



## **USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

### **2019 PAN-AMERICAN CONTINENTAL XCO MTB CHAMPIONSHIPS ELITE, U23 AND JUNIOR MEN AND WOMEN**

**April 3-7, 2019**

**Aguascalientes, Mexico**

### **USA CYCLING SELECTION STRATEGY FOR PAN-AMERICAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

USA Cycling will use the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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.

### **QUALIFICATION INFORMATION**

Below you will find information on how a rider can automatically qualify for nomination to the 2019 Pan-American Continental Championship 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 Pan-American Championships Team provided the ATHLETES MEET THE AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION STANDARDS 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 Pan-American Continental MTB 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 Pan-American Continental Championship 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: February 22, 2019
- Selection of Discretionary Nominations: February 28, 2019
- Confirmation of intent to participate: February 28, 2019
- Final announcement of the Team: March 4, 2019
- Deadline for submission of Team Service Fee: March 20, 2019

## **CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM**

### **Elite Men Cross Country**

#### **Maximum Start Positions: 4**

1. The top three (3) ranked Elite Men in the UCI XCO Individual Ranking as of February 22, 2019, provided the rider is ranked in the top 50, will be automatically named to the Pan-American Continental Championships Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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: 4**

1. The top three (3) ranked Elite Women in the UCI XCO Individual Ranking as of February 22, 2019, provided the rider is ranked in the top 50, will be automatically named to the Pan-American Continental Championships Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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.

## **Under 23 Men's Cross Country**

### **Maximum Start Positions: 2**

1. The two (2) highest ranked U23 men in the UCI XCO Individual Classification as of February 22, 2019 provided the riders are ranked in the top 150, will be automatically named to the Pan-American Continental Championships Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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.

## **Under 23 Women's Cross Country**

### **Maximum Start Positions: 2**

1. The two (2) highest ranked U23 women in the UCI XCO Individual Classification as of February 22, 2019 provided the riders are ranked in the top 100 overall rankings, will be automatically named to the Pan-American Continental Championships Team.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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 Men's Cross Country**

### **Maximum Start Positions: 1**

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2018 World Championships in the same event and category will be automatically named to the 2019 Pan-American Continental Championship 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 current ranking on the appropriate UCI Individual Classification.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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 Women's Cross Country**

### **Maximum Start Positions: 1**

1. Any athlete placing in the top three (3) at the 2018 World Championships in the same event and category will be automatically named to the 2019 Pan-American Continental Championship 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 current ranking on the appropriate UCI Individual Classification.
2. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criterion, then petitioning athletes may be nominated to the 2019 Pan-American Continental 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 in the Time Trial.

#### **Discretionary Criteria**

The USA Cycling National Team coach will recommend athletes, according to the criteria below, to the USA Cycling Selection Committee for selection to the Pan American Championships 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:

- 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 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 future Olympic Games cycles 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 with additional supporting results in International Competitions competitive with the top ranked athletes in the class for the event being selected.

C. Best Predicted Finish- If positions for the Team remain open after the application of all Automatic Selection and Discretionary Selection principles, 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.

### 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

Recommendations for discretionary nominations will be made by the USA Cycling National coaching staff. However, the USA Cycling Selection Committee will review data on all petitioning athletes and approve ALL athlete nominations using the discretionary criteria described below. 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 and 2020 UCI U23 and Elite World Cups and U23 and Elite World Championships);
  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.