



# Cycling Canada Privateer and Independent Athlete Policy

For athletes representing Canada at international competitions

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*Changes from the previous version in blue text*

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## HOW TO APPLY

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To apply for any Privateer or Independent spot (see Event Definitions in appendix), athletes must meet the criteria below and complete one of the following online forms found by the application deadline:

- Privateer and Independent athletes: <https://forms.office.com/r/JEMsd3TGmE>
- UCI Mountain Bike XCO Junior Series: <https://forms.office.com/r/ykyDQjtFMc>

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## INTRODUCTION

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Cycling Canada has developed this policy to set the conditions and standards for athletes to represent Canada as an Independent or Privateer.

For certain international competitions, athletes may participate without being part of a trade team or a National Team project, but are required by the UCI regulations to either wear their national team uniform; be registered by their national federation; be given a start position as part of a limited quota by nation; or some combination of all three.

Cycling Canada (CC) refers to these athletes as either Independent or Privateers, based on whether the National Team uniform is required by the UCI regulations, as follows:

- **Independent Athletes:** Athletes who are not required to wear the National Team uniform but require CC support to secure a quota spot and/or to register for an international event.
- **Privateer Athletes:** Athletes who are required to wear the National Team uniform at an international event but who are not part of a National Team project.

A list of the different events this policy applies to, and the various requirements for each one, can be found in the Appendix.

Whether Privateer or Independent, athletes are responsible for all costs related to attending the event, including but not limited to entry fees, travel, accommodation, meals, logistics, insurance and, if required, purchasing their National Team uniform. They are also responsible for arranging their own therapy, medical and mechanical support, including at events where the Canadian team is also present. Cycling Canada's support will be limited to registering athletes for the event and providing clothing at cost (if required by the UCI regulations).

Canada has a limited quota in certain events. The criteria used to allocate these quota spots can be found below.

All Canadians competing in international events, in particular those wearing the National Team jersey, are representing Canada on the world stage and have a responsibility to uphold the image and reputation of Canada in the global cycling community, so it's important for all athletes to be good ambassadors for Canada and for the sport of cycling.

Please note that cycling is a high-risk sport, and it's important that any athlete travelling to compete internationally have access to support in the event of an emergency. These requirements are detailed below.

Please note the UCI regulations and calendar are continually evolving and may affect this policy at any time. If you have any questions, please contact [privateers@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:privateers@cyclingcanada.ca).

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## SCOPE OF POLICY

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This policy applies only to athletes who wish to participate as Independents or Privateers in the elite, U23 and junior (U19) classes in the events listed in the Appendix.

Athletes participating in international events as part of a National Team project are not covered by this policy.

### Excluded events

Independent and Privateer spots are not available at the following events:

- UCI XCO and DHI Mountain Bike World Championships (note: some athletes may attend with the support of their Trade Teams as Privateers, but they must still meet the relevant selection criteria and be nominated by Cycling Canada; please see the XCO and DHI selection policies for more details)
- UCI Cyclo-Cross World Championships
- UCI Track Nations Cups
- UCI Track World Championships
- UCI BMX World Championships (junior, U23, elite)
- Pan American Track Championships
- UCI Road events (requires a UCI Road Team)

The following events are covered under a separate policy:

- UCI Gran Fondo World Championships (see the Masters section of the CC website)
- Age classes other than elite at the UCI Gravel World Championships (see the Masters section of the CC website)
- UCI Esports World Championships (see separate policy)
- UCI BMX Challenge World Championships (see separate policy)
- Any event that does not have a limited quota by nation and does not require athletes to wear the National Team uniform and/or register through their National Federation.

Note that this information can change at any time based on updates to the UCI regulations or calendars, and new events may arise that do not fit the scope of this policy. Please contact [privateers@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:privateers@cyclingcanada.ca) if you have any questions whether this policy applies to the event you wish to attend.

