

Chapter I

General Regulations

1. General Regulations

The material in this chapter is applicable to all cycling disciplines unless specifically excluded. In case of conflict, a more specific rule in a discipline-specific chapter supersedes a general rule.

1A. Definitions

1A1. An **Administrator** is a USAC Regional Coordinator or the person designated by the Local Association.

1A2. A **bicycle race** is a competition among persons using bicycles where awards are given on the basis of relative performance.

1A3. Category: An ability-based designation for riders. Riders in the same age class may race in groups based on ability category.

1A4. Class: An age-based designation, such as junior, U23, Elite, or master.

1A5. A **club ride** is a training ride open only to members of bicycle clubs that are members of USA Cycling or a race that is open only to members of one such club and any participant who holds a USA Cycling racing license must be licensed as a member of that club.

1A6. Disqualification is a penalty that causes a rider or team to lose placing in a race and to be ineligible for any subsequent heats in the race.

1A7. An **Elite rider** is one who satisfies any of the following conditions:

(a) has a racing age of 23 to 29,

(b) has a racing age of 19-22 and is a member of a UCI Pro team (i.e Pro Tour team, Tier 1 team),

(c) has a racing age of 30 years or older and has been a member of any UCI Team at any time in the current year,

(d) has a racing age of 30 years or older and has competed in any elite UCI World Cups, World Championships, Pan

American Games, Pan American Championship, or Olympic Games within the current calendar year.

Riders who are classified as an Elite rider per part d) above are classified as such only in the discipline in which they competed.

1A8. An **event permit** is a non-exclusive authorization issued by USA Cycling to a member club or a Race Director to conduct a race event of a specified type at certain location(s) on specified date(s).

1A9. False Start: A rider moving forward or crossing the start line or gate before the start command is given.

1A10. A **Gran Fondo** is a massed start ride where the participants may be timed, but no awards are given based on relative performance.

1A11. A **guest rider** on a team is a rider who is licensed with another club/team not entered in the event, who rides as a “guest” on the team for that specific event.

1A12. A **Hearing** is a formal request for review by a hearing panel of a suspension or qualification to race.

1A13. An **invitational race** is one in which only riders who are invited by the Race Director may compete.

1A14. Licensees are persons holding USA Cycling licenses, such as riders, officials, coaches, trainers, *race directors*, and mechanics.

1A15. A **mishap** is a crash or a mechanical accident (tire puncture or other failure of an essential component). However, a puncture caused by the tire coming off due to inadequate gluing is not a mechanical accident, nor is a malfunction due to miss-assembly or insufficient tightening of any component. A **recognized mishap** is a stoppage that meets the above conditions. An **unrecognized mishap** is a stoppage where the above conditions are not met. A broken toe strap or cleat is a mishap. A worn or misadjusted cleat or toe strap is not a mishap. If more than one toe strap is used on a pedal, breakage of one is

considered a mishap. Any mishap not immediately inspected by an official is unrecognized.

1A16. A **mixed team** is composed of riders belonging to different teams, none of which is entered in the event. Members wear matching jerseys, which may carry the riders' usual advertising or a sponsor for that race.

1A17. **Mixed** tandem and team time trial events require both male and female competitors.

1A18. The **officials** are appointed by USA Cycling to oversee the conduct of the race and to ensure compliance with USA Cycling regulations.

1A19. An **omnium** is a set of races in which riders compete for points in each event and final placings are determined by total points in all events. Riders do not have to participate in each event of the omnium unless specified in the event regulations. Different numbers of points may be given in different events. The scoring scheme shall be specified in the official race announcement. The default omnium scheme for track events is specified in rule 201.

1A20. An **open race** is one where any rider is eligible to register as long as they otherwise meet eligibility standards (i.e. it is not an invitational)

1A21. The **Race Director** of a race is the person named as such in the race permit. This person is responsible to USA Cycling for the proper organization of the race event.

1A22. **Para-cycling** is bicycle racing for cyclists with disabilities as defined by the UCI.

1A23. The **prize list** for a race consists of all prizes and primes arranged for in advance by the Race Director. The prize list for a race event is the sum of the prize lists for the individual races.

1A24. A **Professional** road or track rider is a registered rider of a UCI Team. A Professional MTB rider is a registered rider on a UCI MTB Team or a rider categorized as such by USA Cycling.

1A25. A **Protest** is a formal request by a rider or team manager to have a race official review a decision or oversight. (See Racing Rule 1R)

1A26. Race entry is the process of paying a fee and making a commitment to compete.

1A27. A **race event** is one or more races covered by a single race permit and is not necessarily limited to a single day.

1A28. Race registration is the process (normally conducted at the race site) of presenting a license and picking up race information and numbers.

1A29. A **race series** is a sequence of race events of the same type (such as road, criterium, time trial, track or MTB) conducted in a single state generally on a regular basis at the same location, time, and day of the week.

1A30. A rider's **racing age** shall be his age on December 31 of the current year except in cyclo-cross. A rider's racing age in cyclo-cross is his age on December 31st of the year that the cyclo-cross season ends. References to age of riders, race age groups, or age class shall be interpreted as referring to racing age*. The following terms refer to specific age groups.

Racing Age	Age Group Class
6- 9	Youth
10-18	Junior
19-22	Under 23
23-29	Elite (i.e. senior)
30+	Master

* *The only exception is that for the minimum age for a licensee of 6 years old, this refers to chronological age, not racing age.*

1A31. In order to be considered a **licensed member** of a club, a rider must be a member in good standing of that club and it must be listed on the rider's USA Cycling license.

1A32. Relegation is a penalty consisting of a loss of position, points or time, depending on the type of race. It may be assessed against a rider, a team, or both. Relegation of support personnel in a road race consists of placing their vehicle farther back in the caravan.

1A33. The **cyclo-cross season** begins September 1st of one year and ends on the last day of February of the following year.

1A34. A **Selection race** is an event in which riders qualify for championships or international competition.

1A35. A **session** is a sequence of races with no major time breaks. Most championships are held with two or possibly three sessions per day.

1A36. A **stage race** is an event with a common entry, run on consecutive days, comprising a sequence of road races (i.e. individual road races, time trials, criteriums), in which the overall results are determined by cumulative time or points. There are normally individual and team competitions. Riders must successfully complete each stage in order to be eligible for the next one.

1A37. Suspension is a penalty imposed under USA Cycling Policy *III* in which a licensee is ineligible to participate in either international events or those of USA Cycling for a determined period of time. Such participation includes working in a support function (manager, coach, mechanic, etc.).

1A38. Time trial (or Team Time Trial): A time trial competition involves individuals or teams who race against the clock.

1A39. A **UCI Team** is a team registered with the UCI. These include UCI Pro Teams, UCI Professional Continental Teams, UCI Continental Teams, UCI Track Teams, UCI Mountain Bike Teams, and UCI women's teams.

1A40. An **unattached rider** is one who is not a licensed member of a club.

1A41. An **Under 23 rider** (U23) is one with a racing age of 19 through 22. A rider in this age range who is a member of a UCI Pro team is classified as Elite. A rider in this age range who is a member of other UCI Teams is not classified as Elite.

1A42. A **youth race** is an event held on a closed course *with a circuit length no longer than 5 Km* that is open only to riders with ages between 6 and 9.

1B. Rule Applications, Exceptions, Additions and Violations

1B1. Scope

(a) For Olympic and other international events, and the activities of UCI Teams, the applicable regulations of the organization that authorizes the event or team shall take precedence over USA Cycling regulations.

(b) National Championships for 17-18, U23 and elite riders will be run under UCI rules, except as specifically noted elsewhere in these rules. Other races for 17-18, U23 or elite riders that are used to qualify riders for national teams or international competition have the option of using UCI rules, either completely or in part, provided that notification is given to the riders 60 days prior to the event.

(c) These Racing Rules apply to all races authorized by USA Cycling, including national championships.

(d) Whenever a specific rule is in conflict with a more general rule, the specific rule takes precedence. Exceptions to these rules may be made only with prior approval of the CEO in a particular race event. A request for exception should be made in writing to the CEO with a copy attached to the race permit application.

1B2. Time Period. An entrant in an event held under USA Cycling regulations shall be subject to these rules from the beginning of registration to the completion of the event, including the last awarding of prizes.

1B3. The Race Director may add **special rules** as needed for a particular race or may devise novel race rules provided that:

(a) These additional rules are not in conflict with the rules of USA Cycling;

(b) They are approved by the administrator or chief referee; and,

(c) They are made available in written form to the participants before the race.

1B4. Any **schedule of fines** for a race, other than those recommended in these Racing Rules, must be requested by the Race Director, approved by the CEO, and made available in writing to participants before the race.

1B5. Violations of Rules

(a) Penalties. The following actions may be taken when USA Cycling regulations are broken (in general order of increasing severity): warning, fine, relegation, disqualification, suspension. Riders may be disqualified from all subsequent events in a race series held under a single event permit for a period of up to 10 days.

(b) Recommended **penalties for first offenses** under normal circumstances are listed below and throughout these rules within brackets. Subsequent offenses of the same type by the same rider within a year of the last such offense should receive greater penalties.

