



USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2019 UCI XCO MTB WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ELITE, U23 AND JUNIOR MEN AND WOMEN

**August 28 - September 1, 2019
Mont-Saint-Anne, Canada**

USA CYCLING SELECTION STRATEGY FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

USA Cycling will use the 2019 UCI World Championships as an opportunity to maximize Olympic qualification points towards elevating the Nations rank of the United States in the pursuit of the full quota of Olympic start spots at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The event is also part of the USA Cycling Olympic Athlete Selection Procedures for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how a rider can automatically qualify for nomination to the 2019 UCI World Championship XCO MTB Team. In cases where there are still 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; 2019 Racing Age 23 and over
U23 Men and Women: UCI International License Holders; 2019 Racing Age 19-22
Junior Men and Women: UCI International License Holders; 2019 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. USAC will fund automatic qualifiers up to the maximum number indicated. USAC, at their option, may also fund those athletes who are chosen via selection committee discretionary selection. For athletes selected for the team, 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 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.

FUNDING LEVELS

Level 1: Funded

For athletes qualifying for the team via Automatic Selection criteria, and at USA Cycling's option for Discretionary Selection, 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 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 do not meet the Automatic Qualification criteria but are selected to the team via USA Cycling Selection Committee Discretionary Selection criteria 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 \$1,000.00. 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 as well. 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.

PODIUM COMPENSATION

If any Self-Funded member of the team achieves a top three (3) finish in the UCI XCO MTB World Championship, USA Cycling will refund the Team Service Fee and pay the fair market value of an economy class round trip airfare ticket to the event (excluding excess baggage costs) to all Self-funded athletes who are members of the team.

COMPETITION AND CASUAL CLOTHING

As a member of the USA Cycling UCI World Championship XCO 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 15, 2019
- Selection of Discretionary Nominations: July 25, 2019
- Confirmation of intent to participate: July 25, 2019
- Final announcement of the Team: July 29, 2019
- Deadline for submission of Team Service Fee: August 14, 2019

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM

Elite Men Cross Country

Maximum Start Positions: 7

Maximum Level 1 Funded Positions: 2

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2018 Elite XCO World Championships will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, any athletes with a top-ten (10) finish in a 2019 UCI World Cup XCO race between the dates of January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team. Events include World Cup XCO #1 thru #4. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be ranked according to their best finish place across World Cups with the highest ranked athlete(s) named to the Team. If the last quota slot is between athletes who have the same finish place, the athlete with the more recent best result will be named to the team.
3. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criterion, any athletes ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2019 UCI Individual World Cup Overall XCO rankings as of July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be named to the Team in order of their ranking until the Team is full.

Level 2 Funding

4. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, the winner of the 2019 USA Cycling Elite National Mountain Bike Cross Country Championships will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations. This event is currently scheduled for July 23-26, 2018 in Winter Park, Colorado.
5. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, the highest ranked athlete in the 2019 USA Cycling Pro XCT overall classification on July 15, 2019 provided the athlete is ranked in the top three (3) overall will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team.
6. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top fifty (50) in the UCI Individual Elite World Rankings as of July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be named to the Team in order of their ranking until the Team is full.

7. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 XCO MTB World Championships Team by the USA Cycling National Team coach and approved by the USA Cycling Selection Committee, following the discretionary criteria described below. Athletes may petition using the Discretionary Petition form on the USA Cycling website.

Elite Women Cross Country

Maximum Start Positions: 7

Maximum Funded Positions: 2

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2018 Elite XCO World Championships will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athletes with a top-ten (10) finish in a 2019 UCI World Cup XCO race between the dates of January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team. Events include World Cup XCO #1 thru #4. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be ranked according to their best finish place across World Cups with the highest ranked athlete(s) named to the Team. If the last quota slot is between athletes who have the same finish place, the athlete with the more recent best result will be named to the team.
3. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, any athletes ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2019 UCI Individual World Cup Overall XCO rankings as of July 15, 2019 may be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be named to the Team in order of their ranking until the Team is full.

Level 2 Funding

4. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2019 USA Cycling Elite National Mountain Bike Cross Country Championships will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations. This event is currently scheduled July 23-26, 2018 in Winter Park, Colorado.
5. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, the highest ranked athlete in the 2019 USA Cycling Pro XCT overall classification on July 15, 2019 provided the athlete is ranked in the top three (3) overall will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team.
6. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete ranked in the top thirty (30) in the UCI Individual Elite World Rankings as of July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this

criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be named to the Team in order of their ranking until the Team is full.

7. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 XCO MTB World Championships Team by the USA Cycling National Team coach and approved by the USA Cycling Selection Committee, following the discretionary criteria described below. Athletes may petition using the Discretionary Petition form on the USA Cycling website.

