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CANADA**



**2021 NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION POLICY
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA
FOR SELECTION TO NATIONAL TEAM MOUNTAIN BIKE PROGRAMS**

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where athletes improve race specific training, tactical experience and UCI ranking to gain start position for World Class competition.

At the beginning of each Olympic quadrennial (4 year cycle), Cycling Canada places a greater emphasis on Prospect Pool riders. When the UCI qualification period for the Olympic Games begins, there is a greater emphasis on Elite Pool riders capable of earning Olympic qualification points for Canada, and a primary focus on those with the greatest potential for podium performances at the upcoming Olympics.

The National program, at the Development Pool level, is focused on preparing for the Junior World Championships each year. Cycling Canada provides a highly structured and supportive Junior World Championship project designed to foster long-term commitment to the sport. Preparing for this competition is a collaborative effort that incorporates camps, education sessions and other opportunities where athletes can learn about and prepare for the unique demands of international competition.

The National program also provides Advancement Pool initiatives for U17 and U19 riders - held throughout the year in collaboration with provincial cycling programs. The focus of these opportunities is on education and familiarity with the National Team program. We want to ensure new athletes have the basic knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to easily transition into the Development Pool when they are ready.

The overall selection process recognizes the need for some level of athlete continuity within the National program while also creating opportunities for new athletes to earn a position on a project or campaign. Continuity is required so that athletes have the time and support needed to develop their potential within the National program without constantly having to go through selections. At the same time, there is also a need for positive pressure and competition from new/emerging athletes vying for selection to the team. The selection process attempts to balance both needs – providing an optimal number of opportunities for athletes to earn or retain a position in the program each year.

The National program uses a positive, respectful, and collaborative approach to the sport. It is clear that the chances of a podium performance are greatly enhanced when athletes are surrounded by teammates, staff and community that choose to work well together. We are all striving for the same goals and putting the athlete at the centre of everything we do. Together, we can accomplish great things.

Special notice regarding global pandemic

Cycling Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact programs and policies. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus, Cycling Canada will respect published programs and policies as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require programs or policies to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly affect the program or policy. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow a program or policy to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including selection decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in the relevant policy, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Cycling Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Introduction

This document lays out the specific selection criteria for eligible Cycling Canada-licensed **mountain bike athletes** to be named to national team campaigns and projects for the **2021 season**.

Unless expressly stated otherwise in this document, these criteria are subject to the general conditions and criteria laid out in the **Cycling Canada General Selection Policy document**.

This document is organized by Schedule as follows:

- **Schedule 1** – Cycling Canada camps and training programs
- **Schedule 2** – World Cups and UCI events
- **Schedule 3** – World Championships XCO

Schedule 1 – Cycling Canada camps and training programs

Advancement Camps

Cycling Canada offers an on-going series of Advancement Camps throughout the year aimed at introducing athletes to the National Team program. The camps have a strong emphasis on education - increasing athlete knowledge, skills, behaviours and optimization for accelerated progression in the sport. Advancement camps are offered in collaboration with provincial sport organizations. A list of upcoming Advancement Camp opportunities can be found on the Cycling Canada website or by contacting the Cycling Canada NextGen Coach for mountain bike (jeff.ain@cyclingscanada.ca). Athletes are selected to these camps through a combination of invitations, PSO recommendation and open registration opportunities. The goal is to provide a large number of athletes with foundational information that can help them improve to the national and international standard as U17's and U19's.

Development Camps

Cycling Canada offers a series of Development Camp opportunities for athletes who have strong potential to compete at the Junior World Championships. These camps are focused on preparing athletes for the unique demands of international competition - optimizing the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to compete at the the World Championships.

Selection to a Development Camp is done through a combination of invitations and PSO recommendation. Please consult the Cycling Canada website for an up to date listing of Development Camp opportunities or email the Cycling Canada NextGen coach (jeff.ain@cyclingscanada.ca) for further information.

