

2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships

The USAC-MTB National Championships will be a weekend-long event to determine the United States National Mountain Bike Champions in Junior Age Classes, Junior Expert, Expert Age Classes, U23 (men and women cross-country only), Semi-pro, and Pro in the following disciplines:

Endurance: cross-country, short track, marathon (100k), and single speed.

Gravity: downhill, mountain cross, dual slalom super D

Observed Trials: modified, stock

United States National Competition Jerseys for Beginner and Sport Categories

Beginner and Sport riders in certain age groups will not be awarded National Champion titles, but will be competing for the red and stars jersey (sport) and the blue and stripes jersey (beginner).

United States Junior National Competition and Junior Olympic National Championship

Junior National Competition titles in the Junior Beginner: 15-18 (female), 17-18 (male), and 15-16 (male); and Junior Sport: 17-18 (male), 15-16 (male), and 15-18 (female). National Champion titles will be awarded in the following classes and categories: Junior Expert: 15-18 (female), 17-18 (male) and 15-16 (male), Junior male (open category) 10 & under, 11-12, and 13-14; and Junior female (open category) 10 & under, 11-12, and 13-14. Riders who qualify in older age groups at the ADJOMTB events, USAC-MTB State/Regional Championships, AMBC events, and USAC-MTB National Calendars events will be required to compete in their respective age group, defined by their racing age on December 31 of the current year.

There is no minimum field size to award a National Championship title.

USAC-MTB National Championships Disciplines

Cross-country Events

Cross-country (XC)

A mass start competition held on a circuit course comprising forest roads, forest or field trails and unpaved dirt or gravel roads.

Short Track Cross-country (STXC)

A shortened cross-country style race, designed to be spectator-friendly and easily televised.

Marathon (100k)

The course distance for this event must be at least 60k (37.2 miles) and no more than 100k (62 miles).

Single Speed (SS)

Any type of mountain bike utilizing only a single gear (single front ring and single rear cog) and absent any front or rear derailleurs. The use of chain tensioning systems, for frames without horizontal/track-style dropouts, will be allowed, as long as the bike has no more than one front chain ring and one rear cog.

Gravity Events

Downhill (DH)

A gravity time trial competition in which riders are racing one at a time, against the clock, down a trail, jeep road, fire road, or combination of all three. Downhill races are generally technically challenging with courses often featuring a combination of high speeds, jumps, drop-offs, and other technical trail features.

Dual Slalom (DS)

A gated gravity competition in which two competitors race head-to-head down two similar, but separate courses.

Following a qualification round, riders race against each other in an elimination format (heats) to determine a winner.

Dual slalom courses often will feature bermed corners, jumps, and other technical trail features.

Mountain Cross (MtnX/4x)

A gated gravity competition where four competitors race together on a course which will often feature bermed corners, jumps, and other technical trail features. Following a qualification round, riders race against each other in an elimination format (heats) to determine a winner.

Super D (SD)

A hybrid event combining aspects of downhill and cross-country racing. Riders race on a course that is significantly more downhill than uphill, is devoid of jumps, and not extremely technical.

2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

Observed Trials (OT)

Events conducted over an obstacle course including such hazards as mud, rocks, water, etc. and can have any number of sections. The riders attempt to negotiate each section without putting down a foot or hand (dab). Each dab (foot or hand) adds a point to the rider's score. The rider with the lowest score wins the event.

USAC-MTB National Championships Disciplines, Categories, Classes

QUALIFYING EVENTS

PRO riders are not required to qualify in order to compete at the 2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships. For the following events, all other riders must qualify through specific qualifying races in order to compete at the National Championships:

Cross-country

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, U23, Expert: 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+
Junior: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Female

Pro, U23, Expert: 15-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55+
Junior: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Downhill

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Expert: 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+
Junior: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Female

Pro, Expert: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+
Junior: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Dual Slalom

*Riders who qualify in Mountain Cross are eligible to compete in Dual Slalom and vice versa. At a given National Championship, either Dual Slalom or Mountain Cross will be offered, but not both.

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Expert: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Female

Pro, Expert (any age)

NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS

The following events may be entered at the National Championships without qualifying in specific qualifying races.

Short Track Cross-country

**There will be a 50-rider field limit per category/class. If more than 50 riders enter in a category/class, then qualifying heats will be done.

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Expert: 18 & under, 19-29, 30+

Female

Pro, Expert (any age)

Marathon (60k-100k)

Male

Pro/Open 19+, 19-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

Female

Pro/Open 19+, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+

*For UCI and US Team qualifications, the Pro/Open category is the only one used.

*The course will either be point-to-point or a circuit disputed over one or two laps.

2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

Single Speed

Male

Open

Female

Open

Super D

Male

Pro/Open, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+

Junior: 18 & under

Female

Pro/Open, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Junior: 18 & under

Observed Trials

Male

Modified, Stock

Female

Modified, Stock

Sport and Beginner National Competition Jerseys Disciplines and Classes

QUALIFYING EVENTS

For the following events, riders must qualify through specific qualifying events in order to compete at the National Championships.

Cross-country

Male

Sport: 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Beginner: 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Female

Sport: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Beginner: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Downhill

Male

Sport: 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Beginner: 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Female

Sport: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Beginner: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Dual Slalom

**Riders may qualify for Dual Slalom through Mountain Cross events and vice versa.

Male

Sport: 18 & under, 19-39

Beginner: 14 & under, 15-18, 19-39

Sport/Beginner: 40+

Female

Sport/Beginner

2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships

Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

Qualification Requirements

Riders may compete if they meet all of the following criteria, with the exception of # 3 if the discipline does not require a rider to qualify prior to the USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships:

1. They are United States citizens (riders may be asked to show proof of citizenship at race registration). A birth certificate or passport are acceptable proof of citizenship.
2. They are current annual USAC-MTB members
3. They have qualified through a USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship, an AMBC event, a USAC-MTB National Calendar event, a USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camp, Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike calendar event, USAC Collegiate MTB Conference Championship, or defending United States National Champions or winners of the 2007 USAC National Competitions (Beginner and Sport) in the class, category, and discipline in being contested at the 2008 National Championship competition.

