

Policy IX: Collegiate Cycling

Collegiate Cycling Teams

USOC SafeSport

USA Cycling encourages all members of collegiate cycling teams to take the SafeSport training, created and managed by the Center for SafeSport and the United States Olympic Committee. USA Cycling members who are required to have this training are listed in the document below. *

School/Academic Year

A school/academic year is defined as August 1 – July 31 of the following year.

Club Teams

Club teams are USA Cycling Collegiate member clubs which have submitted the appropriate application to USA Cycling and are in good standing. Club teams do not need to meet the scholarships and coaching requirements of Varsity Teams and are not recognized as varsity programs by their school.

Club Divisions

If club programs are separated into divisions for the purposes of omniums at the conference or national level, they will be organized as such:

Division II

- a) Any team at a school or campus with a full-time enrollment of less than 15,000 must compete in Division II unless authorized by USA Cycling to move to Division I.

Division I

- a) Any team at a school or campus with a full-time enrollment of more than 15,000 must compete in Division I.
- b) Any Division II school who petitions to be Division I and is accepted, must compete as Division 1 for the remainder of that school year.
 - a. If a team moves to Division I during the school year, any National Team Ranking points earned from prior National Championships as Division II, for that academic year, are forfeited and the team will begin to accrue points as Division 1.

Varsity Teams

A Varsity team is a USA Cycling Collegiate team that has fulfilled the varsity cycling requirements (shown below), has submitted the appropriate varsity application which is approved and is in good standing with USA Cycling.

Varsity Requirements

- a) Program is supported and designated as a varsity program through the athletic department and/or major university initiative.
- b) Major funding source for the program is through the university budget.
- c) Program is headed by a team director or coach with SafeSport training and a background check on file with USA Cycling.
- d) At least one full-time USA Cycling certified coach is on staff for the team and is paid by the University, with exemption waivers available for emerging programs.
- e) Participates in at least one national championship a year, with waivers available for emerging programs.
- f) Athletic scholarships or grants may be awarded. Each school will be allowed to award two full scholarships as a base, plus two full scholarships per national championship participated in, with a maximum of 12 if doing all five disciplines. Scholarships may be split among multiple students.
- g) Program pays for the entry fees of its riders for collegiate races.

Signing Policies for Varsity Athletes

- a) Upon signing with a Collegiate Varsity Team, the athlete agrees to cease communications with other coaches regarding attendance at other varsity cycling schools. Coaches are also held to this standard and agree to cease communications with the signed athlete.
- b) Upon signing with a Varsity Cycling Team, the athlete will sign the USA Cycling Varsity Transfer Policies Explanation form. Both the coach and athlete will retain copies of this form.
- c) At the beginning of each school year the athlete will sign Part I of the USA Cycling Varsity Transfer Form.

Transfer Policy

In the event the athlete is uncomfortable or feels they are being treated unfairly they may advise USA Cycling.

- a) If an athlete (current or signed) wishes to discuss transfer options with another cycling team, they will sign Part II of the USA Cycling Transfer Form and discuss with their coach.
- b) The coach may not refuse to sign the transfer form or threaten any adverse action on the athlete for signing.
- c) Coaches will confirm the transfer form has been signed before beginning communication with any current varsity athlete or signed athlete.
- d) If a transfer is completed, the athlete and team representatives from both teams will complete the transfer form.
- e) Both the athlete and the school should retain copies of this form and the transfer form. Upon transfer of an athlete or a violation of the Transfer Policies Explanation form and the Transfer Form are to be sent to USA Cycling and the athlete's new school.
- f) Athletes and signed athletes completing transfers between October 2nd and June 1st are eligible to race for their new teams starting with the subsequent fall seasons and those

completing transfers between June 2nd and October 1st are eligible for the subsequent spring seasons.

- g) Violation to the transfer and signing policies may result in penalties of national rankings points or loss of national championship eligibility both on the part of individual riders and/or teams.

Varsity Eligibility Limitations

Riders may not participate for more than six academic years on varsity teams. These need not be consecutive (tracking begins fall of 2015 with prior years grandfathered in with years before 2015 not counting).