(c) A rider who is **disqualified** for a medical control infraction must promptly return any prizes and primes won in the event, though this obligation shall be stayed while a hearing is pending.

(d) Fines issued to riders or teams must be paid to USA Cycling directly. Riders who fail to submit their fine within 15 days shall be suspended per USA Cycling Policy *III* (see Appendices). Fines shall be used to fund junior development programs.

(e) Category A and B road events shall use the current UCI schedule of fines and penalties [UCI article 12.1.040 "other events"].

1C. Licensing

1C1. USA Cycling issues the following annual licenses:
Rider, Coach, Manager, Mechanic, Official
Soigneur, Doctor, Paramedic, Team Director,
Driver, *Race Director*

1C2. A license is an identity document that is the property of USA Cycling and indicates its holder has voluntarily agreed to abide by the regulations and decisions of USA Cycling. It permits the licensee to enter any event for which the licensee is qualified, for which a permit has been issued by USA Cycling, and for which the rider licensee has properly registered and paid an entry fee. A license must be signed by the licensee in order to be valid.

1C3. Domestic licenses are issued by USA Cycling and are valid only for participation in events in the United States. International Licenses are issued by USA Cycling and are valid in any country for events sanctioned by a cycling federation affiliated with the UCI. All annual licenses expire on December 31st. However, licenses purchased after a certain point in the season, as determined by the CEO, will expire on December 31st of the following year.

1C4. Liability Release. All persons applying for a license are required, as a condition of issuance of the license, to read, agree to, and sign an agreement and release of liability in a form approved by USA Cycling.

1C5. All persons who are under the age of 18 years, or who are minors under the laws of their home state at the time they apply for a license, must also have their parent or guardian read, agree to, and sign an agreement and release of liability in a form approved by USA Cycling. A parent or guardian of a minor may revoke that minor's license by written notice to USA Cycling, and such revocation shall become effective 30 days after receipt by USA Cycling of the written notice of revocation.

1C6. Coaches and Mechanics. Coaches and **Mechanics** may be licensed upon completion of a training program established by the CEO and paying a licensing fee.

1C7. Eligibility. Annual rider licensing is open to applicants who have their primary residence in the United States. A rider who becomes a member of a UCI team must hold an International Elite license. Annual rider licensing is open only to applicants who have *a chronological age of at least 6*. A

rider who becomes a member of a UCI Men's Road Team will have his domestic license retired and replaced by a professional international license. Applicants must submit a completed registration form, proof of age, and the specified licensing fee to USA Cycling.

1C8. A racing license indicates the affiliated club(s) and race team(s), if any, of which the rider is a racing member, the state in which the rider is a resident, the rider's age, sex, license number, UCI code, citizenship and the rider's racing categories. A rider may be a racing member of only one club *per discipline* at any time.

1C9. Changes to a racing license may be made only by USA Cycling, with exceptions noted elsewhere in these rules. Anyone making an unauthorized alteration of a license or causing such a change to be made shall be subject to suspension.

1C10. Rider Categories

(a) All riders are assigned to one of the following categories with smaller numbers representing increasing rider proficiency and ability:

Road and Track: 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 for men and 4, 3, 2, and 1 for women.

Cyclo-cross: 4,3,2 or 1.

Mountain Bike: 3,2,1 and Pro

(b) Rider categories are assigned by USA Cycling based on a rider's experience and performance and are subject to a hearing. Riders are assigned to the lowest ability category until a higher category has been earned.

(c) Categories indicate cycling abilities relative to riders of the same sex without regard to age.

(d) Upgrading and Downgrading criteria for rider categorizing will be specified by the CEO and communicated to the licensees.

1C11. One-Day Licenses

For road, track, and cyclo-cross, riders may purchase a one-day license and be permitted to enter races open to men's category 5 (category 4 cyclo-cross) or (for women) women's

category 4. Such riders do not become members and may not enter championship events.

1C12 Foreign Licenses

American riders living abroad must be licensed by the National Federation of their foreign residence. Such riders may not have a foreign license and a USA Cycling license in the same year. Riders living in the United States may not be licensed by a foreign federation, and must be licensed by USA Cycling.

1D. Rider Upgrading

1D1. General Information:

Rider upgrades are handled electronically through a rider's USAC account. The request will be sent to the person responsible for the area and/or category. Please follow the instructions online and provide the information about your race experience and placings. The information you provide must include the race date, name, type of event, category, number of participants, and placing. If the administrator approves the upgrade, your account will be changed so that when you request a new license, the category will be changed. Note that road, track, and cyclo-cross category 1 and mountain bike Pro upgrades require a license reissue. A mountain bike Pro license must be an international license.

All mountain bike upgrades through Category 2 can be made by any USA Cycling official by indicating the upgrade on the license. Pro upgrades must be done through USA Cycling via the rider's online account.

Only races permitted by USA Cycling or foreign races permitted by a UCI affiliated National Federation will count for upgrading.

1D2. Road Upgrades

(a) Guidelines and Notes by Category:

- 5-4: *Finish* 10 massed-start races.
- 4-3: 20 points in any 12-month period; or experience in 25 qualifying races with a minimum of 10 top ten finishes with fields of 30 riders or more, or 20 pack finishes with fields over 50. 30 points in 12 months is a *mandatory* upgrade. USAC-sanctioned rider Camps and Clinics that are approved by the Local Associations for upgrading will count a maximum of 3 upgrade points when upgrading from category 4 to category 3.
- 3-2: 25 points in any 12-month period
40 points in 12 months is a *mandatory* upgrade
- 2-1: 30 points in any 12-month period**
50 points in 12 months is a *mandatory* upgrade

USA Cycling may add additional requirements for upgrading at their discretion. Any such changes shall be made available on the website.

USA Cycling Sanctioned and *approved rider education clinics (at least half day)*, will count as *three* qualifying races for category 5 to 4 upgrades *up to a maximum of 5 qualifying races*. It will also count as 3 upgrade points for a category 4 to 3 upgrade. *Riders upgrading to cat 4 will receive two race days credit for participating in a mentored-race experience, where the mentor is at least a cat 3 rider and has been approved by the local association.*

(b) Qualifying Distances for each category

To qualify for upgrading points, races must meet distance standards. Races shorter than the minimum distance do not qualify for upgrading. However, if a road race is less than the

road race minimum but above the criterium minimum, it will count for upgrading using the criterium points schedule.

Category	Class	RR	Criterium
5 - 4	Men	15 mi	10 mi/20 min
4 - 3	Men	25 mi	15 mi/30 min
	Women	25 mi	15 mi/30 min
	Junior	25 mi	15 mi/30 min
3 - 2	Men	50 mi	20 mi/40 min
	Women	40 mi	15 mi/30 min
2 - 1	Men	80 mi	30 mi/60 min
	Women	50 mi	20 mi/40 min

(c) Points awarded for Criteriums

Placing	Number of Starters			
	5-10	11-20	21-50	50+
1	3	4	5	7
2	2	3	4	5
3	1	2	3	4
4		1	2	3
5			1	2
6				1

For the table above and those that follow, note that if the field contains mixed categories (i.e. cat 3-4), then the number of starters is the number of riders that are the same category or higher as the person requesting the upgrade (i.e. in a cat 3-4 combined field, all riders count for a 4→3 upgrade, but only the 3's count for a 3→2 upgrade).

(d) Points awarded for Road Races

Placing	Number of Starters			
	5-10	11-20	21-50	50+
1	3	7	8	10
2	2	5	6	8
3	1	4	5	7
4		3	4	6
5		2	3	5
6		1	2	4
7			1	3
8				2
9				1

(e) Points awarded for Stage Race G.C. (Cat 3 → 2 and Cat 2 → 1 upgrades only)*

Placing	Number of Starters			
	10-19	20-35	36-49	50+
1	5	7	10	20
2	3	5	8	18
3	2	3	6	16
4	1	2	5	14
5		1	4	12
6			3	10
7			2	9
8			1	8
9				7
10				6
11				5
12				4
13				3
14				2
15				1

* For points earned in stage races, GC and stage places both count for points, but only up to a maximum of 20 points for a cat 1 upgrade or 15 points for a cat 2 upgrade from a single stage race.

** For category 1 upgrades, only 10 of the points may be earned in races that are part of a training series or may be earned in master's races.

When deciding whether a rider qualifies for an upgrade, an administrator will take into account points earned in qualifying events per the table above. In the case of a rider who is marginally qualified, the quality of the events and the level of competition may be taken into account.

(f) Road Downgrades

A rider who wishes to downgrade may request a downgrade online. Such requests will be evaluated individually. **In no case will a rider be allowed to downgrade to category 5.**

1D3. Track Upgrades

(a) Track upgrades and downgrades are made through the local associations and Regional Coordinators. All track upgrades are processed using the following criteria:

Cat. 5 to Cat. 4	Complete a Velodrome Class or 4 race days.
Cat. 4 to Cat. 3	5 race days and 20 points
Cat. 3 to Cat. 2	5 race days and 25 points
Cat. 2 to Cat. 1	5 race days and 30 points

Points:

National championships, Category A, B, or C track race will be 7, 5,3,2,1 for each event.

For all other events, upgrade points are 5,3,2,1 and are based on an omnium of the event's races.