NextGen Training Program

The MTB NextGen Program is an integral part of Cycling Canada's overall high-performance development system. The purpose of the NextGen Program is to educate and improve the athlete's technical, tactical, physical and mental performance to a level where they can seamlessly integrate into the Elite MTB Program as medal potential athletes.

Applications for this program are normally accepted in September/October each year. Athletes are selected into the program based on coach recommendation. For more information, please consult the Cycling Canada website or contact NextGen MTB Coach, Jeff Ain (jeff.ain@cyclingscanada.ca).

Athletes who choose to work with a private coach may be selected to participate in NextGen training program camps and DTE opportunities on a part time basis in accordance with Cycling Canada performance plans and based on available space.

Elite Training Program

The Elite Training Program provides World Leading coaching, Performance Planning and individualized Sport Science support for athletes with potential to medal at the international level in World Cup, World Championships and Olympic competition. Athletes in this program are provided with an intensive and highly structured performance plan intended to accelerate improvement. The program is supported by a sport science team that works with the athlete to optimize the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to compete at the highest level. Athletes in this program compete as part of the National Team and may also be part of a professional cycling team.

Applications for this program are normally accepted in September/October each year. Athletes are selected into the program based on coach recommendation and the athlete's own expression of interest. For more information, please consult the Cycling Canada website or contact Head Coach, Dan Proulx (dan.proulx@cyclingcanada.ca).

Athletes who choose to work with a private coach may be selected to participate in Elite training program camps and DTE opportunities on a part time basis in accordance with Cycling Canada performance plans and based on available space.

Schedule 2 – World Cups and UCI Events

General

Events: This Schedule covers selection Project Pools and Teams for the following events, subject to Clause 12 of the General Selection Policy (right to vary team size or not to enter team):

2021 Dates	Project	Location	Athletes
May 3-17, 2021	World Cup 1 and 2	Germany and Czech Republic	Elite, U23
Sept 4-5, 2021	World Cup 5	Switzerland	Elite, U23

Sanctioned Competition or Authorized Event: In order to be considered for selection riders must achieve the Specific Selection Criteria set out in Schedule 2 while participating in a UCI sanctioned competition or a CC authorized event and while using a Mountain Bike that complies with the UCI Cycling Regulations.

Other Factors: Any selection is subject to the General Selection Policy including clauses 10 (Other Factors), 11 (Extenuating Circumstances) and 12 (Other Selection Matters).

Pre-condition: All riders seeking selection to a project must be in highly competitive condition prior to participating. Athletes may be asked to provide evidence that they have met this pre-condition using national team training reports, racing results, performance in Cycling Canada training camps and/or documentation of completed training activities under the guidance of an NCCP certified cycling coach. The CC reserves the right, at the discretion of the HPD and National Team Head Coach, to not select athletes who lack adequate preparation and/or skill level for world class competition for any event in Schedule 2.

Time Period: Riders must achieve the Specific Selection Criteria set out in this Schedule prior to the Selection Date, unless stated otherwise.

Cancellation Policy: Any athlete who accepts their position on a National Team project and who, for any reason, later cancels or declines to compete will not receive a refund or exemption for any project fees paid or owing. An exception may be made in the event of injury or illness; this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Selection Announcement: Cycling Canada will endeavor to announce selections in a timely manner (typically 7-10 days after selection date listed in policy) in order to provide the best possible preparation time and to provide partially funded athletes with time to secure funding from their province, teams, sponsors and/or supporters.

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Cycling Canada reserves the right to delay selection announcements in the event that more time is needed to ensure due process and fairness in selection.

Privateers and World Cup entry minimum requirement:

Please refer to the UCI's Special Provisions for the 2021 season:

<https://www.uci.org/docs/default-source/rules-and-regulations/mtb-covid-19-special-provisions-for-2021.pdf>

Per UCI rule 4.9.003, in order to be eligible to compete at a World Cup:

- U23 female riders must have at least 20 UCI points prior to the entry date as given by the UCI or March 3, 2020.
- U23 male riders must have at least 60 UCI points prior to the entry date as given by the UCI or March 3, 2020.
- Elite women and Elite men must have at least 60 UCI points prior to the entry date as given by the UCI or March 3, 2020.

