



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

2021 UCI XCO MTB WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS ELITE, U23 AND JUNIOR
MEN AND WOMEN August 25 - 29, 2021
Val Di Sole, Italy

2021 World Championships Selection Criteria

The USA Cycling organization has been significantly affected by the COVID pandemic. Travel remains restricted and very challenging. The domestic and international competition calendar has undergone many changes, amendments and cancelations. As a result, USA Cycling has adopted the following guiding principles when creating or amending selection criteria.

The USA Cycling guiding principles are:

1. Selections that have a strong probability of producing a World Championship medal.
2. Selections that are critical in supporting the team execution required to win World Championship medals.
3. Selections that are in alignment with USAC organizational policy, goals and resources.

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how a rider can automatically qualify for nomination to the 2021 USA Cycling World Championship XCO MTB Team. In cases where there are available start positions after the automatic qualification process, any available positions **may** be filled via discretionary nominations according to the discretionary selection criteria below.

ELIGIBILITY

Elite Men and Women: UCI International License Holders; Racing Age 23 and over

U23 Men and Women: UCI International License Holders; Racing Age 19-22

Junior Men and Women: UCI International License Holders; Racing Age 17-18

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

USAC will assume financial responsibility for all athletes who are selected for the World Championship Team according to the criteria below.

FUNDING LEVELS

Level 1: Funded

USA Cycling will provide one economy class, single destination airfare, which includes up to 3 pieces of luggage: Up to two bikes or one bike and one wheel case, plus one suitcase each under 50lbs (excess weight or additional bag charges are the responsibility of the athlete). USA Cycling will also provide competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at event location, all mechanical/race support, and TravMed insurance throughout duration of the event with USA Cycling.

Level 2: Self-Funded

Athletes who are selected to the Team and do not receive level 1 funding will be responsible for self-funding through a "Team Service Fee" payable on or before the date outlined in this document. The Service Fee for this event and this level is \$750.00. This fee includes: competition and casual clothing, lodging/food, ground transportation at event location, all mechanical/race support, and TravMed Insurance throughout duration of the event with USA Cycling. Level 2 self-funded athletes are responsible for their airfare and excess baggage expenses. All athletes travel will be booked arriving 5 days before the first day of their competition, and returning the following day after their last competition.

High Performance travel grants may be available to assist selected athletes.

COMPETITION AND CASUAL CLOTHING

As a member of the USA Cycling World Championship MTB Team, representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, athletes will be provided competition clothing which will be required during all training sessions and competitions. Additionally, athletes will be provided casual clothing that will be required at official team functions and while participating as a member of the team. Failure to comply with team clothing rules can lead to disciplinary actions including removal from the team.

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- Deadline for submission of petitions: July 29, 2021
- Selection of Discretionary Nominations: August 5, 2021
- Confirmation of intent to participate: August 6, 2021
- Final announcement of the Team: August 9, 2021
- Deadline for submission of Team Service Fee: August 10, 2021

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM

Elite Women and Men XCO

Maximum start positions: Women 7, Men 7.

Level 1: Funded

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2020 Elite XCO World Championships will be nominated to the team. In order to maintain their position on the team, the eligible athlete(s) must continue to demonstrate the ability to finish in the top 3 at the World Championships during the current racing season. This evaluation will be based on results from major international competition and ranking on the appropriate UCI Individual Classification.
2. Any eligible athlete placing in the top ten (10) at the 2020 Olympic Games will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, then the highest placed athlete will be selected first, the second highest placed athlete will be selected second and so on until all quota positions are filled.

Level 2: Self-Funded

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete who earns a top-three (3) in an Elite UCI World Cup XCO event between the dates of January 1, 2021 and July 20, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions the highest placings will be nominated first. If there are equal placings the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual World Cup Overall Elite Cross Country rankings as of July 20, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, then the highest placed athlete will be selected first, the second highest placed athlete will be selected second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2021 USA Cycling Elite Mountain Bike Cross Country National Championship provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations.
6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top fifty (50) in the UCI Individual Elite World Rankings as of July 20, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion

than available quota positions, then the highest placed athlete will be nominated first, the second highest placed athlete will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.

7. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes **may** be nominated to the team following the USAC Discretionary Selection Process.

U23 Women and Men XCO

Maximum Start Positions: Women 7, Men 7

Level 1: Funded

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2020 U23 XCO World Championships will be nominated to the team. In order to maintain their position on the team, the eligible athlete(s) must continue to demonstrate the ability to finish in the top 3 at the World Championships during the current racing season. This evaluation will be based on results from major international competition and ranking on the appropriate UCI Individual Classification.

Level 2: Self-Funded

2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete who earns a top-three (3) in a U23 UCI World Cup XCO event between the dates of January 1, 2021 and July 20, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota positions the highest placings will be nominated first. If there are equal placings the athletes with those equal placings will be nominated based on recency with the most recent event nominated first and the next most recent second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual World Cup Overall U23 Cross-country rankings as of July 20, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, then the highest placed athlete will be selected first, the second highest placed athlete will be selected second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2021 USA Cycling U23 Mountain Bike Cross Country National Championship provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible

athlete ranked in the top seventy-five (75) in the UCI Individual Elite World Rankings as of July 20, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, then the highest placed athlete will be nominated first, the second highest placed athlete will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.

6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes **may** be nominated to the team following the USAC Discretionary Selection Process.

Junior Women and Men XCO

Maximum Start Positions: Women 7, Men 6

Level 1: Funded

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2020 Junior XCO World Championships will be nominated to the team. In order to maintain their position on the team, the athlete must continue to demonstrate the ability to finish in the top 3 at the World Championships during the current racing season. This evaluation will be based on results from major international competition and ranking on the appropriate UCI Individual Classification.

Level 2: Self-Funded

2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing among the top-three (3) of a European round of the 2021 UCI Junior Series cross-country race between the dates of January 1, 2021 and July 20, 2020 will be nominated to the team. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the quota positions will be filled by the highest placings first. If there are equal placings the athlete with highest UCI ranking as of July 20, 2021 will be nominated first and second highest second and so on for each placing.
3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2021 USA Cycling JR Mountain Bike Cross Country National Championship provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations.
4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, the two highest ranked eligible athletes in the UCI Individual Jr World Rankings as of July 20, 2021 if in the top fifty 50 places in the rankings will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions, then the highest placed athlete will be nominated first, the second highest placed athlete will be nominated second and so on until all quota positions are filled.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes **may** be nominated to the team following the USAC Discretionary Selection Process.

DISCRETIONARY SELECTION PROCESS

USA Cycling may choose to fill open quota positions through the selection criteria below.

Due to the nature of sport of cycling, whereby strategy, tactics and teamwork often dictate results, USA Cycling has determined that the use of discretionary selection is essential to maximize Team USA's medal chances overall. While it has established automatic criteria by which athletes, through extraordinary achievement, have demonstrated very clear evidence of high potential for winning a World Championship medal, USA Cycling will use a discretionary selection process to select athletes who have not qualified automatically.

Discretionary Selection Criteria

If quota positions remain after the automatic criteria have been applied, the USA Cycling National Team Coaching staff may nominate athletes for discretionary selection according to the criteria below. The USA Cycling Selection Committee will review and approve the nominations. The Selection Committee will also review data from all petitioning athletes when considering the nominations.

The USA Cycling National Team Coaching Staff and Selection Committee will consider the following criteria in priority order A. through D. when making selections for team-based events. When making selections for individual events, only A., B. and D. will be considered in that order.

