

Discipline Specific Selection Criterion

2026 UCI MTB Cross Country Olympic (XCO) World Championships

26-30 August 2026, Val di Sole, Italy
Junior (U19) Men and Women

Version 1.1
December 2025



Discipline Specific Selection Criterion

2026 UCI MTB XCO World Championships

26-30 August 2026, Val di Sole, Italy

Junior (U19) Men and Women

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. Junior (U19) athletes will be required to earn 2026 UCI MTB XCO World Championships Team (WCT) selection in accordance with the requirements set out in *the Policy*, and this discipline specific document of the AusCycling (AC) selection criteria.

2. JUNIOR (U19) OBJECTIVES

See clause 2 of *the Policy*.

3. PERFORMANCE TIME PERIOD

1 September 2025 – 1 June 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 10 of this document.

The expression of interest form is located at <https://auscycling.org.au/athlete-selection-policies> from the published open date.

5. JUNIOR (U19) MANDATORY EVENTS

To be eligible for selection, all riders must compete in the following events, or seek an exemption under clause 5 of *the Policy*.

- 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships, Mount Buller, VIC; **and 1 of the 2 events below:**
 - a) 2026 XCO Oceania Championships, Brisbane, QLD; **and/or**
 - b) 2026 XCO Continental Series, Mount Stromlo, ACT – Rounds 3 and 4.

6. JUNIOR (U19) SELECTION 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.

- 2025 UCI MTB World Championships
- 2026 XCO Oceania Championships
- 2026 XCO Continental Series Races

- 2026 AusCycling MTB National Championships
- 2025/2026 AusCycling National Series Races
- Other international results during the Performance Time 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 clause 6. The Panel is under no obligation to consider the athlete's performance in any of the events outlined in clause 6 and may attribute different weighting to each event in its absolute discretion.

7. MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

To be eligible for selection, all athletes must meet the following minimum performance standard **on at least two separate occasions** during the performance period. Meeting the minimum performance standard does not equate to automatic selection for the athlete.

- Finish on the lead lap **and** have a total race time within 105% of the winning race time in their respective event at any of the selection events listed in clause 6.
- 8. Where more athletes meet the criteria in this criterion than there are places available, the Panel may use absolute discretion to rank athletes according to the objectives in clause 2 of *the Policy* and the factors in clause 3.3 of *the Policy*.

9. TEAM RELAY

Athletes who are a member of the WCT in XCO are eligible to compete in the team relay and may be selected at the discretion of the National XCO Coach.

10. SELECTION TIMELINES

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

11. LEVIES

Selected athletes will be required to pay a levy to attend the 2026 UCI MTB XCO World Championships. Estimated levy costs are provided in the Expression of Interest Form.



LEGEND

- AC AusCycling
- ACT Australian Capital Territory
- MTB Mountain Bike
- QLD Queensland
- UCI Union Cycliste International
- U19 Under 19 Athlete (Junior)
- VIC Victoria
- WCT World Championship Team
- XCO Cross-County Olympic

UPDATES

27 Jan 2026: clause 7, last lap changed to lead lap