Canada does have a limited number of quota spots in each category for athletes who do not meet the minimum points requirement listed above. Athletes who will be part of a National Team project at the event are allocated these spots first. Remaining quota positions are allocated, at Cycling Canada's discretion, in order of the rider's UCI ranking as of March 3, 2020. Riders who use a remaining quota position are often referred to as Privateers.

Privateers must compete in National Team clothing. Athletes wishing to use the Cycling Canada quota spots should contact Off-Road Program Manager Jennifer Mahoney at Jennifer.mahoney@cyclingcanada.ca to indicate their intent to register at least 4 weeks prior to the event. Athletes must include their current UCI points and results.

Please note that Privateers or any rider not formally selected to the National Team project or not amongst the top 5 Canadians on the Elite UCI ranking used to determine start order at the event are not eligible for race day support from the National Team at the event. Riders using extra quota spots are expected to organize all elements of their race support independently (including feed zone/tech zone) as per the race day support regulations listed on Page 8.

Appeals: All appeals of the selection process shall be managed pursuant of the [Cycling Canada Appeals Policy](#). All communication regarding an appeal shall use a respectful and professional communication style and should reflect the high standards of conduct outlined in the [Cycling Canada Code of Conduct](#). Note: only athletes who have achieved the specific selection criteria listed may appeal selection decisions.

Funding: All projects may include funded, partially funded and/or self-funded opportunities based on available budget in the National Mountain Bike program. Each athlete's funding level, for this particular project, will be outlined in the invitation for the project.

Elite rider eligibility for development projects: In alignment with Cycling Canada's 2020-2030 Strategic Plan and to facilitate the advancement of our high performance programs, Elite athletes can only be selected for a project where the primary objective is listed as Development if they are in year 1-4 of the Elite category.

- The 4 year eligibility window will automatically begin when the athlete is first eligible to compete in the Elite category.
- The 4 years of eligibility are consecutive, regardless of whether or not the athlete is selected to a national team project in subsequent years of their eligibility window.
- Due to the global pandemic, where athletes were asked to avoid travel and unable to train or compete normally, the 2020 competitive year is not counted as part of an athlete's 4 year eligibility.

Extended eligibility: Athletes who have exceeded the 4 year eligibility window can extend or renew their eligibility at any time for an additional 12 month period if they achieve a top 16 result at a World Cup event in Europe or the World Championships in the Elite category.

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Exemptions to eligibility window:

- The eligibility window does not apply to selections where the primary objective is listed as Performance (ex. World Championships, Olympic Games)
- Regardless of the project's primary objective, the eligibility requirement does not apply to athletes listed in the top 3 for Canada's most recent Olympic ranking at time of selection for events where Olympic qualification points are being earned.
- Talent transfer and late recruitment athletes may be granted up to 2 years of eligibility for development projects in the Elite category based on the expert opinion of the Head Coach and HPD. These athletes will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Race day support for athletes not selected to a National Team project: In fairness to athletes who were formally selected to the National Team project, athletes who were not selected to the project or not ranked amongst the top 5 Canadians on the elite UCI ranking used to determine start order at the event are not eligible for race day support through the National Team. They are expected to arrange all elements of their race support independently.

Athletes ranked amongst the top 5 Canadians on the elite UCI ranking used to determine start order at the event may access limited race day support (feed zone/tech zone) on a case by case basis if they are not already supported by a UCI professional team. This support is provided at coach discretion and is based on availability of staff resources, event timing and National Team project logistics. Athletes requesting race day support should email the Head Coach dan.proulx@cyclingscanada.ca at least 2 weeks prior to the event for approval and additional details and requirements relative to each race.