USA Cycling Sanctioned and *approved rider education clinics (at least half day)*, will count as *three* qualifying races for category 5 to 4 upgrades, *up to a maximum of 5 qualifying races*. It will also count as 4 upgrade points for a category 4

to 3 upgrade and 3 upgrade points for a category 3 to 2 upgrade.

(b) Additional Considerations:

1. Ten person field minimum for category 3-5 and 20 person field minimum for upgrade to category 1.
2. Fifty percent of Upgrading points and number of times raced will be carried over to the next year. Points do not carry over to the next category.
3. When upgrading to a Cat. 1, points earned need to be from more than one velodrome.
4. A race day is defined as one full day of racing. A race day can include a number of events such as a kilometer, sprints or time trial, but it only counts as one race day.
5. Women and Juniors earn one point for every five race days when upgrading from Cat. 4 through Cat. 2.
6. Races exempt from upgrading are Youth races and races of more than two categories (i.e.: "A" and "B" races).

With the approval of USA Cycling, riders who are Pro or category 1 on the road may be upgraded to category 2 on the track and riders who are category 2 on the road may be upgraded to category 3 on the track without first having to begin at category 5.

(c) Track Downgrades:

A rider may be downgraded by an administrator for the following reasons: unsafe riding; lack of ability to compete in current category; or lack of placing within current category.

1D4. Cyclo-cross Upgrades

Cyclo-cross categories are upgraded similarly to road upgrades using the system below:

(a) Requirements for upgrading via points:

- 4-3:** Experience in 10 qualifying races or 10 points in 12 months
- 3-2:** 10 points in 12 months (two wins is a *mandatory* upgrade if the field had at least 11 competitors)
- 2-1:** 20 points in 12 months (two wins is a *mandatory* upgrade if the field had at least 40 competitors)

(b) Points awarded for Cyclo-cross Races

Placing	Number of Starters			
	5-10	11-20	21-50	50+
1	3	4	5	7
2	2	3	4	5
3	1	2	3	4
4		1	2	3
5			1	2
6				1

USA Cycling may add additional requirements for upgrading at their discretion. Any such changes shall be made available on the website.

1D5. Cyclo-cross Conversion

Cyclo-cross categories may also be upgraded by conversion from a rider's earned road or cross country category. If during the season, a rider upgrades his or her road category or XC category, the cyclo-cross category can be upgraded to match

the road or XC category shown below by request of the rider or by request of the administrator.

CX category based on road or XC category		
Road Category	MTB XC Category	CX Category
Pro/1	Pro	1
2	1	3
3	2	4
4 or 5	3	4

1D6. Mountain Bike Upgrades

(a) Riders may advance as quickly as they wish up to category 2. However, once a rider has upgraded, he or she will not be permitted to downgrade to a less difficult category without making a formal request to USA Cycling. The upgrading of categories will be noted on the racing license by USA Cycling. The USA Cycling Official at the event may record the upgrade of a rider to Category 2. The official will then contact the USA Cycling Regional Coordinator to record the change. A rider may also contact USA Cycling by email, in writing, or online to change categories.

(b) Category 3 racers **must** move to Category 2 after placing in the top five in five races. Failure to do so may result in license suspension.

(c) Category 2 riders **may** move up to Category 1 after two top five finishes by presenting an upgrade request and a resume to USA Cycling.

(d) Category 2 riders **must** advance to Category 1 after placing in the top five in five races. Failure to do so may result in license suspension.

For upgrading purposes, classes must consist of the following competitors:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Junior 15-18	10	5
Senior	15	10
Master age 30-39	15	10
Master age 40-49	10	5
Master age 50+	5	5

For races with 5 or fewer competitors, only the top finisher will count for upgrading. For races with 6 to 10 competitors, only the top three finishers will count for upgrading. Upgrades will be based on a rider's placings in his category over a *twelve month period*.

Pro upgrades for Endurance (XCO) and Gravity (DH/MX)

The following types of races are used for upgrading purposes:

- USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendar (MBNC) events
- American Mountain Bike Challenge (AMBC) events

Category 1 riders may be eligible to be upgraded to Pro after achieving a combination of these minimum race results:

- two top-three category 1 (rider ability) finishes according to finish time (including all classes in category 1) at USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendar events; or
- three top-five Category 1 (rider ability) finishes according to finish time (including all age classes in category 1) at USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendar Category events

AMBC and international events may also be considered.

Overall finish times are factored into upgrade requests. Riders

must submit their upgrade requests through their USA Cycling online membership account.

Pro upgrades for ultra-endurance (XCM, 24-hour)

Category 1 riders may be eligible to be upgraded to Pro after achieving a combination of these minimum race results:

- two top-three Solo finishes according to finish time (including all age classes) at USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendar ultra-endurance Category 1 event, or
- three top-five Solo finishes according to finish time (including all age classes) at USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Calendar ultra-endurance Category 1 event

AMBC, other top ultra-endurance events, and international events may also be considered. Overall finish times are factored into upgrade requests. Riders must submit their upgrade requests through their USA Cycling online membership account.

No rider will be permitted to race Pro unless his or her license indicates the Pro category.

USA Cycling reserves the right to upgrade Category 1 riders at any time.

USA Cycling also reserves the right to downgrade riders from the Pro category at any time.

A rider who feels he/she has advanced too quickly or is otherwise no longer competitive in his or her category may ask for reclassification by submitting a written request to USA Cycling identifying his/her results and reasoning.

When a rider who is participating in a state or regional series has met the upgrading requirements in their current category, (s)he may petition USA Cycling for a written waiver to this policy allowing him or her to finish the series for a title. A

rider must also have written permission from the series director to receive such a waiver.

1E. Affiliated Clubs and Teams

1E1. Cycling clubs may register with USA Cycling on an annual basis. Club registration requires the paying of an annual fee described in the Schedule of Fees.

1E2. Club Name. Registered clubs and teams are prohibited from using names, inscriptions, or publicity that may tend to confuse the distinction between them and National Teams of USA Cycling. Terms such as "National" and "USA" generally lead to such confusion. Only active clubs may be named after a commercial organization.

1E3. Registered clubs may use the USA Cycling emblem on club stationery provided that the identity of the club appears more prominently than the USA Cycling emblem and that the stationery shows no commercial sponsorship. Other uses of the USA Cycling emblem require special permission from the USA Cycling.

1E4. Active Clubs. An active club is one that is in good standing and annually organizes / co-organizes a USA Cycling permitted event open to members of other clubs. Newly-formed clubs may have this requirement reduced by an administrator.

Only active clubs may:

- a) Enter into sponsorship agreements, subject to USA Cycling regulations;
- b) Form one or more club race teams (sponsored or not);
- c) Have jerseys with more than the club name and manufacturer's logo.

1E5. Club Membership. Licensed riders must register with a club and USA Cycling before they are eligible to present themselves as a member of that club. This includes, but is not limited to wearing a club's jersey or entering a race as a member of the club. Riders are only permitted to be a

licensed member of one registered club, which is shown on the racing license.

1E6.Teams. Active clubs may register one or more teams. Teams may be based on factors such as discipline, gender, region, class and sponsorship.

1E7. Race team membership.

a) Riders may belong to a racing team. Generally this is a team organized by their licensed club, for which they compete throughout the season. However, riders may be on different racing teams for particular disciplines (road, track and cyclo-cross), including teams organized by other clubs (subject to authorization by their club).

b) Riders' team affiliations must be registered with USA Cycling and will be shown in USAC member data, either on the racing license or on the USAC website. Riders whose team affiliation is not printed on their license should be prepared to show documentation at registration.

1E8. Additional team matters. The preceding describes the general workings of club and team membership. Clubs and teams may also do the following:

- a) Add one or more guest riders to a team for a particular event;
- b) Form a mixed team to compete in a particular event. The mixed team may take on additional sponsorship for that event.

Both of these actions must comply with USAC rules concerning teams and riders competing for a team other than their own

1E9. Club-rider Contracts. A club and rider may enter into written agreements describing the obligations of each to the other provided that such agreements do not conflict with USA Cycling regulations.

1F. Officials

1F1. Licensing and Categories of Officials.

(a) Officials are licensed and categorized according to the positions of responsibility to which they may be appointed. Categories C through A represent increasing proficiency, with separate categories for different disciplines. Beyond Category A are the designations National Commissaire and International Commissaire. The CEO shall establish and make known to all licensees a set of policies and procedures for the licensing, appointment, and management of officials.

(b) Whenever practicable, the assignment of duties shall be rotated between equally qualified officials. Officials from outside the vicinity of the event may be selected whenever the appointing authority deems it is in the interest of USA Cycling.

(c) Any licensed official, in order to remain in good standing as an official of USA Cycling, must pay any license fees.

(d) For selection, nomination and evaluation of officials, the primary characteristics to be considered include but are not limited to an individual's abilities to apply USA Cycling regulations impartially, decisively, and correctly, and to effectively and reliably manage cycling competitions in a manner that fosters respect for the sport of cycling.

(e) Only Category A officials are eligible to apply for nomination whenever seminars and examinations for training of National Commissaires are offered. Only National Commissaires are eligible to apply for nomination to UCI International Commissaire courses.

