USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

2021 UCI CYCLOCROSS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

January 30-31, 2021 – Ostende, Belgium

2021 World Championships Selection Criteria

The USA Cycling organization has been significantly affected by the COVID pandemic. Travel remains restricted and very challenging. The domestic and international competition calendar has undergone many changes, amendments and cancelations. As a result, USA Cycling has adopted the following guiding principles when creating or amending selection criteria.

The USA Cycling guiding principles are:

1. Selections that increase or protect Tokyo medal probability.
2. Selections that have a strong probability of producing a World Championship medal.
3. Selections that are critical in supporting the team execution required to win World Championship medals.
4. Selections that are in alignment with USAC organizational policy, goals and resources.

AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Below you will find information on how an athlete can automatically qualify for nomination to the USA Cycling 2021 World Championship Team. In cases where there are still available start positions after the automatic qualification process, those positions may be filled via discretionary nominations according to the USAC discretionary selection procedures below.
ELIGIBILITY

Athlete must be eligible to represent the United States in a UCI competition at the time of nomination. All nominees must have a valid USA Cycling 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 USA Cycling, the UCI, and the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) at the time of nomination.

- Elite Men and Women- Age 19 and over as of December 31st, 2021 (born on or after January 1, 2002)
- U23 Men and Women- Age 19-22 years old as of December 31st, 2021 (born in 1999 through 2002)
- Junior Men and Women- Age 17-18 years old as of December 31st, 2021 (born in 2003 and 2004)

FUNDING LEVELS

Level 1: Funded

Level 1: Funded 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 the 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 are selected to the Team and do not receive level 1 funding 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 $750.00. 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. 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.
High Performance travel grants may be available to assist selected athletes who are self-funded.

COMPETITION AND CASUAL CLOTHING

As a member of the USA Cycling World Championship Team, representing USA Cycling and the United States of America, each athlete will be provided with competition clothing which they will be required to wear during all training sessions and competitions. Additionally, athletes will be provided casual clothing that they will be required to wear 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: December 28, 2020
- Selection of Discretionary Nominations: January 7, 2021
- Confirmation of intent to participate: January 8th, 2021
- Announcement of the Team: January 11th, 2021
- Deadline for submission of Team Service Fee: January 12th, 2021

ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

Elite Men

Maximum quota positions: Up to 7

Level 1: Funded

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year’s World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the team.

Level 2: Self-Funded

2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at a UCI Elite Men’s World Cup event between October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during this time period. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those
positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top three (3) at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee Elite Men’s UCI Cyclocross event between the dates of October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available on the team, then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in these events. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual overall Elite World Cup Cyclocross Standings as of January 5th 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes may be nominated to the team following the USA Cycling Discretionary Selection process.

**Elite Women**

**Maximum quota positions:** Up to 7

**Level 1: Funded**

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year’s World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the team.

**Level 2: Self-Funded**

2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at a UCI Elite Woman’s World Cup event between October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the team.
If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during this time period. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top three (3) at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee Elite Women’s UCI Cyclocross event between the dates of October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available on the team, then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in these events. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual overall Elite World Cup Cyclocross Standings as of January 5th 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes may be nominated to the team following the USA Cycling Discretionary Selection process.

**U-23 Men**

**Maximum quota positions: Up to 7**

**Level 1: Funded**

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year’s World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the team.

**Level 2: Self-Funded**
2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at a UCI U23 Men’s World Cup event or placing in the top three (3) U23 Men at a UCI Elite Men’s World Cup event where there is no separate U23 category between October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during this time period. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top three (3) at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee U23 Men’s UCI Cyclocross event or placing in the top three (3) U23 Men at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee event where there is no separate U23 category between the dates of October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available on the team, then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in these events. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual overall U23 Men’s World Cup Cyclocross Standings as of January 5th 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes may be nominated to the team following the USA Cycling Discretionary Selection process.

U23 Women

Maximum quota positions:  Up to 7

Level 1: Funded
1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year’s World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the team.

Level 2: Self-Funded

2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing in the top three U23 Women (3) at a UCI Elite Woman’s World Cup event between October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during this time period. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top three (3) U23 Women at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee Elite Women’s UCI Cyclocross event between the dates of October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available on the team, then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in these events. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual overall Elite World Cup Cyclocross Standings as of January 5th 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes may be nominated to the team following the USA Cycling Discretionary Selection process.

Junior Men
Maximum quota positions: Up to 7

1. **Level 1: Funded** Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year’s World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the team.

2. **Level 2: Self-Funded**

   2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at a UCI Junior Men’s World Cup event between October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during this time period. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Junior Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

   3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top three (3) at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee Junior Men’s UCI Cyclocross event between the dates of October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available on the team, then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in these events. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Junior Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

   4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual overall Jr Men’s World Cup Cyclocross Standings as of January 5th 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

   5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top twenty (20) in the 2021 UCI Individual Jr Men’s Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.

   6. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes may be nominated to the team following the USA Cycling Discretionary Selection process.
Junior Women

Maximum quota positions: Up to 7

Level 1: Funded

1. Any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at the prior year’s World Championships in the same event and category will be nominated to the team.

Level 2: Self-Funded

2. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criterion, any eligible athlete placing in the top three (3) at a UCI Junior Women’s World Cup event or placing in the top three (3) Junior Women at a UCI Elite Women’s World Cup event where there is no separate Junior category between October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in a World Cup event during this time period. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

3. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any athlete placing in the top three (3) at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee Junior Women’s UCI Cyclocross event or placing in the top three (3) Junior Women at a Telenet Superprestige Series or DVV Verzekeringen Trofee event where there is no separate Junior category between the dates of October 31st, 2020 and January 4th, 2021 will be nominated to the Team. If more athletes meet this criterion than there are positions available on the team, then athletes will be nominated in order of their highest placing(s) in these events. If two or more athletes have achieved the same placing those positions will then be nominated in the order of the 2021 UCI Individual Elite Ranking as of January 5, 2021.

4. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria, any eligible athlete ranked in the top ten (10) in the 2021 UCI Individual overall Jr Women’s World Cup Cyclocross Standings as of January 5th 2021 will be nominated to the team. If more athletes meet this criterion than available quota positions then the positions will be nominated in the order of the ranking until all available quota positions are filled.
5. If quota positions remain after considering the preceding criteria eligible athletes may be nominated to the team following the USA Cycling Discretionary Selection process.

DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

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

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 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 the leading cycling nations in the discipline from 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 positions after automatic nominations, petitioning athletes and the National Team Coach(s) will be given the opportunity to submit data to the Selection Committee for consideration in the discretionary selections.

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 – Validated 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 the highest level UCI events such as World Cups and World Tour events);
2. Race results in top domestic competitions;
3. Head to head competition results or performances between multiple athletes in consideration for a nomination;
4. Technological data on athlete and or event which can be validated and is 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**

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 following 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 CEO. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse himself/herself from committee discussions and voting. However, a committee member who recused himself/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.