



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA
2026 Pan American XCO Continental Championships
Elite, U23, Junior
April 16-19, 2026
Aguavista, Itapua, Paraguay

SELECTION AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can qualify for nomination to the 2026 XCO Pan American Continental Championships 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 2026 Pan American Continental 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.
- U23 Women and Men: Racing age 19 to 22.
- Junior Women and Men: Racing age 17 and 18.
- 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).
- **Elite Women and Men must have at least 125 UCI points as of March 24, 2026 to be considered.**
- **U23 Women and Men must have at least 50 UCI points as of March 24, 2026 to be considered.**
 - First-year U23 athletes (born in 2007 and therefore 19 years old in 2026) are eligible for consideration regardless of UCI points.
- **Junior Women and Men must have at least 20 UCI points as of March 24, 2026 to be considered.**
 - First-year Junior athletes (born in 2009 and therefore 17 years old in 2026) are eligible for consideration regardless of ranking.

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

EVENT SELECTION STRATEGY

USA Cycling will not support a Team at the 2026 Continental Championships. All riders who earn the nomination must be prepared to attend the event in a 'self-supported' fashion. Therefore, so long as an athlete meets the minimum eligibility requirements, they will earn a nomination to race assuming USA Cycling is granted unlimited start positions for the event like in the past.

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

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 is contingent upon the rider meeting the funding levels as 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 will do so at their own expense.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission of Petitions:	March 21, 2026
Team Selection:	Week of March 26, 2026

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

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – Elite Women and Men

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: 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 XCO Rankings as of March 24, 2026, with the highest-ranked riders selected first until all available positions are filled.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – U23 Women and Men

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: 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 XCO Rankings as of March 24, 2026, with the highest-ranked riders selected first until all available positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, first-year U23 athletes (born in 2007 and therefore 19 years old in 2026) who are eligible for consideration regardless of UCI points, will be nominated to the Team in the chronological order in which their petitions are received. The earliest submission secures the first available quota spot, the second earliest submission claims the next quota spot, and so forth until all quota positions are filled, or no additional petitions remain.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM – Junior Women and Men

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: 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 Junior XCO Rankings as of March 24, 2026, with the highest-ranked riders selected first until all available positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, first-year Junior athletes (born in 2009 and therefore 17 years old in 2026) who are eligible for consideration regardless of UCI points, will be nominated to the Team in the chronological order in which their petitions are received. The earliest submission secures the first available quota spot, the second earliest submission claims the next quota spot, and so forth until all quota positions are filled, or no additional petitions remain.

Elite Women and Men XCC

If there is an XCC event at the Continental Championship, as per UCI regulations, the XCC team shall comprise of athletes already selected to the Team and registered for the XCO event.

In the event of there are less XCC start positions than athletes selected to the XCO team, athletes will be nominated in accordance with their UCI Ranking.

Team Relay XCR

USA Cycling will not enter the Team Relay XCR event since there will not be an official Team delegation.

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 **March 26th** 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:** Fee is due **by April 10th**.

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

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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.