



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 BMX RACING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
UNDER 23 MEN AND WOMEN
July 18-19, 2026
Brisbane, Australia**

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below is information on how an athlete can qualify and be nominated for the 2026 UCI BMX Racing World Championship Team (“Team”). In cases with 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 2026 UCI BMX Racing World Championship at the nation, event, and individual levels. Those requirements are on the UCI website under rules and regulations – World Championships:

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/76117gh5x5an/3SMPW9kclLaPNZKFtOAGpNS/e6704afdb87b1f485177554425914d99/9-CM-20260101-E.pdf>

ELIGIBILITY

- U23 Men and Women: Racing age 19-22
- Athletes must be eligible to represent the United States in UCI competition.
- Athletes must have a valid UCI International License and meet all eligibility requirements of USA Cycling and the UCI
- Athletes must be in good standing with USA Cycling, UCI, the US Center for SafeSport and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA)
- *Elite/U23: To be eligible for World Championships selection, athletes must have earned a top-twenty (20) finish at a 2025 or 2026 World Cup competition or be ranked inside the top thirty-two (32) riders on the UCI Individual rankings at time of nomination.*

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

The 2026 UCI BMX Racing World Championships selection strategy for U23 athletes is focused on assembling a Team with clear podium potential and the ability to compete at the highest international level.

U23 athletes must demonstrate international competitiveness, evidenced by reaching main events or achieving top twelve (12) finishes at UCI BMX World Cup and/or World Championship competitions. Performances must reflect the ability to consistently advance through qualifying rounds and contend against the strongest international fields.

Selection will prioritize athletes who show sustained progression, competitive consistency, and a trajectory aligned with podium-capable outcomes at the World Championship level.

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 \$1500.00 payable on or before the date outlined in this document. **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.**

USA Cycling will NOT be responsible for or manage logistics for professional team managers, private coaches, professional team staff, athletes' families, spouses, friends, or significant others. These individuals will make separate arrangements for housing, food, and transportation. They will be responsible for all costs related to any separate arrangements they might make.

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.

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.

MANDATORY TRAINING CAMPS AND COMPETITIONS

If invited, athletes are required to participate in all designated USA Cycling training camps and race programs between January 1, 2026, and July 15, 2026, to which they are invited and as prescribed by

the USA Cycling Sports Performance staff. Exceptions may be granted only with written permission from the Chief of Sports Performance. Athletes will be notified of required training camps and race program events at least 14 days in advance via email.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Petitions:

June 19, 2026

Selection of Team:

Week of June 29, 2026

Submit an athlete [petition](#).

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:

Men: Up to four (4)

Women: Up to four (4)

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.

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top eight (8) 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 until all quota positions are filled.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the previous criteria, any athlete placing in the top eight (8) at a 2026 World Cup Event between the dates of January 1, 2026, and June 30, 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 until all quota positions are filled.
 - b. If two or more athletes achieve the same placing, the athlete with the result closest to June 30, 2026, will be given priority for nomination. The next closest result will be considered next, and this process will continue until all quota positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athlete ranked in the top twelve (12) of the UCI U23 Men or Women Individual World Cup Ranking as of June 15, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete with the

highest ranking will be nominated first, the second highest ranked athlete will be nominated second, and so on until all quota positions are filled.

Level 2 Funding

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling U23 National Championships, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
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 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 or Olympic Games 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 Olympic or 2025 World Championships medalists or the current top-ranked UCI Elite athletes in World Cups in Semi-Final or higher rounds on courses similar to the event that the athlete is being selected for on multiple occasions in the past 12 months. This specifically excludes beating top ranked athletes at USA BMX National Events or in lower World Cup rounds.

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.

UCI Invitees by Name

- Any athlete ranked in the top eight (8) of the UCI Elite Men or Women Individual Rankings as of December 31, 2025, will be invited to participate in the World Championships by name via the UCI.
- The current Continental Champion in each category will be invited to participate in the World Championships by name via the UCI.

- Athletes automatically qualified for the UCI World Championships by the UCI invite cannot be replaced by another rider.
- Athletes automatically qualified for the UCI World Championships by the UCI invite are part of Team USA and are required to participate in Team USA activities.
- Funding for athletes who receive a direct invitation by name from the UCI will be provided at the sole discretion of the Discipline Director.

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 **June 30th*** 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.

*TBD when final UCI calendar is released

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: The team service fee is due by **July 7**.

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 \$1500.00 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.*

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 two jerseys, 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 Team member. An option to purchase additional jerseys is available. Failure to comply with Team clothing rules can lead to disciplinary actions, including removal from the Team.

Appendix A

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):

1. Physical Parameters

- Explosive Power: Measured through sprint performance, gate starts, and peak power output.
- Speed and Acceleration: Timed sprint distances (e.g., 30m, 60m) and split times on the track.
- Endurance: Ability to maintain speed and power over multiple heats or extended racing days.
- Injury History: Patterns of past injuries and current physical condition.

2. Technical Skills

- Gate Starts: Consistency, reaction time, and technique out of the gate.
- Cornering: Speed and effective race craft through berms and corners.
- Jumping Ability: Efficiency in clearing jumps and using rhythm sections effectively.
- Bike Handling: Balance, control, and adaptability across varying track conditions.

3. Tactical Awareness

- Race Strategy: Ability to anticipate and respond to competitors' moves.
- Positioning: Skills in maintaining or improving position during pack racing.
- Adaptability: Quick decision-making under pressure.
- Track Analysis: Understanding and adjusting to track layouts and conditions.

4. Mental Attributes

- Focus: Ability to stay concentrated during high-pressure situations.
- Resilience: Mental toughness and recovery after setbacks or poor performances.
- Confidence: Poise and belief in their ability to succeed.
- Race-Day Preparation: Pre-race mindset, routines, and ability to handle nerves.
- Coachability: Openness to feedback and ability to implement it effectively.

5. Competitive Performance

- Consistency: Performance over multiple events or heats.
- Results History: Podiums, finals appearances, or key wins in national and international races.
- Head-to-Head Record: Outcomes against top competitors in similar events.
- Racing Under Pressure: Performance during high-stakes events, such as world championships or qualification races.

6. Developmental Considerations

- Potential: Indicators of future growth, such as age, training progression, and rate of improvement.
- Training Habits: Commitment to structured training, recovery, and professional conduct.
- Event Suitability: Strengths on specific tracks or events (e.g., technical vs. power-oriented tracks).
- Experience: Track record in international or high-level competition settings.

7. Collaboration and Team Dynamics

- Communication: Effectiveness in sharing insights and feedback with coaches and teammates.
- Professionalism: Sportsmanship and representing the team positively on and off the track.

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