

Chapter 6

Collegiate Racing

RULE BOOK



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

by the Collegiate Policy Appendix.

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 and other non-degree seeking students are not eligible to participate in collegiate cyclin. [Effective fall semester 2018.]*
- (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. International students, who otherwise satisfy the eligibility requirements of these rules, are allowed to compete in collegiate cycling races, including collegiate national championships.

6D. Categories

6D1. Initial Placement in Collegiate Categories Riders may only enter races open to the collegiate category shown on their license for the discipline in question, *as placed by USA Cycling and the Conference Director*. The following guidelines are “one way”. Riders who attain a collegiate category do not receive the USA Cycling category shown.

(a) For *initial placement* in collegiate road and track categories, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling road and track categories, respectively, or their equivalent upgrade points:

ROAD AND TRACK CATEGORIES	
COLLEGIATE	NON-COLLEGIATE USAC
A	PRO, CAT. 1, 2 <i>or 3 with 15 upgrade points as a 3</i>
B	CAT. 3 <i>or 4 with 15 upgrade points as a 4</i>
C	CAT. 4
D	(MEN) OR 4 (WOMEN)
E	(MEN) OR 4 (WOMEN)

(b) For *initial placement* in collegiate cyclo-cross categories, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling cyclo-cross categories or their equivalent upgrade points:

CYCLO-CROSS CATEGORY	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC	COLLEGIATE
PRO, CAT. 1, 2 or 3 with 15 upgrade points as a 3	A
CAT. 3 or 4 with 15 upgrade points as a 4	B
CAT. 4	C
CAT. 5	D
CAT. 5	E

(c) For collegiate mountain bike endurance *initial placement*, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling mountain endurance, dual slalom/mountain cross, downhill, and observed trials categories, respectively, or their equivalent upgrade points:

ENDURANCE MTB CATEGORY	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC CATEGORY	COLLEGIATE
<i>Pro license or two top five finishes in category 2 or equivalent races (with field sizes of ten or more).</i>	A
<i>Two top five finishes in category 3 or equivalent races (with field sizes of ten or more).</i>	B
<i>None</i>	C
<i>None</i>	D
<i>None</i>	E

(d) For dual slalom/mountain cross, downhill, and observed trials categories, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling dual slalom/mountain cross, downhill, and observed trials categories, respectively, or their equivalent upgrade points:

GRAVITY MOUNTAIN BIKE CATEGORIES	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC	COLLEGIATE
<i>Pro or Cat 1</i>	A
<i>Cat 1 or Cat 2</i>	B
<i>Cat 2 or Cat 3</i>	C
<i>Cat 3</i>	D
<i>Cat 3</i>	E

6D2. Downgrades Riders are not allowed to downgrade at their conference championships.

6D3. Non-Collegiate Upgrades So long as races meet all upgrade requirements, including field size and distance, results from categories of collegiate cycling races count toward USA Cycling road, cyclo-cross, track and mountain upgrades as follows:

COLLEGIATE CATEGORY	ROAD, CYCLO-CROSS AND TRACK UPGRADES	MOUNTAIN UPGRADE
A	CAT. 3 TO CAT. 2 <i>Cat. 2 to Cat. 1**</i>	N/A
B	CAT. 4 TO CAT. 3	CAT 2 TO CAT 1
C	CAT. 5 TO CAT. 4	CAT 3 TO CAT 2
D	CAT. 5 TO CAT. 4	CAT 3 TO CAT 2
E	NONE	NONE

*Collegiate *Conference* results are allowed for *upgrade points up to cat. 2*.

**For 2>1 upgrades, *only Collegiate National Championship events may be used*.

6D4. Collegiate Upgrades The following charts shall be used to determine collegiate upgrades once a rider has been racing within the collegiate program, after initial placement by a conference director in a category.

CATEGORY	ROAD UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS
<i>E / D > C</i>	<i>Finished 10 massed-start races as D or Category 5</i>
<i>C > B</i>	<i>15 upgrade points from collegiate or USA Cycling races as a 4 or C; or experience in 10 races with a minimum of 5 top-10 finishes (In fields under 20 riders, top 50%) 25 Points in 12 months is a mandatory upgrade.</i>
<i>B > A</i>	<i>15 upgrade points from collegiate or domestic races as a 3 or B; 30 points in 12 months is a mandatory upgrade. Or, holding a USAC Road license, Category 2 or higher</i>

Road Race Weekend Minimum - Riders must compete in (4) mass starts before upgrading. Exceptions can be made if the rider places in the top (3) for two races in a row in a collegiate weekend.

CATEGORY	MTB UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS
<i>E/D > C</i>	<i>Two top five finishes in a collegiate or domestic event.</i>
<i>C > B</i>	<i>Two top five finishes as a C or Category 3 rider.</i>
<i>B > A</i>	<i>Two top five finishes as a B or Category 2 rider.</i>

MTB Race Weekend Minimum - Riders must compete in (2) mass starts before upgrading

CATEGORY	CX UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS
<i>E/D > C</i>	<i>Two top five finishes in a collegiate or domestic event.</i>
<i>C > B</i>	<i>Two top five finishes as a C or Category 4 rider.</i>
<i>B > A</i>	<i>Two top five finishes as a B or Category 3 rider.</i>

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.

6E4. 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 111(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 prizes, 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. Minimum Race Distances and durations for mass start road races and mountain bike endurance races are as follows:

	ROAD RACE	CRITERIUM	CROSS COUNTRY	SHORT TRACK
WOMEN’S A	40 MI	45 MIN/15 MILES	90 MIN	30 MIN
WOMEN’S B	25 MI	30 MIN	40 MIN	20 MIN
WOMEN’S C	10 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	10 MIN
WOMEN’S D	10 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	10 MIN
MEN’S A	60 MI	60 MIN/ 20 MI	90 MIN	30 MIN
MEN’S B	40 MI	45 MIN	75 MIN	25 MIN
MEN’S C	30 MI	30 MIN	60 MIN	20 MIN
MEN’S D	20 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	15 MIN
MEN’S E	10 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	10 MIN

6G5. 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.

