



2019 UCI CYCLOCROSS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Qualification Explanation Document

Cyclocross is one of the most fun, and most challenging, disciplines in cycling. The defining attributes of brutally hard racing and forbidding weather conditions are juxtaposed to a vibrant, engaging community and its events are frequently referred to as “the most fun you can have on a bike”.

While USA Cycling has facilitated cyclocross racing in the US for many years, we have historically not invested comprehensively into supporting the sport’s athletes and growth. However, through the creation of the MudFund that allowed for the creation of the Cyclocross Manager position, USA Cycling is now focusing our efforts on cyclocross and investing in a more robust commitment to our community.

Some of the most prominent members of the cyclocross community are our elite athletes. However, many of these athletes have been competing in cyclocross for years without a meaningful connection to USA Cycling. In an effort to better support our elite athletes, we will open a transparent, inclusive dialogue with them. Furthermore, with the implementation of the Cyclocross National Team our goal is to empower our elite athletes to succeed both on and off the bike.

This document explains the qualification process for the World Championships, World Cups and Development Program. This document fills the purpose of transparently communicating with our athletes and sharing some of our goals for the cyclocross program.

For World Championships:

- As one of the leading nations in promoting women’s cyclocross, we are very excited about the addition of the Junior Women’s category at the 2020 Cyclocross World Championship.
- With this in mind, and looking forward to the UCI Cyclocross World Championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 2022, we have designed the qualification process to include a large contingent of development riders, both men and women.
- We have created unique qualification standards for each category. Last year, the qualification standards were the same for several categories and that did not serve our best interests in regards to rider development that varies across genders and age categories.
- We have adjusted the qualifications according to the level at which the most competitive athletes in each category are performing. An example of this is the results that the Elite Women and Elite Men may achieve to qualify for the World Championships. At this point in time, the US elite women are competitive at the top of their category internationally, therefore we have set the qualifications higher than the elite men.



- We have made these adjustments to provide the most equitable support and opportunities for all of our athletes, and the qualifications are likely to change in future years as the level of competitiveness of our athletes changes.
- We have eliminated qualification by UCI points so as to create less regional bias, less travel stress and less financially-based influence on the qualification process.
- We have prioritized performance at high-level events because the World Championships is a one-day race of maximum importance. While consistency in performance is valuable, the ability to perform at one's highest level at an appointed time is crucial to achieving the best performance at a World Championship.
- The dates for final team announcements have changed slightly, the most notable being that junior and U23 team announcements will be made after the Christmas/New Year's racing block.
- USA Cycling, via the MudFund and the recently received grant by the Rapha Foundation, will be increasing financial support for the World Championship team.
- This increased support aligns with USA Cycling's renewed mission for the National Team which is to:
 - Win – We invest the work and time in this sport in order to explore our potential and fulfil our purpose. Our goal is to win, and we will always strive to that end.
 - Celebrate – We are all invested in our athletes' success. When our athletes win, we will honor their achievement.
 - Inspire – While winning and celebrating are meaningful, our platform to inspire is our most compelling gift. We strive to inspire people to pursue their passions, embrace their journeys and express their values.

Discretionary Selections:

- For cyclocross, we are using the word "qualification" with all of our documents to reinforce the fact that riders primarily qualify to the team. The word "selection" denotes that we choose the riders. This is only true in the discretionary selection process which is only applicable for riders who demonstrate medal-capability or near-future medal capability.
- Cases of Discretionary Selection for the World Championships will be rare and unique as the majority of riders who perform at the highest competitive level will typically qualify through the set qualification criteria. There may be, however, a case where a rider shows extremely competitive performance capability, but for some reason does not qualify through the other set criteria. This is the only case in which we will discretionarily select a rider.
- Discretionary selections are not purposed to fill the team with riders who did not qualify through the other criteria and also do not demonstrate a high level of competitive ability regardless of age or gender.
- Discretionary selections will be recommended by the Cyclocross Manager and the Cyclocross Performance Director to the USA Cycling Selection Committee. All recommendations will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and vetted against the Discretionary Selection Information listed in each qualification document. All discretionary selections must be approved by the Selection Committee before being nominated to the team.



World Cups:

- In order to provide more development opportunities against international fields, priority in discretionary selection for World Cup events will go to development-age athletes after the automatic qualification criteria has been applied
- Due to the fact that there is only one race at World Cup events for all women, there will certain World Cup events in which some women (Junior, U23 and Elite) will not be able to start due to maximum start quotas. USA Cycling is encouraging the UCI to add a women's development category to Cyclocross World Cup events, but until that happens, there is nothing we can do to increase the racing opportunities for women at UCI Cyclocross World Cup events.
- USA Cycling will be developing a new online start request form and petition for World Cup entries that will be available online by August 1st in time for the US World Cups registration process.

Development Program:

- The Cyclocross Development Program Outline includes a list of important domestic events and qualification information for USA Cycling supported international racing trips.
- Athletes interested in participating in the international racing trips should contact the Cyclocross Manager for more information and with any specific questions about these opportunities.
- The Cyclocross Manager will communicate with all potential athletes for each trip and will recommend the best possible racing program for each athlete according to his/her performance qualifications, school program, travel schedule and domestic racing program.
- While there are automatic qualification criteria for these racing trips, some of the spots will be discretionarily selected by the Cyclocross Manager and the Cyclocross High Performance Director according to the Discretionary Selection Information listed in the Cyclocross Development Program Outline.