1F2. Assignment. The duties of the chief officials (referee, judge, scorer, timer, starter, and registrar) shall be performed by licensed officials. One person may perform more than one duty. Licensed officials who are assigned by the Administrator or other authority and who attend a race event for the sole purpose of officiating shall be paid in accordance with the Schedule of Fees. Officials must be prepared to demonstrate current licensed status in order to

be eligible for payment. Payment shall be tendered by the Race Director before the conclusion of the race event.

1F3. Impartiality. All officials shall endeavor to uphold and enforce the regulations of USA Cycling and shall do so in an impartial manner. [Any official of a race who lays a wager on that race is subject to suspension.]

1F4. Uniform. All officials shall wear gray or khaki slacks, skirt or shorts with either black and white striped shirt or a light blue shirt; a navy blue tie and blazer are optional. A "USA Cycling Official" emblem shall be visible on the front of the uniform. All officials at a given race should wear the uniform specified by the Chief Referee.

1F5. Chief Referee.

(a) The Chief Referee supervises the general conduct of each race. The Chief Referee is empowered to interpret and enforce the rules of USA Cycling and to make a ruling on any point that is not specifically covered in the rules.

(b) The Chief Referee may neutralize, shorten, suspend, or cancel any race if dangerous conditions or hazardous weather arises.

(c) The Chief Referee has the power to penalize or recommend suspension of any licensee who refuses to obey instructions of officials or who commits other offenses. The Chief Referee shall take into consideration the observations of assistant referees, taking into account their viewing positions and experience levels.

(d) The Chief Referee shall invoke penalties for infractions of the rules except suspension. A decision of the Chief Referee under the Racing Rules is final, subject only to the hearing of a protest.

(e) The Chief Referee will assign duties for each event to the other officials and may delegate authority to them.

(f) The Chief Referee shall prepare an invoice for payment of officials of the race event and the USA Cycling insurance surcharge, and on-site license sales, and confirm that all officials are paid prior to the conclusion of the race event, in accordance with USA Cycling rules.

(g) The Chief Referee shall submit any appropriate incident reports on approved forms directly to the USA Cycling office immediately following the race event and within five days shall submit to the Administrator a race report, a copy of race results, all applications for licenses sold on-site and the release forms of any riders involved in incidents, both obtained from the Race Director. The Administrator shall promptly forward a copy of this report, license forms, and results of Category A and B races to the USA Cycling office.

(h) No person who is a member of a club that organizes or sponsors a given race shall be appointed as Chief Referee of the same event unless there are no other qualified officials available.

1F6. Assistant Referees.

(a) The assistant referees shall act in an advisory capacity to the Chief Referee. They shall position themselves so as to best observe any infractions of the rules, watch closely, and report to the chief referee at the end of the race. They shall call all rule violations whether or not a protest is received. Reports of infractions shall be made in writing and signed.

(b) The assistant referees shall inspect bicycles as needed both before the race and in case of apparent mishaps and report infractions to the Chief Referee.

1F7. Starter.

(a) It is the Starter's responsibility to see that riders are called at the appropriate time and to inform them of the distance they will ride and of any special rules governing the race. If the finish line is at a different place than the start, the riders must be informed of its exact location.

(b) The Chief Judge and the Starter should ensure that riders reporting to the starting line are properly attired, and that their numbers are in good condition and properly placed. The Starter shall not permit riders to start whose uniforms or equipment do not conform to the rules.

(c) The Starter shall alert other interested officials when the race is about to begin, shall judge whether there has been a

valid start, and shall stop the race when called for by the rules.

1F8. Chief Judge.

(a) The Chief Judge is in charge of the overall results process at a race. This includes determining the finish order of the race, finish times of the riders as appropriate for the discipline, number of laps completed, any mid-race competitions, and any additional rankings of the riders, such as omnium or stage race standings.

(b) Protests may be made to the Chief Judge concerning preliminary postings of results, but the decision of the Chief Judge on finish order and time is final.

(c) The Chief Judge will maintain a record of riders entered in the race, and will provide a report of riders starting the various events to the Chief Referee so that charges and fees owed to USA Cycling may be calculated.

(d) The Chief Judge works with the Registrar to develop the start list, the Starter to ensure that there is a record of which riders start, the Secretary (in track, cyclo-cross and mountain bike events), and the Chief Referee to be certain that the results reflect any penalties assessed by the Chief Referee.

1F9. Assistant Judges. The assistant judges assist the Chief Judge in the results process. A timing/photo-finish operator is considered to be an assistant judge. They have four main tasks:

(a) judging – recording the order of finish;

(b) scoring – recording the number of laps covered by each competitor;

(c) timing – recording the times of competitors under the direction of the Chief Judge and assisting in any time calculations as directed;

(d) laps/bells - ensuring the lap cards display the correct number of laps to go and that the bell is rung properly for sprint laps and the final lap of the race.

1F10. Registrars. The registrars shall confirm that each entrant has presented a valid racing license, is the person

named on the license, and is qualified and properly entered according to the rules of the race event.

1F11. Race Secretary

(a) Shall work closely with the Chief Referee, Chief Judge and Starter in the seeding of riders and is responsible for ensuring the start lists produced by such seeding are generated.

(b) Shall work closely with the computer results company and is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of start lists and race results generated by the computer company.

(c) Shall ensure that a log is kept of the identifying number assigned to each of the communiqués generated; start lists, race results, and Race Jury/Chief Referee communiqués.

(d) Shall work closely with the Race Director to ensure all communiqués are copied and distributed appropriately.

(e) Shall be responsible for keeping a complete set of all the communiqués issued and, at the completion of the event, producing a book for the Race Director, USA Cycling, Chief Referee, and Chief Judge.

1F12. Judge-Referee (Track)

The Judge-Referee is used in the sprint, the Keirin, the points race, the scratch race and the Madison. The Judge-Referee shall solely monitor the conduct of riders in the race and their conformity with the racing regulations. On this issue he shall, alone and immediately, impose penalties and take any other decision required under the regulations.

1F13. Assistant Chief Referee

An Assistant Chief Referee may be appointed when there are two (or more) distinct competitions held under the same permit. The scope of responsibility should be specified in the appointment, but the Assistant Chief Referee generally runs one or more of the competitions and assists with event management and paperwork.

1F14. Minimum Age for Officials

An official who is a minor may not perform the function of a Referee, Registrar, or Chief Judge/Timer.

1G. Organizing Races

The Race Director shall be responsible for specifying and directing the general aspects of the race and especially for meeting obligations imposed by the public authorities.

1G1. Each Race Director shall agree to abide by and enforce the Constitution and subordinate regulations of USA Cycling as well as decisions made by officials and other agents of USA Cycling in accordance with these regulations.

1G2. Race Directors shall agree that the safety of participants and spectators is an essential consideration in organizing a cycling competition and they shall take those reasonable acts necessary to promote the safety of participants and spectators.

1G3. The Race Director shall agree to give written advance notification regarding the race to any government or property authorities who have jurisdiction over the race venue and to abide by all regulations or agreements established by those authorities regarding the race.

1G4. Race Directors shall require a written entry from each race entrant. The entry form must be signed before the start of the race by the entrant and the parent or legal guardian of any minor entrant, and it must include the terms of the Standard Athlete's Entry Blank and Release Form as published by USA Cycling. The Race Director shall keep the forms for ten years, available for use by USA Cycling or in any legal proceedings.

1G5. No Race Director may advertise the entry of a rider until the rider's written entry has been received by the Race Director.

1G6. The Race Director is responsible for providing officiating facilities, including rider identification numbers, lap cards, bell and other technical equipment needed to conduct and control the race.

1G7. The Race Director shall compile a list of the names and addresses of any riders who get one-day licenses. At the end of the race, the Race Director shall give this list to the chief

referee as well as a report of all known incidents involving riders, spectators, or other participants and shall turn over the signed release forms of any riders involved in such incidents.

1G8. The Race Director is responsible for paying the race officials and the USA Cycling insurance fee on the day of the race immediately after race results are final, upon receipt of an invoice from the chief referee. A check for the insurance surcharge shall be made out to "USA Cycling."

1G9. Race Directors who invite foreign teams to compete without applying for International Race status and following UCI procedures may have their event permits revoked.

1H. Event Permits

USA Cycling issues permits to organize USA Cycling-sanctioned events. The issuance of an event permit is solely within the discretion of USA Cycling in accordance with its rights and responsibilities as the National Governing Body of cycling.

1H1. Terms of Event Permits

(a) USA Cycling may issue permits to conduct more than one race event on the same day in a given state provided there are sufficient race officials available.

(b) An event permit is invalid when consent for a bicycle race has been denied by the governmental or property authorities who have jurisdiction over the race venue. A conditional permit may be issued if the authorities cannot give their consent unless USA Cycling has issued a permit.

(c) By granting an event permit or the uses of a specific term for use in a race title, USA Cycling makes no warranties or a representation, expressed or implied, and does not guarantee the participation of specific riders or numbers of riders.

(d) USA Cycling grants the use of its emblem in official race announcements.

(e) The event permit application for a USA Cycling race must be accompanied by the following: event permit fee as specified in the Schedule of Fees; a copy or draft of the official race announcement, as specified in Racing Rule 1I; completed event checklist; a draft copy of the prize list; any other items requested on the application form. The official race announcement may not be distributed until it has been approved by the Administrator. For other events, a description of the activity must be provided. A single permit may cover either a series of similar races held at the same location at regular intervals or a series of races held on successive days.