- *All riders enrolled in a varsity program in any of the following semesters are granted an additional 1 year of eligibility, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic:*
 - o *Spring '20, Fall '20, Spring '21*

Collegiate Category Upgrading & Downgrading

Initial Placement in Collegiate Categories

Riders may only enter races open to the collegiate category shown on their license for the discipline in question, as placed by USA Cycling and the Conference Director. The following guidelines are “one way”. Riders who attain a collegiate category do not receive the USA Cycling category shown.

- a) For initial placement in collegiate road and track categories, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling road and track categories, respectively, or their equivalent upgrade points:

ROAD AND TRACK CATEGORIES	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC	COLLEGIATE
PRO, CAT. 1, 2 OR 3 WITH 15 UPGRADE POINTS AS A 3	A
CAT. 3 OR 4 WITH 15 UPGRADE POINTS AS A 4	B
CAT. 4 / NOVICE	C
NOVICE	D
NOVICE	E

- b) For initial placement in collegiate Cyclocross categories, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling Cyclocross categories or their equivalent upgrade points:

CYCLOCROSS CATEGORY	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC	COLLEGIATE
CAT. 1, 2 OR 3 WITH 15 UPGRADE POINTS AS A 3	A
CAT. 3 OR 4 WITH 15 UPGRADE POINTS AS A 4	B
CAT. 4 / NOVICE	C

- c) For collegiate mountain bike endurance initial placement, riders are required to have the following USA Cycling mountain endurance category or equivalent upgrade points:

ENDURANCE MTB CATEGORY	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC CATEGORY	COLLEGIATE
PRO LICENSE OR TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES IN CATEGORY 2 OR HIGHER, OR EQUIVALENT RACES (WITH FIELD SIZES OF TEN OR MORE).	A
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES IN CATEGORY 3 OR EQUIVALENT RACES (WITH FIELD SIZES OF TEN OR MORE).	B
CAT 2 or NOVICE	C

- d) *Beginning Fall 2022, there will be a new, all-inclusive Gravity "G" category. For the all-inclusive Gravity category, the rider's downhill category will be considered to determine initial placement.* Riders are required to have the following USA Cycling downhill category or their equivalent upgrade points.

- All riders with equal categories between their original collegiate Downhill (DH) / Dual Slalom (DS) categories, will be merged into their new Gravity category.*
- Riders with a higher DH category, will retain their DH category and this will become their new G category.*
- Riders with a higher DS category will be assigned their DS category, up to the B level. Riders with Pro or Cat 1 DS categories will be handled on a case-by-case basis to confirm initial placement.*

GRAVITY MTB CATEGORY	
NON-COLLEGIATE USAC CATEGORY	COLLEGIATE
PRO OR CAT 1	A
CAT 1 OR CAT 2	B
CAT 2 OR NOVICE	C

Downgrades

Riders are not allowed to downgrade at their conference championships.

Non-Collegiate Upgrades

So long as races meet all upgrade requirements, including field size and distance, results from categories of collegiate cycling races count toward USA Cycling road, Cyclocross, track and mountain upgrades as follows:

COLLEGIATE CATEGORY	ROAD, CYCLOCROSS AND TRACK UPGRADES	MOUNTAIN UPGRADE
A	CAT. 3 TO CAT. 2 CAT. 2 TO CAT. 1*	N/A
B	CAT. 4 TO CAT. 3	CAT 2 TO CAT 1

C	NOVICE TO CAT. 4	NOVICE TO CAT 2
D	NOVICE TO CAT. 4	NOVICE TO CAT 2
E	NONE	NONE

*For 2>1 upgrades, only Collegiate National Championship events may be used.

Collegiate Upgrades

The following charts shall be used to determine collegiate upgrades once a rider has been racing within the collegiate program, after initial placement by a conference director in a category.

