



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA  
2026 WORLD GRAVEL CHAMPIONSHIPS  
Elite (Open) 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 Elite 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**

- Elite Men – UCI World Tour and Continental -registered team members: Racing age 19 and over
- Elite Women - UCI World Tour and Continental -registered team members: Racing age 19 and over
- 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 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.

**TEAM SIZE AND EVENT SELECTION PRIORITY**

USA Cycling will determine Team size prior to the Championship based on event goals and strategy, available resources, and available athletes. USA Cycling may not fill all available quota positions for all events.

**EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY**

USA Cycling's primary goal for the 2026 World Championships is to select athletes with the strongest potential for medal success, encompassing both elite and age-group categories.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

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

### **COMPETITION CLOTHING**

**Elite:** Professional athletes competing in the open categories are required by the UCI to wear the official uniform of the National Team. That uniform is a Rapha Jersey, Rapha Short, and Rapha Sock. The National Team Rapha uniform is available for purchase through the Team USA Rapha store at: [Rapha x USA Cycling | Rapha](#) or by emailing [GCross@usacycling.org](mailto:GCross@usacycling.org)

Failure to comply with the UCI team clothing rules can lead to disciplinary actions that may include warnings to fines levied by the UCI against an athlete.

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

<b>Deadline for Expression of Interest:</b>	September 19, 2026
<b>Selection of Team:</b>	Week of September 20, 2026

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

#### **Elite Women and Men**

**Maximum Quota Positions:** No maximum limits.

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. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) of the 2026 USA Cycling Gravel National Championships, provided that race is held in its entirety and run under USAC regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
3. Qualification through the UCI Gravel World Series – As per the official qualification system for the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships; each Trek UCI Gravel World Series event grants qualification rights for the UCI Gravel World Championships for those riders finishing in the first 25% of their age group.
  - a. 25% is calculated based on the number of starters in each age group, and not on the number of riders having finished the race. Qualification is always per age group and based on age group results, not on overall results.
  - b. In addition, the first three riders of each official age 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.
4. If an athlete has not qualified through the preceding criteria, eligible athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (see Appendix A).

a. National Federation – Each National Federation can enter up to 20 quotas in total for Elite Wild Cards.

b. Wild cards - Wild cards can be given at the discretion of the UCI only.

#### **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 **September 20, 2026** 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 with 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.

## 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