



those who are just entering. Many riders now come to the sport from outside of the traditional club system, and may not have peers to explain the intricacies of racing before the first event

Examples of Best Practices for the Novice Race Experience:

- Welcome e-mail or social media post directed to those pre-registered for the novice categories explaining basic items like where to park, how to register and what to bring.
- Assigning an experienced racer to act as a “virtual mentor” for novices who have questions leading up to the event.
- Holding a virtual meeting with new racers to answer questions, describe the course and go over critical items.
- Create a virtual or in real life course preview.
- Special parking areas for new racers.
- Pre-race welcome during staging by organizer/officials. Quick coverage of:
 - Things to look for on course
 - Proper number pinning
 - Where to see results
- Ensuring results place everyone in the Novice category.
- Post-race briefing hosted by a local experienced rider or club member(s). Topics:
 - What did you learn
 - What was confusing
 - What will you do differently next time

Race Categories:

Road: Novices should have their own event/field for criteriums and road races for men and should be combined up to a maximum of Cat. 4 for women. Time trials should have a Novice category.

MTB: For XC, Novices should have their own category and should at least start in a standalone wave. For Gravity/Enduro, novices should have their own wave.

CX: Novices should have their own start for men and should be combined up to a maximum of Cat. 4 for women’s start. If Novices start on a “separate whistle” care should be taken in regards to what other classes and categories are on course.

Track: Novices should have their own event/field for men and should be combined up to a maximum of Cat. 4 for women for mass start events. Time trials should have a separate category for novices.

What USA Cycling will provide:

- A “quick guide” to the most important things to know when going to your first race.
- Talking points and templates for communications and briefings.
- Guidance to race officials on how to provide the best service to novice racers.
- Marketing of your event as a “novice friendly” race.
- An insurance discount when combined with other business initiatives.

Race Clinic

The event must offer a race clinic geared towards beginner skills/learning to race before or at their event and be offered to event participants. This may be the USA Cycling Beginner Race



Program or another clinic as approved by USA Cycling. Clinics focused exclusively on Juniors or Women are allowed as long as they are otherwise approved. Approved clinics may also award upgrade points under USA Cycling's Upgrade Policy.

Womens' Event

To be considered a Womens' Event the following guidelines should be met:

Standalone women's races (ie. not combined with men in the same start). These races will be:

- Entry level race for women:
Road: Novice or Novice/4 MTB: Novice
Track: Novice/4 CX: Novice/4

Separate starts/wave will be allowed if there is minimal impact on the race experience for the women's race (ie. no pulling of riders early)

- Inclusion of an advanced level race for women. Made up of those categories not included in the entry level races shown above. Separate starts/wave will be allowed if there is minimal impact on the race experience for the women's race (ie. no pulling of riders early).

Junior Event

To be considered a Junior Friendly Event the following guidelines should be met:

- At a minimum, have a standalone junior race (ie. not combined with other classes in the same start) for men and women. Separate starts/wave will be allowed if there is minimal impact on the race experience for the junior race (ie. no pulling of riders early)
- Results are broken down by age group and gender, even with a combined start:
 - 10-12
 - 13-14
 - 15-16
 - 17-18
- Inclusion of additional categories/age breakdown is ideal.

Prize Money Equality

To meet the prize money equality standard, the prize money for the highest category race for each gender offered must be equal. This includes individual races/stages and the overall for omniums and stage races.

Family Entry Discount

The event offers a discount for members of the same family unit who participate. This must include two people in the same immediate family, and can be for spouses/partners, parents/children or a combination as determined by the organizer. The discount should be at least 5% but may also include a significant other benefit as approved by USA Cycling.

Dedicated Start Corral

For events that have staging, provide USA Cycling members with a dedicated start area. This area does not need to be the front of staging, but should be located ahead of general participants.



Early Member Registration

Provide the ability for USA Cycling members to register at least 24 hours before registration is open to the general public.

Member Entry Discount

Event should offer a small (+/-5%) discount on registration to USA Cycling members.

Access to Ancillary Events

Provide USA Cycling members with access to pre- or post-event activities that normally require additional purchase.

Member Exclusives

Provide USA Cycling members with special deals from event sponsors and partners.

Member Discounts

Provide USA Cycling members with discounts to event merchandise or other related items.

Host “Let’s Ride” Clinic

Host a USA Cycling “Let’s Ride” childrens’ clinic before or during your event. USA Cycling can provide curriculum and support for this community focused program geared towards children in your community.

Upload Results within 48 hours

Upload results from your event in the required format to USA Cycling’s Results and Rankings portal within 48 hours of the end of your event.

Utilize BikeReg

The event must use BikeReg for pre-event registration.

Document revised 1_8_2021



#RIDEWITHUS