Qualifying Events

There are seven possible ways for riders to qualify and compete in the 2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships, which are outlined below:

1. **USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship Series or USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship Event (one-day)**
The **top-15** overall riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the USAC-MTB National Championship and offered at a USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship event (whether a one-day or series event) will be eligible to compete at the 2008 National Mountain Bike Championship. If the USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship series is not finalized by the qualification deadline, the overall (first place) USAC-MTB State or Regional Champions will automatically be qualified to compete in the 2008 US National Mountain Bike Championships.
2. **American Mountain Bike Challenge (AMBC) events**
The **top-10** riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the USAC-MTB National Championship and offered at any AMBC event will be eligible to compete in the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championship. Riders who compete at AMBC events held after the qualification deadline and/or after 2007 USAC-MTB National Championship will be eligible to compete in the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championship if they place in the **top-10** in their respective discipline, class, and category.
3. **USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendar events**
The **top-10** riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at any USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendars event will be eligible to compete in the 2007 USAC-MTB National Championship. Riders who qualify at USAC-MTB National Calendars events after the 2007 USAC-MTB National Championships will be qualified to compete in the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championship.
4. **Defending USAC-MTB National Champions**
All defending United States Mountain Bike Champions are automatically qualified to compete at the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championships in their respective discipline and category.
5. **Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike Events (ADJOMTB)**
The ADJOMTB is open to junior racers aged 18 years old and younger as of December 31 of the current year. The **top-10** riders in each category and age-group will be qualified to compete at the USAC-MTB National Championship.
6. **USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camps**
The **top-six** riders from each of the USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camps will be extended invitations to compete at the USAC-MTB National Championship.
7. **Collegiate Cycling Conference Championships**
The top-five finishers from each of the 2007 Collegiate Conference Championship races in the respective Collegiate categories (A, B, C, and D) will be eligible to compete at the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championships. Riders must have a current annual USAC-MTB license in order to compete. Riders will compete in the category indicated on their USAC-MTB annual license.

Qualification Guidelines

1. Riders are to compete in their respective age group based on their racing age that is determined as of December 31 of the current year.

2008 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

2. Beginner and sport riders who have met the upgrading requirements (as defined in the 2008 USA Cycling Rulebook), but have qualified to compete in one of these categories at the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championships, may do so for only this event. After the USAC National MTB Championships, the beginner and sport riders must immediately upgrade to the next higher category in the discipline in which they met the upgrade requirement and qualified.
3. Riders who finish in the top-five in the beginner or sport categories at the USAC National MTB Championships must move up to the next higher category for the remainder of the current season and following season. Experts who place in the top-three in the 19-24, 25-29, and 30-34 age groups will be eligible to upgrade to semi-pro (men) and pro (women) for the remainder of the current season and following season. Riders must verify they wish to upgrade to semi-pro (men) or pro (women) by completing and submitting an upgrade request through their USAC online membership account. The upgrade will not be changed unless the rider has agreed to do so by written consent.
4. Any racer, aged 19-22, who has qualified for the USAC-MTB National Championship in cross-country, has the option of competing in the U23 Championship race or their respective category. Racers in the U23 Championship race will be competing on the Pro-level course and distance.
5. Junior and Master Semi-pro and Pro riders may not 'race-down' to the Expert category in order to win an age-group title. Riders are to compete in the category in which they are categorized, qualified, and licensed.
6. Riders shall compete in the highest ability category for each respective discipline in which they have qualified for the 2008 USAC National MTB Championships. Masters riders who qualify in a younger age-group in the same ability category, will be able to qualify, but will compete in their official racing age-group at the USAC-MTB National Championships.
7. Riders who have qualified for the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championships will be posted to the USA Cycling website as they are determined. If there is a discrepancy in the qualifier list, the rider must contact the USAC-MTB Events and Program Director, Kelli Lusk, at klusk@usacycling.org.
8. A qualified rider format example will be available to USAC-MTB State/Regional Championship organizers. The State/Regional Championship organizer is to submit the list of qualified riders as of the qualification deadline to their respective the USAC Regional Coordinator at the conclusion of the USAC-MTB State/Regional Championship or by the qualification deadline of July 13, 2008.
9. Qualification events will be required to submit race results in electronic format to the USA Cycling office within seven (7) business days of their event. Qualified riders will automatically be generated from the race results submitted to the USA Cycling office from these events.
10. A postcard and/or email will be sent to riders who have qualified for the 2008 USAC-MTB National Championships. Entry forms may be included after they have been printed (these may not be available for the early-season qualifying races, but contact information for race registration will be provided).
11. The qualification period is from August 1, 2007 to July 13, 2008.

USA Cycling Mountain Bike State Team Competition Cup

USAC-MTB National Championships will include the USA Cycling State Team Competition Cup. Riders will be riding in the State Team Competition Cup based on the state (residency) listed on their USAC-MTB license.

2008 United States National Mountain Bike Championship Organizers and Contacts

Blue Wolf/Team Big Bear

Jeff Frost/Tom Spiegel

E: timbermtb@msn.com

Mount Snow Resort

Greg Fisher

E: gfisher@mountsnow.com

USA Cycling Mountain Bike Events and Program Director

Kelli Lusk

E: klusk@usacycling.org

Event Websites

Venue: www.mountsnow.com

Qualification Information: www.usacycling.org

Race Registration: www.sportsbaseonline.com