

Discipline Specific Selection Criterion

2026 UCI Olympic Cross-Country (XCO) World Championships

26-30 August 2026, Val di Sole, Italy
Elite and U23 Men and Women

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Before submitting an Expression of Interest, Athletes must read the *AusCycling Selection Policy for UCI World Championships – Olympic and Paralympic Cycling Sports (the Policy)* which details the selection process, objectives, eligibility and general selection criteria.

1. Athletes will be required to earn 2026 UCI XCO Elite and U23 World Championships Team (WCT) selection in accordance with the requirements set out in the *the Policy* and this discipline specific document of the AusCycling (AC) selection criteria.

2. U23 AND ELITE OBJECTIVES

See clause 1 of the *the Policy*.

3. PERFORMANCE TIME PERIOD

September 2025 – 12 July 2026 (inclusive)

4. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To be eligible for nomination to the WCT, Athletes **MUST** submit an expression of interest by the closing date listed at clause 9 of this document. The expression of interest form is located at <https://auscycling.org.au/athlete-selection-policies> from the published open date.

5. If selected, all Athletes must stay with the team during the World Championships unless they are a member of a UCI listed MTB team and have applied for and received prior approval from the National XCO Coach. Approval will only be given to Athletes who can demonstrate they are fully supported to operate independently from AusCycling.

6. MANDATORY EVENTS

Selections are subject to *the Policy* where the Panel may, at their absolute discretion, consider athletes for selection based upon their performances and results from the following XCO events.

Elite Men and Women

- a) 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships (Elite category); **AND**
- b) 2026 Oceania XCO Championships (Elite category); **AND**
- c) A minimum of two 2026 Oceania Continental Series XCO rounds (Elite category).

U23 Men and Women:

- a) 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships (U23 category, or Elite category if approval to ride up has been granted by National MTB XCO Coach); **AND**
- b) 2026 Oceania XCO Championships (U23 category, or Elite category if approval to ride up has been granted by National MTB XCO Coach); **AND**
- c) A minimum of two 2026 Oceania Continental Series XCO rounds (U23 category, or Elite category if approval to ride up has been granted by National MTB XCO Coach).

7. ADDITIONAL SELECTION EVENTS

Selections are subject to *the Policy* where the Panel may, at their absolute discretion, consider Athletes for selection based upon their performances in the Mandatory Events (outlined in clause 6(a) and (b) of this criterion) and results in the following additional XCO events.

- a) 2025 UCI MTB World Championships
- b) 2025 and 2026 UCI MTB World Cups (during performance period)
- c) 2025/26 AusCycling MTB National Series (individual event results only)
- d) Other international results during the performance period. International results are defined as performances in UCI listed XCO events and may include events in Australia.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel may consider the athlete's performance in some, all or none of the XCO events listed in clauses 6 and 7. The Panel is under no obligation to consider the athlete's performance in any of the events outlined in clauses 6 or 7 and may attribute different weighting to each event in its absolute discretion.

8. MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

To be eligible for selection, all Athletes must meet any of the following minimum performance standards on at least two (2) separate occasions during the performance period.

Meeting the minimum performance standards does not equate to automatic selection for the athlete.



Elite Men and Women

a) Finish on the lead lap and have a total race time within 105% (men) and 108% (women), of the winning race time in their respective Elite category at:

- > 2026 Oceania XCO Championships; **OR**
- > 2026 Oceania Continental Series XCO race; **OR**
- > 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships;

OR

b) Finish on the lead lap and have a race time within 110% of the winning race time at a UCI World Cup during the performance period, in the respective Elite Category, **OR** Finish on the lead lap and within 108% of the winning race time at any UCI listed HC, C1 or C2 race in their respective Elite category.

U23 Men and Women

a) Finish on the lead lap and have a total race time within 105% of the winning race time in their respective U23 or Elite category (if approval to ride up has been granted) at:

- > 2026 Oceania XCO Championships **OR**
- > 2026 Oceania Continental Series XCO race **OR**
- > The 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships; **OR**

b) Finish on the lead lap and have a race time within 110% of the winning race time at a UCI World Cup during the performance period, in their respective U23 or Elite category (if approval to ride up has been granted); **OR**

c) Finish on the lead lap and within 108% of the winning race time at any UCI listed HC, C1 or C2 race in their respective U23 or Elite category

9. SELECTION TIMELINES

Refer <https://auscycling.org.au/athlete-selection-policies/selection-calendar>

10. LEVIES

Selected U23 Athletes may be required to pay a levy to attend the 2026 UCI MTB XCO Elite and U23 World Championships. Levies will be communicated at the time of selection.