6. COLLEGIATE RACING

6A. Administration

6A1. Penalties In addition to penalties outlined in Chapter 10, collegiate riders and teams that violate USA Cycling rules and regulations may also be penalized by:

(i) Forfeiture of points/placings earned by the rider and/or collegiate team in a collegiate race or event (and moving up of lower placed riders and teams);
(ii) Forfeiture of collegiate national team rankings
(iii) Forfeiture of rider and/or team eligibility;
(iv) Notification to school of rider and/or team of rules violations;
(v) Team suspension.

6A2. Conference Rules In the event of a conflict in the rules, more specific conference rules are followed as long as those rules are published publicly and are approved by USA Cycling.

6B. Teams

6B1. Team Eligibility To participate in collegiate cycling races, a team must meet the following three requirements:

(a) Officially recognized by its school.
(b) A USA Cycling member club in good standing, having submitted the appropriate club application and having paid the appropriate club license fee to USA Cycling.
(c) A member in good standing of its conference.

6B2. Conference Affiliation Generally, each team must belong to the conference in which its school is geographically located. A team may petition for an exception to this requirement by submitting a petition to USA Cycling. Any exception approved by USA Cycling will be valid until either the team petitions to return to, or until USA Cycling chooses to return the team to, the Conference in which its school is geographically located.

6B3. Separate Campuses Schools that have more than one geographically separate campus, each of which granting a separate degree or having a separate and distinct athletic department, must develop a separate team for each such campus location. Only one team is allowed per campus location. Any questions as to separate campuses will be decided by USA Cycling in conjunction with the Conference Director.

6B4. Team Names For purposes of USA Cycling record-keeping, each team’s name will be the name of its school, as recorded in IPEDS (http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/) and as may be modified by USA Cycling.

6B5. Divisions

(a) USA Cycling recognizes both Club and Varsity programs. At the National Championship level, teams are separated into those two categories for the purpose of omnium scoring and
competition. Within the Club and Varsity programs there may be further divisions as outlined in the *USA Cycling Collegiate Cycling Policy*.

**6C. Rider Eligibility**

**6C1. Participation** To participate in any collegiate cycling race, a rider must meet the following three requirements:

(a) Be a full-time student in good standing at the school that will grant his or her degree, as defined by the bursar or registrar at that school. Post-doctoral students/fellows are not eligible to participate in collegiate cycling.

(b) Be a member in good standing of the team at the school at which they are a full-time student;

(c) Hold a valid collegiate cycling license and present it at race registration, or purchase a collegiate one-day license at race registration. One-day licenses will only be accepted for entry into the lowest available category above “Intro,” where offered, and will not be accepted for entry into category A races. One-day licenses will not be accepted at any Collegiate Cycling National Championship but are accepted at Conference Championships.

**6C2. Team Requirements** No team may develop eligibility requirements that unduly hamper or deny any student at such school from participating as a rider for such team when the student otherwise satisfies the eligibility requirements of these rules.

**6C3. Unaffiliated Riders** When universities or colleges with varsity cycling teams have administrative policies that limit team size, riders in excess of this limit, that meet eligibility requirements set forth in 6C1 and elsewhere in these regulations, may petition to be recognized as an Unaffiliated-Independent Rider (UIR). UIR’s must apply for this status by submitting their school’s policy on team size and evidence that team limit has been met. Petitions will be considered by USA Cycling’s Collegiate Director and Collegiate Sports Committee.

(a) Any rider who has previously been a part of a varsity team and has been removed due to any circumstances seen fit by the school, is not eligible for UIR status.

(b) Riders granted UIR status are eligible for any conference event, up to the category B. UIR’s are ineligible to compete in any collegiate national championships. Such recognition and participation are subject to the following criteria:

   i. Must race in a blank kit

   ii. As a UIR, acknowledge in writing that you are not eligible for any benefits afforded to the restricted team and remain personally responsible for all costs and risks associated with their participation (e.g. travel, housing, coaching, medical costs, entry fees, expenses, accident insurance, etc.) in their participation in USA Cycling Collegiate events.

**6C4. Unattached club riders**, Students at universities and colleges who have policies that hinder the ability of the student to create a collegiate cycling team, may petition to be eligible for
collegiate cycling as an unattached club rider. Unattached club riders must apply for this status by submitting their school’s policy which denies participation. Petitions will be considered by USA Cycling’s Collegiate Director and Collegiate Sports Committee.

(a) Riders at a school with a current USA Cycling varsity program are not eligible for regulation.

(b) Riders granted unattached status are eligible for any conference event and national championships.

(c) Such recognition and participation are subject to the following criteria:
   i. Must race in a blank kit

6C5. International students, who otherwise satisfy the eligibility requirements of these rules, are allowed to compete in collegiate cycling races, including collegiate national championships.