Restrictions:

(i) The maximum number of sponsoring clubs of a race is **5**.

(ii) Club races. Permit applications for club races must list licensed race officials, at least one of whom will be present at each race to ensure fair competition.

(iii) Club rides. Applications for training rides must list at least one supervisor for every 25 riders.

(f) After the event permit has been issued, any changes in required elements of the official race announcement must be approved by the Administrator or Chief Referee and any request for a change of date shall be submitted for approval to the CEO by the Administrator. No decrease in total prize list is permitted; any request for an increase shall be submitted to the Administrator together with the supplementary permit fee. (See 1I1 and 1I3)

1H2. Race Titles

(a) Only championships listed in these Racing Rules may use the term "**championship**" in their race titles.

(b) The term "**international**" may be used in a race title only for races in which invited representatives of foreign national Federations compete.

(c) Except for events authorized by the United States Olympic Committee, the term "**Olympic**" may not be used in a race title.

(d) The term "National Tour" may be used only for those events so designated by the CEO.

(e) Invitational races may be held on certain occasions, subject to the approval of the CEO. They must not dominate the local racing program, and are to be discouraged except in unusual or special circumstances.

(f) Invitations may be extended to (1) individuals, (2) teams, (3) classes or categories, or any combination.

(g) USA Cycling invites representatives of foreign national federations; the Race Director invites all others.

1H3 Team-limited Races. USA Cycling may designate a race as team-limited. At such events USA Cycling may specify an upper limit on the number of entries to be accepted from any club or team. This applies whether entry is on an individual or team basis. This information should be included in the official race announcement.

1I. Race Announcements

1I1. A Race Director with an approved event permit may use the USA Cycling name and emblem in advertisements and official race announcements of the event.

1I2. The **official race announcement** must be approved by the administrator before publication [up to \$500 penalty for publication without approval], may include the USA Cycling emblem and must contain the following:

(a) The declaration "Held under USA Cycling event permit".

(b) The date(s) and location(s) of all bicycle races in the race event. All such race information must be included in the race permit.

- (c) A list of races that identifies which classes and categories are eligible for each.
- (d) For each race, the specific kinds of event, the distance(s), the total amount of the prize lists, the nature of the prizes (cash, merchandise, combination thereof, or other), and the number of places that will receive prizes. If cash is to be awarded, the minimum value will be shown.
- (e) For each race, the amount of the entry fee and the existence of any surcharges and what they are for, including fees for online entry. All such fees shall be in accordance with the Schedule of Fees
- (f) The order of events and the starting time of at least the first event; preferably, all expected starting times should be given
- (g) Any restrictions on entries, such as entry closing date, registration closing times, and minimum or maximum field size
- (h) Any plans for cancellation or postponement of the event in case of bad weather required for track events; road races are normally run rain or shine.
- 1I3.** For any **non-invitational race** the official race announcement shall be distributed 30 days prior to an event using electronic media, physical distribution, or some combination of both. Race Directors who publish an announcement less than 30 days prior to an event shall pay a permit surcharge as specified in the Schedule of Fees.
- 1I4. After the official race announcement has been published,** no changes are allowed in the classes of riders eligible to compete, other than adding races for separate classes, and the total prize list for any given class may be reduced only if the class is divided and so are the prizes. Other changes in required elements of the official race announcement shall be permitted by the Administrator or Chief Referee only to accommodate changed circumstances beyond the control of the Race Director [up to \$500 penalty for unapproved changes].

1J. Entry in Races

1J1. A Club Race may be organized by only one affiliated club. A licensed rider may enter such a race only if the rider's license shows membership in the organizing club [30-day suspension to a licensee who participates in violation of this rule and a \$100 fine to a club that allows such participation].

1J2. It is the rider's responsibility to enter a race in the proper class and category [disqualification and 30 day suspension for competing in the wrong class or category]. The fact that the registrars accepted the incorrect entry will not be taken as an excuse.

1J3. Entry. All entries must be in the hands of the Race Director by the date of closing as advertised in the official race announcement, whether mailed or sent by other means. Race Directors may waive any entry fee if they so desire, and otherwise will not accept any entry unless accompanied by an entry fee.

1J4. Multiple Entries. Unless expressly disallowed in the official race announcement, a rider who is eligible to enter more than one event in a race event may do so provided that all entry fees are paid.

1J5. Team entry in races.

The following applies by default to teams in events with individual classification e.g. stage races. Race Directors may choose to hold team events (team time trials, madisons etc.) with these restrictions, but it must be specified in the race announcement.

(a) Races that have team entry, or are team-limited events, are covered by the following general rules concerning entry:

- 1) Each racing team or club may enter only one team.
- 2) When a racing team or club has entered a team, additional team/club members may not enter as individuals, guest riders on other teams, or on a mixed team.

- 3) By entering, each team implicitly agrees that it is racing on its own behalf, and not in the interest of another team.

(b) When entries are received from closely related entities, (e.g. two racing teams from the same club, a racing team and the general ridership of the same club, or two teams with a common sponsor), the Chief Referee/race jury will decide whether to permit both entries. The basis for the decision will be whether the teams can be expected to race as separate entities. Criteria to be used include:

- 1) separate management and support;
- 2) geographical separation (in the case of multiple club teams or shared sponsors);
- 3) skill level and experience (club professional teams versus general club riders, or professional teams versus regional development teams);
- 4) major or minor sponsorship (in the case of shared sponsors).

(c) Teams may petition USA Cycling to establish that they are sufficiently distinct entities for the season, rather than on a race-by-race basis. Such a decision is still subject to review based on personnel changes or conduct at races.

(d) Entry having been accepted, teams must still ride in a manner consistent with their being a distinct entity. Riding in the interest of a related team is subject to discipline, up to disqualification.

1J6. Acceptance of Risk.

(a) All those who compete in any of the events authorized under these rules do so at their own risk, whether or not they are licensed by USA Cycling, and no liability shall attach to USA Cycling or any of its officials with respect to any loss or injury sustained or caused by anyone competing in events.

(b) All riders must sign and submit a written entry form which includes the terms of the Standard Athlete's Entry Blank Release Form, as then published by USA Cycling, to the Race Director before each race. The signature on the release

must be an original handwritten signature (a "wet original"); electronic signatures are not acceptable. By competing in a race conducted under USA Cycling rules, a rider, or a parent or legal guardian who permits a minor rider to compete, acknowledges understanding and acceptance of the regulations covering the event and agreement to the terms of the Standard Athlete's Entry Blank and Release Form (as published by USA Cycling), and those terms shall be binding even when no proper entry form has been signed and submitted for a rider.

1J7. Maximum Field. Entries shall be accepted in order of receipt by the Race Director up to the field limit and subsequent entries shall be returned. The maximum field limit in any youth race or a road event exclusively for category 5 men shall be 50 riders. The maximum field for a road event that includes category 5 men with other categories shall be 75. The maximum field limit for a women's race that includes Category 4 (either alone or combined with other categories) shall be 75. For other road and for cyclo-cross events, if no field limit is given in the official race announcement, a field limit of 100 shall be used.

1J8. Minimum Field. If the number of entries for a given race is less than the minimum field size at the close of entries or within 30 minutes of the starting time specified in the race announcement, whichever is earlier, the Race Director may optionally cancel the race and refund the entry fees and surcharges of those who have entered, or may combine the race and as many prizes from its prize list as there were riders who registered for the canceled race with another race on the program. If no minimum field size was given in the official race announcement, "one" shall be assumed for time trials and "four" for other events.

1J9. Registration

(a) In order to compete in USA Cycling races, riders must present a valid racing license from USA Cycling or an international license from another national federation that is affiliated with the UCI. However, the Chief Referee may approve admission of a rider known to be currently licensed or whose licensed status is confirmed by authoritative documentation. [10 days suspension for competing without registering. For attempted or successful fraudulent entry into a race, 30 days suspension].

(b) Active participants in Category A races, including officials, riders, team managers, drivers, and mechanics, must hold a USA Cycling license or a license from a governing body that is a member of UCI and must show such license at registration or when called upon to do so by race officials.

1J10. Limitations. Except for invitational races, the Race Director must provide an equal opportunity for all qualified applicants to participate without discrimination.

1J11. Withdrawal. After having entered a race, a rider may not withdraw and compete in another race until the race first entered is completed, except with the written consent of the Race Director [10 days suspension].

1J12. No rider shall be entitled to an **entry fee refund** when the Race Director has fulfilled all the requirements of the agreement as specified in the official race announcement. [A rider, upon being disqualified, shall forfeit any fees already paid.]

1J13. Club Membership Fraud. No rider may enter a race as a member of a club who is not a member in good standing of that club and, if licensed, is licensed as a member of the club [disqualification and 30 days suspension].

1J14. Any rider who enters a race while under suspension will become liable to additional penalties [disqualification and 90 days suspension].

1J15 National and World Champion race entry.

Current UCI World or U.S. National Champions, who enter category A, B or C races (except National Championships) by the specified pre-registration closing date, shall be refunded

their entry fee (**not including insurance fees and surcharges**) provided that they are eligible to wear their championship jersey in the race, and do so (see Rule 1N5).

