athlete readiness

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