



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA  
2026 WORLD GRAVEL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
AGE CATEGORIES MEN AND WOMEN  
October 10-11, 2026  
Nannup, Western Australia**

**SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 UCI Age Group Gravel World Championship 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://ucigravelworldseries.com/en/regulations/>

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Athlete must be eligible to represent the United States in a UCI competition.
- All athletes must have a valid UCI International Racing License and meet all eligibility requirements of USA Cycling and the UCI.
- All athletes must be in good standing with USA Cycling, UCI, U.S. Center for SafeSport, and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).
- Riders who are a member of a UCI registered team (Road, MTB, Track, or Cyclocross) must compete in the open elite category, not the age group World Championships.
- Riders who qualified or received a wildcard from the national federation but do not belong to a UCI registered team are required to compete in the age group categories (19- 34, 35-39, 40-44, ...etc.). Age groups are defined by riders' age on December 31st of the year of the World Championships.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Athletes who receive automatic invitations from the UCI or are nominated by the USA Cycling Athlete Discretionary Selection procedures are responsible for their own expense associated with this event. USA Cycling will not assume financial responsibility for any athletes.

**COMPETITION AND CASUAL CLOTHING**

Age Group: The UCI permits athletes competing in age group categories to wear a less restrictive jersey representing their nationality, provided the jersey uses the same colors and design as the National Team uniform.

Age group athletes may also purchase the official National Team uniform through the Rapha x Team USA store: [Rapha x Team USA store](#)

Failure to comply with UCI team clothing rules may result in disciplinary action, including warnings or fines issued by the UCI to the athlete.

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

**Men and Women** – Age group Categories

**Maximum Quota Positions:** No maximum limits

As per the official qualification system for the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships, each UCI Gravel World Series event grants qualification rights for the UCI Gravel World Championships for those riders finishing in the first 25% of their category.

The 25% is calculated based on the number of effective starters in each age group, and not on the number of riders having finished the race. In timing terms, including DNF and DSQ riders but without DNS riders.

In addition, the first three riders of each official category will qualify directly for the World Championships, independently of the number of starters in that age group. Riders must finish the race to gain qualification.

For all other methods of qualification (wild cards, gravel national champions, etc.), please consult the official qualification system for the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships.

The names of riders having gained qualification through the UCI Gravel World Series will be communicated on the [UCI Gravel World Series website](#) and will receive an official email from the UCI inviting them to register for the UCI Gravel World Championships via the dedicated online registration portal.

All riders (whether license holders or not) completing the same distance in a qualifier event are officially considered as participants in the UCI Gravel World Series, i.e. they must be part of the same ranking list, independently of the wave in which they started.

## **AGE GROUP CATEGORIES**

Age Groups applicable to the Trek UCI Gravel World Series are defined by the rider's age on December 31st of the year of the qualifier event. Riders who qualify past the World Championships for next year's World Championships and change age group in the following year will automatically take their qualification to the next age group so don't need to qualify again in their new age group in the year of the World Championships. As per the regulations applied for the UCI Gravel World Championships, medals and titles will be awarded for men and/or women as soon as 1 rider is registered in the respective 5-year age category.

19 – 34y  
35 – 39y  
40 – 44y  
45 – 49y  
50 – 54y  
55 – 59y  
60 – 64y  
65 – 69y  
70 – 74y  
75 – 79y

## Appendix A

### 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 the past 12 months; or,
  - Beating the 2025 World Championship medalists or the current top-ranked UCI Elite athletes in races 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 in competitions 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
- Aerodynamic drag data
- 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