1J16. Categories: UCI races. USA Cycling licensees entering UCI races held under a USA Cycling permit are subject to category restrictions. Restrictions may be stated in the race announcement or technical guide. The default **USAC** category requirements **for entering the following UCI classes** are:

	Elite men	Elite women	juniors
road:	1	1/2	1/2/3
track	1	1/2	1/2/3
cyclo-cross	1/2	1/2/3	1/2/3

1K. Mixing of Classes and Categories

1K1. Eligibility. No rider may race in a category other than that which is stated on his or her license.

Masters may compete in any races for their age or younger, subject to category restrictions but not races exclusively for **Under 23s** or **Juniors**.

Under 23 and **Junior** riders may compete in any races for their age or older, subject to category restrictions but not Masters races.

Youth riders may enter only youth races.

In MTB endurance races, **junior riders** age 14 and younger who ride with older juniors may only enter races for riders up to category 2.

UCI Team members are not allowed to enter Masters Races. Generally, in combined races riders must declare which event they are riding and are eligible for only one prize unless the official race announcement states otherwise.

1K2. Women may enter any men's race for which they are eligible by age, category, and any performance requirements. They may also enter categorized races for men that are up to

one category lower than their women's category. For road, track, and cyclo-cross events, category 1 women may enter men's races up to two categories lower. In addition, master women may compete in men's masters races, subject to other eligibility requirements, as follows: category 1 and 2 master women may enter men's events for riders up to 10 years above their racing ages; category 3 and 4 master women may enter men's events for riders up to 20 years above their racing ages.

1K3. Mixing of Classes. A Race Director may offer races for combined classifications and categories but the categories in a given race must be the same for all age groups. However, youth races may include only *riders from ages 6 through 9*. All riders shall race the same distance unless there is a distance handicapped start for separate groupings of riders.

1K4. Mixing of Classes in MTB races

(a) If fewer than five riders register for a category within the same age class, they may be required to race with the next highest category within the same age class. USA Cycling encourages Race Directors to make their best effort to split out awards and prizes for combined categories. For example, if fewer than five Master Category 2 riders register, they may be combined with the Master Category 1 riders, but they should still be awarded prizes for their category.

(b) If fewer than five riders register for a Masters race in any age class, they may be required to compete in the next younger class closest to the Senior class. If fewer than five riders register for a Juniors race in any age class, they may be required to compete in the next older class closest to the Senior class. Masters shall not be allowed to compete with Juniors; Juniors shall not be allowed to compete with Masters. USA Cycling encourages Race Directors to make their best effort to split out awards and prizes for combined classes. For example, if fewer than five Junior 14 and under register, they may be combined with the 16 and under category, but they should still be awarded prizes for their age class.

(c) Women will not be combined with men unless there are fewer than five women present at the event after combining all women in all classes. Race Directors are encouraged to present a prize to at least the first place woman if combining is necessary.

1K5. Riders with foreign elite licenses and riders classified as elite under rule 1A7 may not enter master's races in a discipline for which they have elite status.

1K6. Registered riders of UCI Continental Teams may enter any road, track, or cyclo-cross Elite event that is open to category one riders, except as restricted for Championship events [see 8B, Championship Eligibility.][Note that this rule does not apply to UCI Professional Continental Teams or UCI Pro teams].

1L. Prizes and Payments

1L1. The complete **prize list**, with values for each place, shall be posted at registration and available to competitors on the day of the event. Prize evaluations shall be based on the retail prices. The prizes shall be available for inspection by the Chief Referee before the start of the event.

1L2. No Disincentives. No prizes or primes of value greater than the last place prize may be offered for poor performance, such as a prize for the last rider across the finish line.

1L3. Prize List Breakdown for Road, Track, and Cyclo-cross

(a) Prize list up to \$2,000. The number of places that receive prizes in each event must be at least one for every \$100 in total prize value for the event, up to \$2,000.

(b). For each race with over **\$2,000 in prizes** there must be prizes to at least 20 places and the values for second and following places must be at least the following fractions of the first place prize: 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, etc. for the first twenty places. Larger fractions are recommended. (As a

consequence, the first prize may not exceed 27% of the total prize list for such races.)

(c) In youth races and races exclusively for category 5 men, no prizes (including prizes) of commercial value may be awarded -- only such things as trophies, medals, ribbons and certificates of participation.

(d) In club races, individual prizes may not exceed a \$50 value.

(e) In stage races, the prizes for each individual stage and for final individual general classification (g.c.) are treated separately, so that the required number of places and prize breakdown for stage 1 is based on the dollar value of prizes for stage 1 and similarly for each stage; likewise the number of g.c. places and breakdown is governed by the total amount of the g.c. prize list. These rules will not be applied to team classifications or special classification (mountains etc.).

1L4. Prize list breakdowns in MTB are at the discretion of the Race Director. Race Directors that offer a race for the Pro category must also offer a cash purse for that category.

1M. Bicycles

1M1. Bicycles used in competition must be propelled solely by the rider's legs and shall have the following characteristics:

(a) Dimensions. Bicycles may be no more than 2 meters long and 75 cm wide, except that tandems may be up to 3 meters long

(b) There may be **no protective shield**, fairing, or other device on any part of the bicycle, which has the effect of reducing air resistance except that spoke covers may be used

(c) Wheels may be made with spokes or solid construction. No wheel may contain special mechanisms to store and release energy

(d) The **handlebar** ends shall be solidly plugged and attachments thereto shall be fashioned in such a way as to minimize danger without impairing steering. Handlebars used for steering with ends, features, or attachments that extend

forward or upward or that provide support for other than the rider's hands are permitted only in time trial and pursuit events (not in Team Sprint); however, attachments that point upward on the brakehoods of road bicycles are allowed if the distance between them is greater than 25 cm (9.8 inches). [disqualification]

(e) Bicycles must meet current UCI technical regulations at events that select 17-18, U23 and elite riders for international competition or national teams. All bicycles used in National Championships (for age 17 and older riders) and NRC races must comply with the current UCI regulations

(f) Bicycles commonly known as **recumbent** may not be raced in USA Cycling races unless there is a separate race for this category of bicycle, and then may be used only in that category.

(g) A **massed-start bicycle** is a road or track bicycle that is legal in all events within the road or track discipline, rather than a bicycle that is restricted to particular events.

Handlebars for massed-start bicycles may not have forearm supports nor handlebar extensions or attachments that point forward.

(h) Time trial events may restrict the competitors to mass-start bicycles in one or more classes, provided that the restriction is stated in the race announcement and technical guide. This includes time trials in stage races.

(i) A **Single Speed** is any type of bicycle possessing only one rear cog and only one front chainring and with no means of altering the gear ratio in any way for the duration of the race.

1M2. Riders are responsible for their selection of competition equipment and for taking reasonable precautions to insure that its condition is adequate and safe for use in competition.

(a) To maintain compliance with these regulations, the equipment and uniform of one or more riders may be examined at any time to discover the use of items which are not allowed or which are obviously improperly adjusted, insecurely fastened, or which may present a danger to the

rider(s). The Chief Referee shall prohibit the use of any such items discovered during the examination. Such examinations are conducted at the discretion of the Chief Referee. An examination of every rider's equipment is not required.

(b) USA Cycling and any race Race Director or sponsor, and their respective agents, officials, employees and volunteers, shall not be liable for any damages or injuries arising from or connected in any way with the condition or adequacy of any rider's competition equipment or uniform, regardless of whether or not such competition equipment or uniform was examined or was not determined to be in violation of the rules.

1M3. Bicycle Types

(a) For **track races**, only a bicycle with a single cog fixed wheel and without derailleurs, brakes or quick releases may be used; However, in pursuit and time trial events that are not championships or selection events, brakes, freewheels, quick releases, and derailleurs may be installed on the bicycle so long as only one gear is functional.

(b) For **road, cyclo-cross and MTB races**, only a bicycle with a freewheel and one working brake on each wheel shall be used, except as allowed elsewhere in these rules.

1M4. In **roller races**, either road or track bicycles may be used. All classes are restricted to a development of 7.69 meters (25 feet 3 inches) and cranks must be at least 165 mm. long.

1M5. A **handcycle** is a 3-wheeled cycle with standard bicycle drivetrain and standard bicycle crankarms. The cycle must be operated by pedaling and shifting using only the upper body to perform said functions. The maximum wheelbase for a handcycle is 72 inches. Handcycles must have a chainring guard to protect the rider from the drivetrain. As of January 1, 2000, all handcycles must have 2 separate working brake calipers (or discs) and a fully-functional lever for each.

1M6. Junior Gears. The maximum chaingear ratio for Junior riders is based on age and discipline. Blocked gears will be allowed, except in National Championships. All tests for

compliance shall be done using the "roll-out method." There is no restriction for cyclo-cross or MTB races. For road and track the limits are:

Road

17-18: 7.93 meters (26')(52x14)

15-16: "

13-14: "

10-12: "

Track

17-18: Unrestricted

15-16: 6.78 meters (22'3")(48x15)

13-14: 6.36 meters (20'10.5")(48x16)

10-12: 6.00 meters (19'8")(48x17)

The gear limit for a rider is determined by the age of the rider and the discipline, and applies in all events in that discipline subject to the notes shown below:

(1) For Juniors 16 and under who are competing in Championship team sprint, team pursuit, keirin, or Madison the 17-18 (unrestricted) gear limit applies.