6G6. 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.

6G7. Collegiate Mountain Bike/Cyclo-cross 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.

6G8. 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.

6G9. 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)

6G10. Any Primes for Prizes must be contested on the same laps as primes for points. In the case of a field being lapped, primes go to the field.

6G11. No team shall be able allowed to enter more than 12 riders into a single A category road event. All conferences will follow these limitations.

6H. Conference Race Scoring

6H1. Individual Points

(a) Riders score the following points in all conference races except criteriums. Additionally, teams score the following points for team events such as team time trials, team relays, and other events in which riders do not earn individual points, before Team Points (6H3) are assigned.

PLACE	A	B	C	D	E
1	80	48	32	21	12

PLACE	A	B	C	D	E
2	70	41	24	16	7
3	63	35	18	11	5
4	57	30	15	8	3
5	51	26	12	5	1
6	45	22	9	4	
7	40	18	7	3	
8	35	15	5	2	
9	30	12	4	1	
10	26	9	3		
11	22	7	2		
12	18	5	1		
13	15	3			
14	12	2			
15	9	1			
16	7				
17	5				
18	3				
19	2				
20	1				

(b) Riders score the following points in conference criteriums:

PLACE	A	B	C	D	E	PRIMES
1	70	40	23	12	7	5
2	64	34	17	9	5	3
3	58	29	13	7	3	2
4	52	24	10	6	2	1
5	46	20	8	5	1	
6	41	17	7	4		
7	36	15	6	3		
8	31	13	5	2		
9	27	11	4	1		
10	23	9	3			
11	19	7	2			

PLACE	A	B	C	D	E	PRIMES
12	15	5	1			
13	12	3				
14	9	2				
15	7	1				
16	5					
17	4					
18	3					
19	2					
20	1					

(c) The number of primes per category for criteriums is as follows

CATEGORY	PRIMES
A	6
B	4
C	3
D	2
E	0

6H2. Variation in Points Conferences may deviate from the above points schedule based on conference size and division breakdown with the consent of USA Cycling.

6H3. Team Points For each race and each gender (e.g. women's criterium, men's team time trial, co-ed mountain bike team relay), teams are ranked based on the sum of their top four riders in each category for individual events and the top team entry in each category for team events (for individual events, additional riders retain any individual points they earn but their points are not included in the determination of their team's total), and the following points are assigned for the team omnium:

PLACE	TEAM POINTS
1	50
2	43
3	37
4	32
5	28

PLACE	TEAM POINTS
6	24
7	21
8	18
9	15
10	13

PLACE	TEAM POINTS
11	11
12	9
13	8
14	7
15	6

PLACE	TEAM POINTS
16	5
17	4
18	3
19	2
20	1

6H4. Divisions When riders and teams from different divisions race together, they shall be scored together for both individual and team standings. Teams may be ranked within their respective division (e.g. for national qualifications, etc) only after all points have been tabulated for an event or season.

6H5. Dropped Races All races and events count toward the team omnium for the regular season championship.

6H6. Conference Championships Points earned at a conference championship for both the team and individual are worth double those of the regular season.

6H7. Gravity/Endurance Omnium In the mountain bike season, the individual omnium shall be a combination of gravity and endurance results.

6H8. Team Event Entries Team events such as TTT and team relay do not count toward individual standings. A team may enter as many team time trial teams in a conference race as they wish, but only the top placing team scores points; the remaining team time trial teams earn placings, but do not score points.

6H9. Additional Scoring/Rankings Opportunities A conference, or a race director with the approval of the conference director, may determine scoring opportunities and other than finish placings and prime sprints (e.g., queen of the mountain) for races and how those points will be awarded to teams and riders, and may also track those points throughout the season (e.g. sprint leader, etc).

6H10. Out of Conference Riders Riders and teams may compete in collegiate races outside their team's conference, but may not score either rider or team points in that race unless it is specified as a dual conference race. The points that would be earned by an out-of-conference rider shall not be awarded to any rider.

6H11. Ties In the case of a tie on total points among riders or among teams, whether at a particular event or over the course of the season, the tie will be broken in favor of the rider or team that has:

(a) The most first place A finishes, or if still tied, the most second place A finishes, or if still tied, the most 3rd place A finishes, or if still tied, the most first place B finishes, etc; or if still tied;

(b) The best finish in the last race of the event or season, as appropriate.

PLACE	POINTS
1	100
2	89
3	79
4	70
5	63
6	56
7	50
8	44
9	39
10	35
11	31
12	28
13	25
14	22
15	19

PLACE	POINTS
16	17
17	15
18	13
19	12
20	11
21	10
22	9
23	8
24	7
25	6
26	5
27	4
28	3
29	2
30	1

6I. Collegiate National Team Rankings

6I1. Scoring Each division's teams' national rankings for each academic year, where an academic year is defined as August 1-July 31, are determined on an interim and on a final basis by: for track, mountain bike, cyclo-cross, BMX, and road national championships, allocating points to the top 30 teams that earn points at that national championship in each division according to the following table, and summing those points:

6I2. Ties In the case of a tie among teams, the tie will be broken in the favor of the Team that has:

(a) the most first place team omnium finishes at national championships, or if still tied, the most second place team omnium finishes at national championships, etc; or if still tied;

(b) the highest place in the team omnium in the last national championship of the academic year in which one of the tied teams has competed.