U23 Cross Country –Men and Women

Maximum Start Positions: 7 U23 Men & 7 U23 Women

Maximum Level 1 Funded Positions: 2 Men, 2 Women

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2018 U23 XCO World Championships will be named to the 2019 U23 XCO World Championship Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, any athletes with a top-ten (10) finish in a 2019 U23 UCI World Cup XCO race between the dates of January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 may be named to the 2019 U23 XCO World Championship Team. Events include U23 World Cup XCO #1 thru #4. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be ranked according to their best finish place across World Cups with the highest ranked athlete(s) named to the Team. If the last quota slot is between athletes who have the same finish place, the athlete with the more recent best result will be named to the team.
3. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, athletes ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2019 UCI Individual U23 World Cup Overall XCO rankings as of July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 U23 XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be named to the Team in order of their ranking until the Team is full.

Level 2 Funding

4. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, U23 athletes finishing in the top three (3) in the professional category of a 2019 USA Cycling Pro XCT Olympic Format UCI Cross-Country (XCO) event between January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 U23 XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available, the athlete with the highest overall Pro XCT ranking on July 15, 2019 will be nominated first, followed by the second, and so on until the Team is full.
5. If quota slots remain after considering the proceeding criteria, the winner of the 2019 USA Cycling U23 XCO National Mountain Bike Championships will be named to the

2019 Elite XCO World Championship Team provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations. This event is currently scheduled for July 23-26, 2019 in Winter Park, Colorado.

6. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 U23 XCO MTB World Championships Team by the USA Cycling National Team coach and approved by the USA Cycling Selection Committee, following the discretionary criteria described below. Athletes may petition using the Discretionary Petition form on the USA Cycling website.

Junior Cross Country –Men and Women

Maximum Start Positions: 6 Junior Men & 7 Junior Women

Maximum Funded Positions: Men 2, Women 2

Level 1 Funding

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2018 Junior XCO World Championships will be named to the 2019 Junior XCO World Championship Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, any Junior athletes placing among the top five (5) of a European round of the 2019 UCI Junior Series cross-country race between the dates of January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 will be named to the 2019 Junior XCO World Championship Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be ranked according to their best finish place across World Cups with the highest ranked athlete(s) named to the Team. If the last quota slot is between athletes who have the same finish place, the athlete with the more recent best result will be named to the team.
3. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, the winner of the 2019 USA Cycling Junior 17-18 (Cat.1) National Mountain Bike Cross Country (XCO) Championships will be named to the 2019 Junior XCO World Championship Team provided that race is held in its entirety and run under UCI regulations. This event is currently scheduled for July 23-26, 2019 in Winter Park, Colorado.

Level 2 Funding

4. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, the Junior athlete with the most accumulated UCI Junior ranking points from the U.S. UCI Junior Series cross-country race events between the dates of January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 will be named to the Team.
5. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, any Junior athletes who win a Canadian round of the 2019 UCI Junior Series cross-country race between the dates of January 1, 2019 and July 15, 2019 will be named to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than remaining quota slots, such athletes will be ranked based on the most recent event in which the athlete achieved the qualifying result with the highest ranked (most

recently winning) athlete(s) earning the nomination. If the last quota slot is between athletes whose most recent event is the same, the highest placing athlete will be named to the Team.

6. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Junior XCO MTB World Championships Team by the USA Cycling National Team coach and approved by the USA Cycling Selection Committee, following the discretionary criteria described below. Athletes may petition using the Discretionary Petition form on the USA Cycling website.

DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

USA Cycling may choose to fill quota slots through the discretionary selection criteria below in order to select athletes with medal capability or those that will achieve the best predicted finish for USA Cycling.

Discretionary Criteria

If quota slots remain after the automatic criteria numbers above have been applied, the USA Cycling National Team coach will recommend athletes, according to the criteria below, to the USA Cycling Selection Committee for selection to the World Championship Team through discretionary selection. The Selection Committee will review data on all petitioning athletes when considering the recommendations. The USA Cycling Selection Committee will consider the following criteria in priority order A through C:

- A. **Medal Capable Athlete**– 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 a UCI World Cup or 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 or Olympic medalists or current top UCI world ranked athletes in International Competition on multiple occasions in the past 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 athletes in their division.

C. Best Predicted Finish- If positions for the Team remain open after the application of all Automatic Selection and Discretionary Selection principles A. and B. above, the USA Cycling Selection Committee may choose the athlete or athletes who are most likely to finish the highest in the event based on the data below in the “Data to Support Discretionary Selections” section.

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 World Championships. 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 MTB 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 coach 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 Selection Committee may consider for discretionary selections, as appropriate to the discipline, the following:

- For all selections – Validatable 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.
- For choosing between two athletes within a selection category (medal capable, future medal capable, or best predicted finish) – 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 determined by the USA Cycling Coaching staff and USA Cycling Selection Committee.
 1. Race results in top international competitions (primarily 2019 UCI U23 and Elite World Cups);
 2. Race results in top domestic competitions (primarily 2019 USA Cycling Elite Cross-Country MTB National Championships);

3. Head to head competition results or performances between multiple athletes in consideration for a discretionary position;
4. Technological data on athlete and or event which is validatable and credible. By way of example this could include, but is not limited to: times on the same courses in the same events or event demand data.

USA Cycling Selection Committee

Recommendations for discretionary nominations will be made by the USA Cycling National coaching staff. However, 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 Vice President of Elite Athletics. 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.