- a) Road Race Weekend Minimum - Riders must compete in (4) mass starts before upgrading. Exceptions to the number of starts requirement can be made if the rider places in the top (5) for two races in a row in a collegiate weekend.
- b) MTB Race Weekend Minimum - Riders must compete in (2) mass starts before upgrading

ROAD UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS	CATEGORY
FINISHED 10 MASSED-START RACES AS D OR CATEGORY 5	E / D > C
15 UPGRADE POINTS FROM COLLEGIATE OR USA CYCLING RACES AS A 4 OR C; OR EXPERIENCE IN 10 RACES WITH A MINIMUM OF 5 TOP-10 FINISHES (IN FIELDS UNDER 20 RIDERS, TOP 50%) 25 POINTS IN 12 MONTHS IS A MANDATORY UPGRADE.	C > B
15 UPGRADE POINTS FROM COLLEGIATE OR DOMESTIC RACES AS A 3 OR B; 30 POINTS IN 12 MONTHS IS A MANDATORY UPGRADE. OR, HOLDING A USAC ROAD LICENSE, CATEGORY 2 OR HIGHER	B > A

MTB UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS	CATEGORY
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES IN A COLLEGIATE OR DOMESTIC EVENT.	E/D > C
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES AS A C OR CATEGORY 3 RIDER.	C > B
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES AS A B OR CATEGORY 2 RIDER.	B > A

CYCLOCROSS UPGRADE REQUIREMENTS	CATEGORY
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES IN A COLLEGIATE OR DOMESTIC EVENT.	E/D > C
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES AS A C OR CATEGORY 4 RIDER.	C > B
TWO TOP FIVE FINISHES AS A B OR CATEGORY 3 RIDER.	B > A

Qualifying Distances for each category/Discipline

CATEGORY	ROAD RACE	CRITERIUM	CROSS COUNTRY	SHORT TRACK
WOMEN'S A	40 MI	45 MIN	90 MIN	30 MIN
WOMEN'S B	25 MI	30 MIN	40 MIN	20 MIN
WOMEN'S C	10 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	10 MIN

WOMEN'S D	10 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	10 MIN
MEN'S A	60 MI	60 MIN	90 MIN	30 MIN
MEN'S B	40 MI	45 MIN	75 MIN	25 MIN
MEN'S C	30 MI	30 MIN	60 MIN	20 MIN
MEN'S D	20 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	15 MIN
MEN'S E	10 MI	20 MIN	40 MIN	10 MIN

Race Scoring

Collegiate Scoring Table

- This table covers all categories* of individual and team events at both Conference and National Championships, along with individual and team omnium classifications.

*For conferences with categories D & E, points will be awarded to the **Top 20** finishers only using the same table as below. 1st – 80, 2nd – 72, 3rd – 66, ...

PLACE	Points	Primes	PLACE	Points
1	80	7	21	20
2	72	5	22	19
3	66	3	23	18
4	62	1	24	17
5	58		25	16
6	55		26	15
7	52		27	14
8	49		28	13
9	46		29	12
10	43		30	11
11	40		31	10
12	38		32	9
13	36		33	8
14	34		34	7
15	32		35	6
16	30		36	5
17	28		37	4
18	26		38	3
19	24		39	2
20	22		40	1

Conference Races (General Policies)

- a) When riders and teams from different divisions race together, they shall be scored together for both individual and team standings. Teams may be ranked within their respective division (e.g. for national qualifications, etc.) only after all points have been tabulated for an event or season.
- b) Conferences must choose, and notify USA Cycling, between the options listed below for the percentage of events that count toward Team and Rider omnium for the regular season championship and National Championship qualifications. This must be posted in the conference regulations prior to the first race of the season.
 - a. 70% (rounded up) of races count for team and individual omnium standings
 - b. 100% of races count for team and individual omnium standings
- c) Conference Championships Points earned at a conference championship for both the team and individual are worth double those of the regular season.
- d) In the mountain bike season, the individual omnium shall be a combination of gravity and endurance results.
- e) Team events such as the TTT and team relay do not count toward individual standings. A team may enter as many team time trial teams in a conference race as they wish, but only the top placing team scores points; the remaining team time trial teams earn placings, but do not score points.
- f) A conference, or a race director with the approval of the conference director, may determine scoring opportunities and other than finish placings and prime sprints (e.g., queen of the mountain) for races and how those points will be awarded to teams and riders, and may also track those points throughout the season (e.g. sprint leader, etc).
- g) Riders and teams may compete in collegiate races outside their team's conference but may not score either rider or team points in that race unless it is specified as a dual conference race. The points that would be earned by an out-of-conference rider shall not be awarded to any rider.

