



USA Cycling Selection Criteria 2027 Olympic National Team Designation

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below, you will find information on how an athlete can be selected for the 2027 National Team Designation (“Designation”).

ELIGIBILITY

- Any athlete classed as Junior, U23 or Elite is eligible to be considered.
- Athlete must be eligible to represent USA Cycling in Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) competitions, including but not limited to:
 - Holding a current USA Cycling license
 - Holding a current UCI International license
- Maintain valid SafeSport Training, Background Check & USADA’s Athlete Advantage

NATIONAL TEAM DESIGNATION PURPOSE

USA Cycling (USAC) Sport Performance Department is responsible for supporting and guiding athletes capable of winning Olympic and Paralympic medals, while also identifying, recruiting, and developing future Games athletes.

USAC’s Sport Performance vision is to be amongst the very best in the world at talent identification, athlete development, management, and preparation in all Olympic and Paralympic cycling disciplines. The Designation is considered a critical means for achieving this vision. The support provided alongside the Designation seeks to offset some of the expenses associated with preparing for and participating in international sport. It is designed to help athletes with the greatest potential to win medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Championships by providing the best available customized resources and support to encourage and enable them to reach and sustain their full potential internationally. USAC wants to ensure that the best athletes participate in international competitions, enabling the USA to qualify Olympic, Paralympic and World Championship start positions and maximize its potential in competition. Also, to create and foster a culture of excellence that leads to world-class development and sustained international success.

NATIONAL TEAM DESIGNATION SELECTION STRATEGY

- It is important to note that while the Designation is based primarily on performances achieved in the preceding 12 months, it is not intended to simply reward past results but also to help athletes achieve future results.
- Discretionary nominations may be made by applying the discretionary criteria.
- The National Team Designation does not guarantee funding from USA Cycling for competitions or preparation.
- National Team Designation does not guarantee athletes will be invited to particular trips/events, and the Designation is not required for athletes to be invited to such events.
- Athletes will receive the National Team Designation collectively once the selection period has ended.
- Athletes will receive the National Team Designation for one calendar year (12 months).

- No athlete will be demoted during the year; however, funding may be suspended at any time if progress or commitment is not consistent with the terms of the National Team Designation Agreement.
- Athletes are responsible for maintaining an open dialogue with their Discipline Director and National Team Coach with regards to anything relating to, but not limited to:
 - o Event participation and performance, whether they feel it may affect the team as a whole.
 - o Fitness, health, and injuries (including concussions).
 - o Changes and updates related to goals and objectives in their annual performance plan.

DESIGN AND STRUCTURE

The Designation and relevant benefits are designed to help athletes achieve podium performances at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and World Championships. The tiered program provides performance-based support to athletes in the form of such things as: direct athlete support (DAS), Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI), and USAC partner VIK product. The Designation is awarded to athletes with proven performance capability and is designed with multiple tiers to reward those who have demonstrated performance success and to encourage those who show potential for future elite success. Athletes are expected to advance up the tiers with improving international performances reflective of their ability to execute Olympic, Paralympic and World Championship podium performances.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE DESIGNATION - Men and Women

The USA Cycling Sport Performance staff is responsible for applying the selection criteria set forth herein. Objective selections shall be based on the results achieved by athletes in competitions held between January 1 and December 31, 2026 ("the selection period").

A. OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

Athletes meeting the following objective criteria in their respective discipline during the selection period will earn the National Team Designation:

Must meet one (1) of the following:

	Gold Elite & U23 ONLY	Silver Elite & U23 ONLY	Bronze Junior ONLY
Road	- Top 3 Elite/ U23 World Championships - Top 3 Elite UCI World Ranking	- Top 5 Elite/U23 World Championships - Top 20 Elite UCI World Ranking	Top 3 Jr Road World Championships
Road - ITT	Top 3 Elite/ U23 World Championships	Top 5 Elite/U23 UCI World Championships	Top 3 Jr Road World Championships
Mountain Bike XCO	- Top 3 Elite/ Winner U23 XCO World Championships - Top 3 Elite/ Winner U23 Overall XCO WC Ranking	- Top 5 Elite/ Top 3 U23 XCO World Championships - Top 10 Elite/ Top 5 U23 Overall XCO WC Ranking	Top 5 Jr XCO World Championships
Track Endurance: Team Pursuit	Top 3 Elite World Championships: TP	- Top 5 Elite World Championships: TP - Top 3 World Cup: TP *Time Standard: Men - 3:53.015; Women - 4:17.149 (must contribute at minimum, 3 laps to the team's performance)	Top 5 Jr Track World Championships

Track Endurance: Omnium	Top 3 Elite World Championships: Omnium	- Top 5 Elite World Championships - Top 3 World Cup: Omnium	Top 5 Jr Track World Championships: Omnium
Track Endurance: Madison	Top 3 Elite World Championships: Madison	- Top 5 Elite World Championships - Top 3 World Cup: Madison	Top 5 Jr Track World Championships: Madison
Track Sprint: Team Sprint	Top 3 Elite World Championships: Team Sprint	- Top 5 Elite World Championships - Top 3 World Cup: Team Sprint *Time Standard: Men – 43.473; Women – 47.301	Top 5 Jr Track World Championships: Team Sprint
Track Sprint: Sprint	Top 3 Elite World Championships: Sprint	- Top 8 Elite World Championships: Sprint - Top 3 World Cup: Sprint *Time Standard: Men – 9.680; Women – 10.709	Top 5 Jr Track World Championships: Sprint
Track Sprint: Keirin	Top 3 Elite World Championships: Keirin	- Top 6 Elite World Championships - Top 3 World Cup: Keirin	Top 5 Jr Track World Championships: Keirin
BMX Race	- Top 3 Elite World Championships - Top 3 UCI Elite World Cup Ranking - Top 3 UCI Individual Ranking	- Top 8 Elite/U23 Elite World Championships - Top 8 Elite/Top 5 U23 UCI World Cup Ranking - Top 8 Elite/Top 5 U23 UCI Individual Ranking	Top 5 Jr BMX Race World Championships
BMX Freestyle	- Top 3 Elite World Championships - Top 3 UCI Elite World Cup Ranking - Top 3 UCI Individual Ranking	- Top 6 UCI Elite World Championships - Top 6 UCI Elite World Cup Ranking - Top 6 UCI Individual Ranking	N/A

