



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA**  
**2026 PAN-AMERICAN CONTINENTAL ELITE TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**Elite Men and Women**  
**February 18-22, 2026**  
**Santiago, Chile**

**SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the Pan American Continental Championship Team ("Team"). In cases where there are available start positions after the automatic qualification process, any available positions may be filled via discretionary nomination (Appendix A).

There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into Pan American Continental Championship at the nation, event and individual levels. Those requirements can be found on the UCI website under rules and regulations – Pan American Continental Championship: <https://www.uci.org/inside-uci/constitutions-regulations/regulations>

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Elite Men: Racing age 18 and over
- Elite Women: Racing age 18 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).

**EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY**

Select athletes to maximize performances in the Olympic Team Events (Team Sprint, Team Pursuit, Madison) first, followed by Olympic individual events (Sprint, Keirin, Omnium), then athletes who can maximize USA Cycling's UCI Nations Rankings standings and 2026 World Championship and Olympic Games qualification.

**MANDATORY TRAINING CAMPS**

Athletes are required to participate in all designated USA Cycling training camps and race programs between January 1, 2026 – February 14, 2026, that they are invited to, and as prescribed by the USA Cycling Sports Performance staff, unless given written permission to miss a required Team event from the Chief of Sports Performance. For all required USA Cycling training camps and race programs, athletes will be notified by email at least 14 days before such training or racing takes place.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 3 pieces of luggage: Up to two bikes or one bike and one wheel case, plus one suitcase each under 50lbs (excess weight or additional bag charges are the responsibility of the athlete). USA Cycling will also provide competition and casual clothing,

lodging/food, ground transportation at event location, all mechanical/race support throughout duration of the event with USA Cycling.

### **USAC POLICY FOR FUNDING CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONS FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM**

As per the current UCI rule 9.2.009, the Continental Champion may earn an additional quota position by name in the first World Championships following the awarding of the title of Continental Champion.

Because the Continental Championships are held months prior to the actual World Championships, and the level of competition at the Continental Championships is not the international standard found in most automatic qualification criteria for USA Cycling's Team nominations for World Championship Teams, USA Cycling has established the following policy:

*Funding of Continental Champions by USA Cycling for World Championship Teams depends on the rider meeting the funding levels outlined in the World Championship Team selection document. If a rider does not meet these requirements, but chooses to ride in the World Championships, they may do so at their own expense.*

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

**Deadline for Expression of Interest:**

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Team Selection:**

Week of January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Eligible athletes can submit an expression of interest for the event [here](#).*

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

USA Cycling Sport Performance staff are responsible for applying the respective selection criteria set forth herein, subject to the approval of the [Selection Committee](#).

In the following section, "Member" shall mean anyone who rides in a qualifying round, first round or medal round. Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Madison Teams must be entirely comprised of U.S. athletes.

### **MEN & WOMEN ENDURANCE**

#### **OBJECTIVE CRITERIA**

The following criteria are considered in priority order with all quota positions being filled through Criterion 1 first, then through Criterion 2 if quota positions remain, and so on.

#### **Team Pursuit – 5 Quota Positions (4 & 1 Reserve)**

1. Any athlete who is a Member of a Team Pursuit placing in the top eight (8) at the 2025 UCI Elite Track World Championships, provided the Team Pursuit met the following Time Standard<sup>1</sup> at the qualifying event, will be nominated to the Team:
  - Women: 4:18.00
  - Men: 3:54.00

---

<sup>1</sup> Time Standard - Time to be considered must be normalized to standardized environmental conditions of 1.15

2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who is a Member of a Team Pursuit placing in the top eight (8) at a 2025 Nations Cup event, provided the Team Pursuit met the following Time Standard at the qualifying event, will be nominated to the Team:
  - Women: 4:18.00
  - Men: 3:54.00
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (Appendix A).

#### **Madison – 2 Quota Positions**

1. Any athlete who is a Member of a Madison Team placing in the top eight (8) at the 2025 UCI Elite Track World Championships will be nominated to the Team.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who is a Member of a Madison Team placing in the top five (5) at a 2025 Nations Cup event, will be nominated to the Team.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (Appendix A).