World Cup #1 and 2 – Germany and Czech Republic (May 3-17, 2021)

Cycling Canada reserves the right to increase, decrease or reconfigure team size or quotas based on funding limitations, the expert opinion of the National Team Head Coach and HPD or other factors not under Cycling Canada's control.

Cycling Canada reserves the right to modify this selection process at any time in order to account for unforeseen Covid-19 challenges and travel restrictions. If possible, any changes to this selection will be communicated 8 weeks in advance. All changes must be approved by the Cycling Canada High Performance Committee.

U23 and Elite Women and Men

Primary Objective: Development

Team Size: 4 athletes

Eligibility: All athletes aged 19 or older as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: March 15, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until team size is met.

1. Riders ranked in the top 3 on most recent Olympic Qualification ranking as of selection date.
2. Riders who were top 10 in the junior category at the 2019 World Championships who have transitioned into the U23 category selected in order of highest placing.
3. Riders who were in top 20 at 2019 U23 World Cup in Europe or the 2019 World Championships and who are still in U23 or have transitioned to the Elite category selected in order of highest placing.
4. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

World Cup #5 Lenzerheide, Switzerland (September 4-5, 2021)

Cycling Canada reserves the right to increase, decrease or reconfigure team size or quotas based on funding limitations, the expert opinion of the National Team Head Coach and HPD or other factors not under Cycling Canada's control.

Cycling Canada reserves the right to modify this selection process at any time in order to account for unforeseen Covid-19 challenges and travel restrictions. If possible, any changes to this selection will be communicated 8 weeks in advance. All changes must be approved by the Cycling Canada High Performance Committee.

U23 Women

Primary Objective: Development

Team Size: 2 athletes

Eligibility: All female athletes aged 19 to 22 as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 17, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size is met:

1. Athletes who finished among the top 30 in a 2021 World Cup U23 XCO in Europe prior to the selection date.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe prior to selection date.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
2. Top 2 selections to the 2021 U23 World Championships, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

U23 Men

Primary Objective: Development

Team Size: 2 athletes

Eligibility: All male athletes aged 19 to 22 as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 17, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size is met:

1. Athletes who finished among the top 35 in a 2021 World Cup U23 XCO in Europe prior to the selection date.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a World Cup XCO in Europe prior to selection date.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
2. Top 2 selections to the 2021 U23 World Championships, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

Elite Women

Primary Objective: Development

Team Size: 1 athlete

Eligibility: All female athletes aged 23 and older as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 17, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size listed above is met.

1. Athletes who have finished among the top 30 in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe prior to the selection date and meet the eligibility requirement for development projects.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.

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2. Top 2 selections to the 2021 U23 World Championships, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

Elite Men

Primary Objective: Development

Team Size: 1 athlete

Eligibility: All male athletes aged 23 and older as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 17, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size listed above is met.

1. Athletes who have finished among the top 35 in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe prior to the selection date and meet the eligibility requirement for development projects.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
2. Top 2 selections to the 2021 U23 World Championships, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

SCHEDULE 3 – World Championships

General

Events: This Schedule covers selection for the following Events, subject to Clause 12 of the General Selection Policy (right to vary team size or not to enter team):

Dates	Project	Location	Athletes
August 20-30 th , 2021	XCO World Championships	Val di Sole, Italy	Junior, U23, Elite

Sanctioned Competition or Authorized Event: In order to be considered for selection to these events, riders must achieve the Specific Selection Criteria set out in this Schedule while participating in a UCI sanctioned competition or a CC authorized event and while using a Mountain Bike that complies with the UCI Cycling Regulations.

Other Factors: Any selection to a Team for any one of the Events is subject to the General Selection Policy, including clause 10 (Other Factors), 11 (Extenuating Circumstances) and 12 (Other Selection Matters).

