



USA Cycling Selection Criteria 2027 Paralympic National Team Designation

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

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

ELIGIBILITY

- Any athlete classed as 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
- Creation, submission, & adherence to an annual performance plan
- Signed National Team Agreement

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	Silver	Bronze
Road	Top 3 UCI Paracycling Road World Championships*	- Top 5 UCI Paracycling Road World Championships* - Top 3 in 2 races (must include 1+ European race) UCI Paracycling Road World Cups: RR/ITT/TR	3 x Top 5 UCI Paracycling Road World Cups: RR/ITT/TR
Road: ITT	Top 3 UCI Paracycling Road World Championships*: ITT	- Top 5 UCI Paracycling Road World Championships*: ITT - Top 3 in 2 races (must include 1+ European race) UCI Paracycling Road World Cups: RR/ITT/TR	3 x Top 5 UCI Paracycling Road World Cups: RR/ITT/TR
Road: HC Relay (TR)	Top 3 UCI Road World Championships*: HC Relay (TR)	- Top 5 TR UCI Paracycling Road World Championships* - Top 3 in 2 races (must include 1+ European race) UCI Paracycling Road World Cups: RR/ITT/TR	3 x Top 5 UCI Paracycling Road World Cups: RR/ITT/TR
Track: 1km TT	Top 3 UCI Paracycling Track World Championships	Top 5 UCI Paracycling Track World Championships*	Top 7 UCI Paracycling Track World Championships^
Track: Individual Pursuit		Top 5 UCI Paracycling Track World Championships^^	
Track: Team Sprint			
Track: Scratch Race			
Track: Elimination			
Track: Sprint			

*Must finish within 110.0% of the winner

^Only available if the race has 10 or more riders starting

^^Only available if the race as 8 or more riders starting

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:
- Winning a medal (top 3) at the 2026 World Championships.
 - 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 Paralympic 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.

25 athletes maximum can receive the Paralympic National Team Designation, including both automatic and discretionary athletes.

* Top Level Competitions are defined as:

- Paracycling Road: World Cups, World Championships
- Paracycling Track: World Championships, Paralympics Cycling Track Open

** 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	\$30,000	Eligible	Eligible
Silver	\$15,000	Eligible	Eligible
Bronze	\$1000	Eligible	Eligible

*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, Silver or Bronze National Team Designation. Gold Elite athletes will receive \$30,000 annually in DAS, Silver Elite athletes will receive \$15,000 annually in DAS and Bronze athletes will receive \$1000 annually in DAS. EAHI will be maintained throughout the calendar year.

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 athletes first. If spots remain after that, EAHI will be allocated to Silver Level athletes. If spots remain after being allocated to Gold and Silver Level athletes, EAHI will be allocated to Bronze Level 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: <https://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

Chris Furber – Sr. Director Paracycling

Email: cfurber@usacycling.org

Jim Lehman – National Team Head Coach

Email: jlehman@usacycling.org

Mike Durner – National Team Pathways Coach

Email: mdurner@usacycling.org

Steve Donovan – Head Mechanic

Email: sdonovan@usacycling.org

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

Email: kerickson@usacycling.org

Angelina Palermo – Director of Communications & Public Relations

Email: apalermo@usacycling.org

Athlete Representatives

Jamie Whitmore – Athlete Rep

Email: gutzzytrigirl@hotmail.com

David Berling – Athlete Rep

Email: davidberling1@gmail.com

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