



Communiqué #1

26 June 2026

RIDERS OUT OF CONTENTION

Masters & Junior Road Championships will use the 80% protocol in both the criteriums and the road races.

Any rider whose time is 80% slower than the field’s lap time will be pulled out of the race. The rider will be pulled by a commissaire near the finish line. The intent is that all out of contention riders will be pulled before the start of the lap on which they will be caught by the race leader(s), so that the leader(s) of the race should not have to pass any out of contention riders. Riders who are pulled by a commissaire at the start/finish line will be placed in the results commensurate with their position at that time. Rider who abandon the race and are not pulled by a commissaire will be listed as DNF in the results.

In some instances, the Early Bell protocol will be used. A bell shall be rung for a group of riders off the back of the field. If this method is used, riders will be informed at the start/finish line by the announcer and the sound of a bell. The intent is riders out of contention will be given a bell and allowed to sprint for placings in the results.

In the following races, riders will be allowed to be lapped one time by the field and will finish on the same lap as the leader.

<u> criterium</u>	<u>Road Race</u>
Girls 11-12	Girls 11-12
Boys 11-12	Boys 11-12
Girls 13-14, 15-16	Girls 13-14
Boys 13-14	Boys 13-14
Women 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+	Women 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+
Men 75+	Men 75+

RACE NEUTRALIZATION

Race neutralization is a short-lived stoppage or pausing of a race to facilitate the passing of one race field by another race field and/or to safely navigate around vehicles on the course. The road race is not a closed course, but instead a rolling enclosure. Why? USA Cycling Racing Rules state: Taking pace or assistance from any outside means is forbidden, including taking pace from riders in a different race that is concurrently on the same course [relegation or disqualification]. Keeping in mind riders in different races may not “take pace” from those in another race the



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concept and practice of neutralizing the slower race will be used. Very occasionally the faster race is neutralized to allow the slower race to finish without interference. We would rather NOT institute race neutralization; however, it may be necessary. How? A commissaire, usually a motorcycle referee, will signal the neutralization of the race sounding of a whistle (or horn) and/or by raising their hand or barrage paddle. The commissaire may also indicate that the riders in the field should stay to the right side of the racecourse. As soon as the neutralization is signaled, the riders in the field being neutralized should slow and remain behind the neutralizing vehicle until the neutralization is ended by a signal from the commissaire. Neutralization is usually terminated when the faster race is 30 seconds to 1 minute ahead of the slower race OR when the commissaire deems it appropriate. Very often, in the case of a small breakaway the breakaway may not be neutralized. This is normal practice and may be an advantage for the breakaway riders. Please ride safely and use good sportsmanship during these situations.

Generally, the lead racer(s) and the main field will be directed through intersections. Racers dropped by the main field outside their race caravan should be alert and ready to obey traffic laws. Riders are responsible for knowing the course they are racing.

TECHNICAL GUIDE CORRECTIONS

RACE OFFICIALS

Chris Clark – Chief Referee
Michael Cisek – Chief Judge
Lynn Taylor – Assistant Judge
Tim Radcliff – Assistant Judge / Motor Referee
Nikki Cypranowski – Assistant Referee
Marcie Weiss – Assistant Referee
Emma Weiss – Assistant Referee
Alan Stewart – Assistant Referee
Chris Black – Motor Referee
Brian Sheehy – Motor Referee
Brian Garfoot – Motor Referee
Dave Fowkes – Motor Referee
Jessica Willis – Trainee

Extreme Heat Protocol

USA Cycling is currently monitoring the forecast as it relates to predicted temperatures during the Time Trial and Road Race events. Any changes to standard practice tied to heat will be set forth in future communications closer to those respective event days.

The Race Jury