Note that the gear combinations listed are merely suggestions – the distance rolled out is the governing standard.

1M7. Young Junior/Youth Bicycles

Beginning in 2012, all riders aged 12 and under will be restricted to massed-start bicycles as defined in 1M1(g). These bicycles must also have at least 16 spokes and no wheel covers may be used. In 2013, this rule will also be applied to riders aged 13-14.

1N. Rider's Uniform

1N1. Helmets. At all times when participating in an event held under a USA Cycling event permit, including club rides, any rider on a bicycle or motorcycle shall wear a protective, securely fastened helmet that satisfies the standards specified in USA Cycling Policies. (Policy I, Sections 1 and 2 – see appendices.) [disqualification and a \$20 fine for failure to wear or for removing such a helmet during a race. The fine is also applicable if the rider is not racing, but is participating in the event as described below]. "Participating in an event" means riding a bicycle in the vicinity of a race at any time between the beginning of registration and the last awarding of prizes, but does not apply to riding rollers or stationary trainers in order to warm up.

1N2. For **downhill and 4X events**, a full-face helmet must be worn.

1N3. For all gravity events, additional padding is strongly recommended. Examples: body armor, elbow and kneepads and full finger gloves

1N4. Motorcycle helmets meeting U.S. Department of Transportation standards must be worn by all motorcycle drivers and passengers in races and club rides.

1N5. Jerseys must be worn in all races and shall cover the shoulders. Sleeveless jerseys are allowed only in non-international MTB races and individual time trials. Skin suits may not be worn in Pro gravity events per UCI rules. No additional equipment, whether worn over or under a rider's uniform, which has the effect of reducing wind resistance is permitted, except in the case of inclement weather, additional covering designed solely to protect against precipitation or cold may be worn. However, shoe covers are permitted in any conditions.

(a) The rider and **uniform must be clean** at the beginning of a race. Uniforms may be any color but helmets, shoes, or clothes that are torn, or in disrepair may not be used.

(b) Advertising may appear only on the uniform, including caps, shoes, and helmet of riders who are licensed members of sponsored clubs or teams [disqualification for other advertising]. The club's name must appear on the front and back or two sides of the jersey. The name may be abbreviated.

(c) UCI Teams and Category 1 & 2 riders who are members of the same Team or club must wear identifiably similar uniforms when competing in a massed start race except where different uniforms are called for by USA Cycling regulations. This also applies to over garments such as vests, jackets, and rain jackets; for UCI Teams and Category 1 & 2 riders who are members of the same team these items must be transparent or identifiably similar except where different uniforms are called for by USA Cycling regulations. [Offending rider not permitted to start if noted before the race; otherwise, warning for first offense].

(d) Club Jerseys. In competition, no rider shall wear the emblem, inscription, or uniform of any club or team which the rider is not eligible to represent [Offending rider may not be permitted to start if noted before the race; otherwise, warning for first offense]. Club jerseys must not be similar in color or design to a National Champion jersey or a USA National Team jersey.

(e) Only current National Champions may wear National Championship jerseys and only in the specialty (road race, time trial, criterium, cyclo-cross, track, MTB endurance, MTB gravity) and age group (junior, master, U23, elite) in which the title was won.

- (1)** Age-graded champions may wear the jersey in other age classes within their overall age group (e.g. 15-16 road race champion in a 17-18 road race).
- (2)** In elite races, only the USA Cycling elite champion, professional champion, and U23 champion may wear the jersey in the appropriate specialty.
- (3)** In stage races, the jersey may only be worn by the current National Champion in the same specialty as

the stage (e.g. Criterium Champion in a criterium stage).

- (4)** Members of sponsored clubs/teams may place advertising on the jersey. Riders or teams that create their own National Champions jerseys must have the design approved by USA Cycling. The design concept must include a blue field with stars on the top half of the jersey and vertical red and white stripes on the bottom half of the jersey. All National Champion's jerseys must comply with UCI rules for advertising as follows:
- Front and back of the jersey in a rectangle 10 cm high
 - On the shoulders or sleeves in a single line a maximum of 5 cm high
 - On the sides of the jersey in a band 9 cm wide.
- (5)** Only former National Champions are permitted to wear the Stars and Stripes pattern on the trim of their jerseys. The Stars and Stripes pattern may be worn in all disciplines, not just the discipline in which it was won.
- (6)** A National Champion in one discipline (mountain bike, collegiate etc.) may not wear the jersey in events of another discipline, except as noted above.
- (7)** *National Champion jerseys may not be worn in the subsequent National Championship.*

(f) National Team Jerseys. Members of National teams must wear the uniform designated by USA Cycling. This uniform may be worn only while actually representing the USA.

(g) In **stage races, omniums, and race series**, the race leader or those heading other categories must wear a special jersey if it is provided by the Race Director, but only for the

duration of the race and as long as the leadership lasts. The jersey may bear only the name of the race, the special classification, and the Race Director's sponsors on the upper two thirds of the front and back panel of the jersey. The lower third of the front and back panel shall be in a plain background available for the rider's club or UCI Team.

(h) No rider shall wear a **World Championship jersey** or colors (blue-red-black-yellow-green stripes in any order) in a race unless entitled to do so under international rules. Only former world champions are permitted to wear the world championship colors on the trim of their jerseys.

1N6. Riders may not use radios, telephones, or other such communication devices. No earpieces may be worn; audio playback devices are expressly forbidden.

1N7. Racing numbers.

(a) Racing numbers are provided by the Race Director, who may require a deposit that shall be refunded on return of the numbers in good order. The figures shall not be hand written, but printed in block letters using black waterproof ink.

Numbers shall be constructed from materials sufficiently durable to last the race without tearing or disintegrating, even in adverse weather. The name of the race or race sponsor may appear on a competitor's number. Race Directors who fail to provide numbers meeting the above requirements to all riders shall be fined as specified in the Schedule of Fees.

(b) Riders shall place their numbers as prescribed by the officials and in such a way that they are visible when the rider is in a racing position. When shoulder numbers are provided for cyclo-cross, they are worn on the upper arm to be visible from the front. Hip numbers shall be attached securely at least at the four corners with pins and no accessory or hair may obstruct a clear view of the number (riders with misplaced, obscured or unreadable numbers will not be placed). If shoulder or frame numbers are provided, they too shall be placed as prescribed. Numbers may not be folded, trimmed, crumpled, or otherwise defaced. [Replacement of

the numbers at riders' expense if noted before the start, otherwise warning or relegation.]

(c) An administrator may impose additional number requirements.

Numbers size table (minimum sizes -- all dimensions are in centimeters)

Type of Number	Height	Length	Digit Height	Digit Line Width	Minimum Border
Body	20	20	12	1.5	3
Frame	9	13	6	0.8	2
Shoulder	11	12	7	0.8	2

Numbers required per event (minimum):

Event	Body Numbers	Shoulder Numbers	Frame Number
Track			
Track Time Trial	1		
Individual Pursuit	1		
Team Pursuit	1		
Team Sprint	1		
Sprint/200 Meter Time Trial	2		
All other Track Events	2		
Road			
Category A Road	2		1
Road Time Trial	1		
All Other Road Events	1		
Cyclo-cross			
Category A Cyclo-cross	1	2	
All Other Cyclo-cross Events	1		

1N8. Chip Timing/Scoring

(a) Chips for timing/scoring are provided by the Race Director, who may require a deposit that shall be refunded on return of the chips in good order.

(b) Riders shall place the chips as prescribed by the officials and in such a way that they will activate the chip sensor upon passing the line. Riders may be warned, relegated, or fined \$20 for refusal to wear chips as prescribed.

10. Start of a Race

101. Starting Time. No heat or race may be started before the time stated in the official race announcement except with the consent of all registered riders in the heat or race. It is the rider's responsibility to report at the appointed time and location for the start of the race [disqualification for starting at an incorrect time or location].

102. No Delays. No licensee may unnecessarily delay the start of a race [disqualification]. However, a brief delay to replace a punctured tire may be allowed if a replacement wheel, ready for immediate use, is available at the starting line.

103. Starts or the resumption of racing shall be signaled by a single gunshot, whistle, or waved flag. The starter alone judges the validity of the start. The stopping or neutralizing of the race because of a false start or other conditions specified in the rules shall be signaled by a double gunshot or double whistle.

104. All competitors shall be **started in the same manner**, either all with holders, all with one foot on the ground, or all with a rolling start. Holders may not step over the starting line at the start of a race.

105. Where a massed **rolling start is used on the track**, there shall be one or more neutral laps to ensure that the riders are sufficiently together to provide a fair start in the judgment of the starter.

106. Rerides and Replacements. Unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances, any riders qualifying for a reride or for any of the final rounds of a race shall start the reride or the next round. When qualification for the second round is based on time, if qualified riders are unable to start, they may be replaced by riders who had the next best times. No replacements are allowed after the second round.

