It’s an understatement to say that 2020 has been a tumultuous year in our sport and the entire world. In continually striving for transparency with our athletes and community we must acknowledge that USA Cycling has faced significant challenges as an organization. We were forced to temporarily make drastic reductions to the size of our Athletics team, and we have been operating in our most prudent capacity. Despite these challenges, USA Cycling has remained focused on the future and worked diligently to support our top athletes in all disciplines. We have taken this time to establish a new comprehensive development pathway for our younger athletes to reach their top potential in years to come.

In late November we will be announcing our Olympic Development Academy – a tiered, holistic development system for young athletes to progress from entering the sport to the top level of competition. The ODA will be structured to capture athletes at a young age, provide education and experience in several disciplines, and equip them to thrive in whichever disciplines they choose to compete. With the continued support of the MudFund and the implementation of the ODA, USA Cycling will offer top-level support and a progressive growth structure for our cyclocross athletes. We are very excited to launch this ODA program in 2021 across all disciplines.

In the past, the Cyclocross World Championships has been used as a development opportunity for many athletes. The substantial cost, level of competition, pressure and timing of this event does not facilitate the best growing experience for all athletes. Moving forward, we will put even stronger emphasis on preparing our best riders for the World Championships while providing comprehensive development opportunities throughout the racing season for our promising cyclocross athletes.

In light of the previously mentioned factors, and in congruence with USA Cycling’s goal of winning Olympic and World Championship medals, we have aligned our Cyclocross World Championship qualification criteria with all other disciplines to establish parity within the sport. Make no mistake, the performance standards and expectations are high, and we have full confidence that our cyclocross athletes have the ability to achieve them.

Regarding updates to the Cyclocross World Championship qualifications:

- Last year we adjusted the qualifications according to the level at which the most competitive athletes in each category were performing in the international arena. We have re-adjusted the qualifications to uphold parity between men’s and women’s categories and among the different age groups. These equal qualification standards will
help establish the same international competition expectations for athletes of all age categories and genders.

- We have made these adjustments to incorporate equitable objectives for all of our athletes.
- Level 2 funding has been moved up to include many of the automatic nominations, and the level 2 fee has been reduced to $750.
- USA Cycling supports the World Championship team along with the National Team in their mission to:
  - Win – We invest the work and time in this sport in order to explore our potential and fulfil our purpose. Our goal is to win, and we will always strive to that end.
  - Celebrate – We are all invested in our athletes’ success. When our athletes win, we will honor their achievement.
  - Inspire – While winning and celebrating are meaningful, our platform to inspire is our most compelling gift. We strive to inspire people to pursue their passions, embrace their journeys and express their values.

Qualification Process:
- The primary pathway for an athlete to qualify for a World Championships is by earning an automatic nomination through extraordinary performances. Each athlete may qualify himself/herself according to the criteria they meet.
- The second pathway in is through the Discretionary Selection process. This process and criteria are detailed in the Selection Criteria document. The same high standards prevail in congruence with our goal of entering a team in the World Championships to win medals.
- Discretionary nominations are not purposed to fill all possible positions on the team.