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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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To be eligible, all athletes must:

- Be a Canadian citizen.
- Have a valid Canadian passport that does not expire before the date required by the consular authorities of the country in which the event is being held.
- Be in compliance with all relevant UCI requirements for eligibility.
- Hold a valid UCI license indicating nationality as Canadian.
- Meet any relevant specific criteria lower in this document.
- Apply to Cycling Canada no later than the application deadlines indicated below using the appropriate online form (these can be found in the relevant sections below). If no form is available, please apply by email to [privateers@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:privateers@cyclingcanada.ca) no later than 1 month prior to the event.
- Have no outstanding invoices with Cycling Canada.
- Have competed in the most recent Canadian championship in that discipline. Applications may still be considered if the athlete was unable to attend due to injury or illness. If in doubt, please contact [privateers@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:privateers@cyclingcanada.ca).
  - Note: For disciplines in which there has been no Canadian Championship in the 24 months prior to selection, this requirement does not apply. For E-Mountain Bike, athletes must have attended any Canadian Mountain Bike Championships (XCO, XCC, DHI, XCM, Enduro).

Privateers have the following additional requirements:

- Minors must have parental permission and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- Athletes must complete the CCES True Sport 101 online anti-doping education within the last 12 months;

- To access the course with a CCES account: <https://education.cces.ca/#/login>
- To access the course without a CCES account: <https://cces.ca/truesportclean101untracked>
- Athletes must designate a support staff member who will be attending the competition to be their emergency contact.
  - The support staff member must have a current, valid UCI cycling licence, and must also complete the CCES education as well as Safe Sport education
    - Safe Sport: <https://coach.ca/safe-sport-training>
  - This person cannot also be competing;
  - Several athletes may share the same support staff member

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## CLOTHING

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Independent athletes must compete in their own kit and may not wear National Team clothing.

Privateer athletes are required to compete in the current National Team kit. Athletes may purchase national team clothing from Cycling Canada or wear national team clothing already in their possession providing it is the current design (please verify with Cycling Canada). For clothing purchases, please contact [privateers@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:privateers@cyclingcanada.ca).

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## MOUNTAIN BIKE XCO

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### 2024 XCO opportunities and application deadlines

Event	Dates	Location	INDEPENDENT UCI Entry Ranking	PRIVATEER Max. quota	Application Deadline
World Cup	12-14 April	Mairiporã BRA	<a href="#">2 April</a>	6 per class	14 March
World Cup	19-21 April	Araxá, Minas Gerais BRA	<a href="#">9 April</a>	6 per class	21 March
Pan Am Championship	3-13 May	Soldier Hollow USA	n/a	n/a	13 April
World Cup	24-26 May	Nové Město na Moravě CZE	<a href="#">14 May</a>	6 per class*	26 April
World Cup	14-16 June	Val di Sole ITA	<a href="#">4 June</a>	6 per class	16 May
World Cup	21-23 June	Crans-Montana SUI	<a href="#">11 June</a>	6 per class	23 May
World Cup	2-7 July	Haute-Savoie FRA	<a href="#">25 June</a>	6 per class	7 June
World Cup	27-29 Sept.	Lake Placid USA	<a href="#">17 Sept.</a>	6 per class	29 Aug.
World Cup	4-6 Oct.	Mont-Sainte-Anne CAN	<a href="#">24 Sept.</a>	12 per class	6 Sept.

\* Designates events where some or all quota spots may be used by the National Team

UCI deadlines can be found [here](#). In case of any discrepancy between information on the UCI website and this document, the UCI website will take precedence.

### UCI XCO World Cups

To compete in a World Cup as an Independent, athletes must have the required UCI points as of the entry ranking deadline for each competition listed above. The required UCI points as per UCI rule 4.10.001 are:

Category	Women	Men
U23	20	80
Elite	60	60

Independent athletes must compete in their own kit and can apply using the form found below.

Athletes who do not meet the minimum UCI point requirement can apply to compete as a Privateer. The UCI allows Canada to enter up to **6 athletes per category** (or up to **12 U23 athletes per category** for any World Cups in Canada). Approved Privateer athletes must compete in national team kit.

Privateer applications will be prioritized based on UCI points on the application deadline and only athletes who meet the Privateer eligibility conditions will be considered. Priority will go to athletes on a National Team project.

