



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 Pan American XCM Continental Championships
October 10-11, 2026
Mendoza, Argentina

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 Pan American Continental XCM MTB Championship Team (“Team”). There are extensive Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) requirements for entry into 2026 Pan American Continental XCM MTB Championships at the nation, event and individual levels. Those requirements can be found on the UCI website under rules and regulations – Continental Championships: <https://www.uci.org/inside-uci/constitutions-regulations/regulations>

ELIGIBILITY

- Elite Women and Men: Racing age 19 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).
- ***Athletes must submit a petition to be considered for nomination.***

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Athletes 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 \$100.00, which will cover one week 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

All athletes who want to be considered for the Team must submit a petition.

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](#).

Elite Women and Men

Maximum Quota Spots: TBD

All athletes who want to be considered for the Team must [submit a petition](#).

1. Any athlete who placed in the top ten (10) at the 2025 Continental Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the Team.
 - a. If there are more athletes than available quota positions, athletes will be nominated to the Team in order of their final placing, with the athlete who placed the highest nominated first, the athlete who placed second highest nominated next, and so on.
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, athletes will be nominated to the Team in descending order of their standing in the UCI Individual Elite XCM Rankings as of August 4, 2026, with the highest-ranked riders selected first until all available positions are filled.

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 October 5th**.

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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.