#### **Omnium – 1 Quota Position**

1. Any athlete who places in the top eight (8) in the omnium at the 2025 UCI Elite Track World Championships will be nominated to the Team.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who places in the top five (5) in the omnium at a 2025 Nations Cup event, will be nominated to the Team.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (Appendix A).

#### **MEN & WOMEN SPRINT**

##### **Team Sprint – 4 Quota Positions (3 & 1 Reserve)**

1. Any athlete who is a Member of a Team Sprint placing in the top eight (8) at the 2025 UCI Elite Track World Championships, provided the Team Sprint met the following Time Standard at the qualifying event, will be nominated to the Team:
  - Women: 48.00
  - Men: 44.00
2. If quota positions remain after considering the previous criterion, any athlete who is a member of a Team Sprint placing in the top eight (8) at a 2025 UCI Nations Cup event, provided the Team Sprint met the following Time Standard at the qualifying event, will be nominated to the Team:

- Women: 48.00
  - Men: 44.00
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (Appendix A).

### **Individual Sprint - 3 Quota Positions**

1. Any athlete who places in the top eight (8) in the individual sprint at the 2025 UCI Elite Track World Championships will be nominated to the Team.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the previous criterion, any athlete who places in the top eight (8) in the individual sprint at a 2025 UCI Nations Cup event, provided the athlete met the following Time Standard at the qualifying event, will be nominated to the Team:
  - Men: 9.80
  - Women: 10.90
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (Appendix A).

### **Keirin - 2 Quota Positions**

1. Any athlete who places in the top twelve (12) in the keirin at the 2025 UCI Elite Track World Championships will be nominated to the Team.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria (Appendix A).

### **Non-Olympic Events**

Points Race, Scratch Race, Elimination, Individual Pursuit, Kilometer TT.

1. Athletes may be nominated to the Team through the discretionary criteria (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 **January 5th** 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
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.
9. Casual and Competition Clothing: As a member of the Team, representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, athletes will be provided with competition clothing which they will be required to wear during all training sessions and competitions. Athletes will also be provided with casual clothing that they will be required to wear at official Team functions and while participating as a member of the Team. Failure to comply with Team clothing rules can lead to disciplinary actions, including removal from the Team.

## 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.

*For Team Events, athletes will only be nominated using criterion #2 – Maximize Team Performance.*

1. **Medal Capable** - 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 the following criteria:
  - Winning a medal (top-three finish) in the past 24 months at the World Championships, Olympic Games, UCI Nations Cup, Pan American Games or Pan American Continental Championships in the same event and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in Nations Cups in the past 12 months.
2. **Maximize Team Performance** – USA Cycling **may** nominate athletes who Maximize Team Performance to the Team. For Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and Madison, it is necessary to select the best team and not necessarily the best individual athlete(s). Team chemistry and the ability of an athlete to fulfill a specific role on the team are vital for success. Building a cohesive team is key to achieving the best possible result.

Subjective judgement is required to select the athletes who will work together as an effective team and contribute to the execution of USA Cycling's strategy for team success. Where reasonable, USA Cycling will use objective measures to support subjective judgements under this criterion.
3. **Future Medal Capable** - 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 Selection in Nations Cups or training.
4. **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 (overall and splits) relevant to the event in consideration

- Athlete power data
- Aerodynamic drag data
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Race results
- Consistency of results
- Average speed
- UCI Individual Rankings
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)
- Fitness/form/training stress-balance/athlete readiness

For Athletes who maximize team performance (in no particular order):

- Teamwork: The willingness to accept a role that leads to team success
- Maturity: Exhibiting an ability to adjust to various situations and dealing with adversity
- Coachability: exhibiting the ability to process and incorporate input from staff
- Positive Attitude: Exhibiting enthusiasm and support of teammates
- Demonstrated tactical proficiency
- Demonstrated technical proficiency
- Previous experience fulfilling similar roles
- Evidence of ability to meet the physical requirements of the specific event
- Demonstrated willingness to work selflessly for team objectives

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