



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA  
2026 ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS  
U23 Men & Women  
September 20-27, 2026  
Montreal, Canada**

**SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 UCI U23 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.

There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into World Championship Team 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**

- U23 Men: Racing age 19 – 22
- U23 Women: Racing age 19 – 22
- 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**

USA Cycling's primary objective for the 2026 World Championships is to assemble a highly cohesive team capable of delivering the best possible performance. The secondary objective is to support long-term development by selecting athletes with future medal potential and those who can contribute to team success in the years ahead, providing them with valuable championship experience. USA Cycling will nominate Time Trial athletes first, followed by Road athletes, and may opt not to fill all available quota spots for every event.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**Level 1:** 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 the event location, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling.

**Level 2:** Athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee \$1000.00 by the date outlined in this document ("Fee"). This Fee includes: competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at event

location, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling. Athletes are responsible for their airfare and baggage expenses.

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

**Deadline for Submission of Petitions:**

August 17, 2026

**Team Selection:**

Week of August 18, 2026

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

### **TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA – U23 Women & Men: Time Trial**

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

**Maximum Quota Spots:** Women & Men - Up to 2

#### **A. 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.

#### **Funding Level 1**

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.
  - 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 criterion, any athlete who places in the top three (3) in a 2026 European UCI World Tour Time Trial, or .PRO (.UWT, .PRO) greater than 12km for women and 20km for men between the dates of January 1, 2026, and August 16, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest placing athlete will be nominated first, second highest placing athlete nominated second, and so on.
  - b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency, with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who places in the top three (3) in a 2026 European UCI .1 or .2U, greater than 12km for women and 20km for men between the dates of January 1, 2026, and August 16, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest placing athlete will be nominated first, second highest placing athlete nominated second, and so on.

- b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency, with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on.
- 4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling U23 Time Trial National Championships, provided that the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
- 5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria.

#### B. 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.

#### Funding Level 2

- 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 one of the following criteria:
  - Won a medal (top-three finish) in the past 12 months in the same event at the World Championships and has demonstrated the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in competition and or training in the past 12 months; Or,
  - Finishing on the podium (top-three finish) in two or more UCI European .1, .PRO, or .WWT/UWT, time trials on courses similar in profile, length, and demands to the event for which they are being considered, in the past 12 months.
- 2. **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 Selections during training or competition. The athlete must also have at least two top-ten finishes in UCI European .2U, .1, .PRO, or .WT time trials with a similar profile, length, and demands as the 2026 World Championships in the past 12 months.
- 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
- Aerodynamic drag data
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Consistency of results
- Race results
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)

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

#### **TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA – U23 Women & Men: Road Race**

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

**Maximum Quota Spots: Women & Men - Up to 5**

##### **A. 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.

##### **Funding Level 1**

1. Any athlete(s) placing in the top three (3) 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 based on placing. The athlete with the highest placing will be nominated first, the athlete with the second highest placing will be nominated second and so on.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athlete already nominated to the 2026 World Championship Team for Time Trial will be nominated to the 2026 World Championships Road Race Team.

##### **Funding Level 2**

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athlete who places in the top three (3) in a 2026 European one-day UCI World Tour, .PRO, or .1, .2U (.UWT, .PRO, .1, .2U) on courses similar in profile, length, and demands as the World Championships road between the dates of January 1, 2026, and August 16, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest placing athlete

will be nominated first, the second highest placing athlete nominated second, and so on.

- b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency, with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete who places in the top three (3) in a 2026 European one day UCI 1.1, 1.2U on courses similar in profile, length, and demands as the World Championships road course between the dates of January 1, 2026, and August 16, 2026, will be nominated to the Team.
  - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions, the highest placing athlete will be nominated first, the second highest placing athlete nominated second, and so on.
  - b. If there are equal placings, the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency, with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling Elite Road Race National Championships, provided that the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2026 USA Cycling U23 Road Race National Championships, provided that the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will be nominated to the Team.
7. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through discretionary criteria.

## **B. 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.

### **Funding Level 2**

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 one of the following criteria:
  - Won a medal (top-three finish) in the past 12 months at the World Championships and has demonstrated the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in competition and or training in the past 12 months; Or,
  - Finishing on the podium (top-three finish) in three or more European Nation Cup individual stages or one day European UCI road races (1.2U, 1.1, 1.Pro, 1.WT), on courses similar in profile, length, and demands to the event for which they are being considered, in the past 12 months.

2. **Maximize Team Performance** - USA Cycling may nominate athletes who Maximize Team Performance to the Team. For road races, 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 Selections during training or competition. The athlete must also have at least two top-ten finishes European Nation Cup individual stages and or European 1.2U, 1.1, 1.PRO, or .WT with a similar profile, length, and demands as the 2026 World Championships in the past 12 months.
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 on courses (or portions of courses) of similar length or course profile and/or in similar environmental conditions to this event;
- Athlete power data
- Aerodynamic drag data
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Consistency of results
- Race results
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)

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

#### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPATING 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 18<sup>th</sup>** 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. 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. Financial Responsibility: Service fee is due by **September 5th**.

**Level 1:** 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 the event location, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling.

**Level 2:** Athletes will be responsible for paying a service fee \$1,000.00 by the date outlined in this document ("Fee"). This Fee includes: competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at event location, all mechanical/race support, and travel insurance throughout the duration of the event with USA Cycling. Athletes are responsible for their airfare and baggage expenses.

10. Casual and Competition 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.