Conference Scoring

- a) Conferences may deviate from the Collegiate Scoring Table, listed above, based on conference size and division breakdown with the consent of USA Cycling.
- b) In all Individual conference events, riders score points based on their final placing according to the Collegiate Scoring Table.
- c) Primes
 - a. Three points primes occur in every category at collegiate conference criterium events.
 - i. All primes should be run independently.
 - 1. If necessary, a double prime (double points) may be used to facilitate fitting all primes into the event.
 - b. In the case of a field being lapped, primes (points/prizes) go to the next leading group on course.
 - c. Any **Primes for Prizes** must be contested on the same laps as primes for points.
- d) The conference individual omnium is determined by the summation of all individual points (including primes) scored at conference events within that season.

- e) In all conference team events, such as team time trials, team relays, and other events in which riders do not earn individual points, teams score points based on their final placing according to the Collegiate Scoring Table.
- f) For each race and each gender (e.g. women's criterium, men's team time trial, co-ed mountain bike team relay), teams are ranked based on the sum of their top four riders in each category for individual events and the top team entry in each category for team events (for individual events, additional riders retain any individual points they earn but their points are not included in the determination of their team's total), and points are assigned for the team omnium, per the Collegiate Scoring Table.
- g) In the case of a tie in the total points among riders or among teams, whether at a particular event or over the course of the season, the tie will be broken in favor of the rider or team that has:
 - a. The most first place A finishes, or if still tied, the most second place A finishes, or if still tied, the most 3rd place A finishes, or if still tied, the most first place B finishes, etc; or if still tied;
 - b. The best finish in the last race of the event or season, as appropriate.

Collegiate National Championships (Individual Omnium)

- b) Individual omnium points are assigned per the Collegiate Scoring Table.
- c) When racing a combined division race, the race will be scored as whole, and not as relative to the division of each racer.
- d) The individual omnium in a national championship is determined for each division (except in the case of combined division races) and gender as follows:
 - a. For each race, each rider is assigned individual points according to their place in the finish based on the Collegiate Scoring Table and any prime points they scored in that race. They are ranked according to the total individual points they scored.
 - b. The individual omnium is determined by ranking the total points scored by each rider in all applicable races.
- e) In the case of a tie on total individual omnium points among riders, the tie will be broken in the favor of the rider who has:
 - a. The most first place finishes or, if still tied, the most second place finishes, etc.; or, if still tied,
 - b. The highest placing in the last individual race of the event.

Collegiate National Championships (Team Omnium)

- a) For any combined division race, the team placings and results will be relative to the other teams in their division.
- b) The team omnium in a national championship is determined for each division as follows:
 - a. For each team that at least one rider scoring points in that race, the top three individual omnium points scoring riders on that team shall have their individual points summed (including prime points).

- b. The teams are ranked in descending order based on the sum of countable individual omnium points.
- c. In the case of a tie in the total points among teams in a race, the tie will be broken in the favor of the team that has the highest placed rider in that race.
- d. Team omnium points are assigned to each team according to the Collegiate Scoring Table.
- e. The team omnium points earned by each team in each race of the event are summed and the teams are ranked in descending order based on this sum.
- c) In the case of a tie among teams based on total Team Omnium Points, the tie will be broken in the favor of the team that has:
 - a. The most first place finishes or, if still tied, the most second place finishes, etc.; or, if still tied,
 - b. The highest placing in the last individual race of the event.

Collegiate National Team Rankings

- a) Each team's national ranking for each academic year is determined on an interim and on a final basis: for track, mountain bike, cyclocross, BMX, and road national championships, accomplished by allocating points to the top 40 teams that earn points at that national championship in each division according to the Collegiate Scoring Table, and summing those points.
- b) In the case of a tie among teams, the tie will be broken in the favor of the team that has:
 - a. The most first place team omnium finishes at national championships, or if still tied, the most second place team omnium finishes at national championships, etc; or if still tied;
 - b. The highest place in the team omnium in the last national championship of the academic year in which one of the tied teams has competed.