



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA**  
**2026 UCI E-MTB World Championships**  
**Elite Women and Men**  
**August 26 – 30, 2026**  
**Val di Sole, Italy**

**SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 UCI Elite E-MTB World Championship Team (“Team”). There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into 2026 UCI Elite E-MTB 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 Women and Men: Racing age 19 years and older
- 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)
- **Any athletes who wish to be considered for this event must submit a petition.**

Submit a petition [here](#).

**EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY**

USA Cycling’s primary objective for the 2026 E-MTB World Championships is to fill the maximum quota positions awarded to USA Cycling with athletes based on their XCO MTB UCI ranking and results.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

All athletes participating on the Team will be responsible for organizing and paying for all travel, food and lodging costs associated with the event. *USA Cycling will not assume financial responsibility for any athletes selected to the Team.* In addition, all athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee (“Fee”) of \$100.00 which will cover one week of travel insurance and administration expenses.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

**Deadline for Submission of Petitions:**

July 13, 2026

**Team Selection:**

Week of July 27, 2026

***Any athletes who wish to be considered for a wildcard entry for this event must [submit](#) a petition.***

## **CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM**

### **Elite Women and Men**

#### **General Qualification:**

Riders ranked in result 1 to 10 of the 2025 UCI E-Mountain Bike World Championships (Valais, Switzerland) and Riders ranked in Series standing 1 to 15 of the 2026 UCI E-Mountain Bike World Cup Series will earn automatic nomination from the UCI.

***Any athletes who wish to be considered for a wildcard entry for this event must [submit](#) a petition.***

#### **Criteria for the National Federation Wildcards**

**Elite Women:** 5 Quota Positions, **Elite Men:** 5 Quota Positions

##### **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. If there are fewer petitioning athletes than available quota positions per gender, all petitioning athletes will be nominated to the Team.
2. If there are fewer quota positions than petitioning athletes, petitioning athletes with an Elite UCI XCO World Ranking as of July 14, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated to the Team in order of their ranking, with the highest ranked athlete nominated first, second highest ranked athlete nominated second, and so on.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, petitioning athletes will be nominated to the Team in the order of their finish position at the 2026 USA Cycling MTB XCO National Championships on July 13-19, 2026, in the Pro/Elite Category.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in order of finish position, with the highest finishing athletes nominated first, the next highest finishing athlete nominated second, and so on.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team in accordance with USA Cycling's Discretionary Selection 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 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 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 in competition 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
- 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

#### **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 **July 27<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: Service fee is **due by August 21<sup>st</sup>**.  
All athletes participating on the Team will be responsible for organizing and paying for all travel, food and lodging costs associated with the event. *USA Cycling will not assume financial responsibility for any athletes selected to the Team.* In addition, all athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee ("Fee") of \$100.00 which will cover one week of travel insurance and administration expenses.
9. Casual and Competition Clothing: As a member of the Team, representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, athletes are required to wear national federation clothing during all trainings and competitions. Athletes must wear the complete kit of the current design registered with the UCI with Rapha logos. USA Rapha competition clothing will be available for purchase on the Rapha Website or through USA Cycling. Please note, USA Cycling is not obligated to support the supply of clothing for athletes competing in this event.