



**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.
- 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).
- 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 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

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

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

Deadline for Expression of Interest:

September 1, 2026

Selection of Team:

Week of September 8, 2026

Athletes may [submit](#) an Expression of Interest.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM

Elite Men and Women

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).

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.