USA CYCLING ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

2021 UCI MOUNTAIN BIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
ELITE MEN AND WOMEN E-Bike
August 25-29, 2021 – Val di Sole, Italy

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

ELIGIBILITY

Elite Men and Women: UCI International License Holders with USA citizenship; 2021 Racing Age 19 and over

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

All athletes selected to the 2021 USA Cycling E-Bike World Championship Team will be responsible for organizing and paying for all travel, food and lodging costs associated with the event. USA Cycling will not assume financial responsibility for any athletes selected. In addition, all athletes will be responsible for payment of a Team Service Fee of $300.00 which will cover competition clothing, TravMed Abroad coverage for official training days and the day of the event, as well as rider registration fee.
TEAM QUOTAS

1. Elite Men (Maximum of 15)
2. Elite Women (Maximum of 15)

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

- Deadline for submission of petitions: July 29, 2021
- Selection of Discretionary Nominations: August 5, 2021
- Confirmation of intent to participate: August 6, 2021
- Final announcement of the Team: August 9, 2021
- Deadline for submission of Team Service Fee: August 10, 2021

PETITION INFORMATION

All athletes interested in being considered for a position on the team are required to submit an online petition. Athletes can find the online petition link on the USA Cycling company website under “Team USA, For Athletes, MTB, Major Events”. Riders should follow this link to complete and submit the online petition survey.

CRITERIA FOR TEAM SELECTION

1. If there are fewer petitioning athletes than available quota spots per gender, all petitioning athletes will be nominated to the team.

2. If there are more petitioning athletes than available quota spots per gender, the first priority will be given to petitioning athletes with a UCI XCO world ranking as of July 29, 2021. Athletes with a UCI XCO individual world ranking will be nominated to the team in order of their ranking.

3. If quota slots remain after considering the preceding criteria, the next priority will be given to petitioning athletes with a Pro XCT ranking as of July 29, 2021. Petitioning athletes with a Pro XCT ranking will be nominated to the team in order of their ranking.

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

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

Due to the nature of sport of cycling, whereby strategy, tactics and teamwork often dictate results, USA Cycling has determined that the use of discretionary selection is essential to maximize Team USA’s medal chances overall. While it has established automatic criteria by which athletes, through extraordinary achievement, have demonstrated very clear evidence of high potential for winning a World Championship medal, USA Cycling will use a discretionary selection process to select athletes who have not qualified automatically.

**Discretionary Selection Criteria**

If quota positions remain after the automatic criteria have been applied, the USA Cycling National Team Coaching staff 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 Coaching Staff and Selection Committee will consider the following criteria in priority order A. through D. when making selections for team-based events. When making selections for individual events, only A., B. and D. will be considered in that order.

**A. Medal Capable Athletes**—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 based events where the USA Cycling National Team coaching staff have devised a race strategy that may designate 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. These selections are also essential in assembling a team that will likely produce the best possible performance in team events such as Team Pursuit, Team Sprint and the Madison on the track.

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.

D. **Best Predicted Finish**- If positions for the Team remain open athletes may be selected based on 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 coaching staff 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 following may be considered for discretionary selections, as appropriate to the discipline:

- 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; 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
Discretionary nominations will be made by the USA Cycling National Team 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 Chief of Sport Performance. 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.