



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 UCI PARA-CYCLING ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Men and Women
September 4-7, 2026
Huntsville, AL**

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the Para-cycling Road World 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 Para-cycling Road World Championship at the nation, event and individual levels. Those requirements can be found on the UCI website under rules and regulations – Para-cycling World Championship: <https://www.uci.org/inside-uci/constitutions-regulations/regulations>

ELIGIBILITY

- Minimum age requirements for participation are established by the UCI. Those limits can be referenced in the UCI Para-cycling Regulations, available at the following link: <https://assets.ctfassets.net/76117gh5x5an/2hSKKwLFWuz8ApFjJHZVWf/f38b6379015dee7735b62aa3218583ed/16-PAR-20260101-E.pdf>
- 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).
- Athletes must have competed in at least one event listed on the international calendar within the 12 months preceding the championships. Eligible events include National Championships, UCI Class 1 or Class 2 races, World Cup events, or Continental Championships.
- Athlete must have an eligible International Para-cycling Classification, unless UCI permission is given for classification at the 2026 UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships due to extenuating circumstances.
- ~~For consideration for time trial nominations; Athletes must have met the International Standard Pace for the sport class in which they are being nominated by achieving the required time standard in a time trial event conducted at one of the competitions listed in the 2026 Para-cycling National Pace Standards, between January 1, 2024 and July 1, 2026. The International Standard Pace can be found in the [2026 Para-cycling National Pace Standards](#) document.~~

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

USA Cycling will adopt a performance-driven, medal-focused event selection strategy for the 2026 UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships, with the objective of fielding the most medal-capable team possible. Selection will prioritize classifications and events that demonstrate clear podium potential based on recent

international performances and established competitive depth.

In classifications where medal capability is not yet established, USA Cycling may nominate athletes to gain World Championship experience and support long-term athlete development. Selection in these classifications will be intentional and limited, with the objective of accelerating international readiness and future competitiveness without detracting from the primary goal of maximizing medal performance at the 2026 UCI Para-cycling Road World Championships.

MANDATORY TRAINING CAMPS AND COMPETITIONS

Athletes are required to participate in all designated USA Cycling training camps and race programs between January 1, 2026 – September 1, 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 30 days before such training or racing takes place.

COMPETITION AND CASUAL CLOTHING

As a member of a Team representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, athletes will be provided with competition clothing that must be worn during all official training sessions and competitions. Athletes will also be provided with casual clothing that is required to be worn at official Team functions and while participating in activities as a Team member.

All competition and casual clothing worn must be the **current edition issued by USA Cycling**, accurately representing current sponsors and partners. **Clothing from previous years or editions is not permitted** under any circumstances.

Failure to comply with Team clothing requirements may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from the Team.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Level 1 Funding: USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 4 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, and travel insurance throughout duration of the event with USA Cycling.

Level 2 Funding: Athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee (“Fee”) of \$1,000 payable on or before the date outlined in this document. This Fee includes: competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at the event location, if offered, the pre-event camp, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling. *Athletes are responsible for their airfare and excess baggage expenses.*

Podium Performance Reimbursement - Athletes who achieve a podium performance at the designated international competition will be eligible for reimbursement of their Team Service Fee. This reimbursement recognizes medal level performance and is intended to offset the athlete’s financial contribution toward team participation. Reimbursement will be processed following official confirmation of final results and clearance of all applicable anti-doping requirements.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Expression of Interest:

~~July 27, 2026~~ **June 8, 2026**

Team Selection:

~~The week of August 3, 2026~~ **Week of June 15, 2026**

UCI Inscription Deadline:

August 3, 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.

MEN & WOMEN ROAD

Anyone selected for the road race will also be selected for their respective time trials.

Maximum Quota Spots:

Up to three (3) athletes per category

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.