- A. Medal Capable Athletes– A medal capable athlete is one who has clearly demonstrated the ability to produce a medal winning result in the competition for which the athlete is being selected for by achieving one of the following criteria:
- Winning a medal (top 3 finish) within the last 24 months at the most recent World Championships and demonstrating the continuing ability to perform at that level or higher based on performances in International Competition in the last 12 months or
 - Beating previous year's Worlds medalists or current top UCI world ranked athletes in International Competition on courses similar to the event for which the athlete is being selected on multiple occasions in the past 12 months; or
 - A top three finish on a course with similar profile and against similar competition to those expected for the event for which the athlete is being selected within the last 12 months.
- B. Future Medal Capable Athletes– An athlete who is future medal capable is one who has the potential to produce a medal winning result within two to three years at a World Championship or Olympic Games by:

- Demonstrating a trend of improving performance in International Competition that, when logically extended out two to three years, in consideration of the athlete's development path, intersects the future World Championship or Olympic standard for the event under consideration; or
 - Winning medals at Junior or U23 World Championships in the last 24 months with ongoing additional supporting results in International Competitions competitive with the top ranked Elite athletes.
- C. Athletes Who Maximize Team Performance- These selections are essential for team based events where the USA Cycling National Team coaching staff have devised a race strategy that may designate one or more athletes as team leaders, and another athlete's contribution may assist a team leader in achieving a top performance. For example, even though the Road Race event is scored individually, athletes who sacrifice their own individual result to execute a team strategy for the designated team leaders can have a profound impact on the ability of a team leader to achieve a top performance. These selections are also essential in assembling a team that will likely produce the best possible performance in team events such as Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and the Madison on the track.

An athlete who can maximize team performance is one who, based on her or his experience, tactical proficiency, physical abilities, and willingness to work selflessly for the team objective, is expected to contribute to the performance of a medal capable team or designated team strategy. An athlete who can maximize team performance must have the right combination of physical ability, skill, knowledge and attitude. Athletes will be selected to play specific roles within the team based on their demonstrated physical capacities, skillset and experience fulfilling their roles. The coaches' judgement supported as much as possible by objective data, described below, will be used to differentiate between athletes being selected for team event roles.

- D. Best Predicted Finish- If positions for the Team remain open athletes may be selected based on who are most likely to finish the highest in the event.

Importance of International Competition

As used herein, "International Competition" includes any competition in which the field of athletes is sufficiently strong that performances in that competition are indicative of how an athlete can perform in the competition that the discretionary selection is for. International Competitions need not occur outside the United States, as "international" refers to the competitiveness of the field (i.e., includes many of the best riders from leading cycling nations around the world), not the location of the event.

Data to Support Discretionary Selections

When petitioning athletes are eligible for discretionary selection, due to the availability of quota slots after automatic selection, petitioning athletes and the National Team coaching staff will be given the opportunity to submit data to the Selection Committee for consideration in the discretionary selection.

In addition to performances in International Competition or competitions specified in the Athlete Selection Procedures, the following may be considered for discretionary selections, as appropriate to the discipline:

- For all selections – Validated and credible performance data such as times on courses (or portions of courses) of similar length or course profile and/or in similar environmental conditions to the event being selected for; athlete power data; or aerodynamic drag data (if relevant); or event and specific role demand data.
- For “Athletes Who Maximize Team Performance” selections – Documentation of successful execution of relevant race tactics and/or evidence of being able to meet the physical requirements of the event being selected for when considering key factors like course profile, environmental conditions, and levels of competition.
- For choosing between two athletes in a selection category – Data may include any or all of the following in no specific order of priority. The inclusion and order of priority for any data set may be different from event to event as determined by the USA Cycling Coaching staff and USA Cycling Selection Committee.
 1. Race results in top international competitions;
 2. Race results in top national level competitions;
 3. Head to head competition results or performances between multiple athletes in consideration for a discretionary position;

USA Cycling Selection Committee

Discretionary nominations will be made by the USA Cycling National Team coaching staff. The USA Cycling Selection Committee (see the USA Cycling website for the list of Selection Committee members) will review and approve ALL athlete nominations using the criteria outlined above.

Conflict of Interest

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. Another member of the Selection Committee may also raise a potential conflict of interest of another member. For any conflict raised, the remainder of the selection committee will decide if the conflict is material by vote. In the case of a tie, the tie will be broken by the USA Cycling Chief of Sport Performance. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member

who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.