



USA CYCLING SELECTION GUIDELINES 2026 UCI PARACYCLING WORLD CUPS

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can be invited to a USA Cycling 2026 UCI Paracycling World Cup Team ("Team"). Athletes are encouraged to [submit a petition](#) to be considered for a Team. The UCI Paracycling World Cup entries are open to any athlete with a UCI International License.

ELIGIBILITY

- Elite Men: Racing age 17 and over
- Elite Women: Racing age 17 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).
- If invited, athletes are required to participate in all Team USA training camps and race programs from January 1, 2026-September 1, 2026 as required by the USA Cycling Sport Performance staff, unless given written permission to miss a required team event from the Chief of Sports Performance.

METHODS OF INVITATION

Athletes can be invited to be part of the Team through discretionary invitations.

Athletes interested in participating in a UCI World Cup on a Team are encouraged to [submit](#) a petition for *each* World Cup.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 4 pieces of luggage, each under 50 lbs (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 the event location, all mechanical/race support, race entry fees and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling.

COMPETITION AND CASUAL 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.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of petitions:

UCI World Cup #1	Chaing Mai, THA	January 30, 2026
UCI World Cup #2	Middelkerke, BEL	March 15, 2026
UCI World Cup #3	Abbruzzo, ITA	March 15, 2026

2026 UCI Para-cycling Classification Dates

INVITATION CONSIDERATIONS

UCI World Cup #1 Chaing Mai, THA

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

For the first World Cup of the season in Chiang Mai, Thailand, USA Cycling will implement a conservative and targeted selection strategy focused on medal potential. Given the significant travel demands and expense associated with competing in Thailand, USA Cycling will prioritize the selection of a smaller team comprised exclusively of athletes assessed as medal capable.

Selection will be limited to athletes who have demonstrated clear medal potential through recent international performances, including results at the most recent World Championships and other comparable elite-level competitions. Discretionary selection will not be extended beyond athletes who meet this medal-capable standard. This approach ensures resources are strategically allocated while maximizing the likelihood of podium-level outcomes at the opening event of the World Cup season.

The USA Cycling Sport Performance staff will be particularly interested in the following information (in no particular order):

- 2025 World Championships Podiums
- 2024 World Championships Podiums
- 2024 Paralympic Games Podiums

Nomination Date: January 31, 2026

UCI World Cup #2 Middelkerke, BEL
UCI World Cup #3 Abbruzzo, ITA

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

For World Cups #2 and #3, USA Cycling will adopt a more expansive selection strategy designed to balance performance objectives with athlete development and international race exposure. Compared to World Cup #1, a slightly larger team will be selected, with the intent of providing additional athletes with meaningful experience in a World Cup environment while continuing to prioritize competitive readiness.

Selection decisions will be informed by a combination of early-season international performance indicators and key domestic benchmarks. While medal capability will remain an important consideration, increased emphasis will be placed on progression, consistency, and demonstrated readiness to compete effectively at the international level. This approach supports both short-term competitive outcomes and longer-term pipeline development.

Performance indicators considered (in no particular order):

- 2025 World Championships Podiums
- 2024 World Championships Podiums
- 2024 Paralympic Games Podiums
- World Cup #1 race performances
- Domestic race results from:
 - Valley of the Sun
 - The Swamp Classic
 - Victor Valley Omnium
 - Outdoor Capital Classic

USA Cycling Sport Performance staff will evaluate these data points holistically to assess athlete readiness, trajectory, and suitability for international competition. Final selections will reflect a balance between competitive performance, developmental opportunity, and responsible resource allocation.

Nomination Date: March 22, 2026

USA Cycling reserves the right to modify the Team size at any time.