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2025 Para-cycling Road World Championships in the same event and sport class will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than the 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.
2. If quota positions remain after application of the preceding criteria, any athlete who achieves a top three (3) finish in their sport class at a UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup held between January 1, 2026 and June 1, 2026 will be nominated to the Team, provided the competition course is comparable in distance, profile, and performance demands to the 2026 World Championships Road Race.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than the remaining quota positions, the athlete with the highest placing in their sport class will be nominated first, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.
 - b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on UCI individual sport class ranking, with the highest-ranked athlete nominated first and the next highest-ranked second, and so on, until all quota positions are filled.

Level 2 Funding

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling Para-cycling National Championships in their sport class, provided the race is held in its entirety, run under UCI regulations, and contested by a field of three or more starters in the relevant sport class, will be nominated to the Team.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through USA Cycling's Discretionary Selection (Appendix A).

MEN & WOMEN TIME TRIAL

Anyone selected for the road race will also be selected for their respective time trials.

Maximum Quota Spots:

Up to three (3) athletes per category

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.

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2025 Para-cycling Road World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than the 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.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who places in the top three (3) in a UCI Para-cycling World Cup on a course similar in length, profile and demands as the 2026 World Championships Time Trial between the dates of January 1, 2026, and June 1, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than the 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. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on UCI individual ranking, with the highest-ranked athlete nominated first and the next highest-ranked second, and so on, until all quota positions are filled.

Level 2 Funding

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling Para-cycling National Championships in their sport class, provided the race is held in its entirety, run under UCI regulations, and contested by a field of three or more starters in the relevant sport class, will

be nominated to the Team.

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through USA Cycling's Discretionary Selection (Appendix A).

MEN & WOMEN HANDCYCLE TEAM RELAY

1. Athletes previously named to the Team may be nominated to the 2026 World Championships Team Relay through discretionary selection criteria outlined in Appendix A.
2. Final relay composition will be determined by the Discipline Director, at his sole discretion, at an appropriate time during the event.

Pilots (Tandem – B Classification)

Pilot athletes are required for B classification (visually impaired) athletes and are considered performance-critical members of the tandem team. The selection of a pilot is contingent upon the selection of the visually impaired athlete. If the visually impaired athlete declines selection or is removed from the Team, the corresponding pilot will also forfeit their position.

For tandem teams, performances used to satisfy selection criteria must be achieved by the same athlete-pilot pairing. Performance standards, podium results, or qualifying marks recorded with different pilot combinations will not automatically be aggregated or recognized for selection purposes.

Tandem selection will be based on demonstrated medal capability at the World Championship level. The Selection Committee will prioritize pairings that have produced internationally competitive performances and that project contribute to podium outcomes.

If a change in pilot occurs after one or more qualifying performances have been achieved, final selection of the tandem team will be at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee. In evaluating a revised pairing, the Committee may consider:

1. Demonstrated international competitiveness of the new pairing
2. Ability to meet or exceed established performance standards
3. Proven capacity to contend for medals
4. Stability, training history, and technical cohesion of the tandem
5. Athlete preference, provided it aligns with performance objectives

Pilot athletes must possess demonstrated expertise in the specific event(s) contested and a thorough understanding of UCI tandem regulations. Pilots are expected to meet the same standards of preparation, professionalism, conduct, and performance accountability as all National Team athletes.

Accreditation allocation will generally be one (1) pilot per selected B classification athlete, consistent with UCI regulations.

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 3~~ **June 15th** 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 IPC, 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 IPC, 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 IPC, 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. An athlete may be removed from the Team for an injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Cycling provides certification that the athlete has a debilitating condition. If the athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they will be removed from the Team.
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 winning a medal (top-three finish) in the past 24 months at the World Championships, Paralympic Games, UCI World Cup, or Parapan American Games in the same event and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in World Cups in the past 12 months.
2. **Maximize Team Performance** – USA Cycling **may** nominate athletes who Maximize Team Performance to the Team. 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. For Team Relay, 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. 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 World 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