6C6. Juniors/High School, 14+, are allowed to compete in collegiate cycling races, excluding collegiate national championships.

(a) Riders will follow all rules regulating collegiate events
   i. Jersey regulations need not be followed.

(b) Category placement will follow those set out in the Collegiate Policy Document, unless specified by a conference specific rule.

(c) Only a valid domestic/international or one-day license is required.

6D. Categories

6D1. General Information

(a) All Rider Upgrade/Downgrade details for Collegiate Road, Track, Cyclocross and Mountain Bike categories are found in the USA Cycling Collegiate Cycling Policy.

6E. Rider’s Uniform

6E1. Jersey Design The school’s name, nickname, logo, mascot or initials must appear on the team’s jersey and must be the largest and most prominent image on the front and back of the jersey. Sponsors’ logos may appear in addition, provided they are smaller than the school name, nickname or initials. Jersey designs must be approved by the conference directors.

6E2. Team Jerseys At each race, all riders for a team must wear identifiably similar
   (a) team jerseys or
   (b) blank jerseys with the School’s name or abbreviation prominently displayed.

(c) blank jerseys may be used in time trial events

6E3. Shorts At each race, riders may only wear shorts
   (a) of their team or
   (b) shorts that are effectively blank.
At the podium presentations at national championships, riders must wear team or school clothing or jerseys.

**6F. Equipment**

**6F1. Bicycles and Wheels** used in competition in all collegiate road events (criteriums, time trials, road races, etc) must use mass-start bicycles as defined in 1I1(g). These bicycles must have at least 16 spokes and no wheel covers may be used.

**6F2. Handlebars** No handlebar extensions, including “aero bars” or other forms of bars offering forearm support, shall be allowed in collegiate road events.

**6G. Conference Events**

**6G1. Cash Prizes** No cash prizes are allowed at collegiate cycling races. Other prizes, including primes, may be awarded only to teams, and not to riders.

**6G2. Categories** At each conference event there shall be a minimum of two separate races for each gender in each discipline under the A and Intro categories. The Intro category corresponds to the lowest category for that gender in that conference and shall be advertised as “Introduction to Bicycle Racing” or “Intro” category on all event flyers e.g.: Women’s B/Intro OR Women’s Intro OR Women’s Introduction to Bicycle Racing.

**6G3. Other Races** Conferences may organize and score races not otherwise specified in the collegiate rules (e.g. 24-hour mountain bike races)

**6G4. TTT Team Size** In conference races, teams for team time trials in the A category consist of at least three and up to four riders. The time of the team is taken when the front wheel of the third rider crosses the finish line. Team sizes for team time trials in categories B-D consist of at least two and up to four riders, and the time is taken on the front wheel of the second rider.

**6G5. TTT Categories** Subject to additional conference restrictions, riders from various road categories may form a single TTT team, but the team may not enter a category any lower than the highest category rider on that team.

**6G6. Collegiate Mountain Bike/Cyclocross Team Relay**

(a) The event is generally defined by each conference within the following parameters:
   (i) Each team shall consist of at least one woman and one man
   (ii) The maximum number of riders per team is four.
   (iii) The race features a mass start on a circuit with lap times of at least 3 minutes, or if lap times are shorter, a minimum of two laps required between rider exchanges. Only one representative from each relay team shall be on course at a time.

(b) The championship format of the team relay, as it is held at the national championships, has the following additional characteristics:
   (i) Team may not enter more than two men or two women in the race.
(ii) Half of the laps for each team must be completed by women.
(iii) Riders must exchange each lap and may not race two consecutive laps.
(iv) Team boxes will be allocated by the race organization.
(v) A rider may exit their exchange box once their teammate has entered the exchange zone, marked by a line 20-50 meters before the finish line.
(vi) The rider finishing their lap must cross the finish line before the rider entering the course.

(c) The race flyer must specify which format of team relay will be used.

6G7. Super D For the purposes of point’s allocations and rider categories, Super D may be classified as endurance or gravity at the discretion of each conference director. This classification applies to all Super D events through the remainder of the season; for events deemed gravity, all downhill rules apply. Super D races do not count as qualifying races for downhill or gated gravity races at USA Cycling Collegiate Mountain Bike National Championships. Except, when specific conferences do not have downhill events, Super D events may be used as a qualifying event when approved by USA Cycling and the Conference Director. This may include non-collegiate events.

6G8. Combined Categories At the discretion of the conference director and USA Cycling, collegiate categories may be combined with other categories on an open or invitational basis (e.g. high school categories, P/1/2/3/Collegiate A, etc)

6G9. No team shall be allowed to enter more than 12 riders into a single A category road event. All conferences will follow these limitations.

6H. General Scoring

6H1. Scoring

(a) Scoring related items, to include points tables, are now listed in the Collegiate Policy Document.