### **XCO Panamerican Championships**

Canada has an unlimited quota of athletes for the Pan American XCO championships and will accept applications for privateer spots from Junior, U23 and elite athletes. Athletes must meet the Privateer eligibility requirements, apply by the deadline noted above, and compete in the national team kit.

### **UCI XCO Junior Series Supplementary Spots**

To be eligible to register for a UCI junior series event, athletes must either:

- Have at least 1 UCI point in the latest UCI XCO individual junior ranking; or
- Belong to a UCI Elite MTB Team or UCI MTB Team.

The UCI allows Cycling Canada to enter supplementary athletes who do not meet these criteria, up to a maximum of 5 women and 5 men for events outside of Canada and the USA, or 10 women and 10 men if the event is held in the USA. There is no limit to the number of Canadians participating in UCI junior series events held in Canada and athletes do not need to apply to CC to attend.

Approved athletes are not required to wear the National Team jersey and are considered Independent.

**To Apply:** complete the online form by the application deadline (4 weeks prior to the competition) (see How to Apply above).

Please note:

- All supplementary athletes must still register for the competition independently before the entry deadline.
- Supplementary athletes must meet the Independent eligibility requirements in this policy.
- Applications must be submitted to CC in full 4 weeks prior to the race.
- Canadian athletes do not need to apply for events held in Canada, only those outside of Canada.

Supplementary athletes will be approved in the following order of priority:

1. Athletes finishing 1-5 in the junior (U19) XCO at the most recent Canadian XCO Championships;
2. Athletes finishing 1-5 in the cadet (U17) XCO at the most recent Canadian XCO Championships;
3. Athletes finishing 6-10 in the junior (U19) XCO at the most recent Canadian XCO Championships;
4. Athletes finishing 6-10 in the cadet (U17) XCO at the most recent Canadian XCO Championships;
5. Athletes finishing 11-15 in the junior (U19) XCO at the most recent Canadian XCO Championships;
6. Athletes finishing 11-15 in the cadet (U17) XCO at the most recent Canadian XCO Championships;
7. Other applicants may be approved at the discretion of the National Coach (Mountain Bike Lead).

The full competition list can be found on the [UCI calendar](#).

## MOUNTAIN BIKE DHI

### 2023 DHI opportunities and application deadlines

Event	Dates	Location	INDEPENDENT UCI Entry Ranking	PRIVATEER Max. quota	Application Deadline
World Cup	3-5 May	Fort William GBR	<a href="#">23 April</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 6 JW, 6 JM	5 April
World Cup	12-19 May	Bielsko - Biala POL	<a href="#">7 May</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 6 JW, 6 JM	19 April
World Cup	7-9 June	Leogang AUT	<a href="#">28 May</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 6 JW, 6 JM	9 May
World Cup	14-16 June	Val di Sole ITA	<a href="#">4 June</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 6 JW, 6 JM	16 May
World Cup	2-7 July	Haute-Savoie FRA	<a href="#">18 June</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 6 JW, 6 JM	7 June
World Cup	6-8 Sept	Loudenvielle FRA	<a href="#">27 Aug.</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 6 JW, 6 JM	8 Aug.
World Cup	4-6 Oct.	Mont-Sainte-Anne CAN	<a href="#">24 Sept.</a>	3 EW, 3 EM, 12 JW, 12 JM	6 Sept.
Pan Am Championship	26-29 Sept.	La Libertad ESA	n/a	n/a	n/a

UCI deadlines can be found [here](#). In case of any discrepancy between information on the UCI website and this document, the UCI website will take precedence.

### UCI DHI World Cups

**Independent:** Athletes must have the required UCI points on the entry ranking deadline for each competition listed above. The required UCI points as per UCI rule 4.10.001 are:

Category	Women	Men
Elite	40	40

Independent athletes must compete in their own kit and can apply using the form found below.

**Privateer:** Athletes who do not meet the minimum UCI point requirement and Juniors who are not on a UCI team can apply to compete as a Privateer. The UCI allows Canada to enter **3 elites per category, and 6 juniors per category** (or up to **12 juniors** for any World Cup in Canada). Approved Privateer athletes must compete in the national team jersey.

