

Chapter 9

Mountain Bike

Championships

9. Mountain Bike Championships

9A. Titles

9A1. National Championships

The USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships determine the National Mountain Bike Champions in Junior, Senior/Elite, and Master Age Classes, U23 (men and women cross-country only), and Pro in the following disciplines:

Endurance: cross-country, short track, single speed, marathon, and 24 Hour.

Gravity: downhill, 4X, dual slalom, super D

Observed Trials: trials/modified bike, stock bike

9A2. National Competition

Category 2 and 3 riders in certain age classes will not be awarded National Champion titles, but will be competing in the National Competition Disciplines.

9A3. There will be no minimum field size to award a National Championship title.

9A4. Pros must compete in the pro class, regardless of their age, and may not compete in masters age class races.

9B. National Championship Disciplines, Categories, Classes

The following are the disciplines, classes and categories for the National Champion's Jerseys

9B1. Endurance Events

(a) Cross-country (XC)

Male

Pro, U23

Category 1 Juniors: 15-16, 17-18

Category 1 Seniors: 19-24, 25-29

Category 1 Masters: 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54

Junior Class: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Master Class (all categories): 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+

Female

Pro, U23

Category 1 Juniors: 15-16, 17-18

Category 1 Seniors: 19-24, 25-29

Category 1 Masters: 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49

Junior Class: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Master Class (all categories): ~~45-49~~, 50-54, 55-59, 60+

(b) Short Track (STXC)*

Male

Pro

Category 1: 18 & under, 19-29, 30+

Female

Pro

Category 1: All ages

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

(c) Single Speed

Male: Open

Female: Open

(d) Marathon (60-100K)

Male

Pro/Open 19+

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

Single Speed

Female

Pro/Open 19+

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

Single Speed

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

For UCI and US Team qualifications the open class is the only one used.

(e) 24-Hour

Male

Solo*, Duo, open 4-person team, Junior 4-person team, Master 35+ 4-person team, 45+ 4-person team, solo single-speed

Female

Solo*, Duo, open 4-person team, Junior 4-person team, Master 35+ 4-person team, 45+ 4-person team, solo single speed

Mixed

Duo

* The minimum age to race the solo class is 18 years.

For the 24-Hour National Championship, the event shall be organized so that it ends at the 24 hour mark (i.e. if the event starts at noon, it ends at noon the following day.) This should be accomplished by not allowing a rider to go out for another lap if (s)he will not finish prior to the planned time for the event to end.

9B2. Gravity Events

(a) Downhill (DH)

Male

Pro

Category 1 Juniors: 15-16, 17-18

Category 1 Seniors: 19-24, 25-29

Category 1 Masters: 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50+

Junior Class: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

Female

Pro

Category 1 Juniors: 15-16, 17-18

Category 1 Seniors: 19-29

Category 1 Masters: 30-39, 40+

Junior Class: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14

(b) 4X or Dual Slalom

Male

Pro

Category 1: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Junior: 14 and under

Female

Pro

Category 1,2,3: all ages

Seeding for Dual Slalom at the USA Cycling National Championships will be based on a competitor's time of one run on the right side and one run on the left side of the course.

Brackets for Dual Slalom are designated in Appendix 5.

(c) Super D

Male

Pro/Open

Junior Class: 18 & under

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

Female

Pro/Open

Junior Class: 18 & under

19-29, 30-39, 40+

9B3. Observed Trials

Male

Modified, Stock

Female

Modified, Stock

9C. National Competition Disciplines, Categories, Classes

9C1. Endurance Events

(a) Cross Country (XC)

Male

Category 2: 15-18, 19-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-
~~54~~

Category 3: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, ~~50-54~~

Female

Category 2: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-~~49~~

Category 3: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40-~~49~~

9C2. Gravity Events

(a) Downhill (DH)

Male

Category 2: 15-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Category 3: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Female

Category 2: 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Category 3: 15-18, 19-29, 30+

(b) 4X or Dual Slalom

Male

Category 2/3: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

9D. Qualifying Disciplines

Pro riders are not required to qualify in order to compete at the 2012 USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships. For the following events, all other riders must qualify through specific qualifying races in order to compete at the National Championships:

Cross Country
Downhill
4X/Dual Slalom

Riders who qualify in 4X are eligible to compete in Dual Slalom and vice versa. At a given National Championship, either Dual or 4X will be offered, but not both.

9E. Qualification Requirements for National Championships

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

1. They meet the following citizenship/residency requirements:
 - For junior 17-18, U23, or pro men and women, riders must be US Citizens (riders may be asked to show proof of citizenship at race registration). A birth certificate or passport are the only acceptable forms of proof of citizenship.
 - For Juniors under the age of 17, non-pro elite/senior men and women, and masters,

riders must be US Citizens or permanent resident aliens (green card).

2. They are current annual USA Cycling members
3. They have qualified through a USA Cycling State or Regional MTB Championship, an AMBC event, the USA Cycling MTB National Calendar events, a USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camp, Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike calendar event or they are defending USA Cycling National Champions in the class, category, and discipline in being contested at the 2012 National Championship competition.