Pre-condition: All riders seeking selection to a project must be in highly competitive condition prior to participating. Athletes may be asked to provide evidence that they have met this pre-condition using racing results, performance in Cycling Canada training camps and/or documentation of completed training activities under the guidance of an NCCP certified cycling coach. The CC reserves the right, at the discretion of the HPD and National Team Head Coach, to not select athletes who lack adequate preparation and/or skill level for world class competition for any event.

Time Period: Riders must achieve the Specific Selection Criteria set out in this Schedule during the time period commencing Feb. 1, 2021, and for the Pools concluding midnight (EST) prior to the Selection Date, unless stated otherwise.

2021 XCO World Championships information

The purpose of this section is to provide the membership with information on how Cycling Canada (CC) will select its representatives to the 2021 MTB World Championships. The primary objective of the selection process is to choose athletes with the highest potential to win medals at the 2021 Mountain Bike World Championships.

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Selection for the World Championships is open to any athlete possessing a Canadian passport at the time of nomination and a valid international UCI racing license stating their nationality as Canadian.

The World Championship Team will offer fully funded, partially funded and self-funded positions. Athletes will be notified of the exact costs associated with the project at the time of selection. Historically the majority of XCO athletes on this project can anticipate self-funded positions at a cost of approximately \$1500 plus the athlete's airfare.

Selection Procedure: The selection criteria in each category and discipline are outlined in this document.

Appeals: All appeals of the selection process shall be managed pursuant of the [Cycling Canada Appeals Policy](#). All communication regarding an appeal shall use a respectful and professional communication style and should reflect the high standards of conduct outlined in the [Cycling Canada Code of Conduct](#). Note: only athletes who have achieved the specific selection criteria listed may appeal selection decisions.

Selection Announcement: Cycling Canada will endeavor to announce selections in a timely manner (typically 7-10 days after selection date listed in policy) in order to provide the best possible preparation time and to provide partially funded athletes with time to secure funding from their province, teams, sponsors and/or supporters. Cycling Canada reserves the right to delay selection announcements in the event that more time is needed to ensure due process and fairness in selection.

Team Size: Cycling Canada reserves the right to increase, decrease or reconfigure team size or quotas based on funding limitations, the expert opinion of the National Team Head Coach and HPD or other factors not under Cycling Canada's control.

Cycling Canada reserves the right to modify this selection process at any time in order to account for unforeseen Covid-19 challenges and travel restrictions. If possible, any changes to this selection will be communicated 8 weeks in advance. All changes must be approved by the Cycling Canada High Performance Committee.

Junior Women

Primary Objective: Performance

Team Size: 4 athletes

Eligibility: All female athletes aged 17 and 18 as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 20, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until team size is met:

1. Top 2 Canadians at 2021 Saint-Félicien Canada Cup.
2. Top 2 Canadians at the 2021 Sherbrooke Canada Cup or next best if the rider is already selected.

If only one of the above selection races is cancelled, the selection will be as follows:

1. Top 2 Canadians at the hosted Canada Cup (either Saint-Félicien or Sherbrooke).
2. Top 2 Canadians in the U19 UCI rankings* as of July 20, 2021, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

If both selection races are cancelled, the selection will be as follows:

1. Top 2 Canadians in the U19 UCI rankings* as of July 20, 2021.
2. Top 2 at the 2019 U17 National Championships, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

** Excluding any results achieved between March 4 and Dec. 31, 2020*

Junior Men

Primary Objective: Performance

Team Size: 4 athletes

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Eligibility: All male athletes aged 17 and 18 as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 20, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until team size is met:

1. Top 2 Canadians at 2021 Saint-Félicien Canada Cup.
2. Top 2 Canadians at the 2021 Sherbrooke Canada Cup or next best if the rider is already selected.

