



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

2026 UCI DHI World Championships

Elite and Junior 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 MTB DHI World Championships Team (“Team”). There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into 2026 MTB DHI 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 and over.
- Junior Women and Men: Racing age 17-18.
- 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).
- ***To be considered for selection, athletes must meet the following minimum standards:***
 - Elite Women and Men: Have a UCI Ranking (have earned at least one UCI point) as of July 21, 2026.
 - Junior Women and Men: Have a UCI Ranking (have earned at least one UCI point) as of July 21, 2026.

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 \$300.00 which will cover one week of travel insurance, one jersey, and administration expenses.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Petitions:

July 21, 2026

Team Selection:

Week of August 3, 2026

Eligible athletes can submit interest in the event [here](#).

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM

Elite Women and Men

Maximum Quota Spots: Elite Men TBD & Elite Women TBD

1. Any athlete placing in the top ten (10) at the 2025 World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in order of placing, with the highest placed athletes nominated first, the second highest placed athlete nominated second, and so on.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athlete finishing in the top five (5) in a Downhill Final of a 2026 UCI Downhill World Cup race between the dates of January 1, 2026, and July 21, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the athlete with the highest placing will be nominated first, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.
 - b. In the event of equal highest placings, the nomination will be made based on recency and the athlete with the most recent, highest placing will be nominated first, the athlete with the second most recent, highest placing nominated second, and so on.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2026 UCI World Cup Individual Overall Elite Downhill rankings as of July 21, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest ranked athlete will be nominated first, the second highest ranked will be nominated second, and so on.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any male athlete finishing in the top twenty (20) or any female athlete finishing in the top ten (10) in a Downhill Final of a 2026 UCI Downhill World Cup race between the dates of January 1, 2026, and July 21, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the athlete with the highest placing will be nominated first, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.
 - b. In the event of equal highest placings, the nomination will be made based on recency and the athlete with the most recent, highest placing will be nominated first, the athlete with the second most recent, highest placing nominated second, and so on.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling Mountain Bike DHI National Championships held on July 25-26, 2026 in the Elite category, will be nominated to the Team.
6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, **petitioning** athletes will be nominated to the team in order of their UCI ranking as of July 21, 2026, until the Team is full.

Junior Women and Men

Maximum Quota Spots: Junior Women TBD & Junior Men TBD

1. Any athlete placing in the top ten (10) at the 2025 World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated in order of placing, with the highest placed athletes nominated first, the second highest placed athlete nominated second, and so on.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athlete finishing in the top five (5) in the Downhill Final in a 2026 UCI Downhill World Cup race between the dates of January 1, 2026, and July 21, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the athlete with the highest placing will be nominated first, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.
 - b. In the event of equal highest placings, the nomination will be made based on recency and the athlete with the most recent, highest placing will be nominated first, the athlete with the second most recent, highest placing will be nominated second, and so on.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2026 UCI World Cup Individual Overall Junior Downhill rankings as of July 21, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest ranked athlete will be nominated first, the second highest ranked will be nominated second, and so on.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling Mountain Bike DHI National Championships held on July 25-26, 2026 in the Junior category, will be nominated to the Team.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, **petitioning** athletes (those who submitted interest) will be nominated to the Team in order of their UCI ranking as of July 21, 2026.

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 3rd** 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 20th**.

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 \$300.00 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.