



**USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 XCM MTB World Championship
Elite Women and Men
September 12, 2026
Primiero San Martino di Castrozza, Italy**

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 XCM World Championship Team ("Team"). There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into the 2026 XCM 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 years and older.
- 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 submit a petition to be considered for a wildcard entry. Riders who meet the general qualification from the UCI will be contacted by USA Cycling upon their registration for the event.***

Submit a petition [here](#).

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 payment of a service fee ("Fee") of \$100.00 which will cover one weekend of travel insurance and administration expenses.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Petitions:
Team Selection:

August 4, 2026
Week of August 17, 2026

Any athletes who wish to be considered for a wildcard entry for this event must [submit](#) a petition.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM

Elite Women and Men

General Qualification:

The Top 20 in each round of the UCI MTB Marathon World Cup and the Top 80 of the UCI XCM individual ranking will earn a nomination by name from the UCI. Each National Federation may also nominate an additional 10 men and 10 women.

Any athletes who wish to be considered for a wildcard entry for this event must [submit a petition](#).

Criteria for the National Federation Wildcards

Elite Women: 10 Quota Positions, **Elite Men:** 10 Quota Positions

1. Any athlete placing in the top twenty (20) at the 2025 World Championships in the same event and category will earn a wildcard nomination.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available 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 placing in the top five (5) of the Elite Men and Elite Women category of the 2026 USA Cycling XCM National Championships, provided the race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations, will earn a wildcard nomination.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the athlete with the highest placing will be nominated first, followed by the athlete with the next highest placing, and so on.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes with a UCI Individual XCM World Ranking as of August 4, 2026, will earn a wildcard nomination.
 - a. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, the highest ranked athlete will be nominated first, the next highest ranked nominated second, and so on, until all athlete petitions have exhausted or all athletes on the UCI Individual XCM World Rankings have been nominated.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the previous criteria, athletes may be nominated to the Team through USA Cycling's Discretionary Selection outlined below.

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.

1. **Medal Capable Athletes** – 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 3 finish) in the past 24

months at the World Championships and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on results and performances in the past 12 months.

2. **Future Medal Capable Athletes** – 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 in competition or training.
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
- Consistency of results
- Race results
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Times (overall and splits) relevant to the event in consideration
- Event and/or specific role demands
- Average speed
- UCI Individual Rankings
- Race specific proficiency (tactics, skills, acumen)
- Fitness/form/training stress-balance/athlete readiness

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 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 17th** 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 September 1st**.

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 payment of a service fee ("Fee") of \$100.00 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. USA Rapha competition clothing will be available for purchase on the Rapha Website or through USA Cycling. Please note, USA Cycling is not obligated to support the supply of clothing for athletes competing in this event.