Privateer applications will be approved on the application date in the following order of priority until the quota is filled or there are no more eligible athletes:

Category	Criteria
Junior Women (born 2006-2007)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletes born 2006-2007 finishing top 10 and within 110% of the winner's time at the Junior DHI World Championships or at a UCI DHI World Cup in the 12 months prior to the selection date, ranked by best result. In the event of a tie, the most recent result will take priority.</li> <li>Athletes born 2006-2007 with the five fastest times who finished within 110% of the winner's time at the most recent Canadian DHI Championships, ranked by time.</li> <li>Remaining quota spots will be filled in the order of the athlete's UCI ranking.</li> </ol>
Junior Men (born 2006-2007)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletes born 2006-2007 finishing top 10 and within 110% of the winner's time in the Junior DHI World Championships or at a UCI DHI World Cup in the 12 months prior to the selection date, ranked by best result. In the event of a tie, the most recent result will take priority.</li> <li>Athletes with the five fastest times who finished within 110% of the winner's time at the most recent Canadian DHI Championships born in 2005 or 2006, providing they were among the five fastest times, ranked by time.</li> <li>Remaining quota spots will be filled in priority of the athlete's UCI ranking.</li> </ol>
Elite Women	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletes finishing top 10 and within 110% of the winner's time at the most recent Canadian Elite Women's DHI Championships, ranked by finishing order.</li> <li>Remaining quota spots will be filled in priority of the athlete's UCI ranking.</li> </ol>

Elite Men	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Athletes finishing top 10 and within 110% of the winner's time at the most recent Canadian Elite Men's DHI Championships, ranked by finishing order.</li> <li>2. Remaining quota spots will be filled in priority of the athlete's UCI ranking.</li> </ol>
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### **DHI Panamerican Championships**

Canada has an unlimited quota of athletes for the Pan American DHI championships and will accept applications for privateer spots from U23 and elite athletes. Athletes must meet the Privateer eligibility requirements and apply by the deadline noted. Approved athletes must compete in the national team jersey.

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## **CYCLO-CROSS**

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### **2024/25 Cyclo-Cross Privateer opportunities and application deadlines**

*This section will be populated after the UCI publishes the 2024 calendar and registration deadlines*



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## GRAVEL

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### 2024 UCI Gravel World Championships

Vlaams-Brabant BEL – Oct. 5-6, 2024

*Note: As of April 8, 2024, the qualification system and registration deadlines for the 2024 UCI Gravel World Championship had not yet been published to the UCI website; if these differ significantly from previous years this policy may be modified accordingly.*

Athletes can qualify directly to the UCI Gravel World Championship through the UCI Gravel World Series. These athletes can register directly but are considered Privateers because they must wear the national Team uniform, which they can purchase from Cycling Canada.

In addition, Canada will be assigned a limited quota of spots, which will be assigned according to the criteria below. These athletes are also considered Privateers.

Athletes must apply using an online form that will be published once the UCI announces the registration deadline. Athletes applying after the deadline set by Cycling Canada will only be considered if there are still available spots after all applicants who applied before the deadline have been considered.

Canada's quota spots will be allocated in the following order of priority until the quota is filled:

- Priority 1: The winners of the 2024 Canadian Gravel Championships in the elite women's and elite men's categories.
- Priority 2: Athletes ranked in the top 100 of the elite UCI rankings in road, mountain bike, mountain bike marathon, and cyclo-cross, on the application deadline.
- Priority 3: Athletes finishing in the Top 10 and top half of starters in the top category (eg. the longest distance Pro or Elite category) in a recognized major international gravel event (see list below).
- Priority 4: Remaining Elite applicants will be ranked in descending order based on their placing in the elite categories at the 2024 Canadian gravel championships.
- Priority 6: Any remaining quota spots will be allocated at the discretion of Cycling Canada.

Any ties will be broken at the discretion of Cycling Canada.