9F. Qualifying Events

9F1. There are seven possible ways for riders to qualify and compete in the United States National Mountain Bike Championships, which are outlined below:

(a) USA Cycling State or Regional MTB Championship Series or USA Cycling State or Regional Championship Event (one-day).

The **top-15** overall riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the USAC-MTB National Championship and offered at a USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship event (whether a one-day or series event) will be eligible to compete at the 2012 National Mountain Bike Championship. If the USAC-MTB State or Regional Championship series is not finalized by the qualification deadline, the overall (first place) USAC-MTB State or Regional Champions will automatically be qualified to compete in the 2012 USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships.

(b) American Mountain Bike Challenge (AMBC) events

The top-10 riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the USAC National Mountain Bike Championships and offered at any AMBC event will be eligible to compete in the 2012 USAC National Mountain Bike Championship. Riders who compete at AMBC events held after the qualification

deadline and/or after 2012 US National MTB Championships will be eligible to compete in the 2013 US National MTB Championships if they place in the top-ten in their respective discipline, class, and category.

(c) USA Cycling MTB National Calendar events

The top-10 riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at any USA Cycling MTB National Calendar event will be eligible to compete in the 2012 US National Mountain Bike Championship.

(d) Defending United States National Mountain Bike Champions

All defending United States Mountain Bike Champions are automatically qualified to compete at the 2012 US National MTB Championships in their respective discipline and category.

(e) Alison Dunlap Junior Mountain Bike Events (ADJMTB)

The ADJMTB is open to junior racers aged 18 years old and younger as of December 31 of the current year. Riders who qualify for the US National MTB Championships in an older junior age group than their official racing age, will still be qualified, but they will compete at the US National MTB Championship in their age group as of their age on December 31 of the current year (racing age).

(f) USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camps

The top-six riders from each of the USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camps will be extended invitations to compete at the US National Mountain Bike Championships.

(g) Collegiate Cycling Conference Championships

The top five finishers from each of the 2012 conference championship races in the respective Collegiate categories (A,B,C, and D) will be eligible to compete at the 2012 USA Cycling National Mountain Bike Championships. Riders must have a current annual USAC MTB license in order to compete.

Riders will compete in the category indicated on their USAC MTB annual license.

9F2. Qualification Guidelines

(a) Riders are to qualify and compete in their respective age group based on their racing age determined as of December 31 of the current year.

(b) Category 2 and 3 riders who have met the upgrading requirements (as defined in the 2012 USA Cycling Rulebook), but have qualified to compete in one of these categories at the 2012 US National MTB Championships, may do so for only this event. After the US National MTB Championships, the Category 2 and 3 riders must immediately upgrade to the next higher category in the discipline in which they met the upgrade requirement and qualified.

(c) Riders who finish in the top-five in the Category 2 and 3 categories at the US National MTB Championships must move up to the next higher category for the remainder of the current season and following season. Category 1 riders who place in the top-three in the 19-24, 25-29, and 30-34 age groups will automatically be eligible to upgrade to Pro for the remainder of the current season and following season. Riders must verify that they wish to upgrade to Pro by submitting an upgrade request through their USA Cycling online membership account.

(d) Any racer, aged 19-22, who has qualified for the United States National Mountain Bike Championship in cross-country, has the option of competing in the U23 Championship race or their respective category. Racers in the U23 Championship race will be competing on the Pro-level course and distance.

(e) Master Pro riders may not 'race-down' to category 1 in order to win an age-group title. Riders are to compete in the category in which they are categorized, qualified, and licensed.

(f) Riders shall compete in the highest ability category for each respective discipline in which they have qualified for the 2012 USAC National MTB Championships. Masters riders who qualify in a younger age-group in the same ability category,

will be able to qualify, but will compete in their official racing age-group at the USAC MTB National Championships

(g) Qualified riders for the 2012 US National MTB Championships will be posted to the USA Cycling website as they are determined. If there is a discrepancy in the qualifier list, the rider must contact USA Cycling National Events Director, Kelli Lusk at klusk@usacycling.org

(h) A qualified rider format example will be distributed to USA Cycling State/Regional Championship Race Directors. The State/Regional Championship Race Director is to submit the list of qualified riders as of the qualification deadline to their respective USA Cycling Regional Coordinator at the conclusion of the USA Cycling State/Regional Championship or by the qualification events will be required to submit race results in electronic format to the USA Cycling office within seven (7) business days of their event. Qualified riders will automatically be generated from the race results submitted to the USA Cycling office from these events.

(i) An email will be sent to riders who have qualified for the 2012 USAC National MTB Championships. Entry forms may be included after they have been printed (these may not be available for the early-season qualifying races, but contact information for race registration will be provided).

(j) The qualification period *opens the first Saturday after the 2011 National Championship in the respective discipline. The qualification deadline is the last Sunday before each respective National Championship.*