



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 ESPORTS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & SEMI-FINALS QUALIFIER
Elite Men and Women
Abu Dhabi, UAE
November 15, 2026**

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 UCI ESPORTS World Championship Semi-Finals Qualifier Team ("Team").

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:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/76117gh5x5an/7mUygGZGkOGSlc8lQO9mjS/4b38bae0c0db857760ed24bd195285f4/2026_CEW_C_Qualification_System_ENG_.pdf

ELIGIBILITY

- Elite Men – UCI International License holders: racing age 19 and over.
- Elite Women - UCI International License holders: racing age 19 and over.
- 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).
- All athletes who accept a nomination for this event must be added to the USADA registered testing pool.
- Athletes will only be allowed to submit data through TrainingPeaks. USA Cycling will provide a TrainingPeaks account for athletes who do not have one. Guidance on how to create the athlete account is outlined in the petition form.

TEAM SIZE AND EVENT SELECTION PRIORITY

National Federation Quota Allocation – Men and Women

Men					Women				
Rank	Nation	Points Total	Group	Quotas	Rank	Nation	Points Total	Group	Quotas
1	BEL	2885	A	10	1	SWE	1955	B	8
2	GER	1925	B	8	2	NZL	1900	B	8
3	DEN	1180	B	8	3	BRA	1430	B	8
4	POL	1165	B	8	4	GBR	1210	B	8
5	USA	950	C	6	5	USA	1090	B	8
6	FIN	900	C	6	6	GER	1080	B	8
7	NOR	435	D	4	7	ITA	650	C	6
8	NZL	350	D	4	8	SUI	600	C	6
9	AUS	340	D	4	9	RSA	305	D	4
10	CZE	285	D	4	10	NOR	255	D	4
11	FRA	185	E	3	11	CH	150	E	3
12	SWE	160	E	3	12	AUS	145	E	3
13	CAN	155	E	3	13	CAN	135	E	3
14	RSA	120	E	3	14	FIN	120	E	3
15	GBR	85	E	3	15	FRA	85	E	3
16	NED	80	E	3	16	BEL	60	E	3
17	ITA	70	E	3	17	DEN	50	E	3
18	POR	40	E	3	18	NED	30	E	3
19	BRA	30	E	3	19	POR	30	E	3
20	IRL	30	E	3	20	HKG	15	E	3
					21	LTU	15	E	3

**2025 UCI World Champions are automatically given an entry, in addition to the Federations allocated total listed above.*

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

USA Cycling's primary objective for the 2026 ESports World Championship Semi-Finals Qualifier Team is to select a highly cohesive, medal-capable team and athletes with a strong willingness to work for the common goal of placing someone from the Team on the podium.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Athletes are responsible for the full expense associated with this event. *USA Cycling will not assume financial responsibility for any athletes for the Semi-Final event.*

The UCI and MyWhoosh are responsible for the associated travel and lodging costs for the top 20 athletes from the Semi-Final Qualifier who are invited to the ESports World Championships in Abu Dhabi.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Expression of Interest:

August 15, 2026

Team Selection:

Week of August 24, 2026

- July/August: National Federations qualifying period. All riders must participate in at least one MyWhoosh Sunday Race Club Elite event for exposure to selection personnel and eligibility for the semi-final.
- 31 August: National Federation quota allocated due with rider names and UCI ID numbers.
- 6 & 13 September: Open Qualifier races hosted on MyWhoosh SRC.
- 19 September: Full rider list of participating riders in the Semi-final published.
- 2 October: Semi-finals (approximately 130 riders) with exact format to be announced at a later date.
- 12 December: Live Final in 2 global hubs, exact location and format to be announced at a later date.