1P. Finish of a Race

1P1. Judging. The finish of a race shall be judged when the front tire first penetrates the imaginary vertical plane passing through the leading edge of the finish line.

1P2. The **beginning of the last lap** of a race will be announced by ringing a bell and display of the number 1 on the lap card. In a road or MTB race, if the finish line is off the immediate course, the bell shall be sounded at the point of departure on the preceding lap.

1P3. Should the **bell be rung by error** at the wrong lap, the judges shall record the order of the finish at the end of that lap. The Chief Referee shall decide whether to declare these results final or rerun some or all of the race. The Chief Referee may bar from the rerun any rider who appeared to have no chance to win a prize had the bell been rung on the proper lap.

1P4. Dead Heats

(a) Should two or more riders make a dead heat for a qualifying place in a trial heat, they shall be allowed to enter the final, subject to more specific rules of each discipline.

(b) In track races, should two or more riders make a dead heat for a place for which there is a prize, they may again ride the distance to decide the race or may ride a shorter distance considered sufficient by the Chief Referee to allow for a fair settlement.

(c) In road races, should two or more riders make a dead heat for first place only, they shall reride the final sprint for 1,000 meters on road bicycles to determine the winner. If the

dead heat is for any other place, the riders concerned shall be declared equal and the prizes for those places shall be added and equally divided or duplicated at the discretion of the Race Director.

1P5. Early Finish. After the first competitor has finished, the Chief Referee may excuse one or more riders from completing the distance in order to secure a place, which would clearly have been won by finishing. The Chief Referee may also excuse from completing the distance a rider who, by accident or withdrawal of others, is the only competitor left in the race.

1P6 Timing.

(a) In massed-start events, times are reported with resolution of one second (any fractions of a second are truncated). All riders reaching the finish together shall be credited with the same time unless the group is drawn out, in which case a new time shall be recorded at each break in the group. A new time is assigned when there is a difference of one second or more between the back of the rear wheel of the last rider in a group and the front of the front wheel of the first rider of the following group.

(b) For time trials, the following procedures apply:

- i.* Only timing equipment with a resolution of .01 second and accuracy of one second in 48 hours or better shall be used. When hand timing is used, the readings of all timers shall be recorded separately; the median time shall be determined and then truncated to 0.1 second. If a timer states that a given timing of his was inaccurate, it shall be discarded. The median time is determined as follows: if there is just one time, that time is used; if there is an odd number of times, the middle one is used; if there is an even number of times, the average of the middle two times is used.
- ii.* Automatic timing equipment that both initiates and terminates timing automatically may be used provided that there is adequate hand timing for back-up and verification. Automatic timings will be

recorded to 1/100 second (1/1000 for distances of 1 km or less). The timing equipment operator shall function as an assistant timer and shall submit all timing data to the Chief Judge.

- iii.* When more than one automatic timing system is used, one system shall be designated primary and the other(s) backup. The primary system shall drive any automatic display devices (television, scoreboards). The function of the backup system(s) shall be to provide confirmation that the primary system is operating normally. Should there be a failure in the primary automatic system, the time from the backup system shall be used, with the final resort being the hand times.

1P7 Results tabulation.

(a) The Chief Judge assigns places to at least as many riders as required, including timing data as appropriate. If a group of riders cannot be separately placed, they are given an equal placing.

(b) Riders who fail to take the start line are entered as "did not start" (DNS).

(c) Riders who withdraw from the race of their own accord are entered as "did not finish (DNF).

(d) Riders who are unable to finish because of a mishap, or because they are out of contention and withdrawn by the officials are generally entered as DNF, except in the specific cases noted in these rules. However, in some instances the Chief Referee may instruct the Chief Judge to assign places to riders withdrawn by the officials, and to include them in the results. If so, the Chief Judge shall place the riders based on their relative positions at the time that they were withdrawn.

(e) Results are assembled and printed. It is the responsibility of the Race Director to provide resources appropriate to the scale of the race for results production. The results are checked by the Chief Judge, who generally signs or initials them to show approval, and whether the results are

preliminary or final. The Race Director's staff is then responsible for reproduction and distribution of the results.

1P8. Results posting. At the end of the race, the Chief Judge will inform the riders of the time and place where the results will be posted or announced, and the Chief Judge shall be available there to resolve any protest. Prizes may not be distributed until all protests have been answered which affect the podium and awards and at least 15 minutes have passed since the results were announced.

1P9. Disqualification. In races consisting ordinarily of qualification, semifinal, and final rounds, the disqualification of a rider or team after the finals shall not change the placings of other riders. In other races, when a rider or team is removed from the placings by disqualification, any lower placed riders will be advanced to their next higher finishing place.

1Q. Conduct

1Q1. No rider shall benefit from his or her misconduct. Misconduct on the part of a team member or support person may result in penalties to any member of the team who places in the event [relegation or disqualification].

1Q2. General Misconduct. The following offenses may be punished by suspension or lesser penalties:

- (a)** Acts of theft, fraud, dishonesty, or grossly unsportsmanlike conduct in conjunction with a sporting event;
- (b)** Offering, conspiring, or attempting to cause any race to result otherwise than on its merits.

1Q3. Identity Fraud. No licensee may enter a race under an assumed name nor conspire to allow another rider to enter a race under an assumed name. This includes fraudulent use of another rider's license, racing numbers, or timing/scoring chip [default penalty - one year suspension].

1Q4. Rules and Course. It is the rider's responsibility to familiarize himself with the rules of the event and the race course before the start of the race. Riders may not take any

other route or short cut [disqualification; 30 days suspension if apparently deliberate and the rider crosses the finish line].

1Q5. Withdrawal. Riders must immediately follow a referee's order to withdraw from the race [10 days suspension].

1Q6. Abuse.

(a) No rider or licensee may be disrespectful toward Race Directors, officials, riders or spectators [warning for minor offense; possible relegation of rider; and/or up to a \$50 fine].

(b) No rider or licensee may use foul or abusive language or conduct during a race event [disqualification and 15 days suspension].

(c) No licensee may assault (an unlawful attempt, coupled with the present ability, to commit a violent injury on the person of another) or do battery (any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another) to anyone connected with any event (including but not limited to riders, spectators, public officials, etc...) held under a USA Cycling permit. [disqualified from the event, prohibited from participating in another event for 72 hours & suspended for up to one (1) year after due process]

(d) *Violent assault and/or battery as described in 1Q6(c) committed by a licensee against a race official at a USA Cycling permitted event shall be subject to additional suspension up to and including lifetime suspension.*

1Q7. No rider may make an **abrupt motion** so as to interfere with the forward progress of another rider, either intentionally or by accident [relegation or disqualification; possible 20 days suspension if a crash results].

1Q8. Dangerous Rider. Any rider who appears to present a danger to the other competitors may be disqualified by the Chief Referee, either before, during, or after a race.

1Q9. Pushing or pulling among riders is prohibited in all races except the Madison and then only between members of the same team. No rider may hold back or pull an opponent by any part of his or her clothing, equipment or body [relegation or disqualification].

1Q10. Competitors may make **no progress unaccompanied by a bicycle** [relegation or disqualification]. In the case of a crash, they may run with their bicycles to the finish line, staying on the course.

1Q11. A licensee may be penalized for causing a crash or spill through **inadequate tightening or adjustment** of a bicycle component, including gluing of tires [any or all of the following: disqualification, \$75 fine, 10 days suspension].

1Q12. Non-Competitor on Course. A rider may not be on the track or course during a race for which he or she has not entered and registered, or from which he or she has withdrawn or been directed to withdraw [relegation or disqualification if entered in another race in the event for which the results are not yet final; 10 days suspension if flagrant], except as noted elsewhere in these rules.

1Q13. No person with official responsibilities at a race (including, but not limited to, race officials, marshals, **race directors**, and race announcers) shall consume alcoholic beverages while races are in progress and any such person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other substances shall be promptly relieved of responsibilities.

1Q14. Gambling. No person with official responsibilities at a race (including, but not limited to, race officials, race announcers, marshals, or Race Directors) may lay a wager on the outcome of the race they are participating in.

1R. Protests and Hearings

1R1. All protests concerning the **order of finish** shall be examined and resolved by the Chief Judge, whose decision is final and without appeal.

1R2. All protests regarding the **qualification of riders** or machines or the regularity of entries or classifications should be lodged with the Chief Referee before the race.

1R3. Procedure. The above protests may be made verbally and no deposit is needed. All other protests must be in writing, signed by the protestor, and accompanied by a

deposit as specified in the Schedule of Fees. Protests in stage races are covered in Rule 4F7. Protests in single events must be made within the following time limits:

(a) A protest of foul riding or any other irregularity taking place during the race must be made within 15 minutes after the protestor's finish time.

(b) A protest regarding the final results must be made within 15 minutes after the announcement of results.

1R4. Decision. Protests shall be heard and decided either by the Chief Referee or by a jury composed of an odd number of race officials that includes the Chief Referee. Such a jury shall conduct its deliberations in secret and shall reach decisions by a majority vote.

1R5. Hearings. Administrative, eligibility, and disciplinary hearings are processed according to USA Cycling Policy *III* (see appendices). Field of Play decisions made by race officials are not subject to review by a hearing panel, even if those decisions affect eligibility.