If only one of the above selection races is cancelled, the selection will be as follows:

1. Top 2 Canadians at the hosted Canada Cup (either Saint-Félicien or Sherbrooke).
2. Top 2 Canadians in the U19 UCI rankings* as of July 20, 2021, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

If both selection races are cancelled, the selection will be as follows:

1. Top 2 Canadians in the U19 UCI rankings* as of July 20, 2021.
2. Top 2 at the 2019 U17 National Championships, or next best if the rider is already selected.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

** Excluding any results achieved between March 4 and Dec. 31, 2020*

U23 Women

Primary Objective: Performance

Team Size: 4 athletes

Eligibility: All female athletes aged 19 to 22 as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 20, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size is met:

1. Athletes who finished among the top 30 in a 2021 World Cup U23 XCO in Europe prior to the selection date.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a World Cup XCO in Europe prior to selection date.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
2. Top finisher at the 2021 Sherbrooke Canada Cup or next best if the rider is already selected; if this event is cancelled, the selection will be based on coach discretion.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

U23 Men

Primary Objective: Performance

Team Size: 4 athletes

Eligibility: All male athletes aged 19 to 22 as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 20, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size is met:

1. Athletes who finished among the top 35 in a 2021 World Cup U23 XCO in Europe prior to the selection date.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a World Cup XCO in Europe prior to selection date.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
2. Top finisher at the 2021 Sherbrooke Canada Cup or next best if the rider is already selected; if this event is cancelled, the selection will be based on coach discretion.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

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Elite Women

Primary Objective: Performance

Team Size: 4 athletes.

Eligibility: All female athletes aged 23 and older as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 20, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size listed above is met.

1. Riders and alternates selected to the 2021 Olympic team in order of selection.
2. Athletes who have finished among the top 30 in a 2021 World Cup XCO in prior to the selection date.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

Elite Men

Primary Objective: Performance

Team Size: 4 athletes

Eligibility: All male athletes aged 23 and older as of Dec. 31, 2021

Selection Date: July 20, 2021

Selection of Team: Athletes will be selected in the following order until the team size listed above is met.

1. Riders and alternates selected to the 2021 Olympic team in order of selection.
2. Athletes who have finished among the top 35 in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe prior to the selection date.
 - a. If more than one athlete meets this criterion, the athletes will be selected in order of their best finish in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe.
 - b. In the event of a tie using this criterion, the second-best result in a 2021 World Cup XCO in Europe will determine the selection.
3. Riders recommended to the High Performance Committee based on coach discretion.

Team Relay and participation in non-XCO events

Selection to the team relay will be based solely on the discretion of the National Team Head Coach and HPD.

Other than for Downhill (DHI), which is governed by a separate selection policy, entry into events other than XCO at the World Championships will be based solely on the expert opinion of the National Team Head Coach and HPD.

Privateers - Remaining Quota Spots at World Championships

Cycling Canada reserves the right to choose whether or not to allocate its remaining quota positions based on its sole discretion.

Privateers at the World Championships: Remaining quota positions in each category at the World Championships may be filled with additional athletes known as privateers. These athletes will be selected on the basis of each rider's UCI ranking as of selection date, excluding any results achieved between March 4 and Dec. 31, 2020. Selection between riders with equal points will be at the discretion of the Mountain Bike head coach.

Athletes must have a minimum of one UCI point in 2021 to be eligible for selection to a privateer position. If additional quota spots still remain, these may be filled at the discretion of the head coach.

The intent of the Privateer program is to provide opportunity and experience to as many Canadian riders as possible. We hope that Privateers will be inspired to do what it takes to earn selection to the regular national team program in subsequent years.

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Privateers will have only a minimal level of support at the event and will be responsible for securing their own airfare, ground transportation and accommodation. Cycling Canada will provide each privateer with a uniform, registration services and limited neutral support in the feedzone/tech zone during the competition.

Specific costs and requirements for Privateers will be outlined by Cycling Canada at the time of selection. Typical Privateer fees are \$400-500 for the World Championships.

Cycling Canada reserves the right to increase, decrease or reconfigure team size or quotas based on funding limitations, the expert opinion of the National Head Coach or other factors not under Cycling Canada's control.