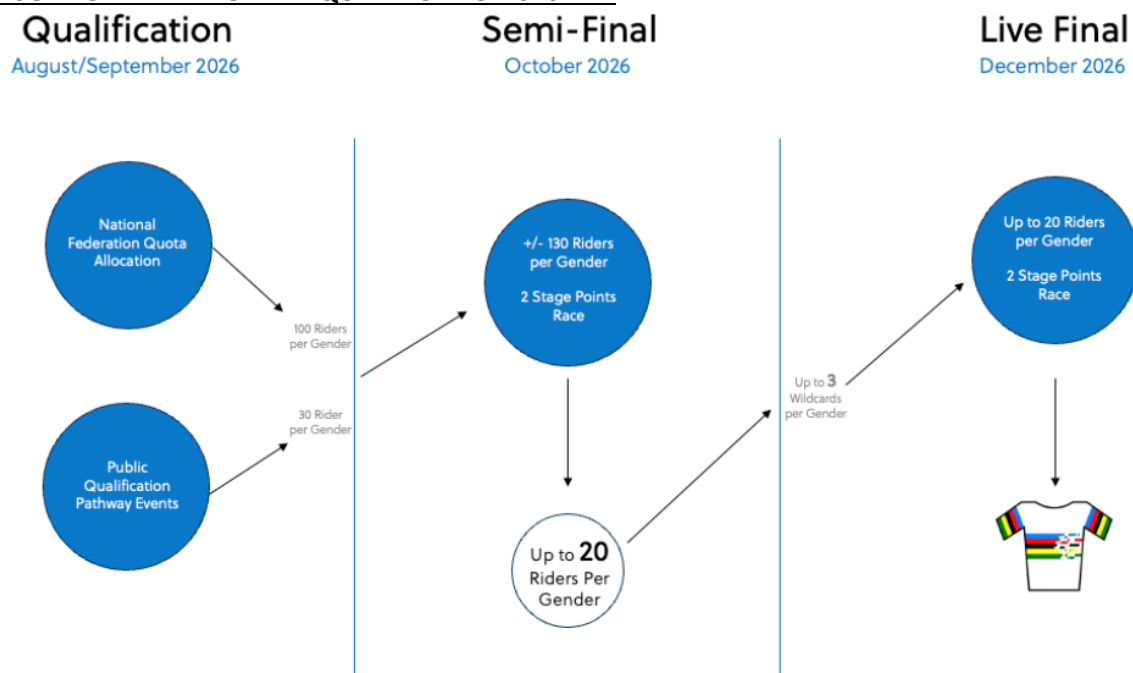
THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE 2026 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL QUALIFIER

Qualification Pathway

The 2026 UCI Cycling Esports World Championships maintains the qualification pathway from 2025, balancing National Federation qualifiers and MyWhoosh-hosted events:

- National Federation Qualifiers (70%)
 - Approximately 100 riders of each gender qualify for the semi-final through National Federations based quota allocated by the UCI.
- MyWhoosh Qualifiers (30%)
 - 30 riders qualifying through MyWhoosh-hosted events, scheduled earlier in the year compared to 2026 for better National Federation coordination.

VISUAL OVERVIEW OF THE QUALIFICATION SYSTEM



Step 1: USA Cycling Automatic Criteria

- a. See criteria listed below under “Criteria for Nomination to the Team”.

Step 2: My Whoosh World Championships Semi-Final Public Qualifier

- a. The Public Qualifying round is referred to as the “public qualifiers.”
- b. Riders can choose between four (4) open qualifiers in the schedule provided. The top riders from each qualifier and gender category will be offered a place in the 2026 UCI Cycling Esports World Championships semi-finals. The number of slots for each race will be announced before the first race.

Step 3: UCI World Championships

- a. 20 M/W will be invited by name from the UCI to participate in the World Championships.
- b. The Final will consist of three (3) stages, each stage roughly 20 min in duration.

MYWHOOSH CYCLING ESPORTS RULES AND REGULATIONS

<https://www.mywhoosh.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/MyWhooshEsportsRulesetV2.0.8-MAY0905425.pdf>

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST LINK

Eligible athletes can submit an expression of interest [here](#).

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM**Elite Women and Men****Maximum Quota Positions: 10**

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. After considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who finishes in the top three (3) of the 2026 USA Cycling E-SPORT National Championships, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, 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, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.
3. After considering the preceding criteria, any athlete finishing in the top three (3) of the 2026 USA Cycling Semi-Final Qualifier event, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, 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, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.

2026 USA Cycling Semi-Final Qualifier Event Information

Date: 8/24/26

Time: 5pm MDT for Women
6pm MDT for Men

Race Course:

Tour de Corse — 2 Laps

Distance: 31 km / 19.2 miles

Elevation Gain: 280 m / 918 feet

A fast, rolling course featuring frequent changes in gradient and repeated accelerations. The primary climb is the 1.5 km Corso rise, averaging 2.6% with a maximum gradient of 4.5%.

Expect high speeds and limited recovery. Drafting, positioning, and carrying momentum over each rise will be critical.

Register: Link being generated

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 August 24th 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.