

# 2006 USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships

## Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

### USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships

The National Mountain Bike Championships will be a weekend-long event to determine the United States National Mountain Bike Champions Junior age classes, Junior Expert, Expert, U23 (men 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

### 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: 18 & under (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 Junior events, NORBA State/Regional Championships, AMBC events, and NORBA National Mountain Bike Series (NMBS) events will be required to compete in their respective age group, as of their racing age on December 31 of the current year.

### National Championship Disciplines

#### **Cross-country Events**

##### **Cross-country**

An individual or mass start competition that is held on a circuit course comprised of forest roads, forest or field trails and unpaved dirt or gravel roads (a minimal of paved road may be necessary).

##### **Short Track**

A 15-25 minute race which will be ridden on a circuit course of one to two miles in length. Racers who may be lapped or have been lapped, are pulled by the NORBA officials.

##### **Marathon Cross-country (100k)**

The course distance for this event must be at least 60k (37.2 miles) and no more than 100k (62 miles). The course must include an adequate number of passing sections for riders. The use of repeated circuits is not recommended. There must be provision for a minimum of ten (10) riders in each row at the start of the race. Open to riders who are at least 19 years old.

##### **Single Speed**

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**

A time trial of sustained descending occurring between a start line and a finish line that is located at a lower altitude. Competitors typically depart the start line in timed intervals (i.e. 30 seconds).

##### **Mountain Cross**

A descending style race consisting of multiple riders competing on the same course with a set number of riders advancing to the next round.

##### **Super D**

The Super D is a hybrid cross-country/downhill competition. This race can be contested with individual starts, as in downhill events, or a Le Mans mass start. The course should be 12-20 minutes in length and the start should be higher in altitude than the finish line. Courses should have significantly more descending than climbing, be void of any jumps, and not be extremely technical. A full-suspension cross-country bike would be ideal for this type of race.

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### 2006 National Champion Disciplines, Categories, Classes

#### QUALIFYING EVENTS

PRO riders are not required to qualify in order to compete at the 2006 USA Cycling National Mountain Bike 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+  
Open: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

##### Female

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

##### Female

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

#### Mountain Cross

\*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/open

#### NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS

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

#### Short Track

\*\*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, Open: All Non-pro categories

#### Marathon (100k)

##### Male

Open: 19+, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+

##### Female

Open: 19+, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

\*For UCI and US Team qualifications, the open 19+ class is the only one used.

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

#### Single Speed

##### Male

Open

##### Female

Open

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## Super D

### Male

Open/Pro, Non-Pro (all ability categories): 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+

Junior: 18 & under

### Female

Open/Pro, Non-Pro (all ability categories): 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Junior: 18 & under

## 2006 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+

### Mountain Cross

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

#### Male

Sport: 18 & under, 19-39

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

Sport/Beginner: 40+

#### Female

Beginner/Sport Open

## 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 National Mountain Bike Championships:

1. They are United States citizens (riders may be asked to show proof of citizenship at race registration).
2. They are current annual NORBA members
3. They have qualified through a NORBA State or Regional Championship, an AMBC event, the NORBA National Mountain Bike Series (NMBS), a USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camp, Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike calendar event, or defending United States National Champions or winners of the 2005 USAC National Competitions (Beginner and Sport) in the class, category, and discipline in being contested at the 2006 National Championship competition.

## Qualifying Events

There are seven possible ways for riders to qualify and compete in the 2006 USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships, which are outlined below:

1. **NORBA State or Regional Championship Series or NORBA State or Regional Championship Event (one-day)**

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The **top-15** overall riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the USAC National Mountain Bike Championship and offered at a NORBA State or Regional Championship will be eligible to compete at the 2006 National Mountain Bike Championship. If the NORBA State or Regional Championship series is not finalized by the qualification deadline, the **top-15** ranked series riders will be extended invitations. If the overall (first place) NORBA State or Regional Champions are determined after the 2006 qualification deadline, these riders will automatically be qualified to compete in the 2007 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 National Mountain Bike Championships and offered at any AMBC event will be eligible to compete in the 2006 USAC National Mountain Bike Championship. Riders who compete at AMBC events held after the qualification deadline and/or after 2006 US National MTB Championships will be eligible to compete in the 2007 USAC National MTB Championships if they place in the **top-10** in their respective discipline, class, and category.

### 3. NORBA National Mountain Bike Series (NMBS) events

The **top-10** riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at any NORBA National Series event will be eligible to compete in the 2006 USAC National Mountain Bike Championship. Riders who qualify at NMBS events after the 2006 USAC National Championships will be qualified to compete in the 2007 USAC National Mountain Bike Championships.

### 4. Defending United States National Mountain Bike Champions

5. All defending United States National Mountain Bike Champions are automatically qualified to compete at the 2006 USAC National MTB Championships in their respective discipline and category.

### 6. 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. A rider who qualifies for the USAC National MTB Championships in an older junior age group than their official racing age, will still be qualified, but they will compete at the USAC National MTB Championship in their age group as of their age on December 31 of the current year (racing age).

### 7. 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 National Mountain Bike Championships.

### 7. Sea Otter Classic

The **top-10** riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the USAC National MTB Championships and offered at the Sea Otter Classic will be eligible to compete in the 2006 USAC National Mountain Bike Championship.

## 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.
2. If a rider qualifies in a different age-group other than their racing age, the rider will still compete in their racing age-group at the USAC MTB Nationals, regardless of the age-group in which they qualified.
3. Beginner and sport riders who have met the upgrading requirements (as defined in the 2006 NORBA Competition Rulebook), but have qualified to compete in one of these categories at the 2006 USAC National MTB 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.
4. 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 to their NORBA Region Manager. The upgrade will not be changed unless the rider has agreed to do so by written consent.
5. Any male racer, aged 19-22, who has qualified for the USAC National Mountain Bike 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.
6. 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.

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7. Riders shall compete in the highest ability category for each respective discipline in which they have qualified for the 2006 USAC National MTB Championships.
8. Riders who have qualified for the 2006 USAC National MTB 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 NORBA Region Manager for their state.  
Eastern: [klusk@usacycling.org](mailto:klusk@usacycling.org) or Western: [dcrandall@usacycling.org](mailto:dcrandall@usacycling.org)
9. A qualified rider format example will be available to NORBA 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 NORBA Region office at the conclusion of the NORBA State/Regional Championship or by the qualification deadline of July 17, 2006.
10. 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.
11. A postcard and/or email will be sent to riders who have qualified for the 2006 USAC National MTB 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).
12. **The qualification period will be from August 1, 2005 to July 17, 2006.**

### **NORBA State Team Competition Cup**

Each state will have riders from their state score in each discipline, class, and category for the overall NORBA State Team Competition Cup. Riders will be riding in the State Team Competition Cup based on the state (residency) listed on their NORBA license. A perpetual trophy will have the winning state engraved on it and the trophy will remain in the USA Cycling Colorado Springs office.

### **2006 United States National Mountain Bike Championship Organizers and Contacts**

#### **Team Big Bear/Blue Wolf**

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#### **NORBA Eastern Region Manager**

AMBC, Eastern State Championships

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