**Time Standard: must be electronical and verified by a USAC or UCI official and normalized to a standardized air density of 1.15.*

Re: Team Pursuit, Team Sprint & Sprint. Athletes must meet qualifying result AND time standard to be eligible for National Team designation for SILVER LEVEL.

Re: Team Pursuit, Team Sprint & Madison. Any team with more than one (1) rider, must be entirely comprised of U.S. athletes to be eligible for National Team designation.

B. DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA

After application of the Objective Criteria above, USA Cycling Sport Performance staff **may**, but is not required to, nominate athletes to the Designation through discretionary criteria. The following criteria are considered in prioritized order, with athletes meeting criterion A nominated first, followed by athletes meeting criterion B if spots remain.

- A. Medal Capable Athletes – A medal capable athlete has clearly demonstrated the ability to produce a medal winning result by achieving one of the following criteria:
 - i. Winning a medal (top 3) at the 2026 World Championships.
 - ii. Beating the 2025 World Championship medalists or 2025 top-ranked UCI Elite athletes in Top Level Competitions* on multiple occasions in 2026.
- B. Future Medal Capable Athletes – An athlete who is future medal capable has the potential to produce a medal-winning result within three years at a World Championship, or Olympic Games by demonstrating a trend of improving performance in Top Level Competition in 2026**.

Data to Support Discretionary Selections

USA Cycling considers data useful when making discretionary selections. USA Cycling can consider any of the following factors datapoints (but does not have to consider them all):

- Competition results;
- UCI rankings;
- The athlete's availability and willingness to attend any camps or trips invited to by USA Cycling in 2025;
- Competitions outside of the Qualification Period;
- Injury or illness during the selection period. *Injury and illness cases will be reviewed by USA Cycling's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Roshon.*

Discretionary nominations, including tier level, will be reviewed, and confirmed by a panel of two USA Cycling staff (who do not serve as a personal coach to a program athlete) and one Athlete Representative.

50 athletes maximum can receive the Olympic National Team Designation, including both automatic and discretionary athletes.

* Top Level Competitions are defined as:

- Olympic MTB: World Cups or World Championships
- Olympic Track: World Cups or World Championships
- Olympic Road: 1.UWT, 2.UWT, 1.WWT, 2.WWT, or World Championships
- Olympic BMX Race: World Cups or World Championships
- Olympic BMX Freestyle: World Cups or World Championships

** Minimum of three performances or datapoints is required to demonstrate a trend.

Support Levels			
Tier	Direct Athlete Support (DAS)*	USOPC Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI)	USAC Sponsor VIK Product
Gold - Elite	\$30,000	Eligible	Eligible
Silver - Elite	\$15,000	Eligible	Eligible
Gold - U23	\$8,000	Ineligible	Eligible
Silver - U23	\$4,000	Ineligible	Eligible
Bronze - Juniors	\$1,000	Ineligible	Eligible

*Olympic men's road athletes are not eligible for DAS or Elite Athlete Health Insurance

**Annual total that is disseminated on a quarterly basis.

Athletes will be **eligible** for 2027 USOPC Direct Athlete Support (DAS) and Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) if they earn the Gold or Silver Elite National Team Designation. Gold Elite athletes will receive \$30,000 annually in DAS, and Silver Elite athletes will receive \$15,000 annually in DAS. EAHI will be maintained throughout the calendar year.

Athletes will be eligible for USA Cycling DAS if they earn Gold or Silver U23 National Team Designation or Bronze Junior National Team Designation. Gold U23 athletes will receive \$8,000 in USA Cycling DAS annually, and Silver U23 athletes will receive \$4,000 in USA Cycling DAS annually. Finally, Bronze Junior athletes will receive \$1,000 in USA Cycling DAS annually.

All DAS will be paid on a quarterly basis, at the start of each quarter.

EAHI spots are limited and determined by the USOPC. EAHI will be allocated to Gold Level Elite athletes first. If spots remain after that, EAHI will be allocated to Silver Elite athletes.

Key Contacts

Athlete Ombuds

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds offers independent, confidential advice to elite athletes regarding their rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and assists athletes with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints, and concerns.

Phone: 719.866.1000

Email: Ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: teamusa.org/athlete-ombuds

Key USA Cycling Sport Performance Contacts

Brendan Quirk – CEO & President

Email: bquirk@usacycling.org

Jim Miller – Chief of Sport Performance

Email: jmiller@usacycling.org

Kelsey Erickson – Sr. Director of Athlete Services, Safe Sport & Compliance

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Angelina Palermo – Director of Communications & Public Relations

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Athlete Representatives

Connor Fields – Athlete Rep

Email: connorfieldsbmx1@gmail.com

Cory Coffey – Athlete Rep

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Learn more about USA Cycling's National Team Designation [here](#).