



## **USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**

2022 UCI Cycling Esports WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Zwift Host World – New York

Elite Men and Women

February 26, 2022

### **ELIGIBILITY**

1. Athlete must be eligible to represent the United States in a UCI competition at the time of nomination. All nominees must have a valid UCI International Racing License and meet all eligibility requirements of USA Cycling and the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) at the time of nomination. All athletes must be in good standing with USAC, UCI, and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) at the time of nomination.
  - Elite Men- UCI International License Holders; Age 19 and over
  - Elite Women- UCI International License Holders; Age 19 and over
2. All athletes who accept a nomination for this event will be added to the USADA registered testing pool.
3. All athletes must be set up on the Zwift platform and have progressed to a minimum of level 5\* in the game at the time they are selected.

\* Level 5 requires a Zwift User to have ridden on the platform and gained a total of 4,000 XP (Experience Points). This equates to roughly 200km. A Zwift user's level can be seen on their profile via the Zwift Companion App when searching for a user, or in-game by the user themselves at the top of the HUD (Heads Up Display).

### **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

All athletes who are selected to the team will be solely responsible for any expenses required or incurred taking part in the competition.

## **IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

- USA Cycling E-World's Qualification Race: December 11, 2021
- Deadline for submission of petitions: December 10, 2021
- Selection of Discretionary Nominations: December 13, 2021
- Confirmation of intent to participate: December 13, 2021
- Final announcement of the Team: December 14, 2021

## **ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Elite Women and Men**

**Maximum start positions:** Five (5) each for women and men.

#### Automatic Nomination

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year's Esports World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the 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 three (3) at the World Championships during the current racing season.
2. Any eligible athlete who is the highest placed USA finisher of the Men's A and Women's Open races at the Echelon Community Series Gateway Cup event on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2021.

#### Discretionary Nominations

1. The remaining positions will be nominated through the USAC discretionary selection process.

## **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

USA Cycling may choose to fill open quota positions through the selection criteria below.

While USA Cycling has established automatic criteria by which athletes, through extraordinary achievement, have demonstrated very clear evidence of high potential for winning a Championship medal, USA Cycling will use a discretionary selection process to select athletes who have not qualified automatically.

### **Discretionary Criteria**

If quota positions remain after the automatic criteria above have been applied, the USA Cycling National Team Coach(s) may nominate athletes for discretionary selection according to the criteria below. The USA Cycling Selection Committee will review and approve the nominations. The Selection Committee will also review data from all petitioning athletes when considering the nominations.

The USA Cycling National Team Coaches and Selection Committee will consider the following criteria in priority order when making selections for team-based events. When making selections for individual events only A., C. and D. will be considered in that order.

- 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 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 Elite athletes.

- C. Athletes Who Maximize Team Performance- These selections are essential for team events where the team director has devised a race strategy that designates one or more athletes as team leaders, and another athlete's contribution may assist a team leader in achieving a top performance. For example, even though the Road Race event is scored individually, athletes who sacrifice their own individual result to execute a team strategy for the designated team leaders can have a profound impact on the ability of a team leader to achieve a top performance.

An athlete who can maximize team performance is one who, based on her or his experience, tactical proficiency, physical abilities, and willingness to work selflessly for the team objective, is expected to contribute to the performance of a medal capable team or designated team strategy. An athlete who can maximize team performance must have the right combination of physical ability, skill, knowledge and attitude. Athletes will be selected to play specific roles within the team based on their demonstrated physical capacities, skillset and experience fulfilling their roles. The coaches' judgement supported as much as possible by objective data, described below, will be used to differentiate between athletes being selected for team event roles.

This criterion applies only to team events.

- D. Best Predicted Finish- If positions for the Team remain open after the application of all Automatic Selection and Discretionary Selection principles A., B., and C. above, the USA Coaches may nominate the athlete or athletes who are most likely to finish the highest in the event.

### 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

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; athlete power data; or aerodynamic drag data (if relevant); or event and specific role demand data.
- For “Athletes Who Maximize Team Performance” selections – Documentation of successful execution of relevant race tactics and/or evidence of being able to meet the physical requirements of the event being selected for when considering key factors like course profile, environmental conditions, and levels of competition.
- For choosing between two athletes in a selection category – 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 different from event to event as determined by the USA Cycling Coaching staff and USA Cycling Selection Committee.
  1. Race results in top international competitions;
  2. Race results in top national level competitions;
  3. Head to head competition results or performances between multiple athletes in consideration for a discretionary position;

## USA Cycling Selection Committee

Recommendations for discretionary nominations will be made by the USA Cycling National coaching staff. 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.