Note that for 2024 only, due to a date conflict, the requirement to attend Canadian Championships has been modified as follows: to be eligible for selection, athletes must either attend the Blue Mountains Gravel Fondo (Collingwood ON, June 15, 2024) or the 2024 Canadian Gravel Championships (Water Valley AB, June 16, 2024).

#### Recognized major international gravel events in 2024:

Date	Event	Country	Recognized Categories
March 1-2	BWR Arizona	USA	Pro Women & Pro Men Waffle distance
April 5-6	BWR Utah	USA	Pro Women & Pro Men Waffle distance
April 27-28	BWR California	USA	Pro Women & Pro Men Waffle distance
April 20	Sea Otter Classic	USA	Elite Women & Elite Men
June 1	Unbound Gravel	USA	Elite Women & Elite Men 200 Mile
June 21-22	BWR N. Carolina	USA	Pro Women & Pro Men Waffle distance
July 13	Crusher in the Tushar	USA	Pro/Open Female & Pro/Open Male Tushar Crusher
Aug. 10	Leadville 100	USA	Pro Female & Pro Male Leadville Trail 100 MTB
Aug. 18	SBT GRVL	USA	Female & Male Black Course
Sept. 21-22	BWR British Columbia	CAN	Pro Women & Pro Men Waffle distance

*Note: this list may be modified depending on the registration deadline for the 2024 UCI Gravel World Championships*

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## OTHER EVENTS

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For other events that have privateer spots available but are not specifically covered by this policy, athletes must apply as detailed below. Available spots will be allocated to athletes who meet the Privateer eligibility criteria and who have achieved one or more of the following at the time of application:

- Competed at the World Championships in the relevant event within the last 24 months.
- Competed at a World Cup or Pan American Championship in the relevant event within the last 12 months.
- Have at least 1 point on the relevant UCI ranking on the application deadline.

If there is a limited quota for Canadians at the event, spots will be allocated in the following order of priority from among athletes who have applied:

1. The current World Champion in the event and category (if Canadian)
2. The current Pan American Champion in the event and category (if Canadian)
3. The current Canadian champion in the event and category (if a Canadian championship was held)
4. Remaining spots will be allocated based on UCI ranking points on the application deadline, in descending order

**TO APPLY:** Athletes may apply for these other events by filling in the application form (see How to Apply above) or by emailing [privateers@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:privateers@cyclingcanada.ca) at least one month before the event they are applying for.

## APPENDIX: ATHLETE DEFINITIONS

Discipline	Event	National Team uniform required?	Registration by CC required?	Limited quota by nation?	Athlete definition
BMX	Freestyle Flatland Worlds	n/a*	Yes	No	Independent
BMX	Freestyle World Cups (non-national team)	n/a*	No	No	Independent
BMX	Pump Track worlds	No	No	No	Independent
BMX	Race World Cups (non-national team)	No	Yes	No	Independent
Cyclo-Cross	Pan Am Championships	No	No	No	Independent
Cyclo-Cross	World Cups (Elite, not members of TTs and outside top 50 on UCI ranking)	No	Yes	Yes	Independent
Cyclo-Cross	World Cups (junior and U23)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
Gravel	World Championships (elite classes only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
Indoor	Cycle-Ball and Artistic Cycling World Championships	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	DHI Pan Am Championships	Yes	No	No	Privateer
MTB	E-MTB World Championships	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	Marathon World Championships	Yes	Yes	No	Privateer
MTB	Marathon World Cups	No	Yes	No	Independent
MTB	Trials World Championships	Yes	Yes	No	Privateer
MTB	XCO and DHI World Cups (non-Trade Team athletes without enough points)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	XCO and DHI World Cups (non-Trade Team athletes with enough points)	No	Yes	No	Independent
MTB	XCO Junior series events (athletes who do not meet points requirement)	No	Yes	Yes	Independent
MTB	XCO Pan Am Championships	Yes	Yes	No	Privateer
Para-Cycling	Road World Cups (non-National Team)	No	Yes	Yes	Independent

\* Per UCI reg. 6bis.4.007, BMX Freestyle athletes are not required to compete in a National Team uniform.