

Privateer and Independent Athlete Policy

CX World Cups – U19, U23, Elite

DHI World Cups - U19, Elite

EDR World Cups – U19, Elite

XCO World Cups – U23, Elite

1. PREAMBLE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the general information and eligibility requirements for athletes competing in international events as Privateer or Independent athletes.

Various international competitions across multiple cycling disciplines allow athletes to participate without being a member of a UCI team or the Australian Cycling Team, but those athletes are required by the UCI regulations to abide by some or all of the following:

- Wear official National Team competition clothing.
- Be allocated a Federation entry by their National Federation
- Be entered by their National Federation

Within this policy, athletes are referred to in Appendix 1 as either **Privateer or Individual athletes**, depending on whether National team competition clothing is required for a specified event.

- **Independent Athletes** qualify themselves through the UCI qualification system relevant to their specific discipline and are not required to wear National Team competition clothing but do require AusCycling administration support to be registered for a given event.
- **Privateer Athletes** are required to wear National Team competition clothing but are not part of an officially selected Australian Cycling Team.

More detailed information on the **Privateer or Individual athlete entry or direct qualifier process** for specific disciplines is in the respective Discipline Specific Criterion. All Selection Criteria can be found at the following link: <https://auscycling.org.au/about/high-performance/selection>

If you require assistance with understanding the Privateer or Individual athlete entry or direct qualifier process, please contact Evan James, MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager, evan.james@auscycling.org.au.

The information in this document is accurate at the time of publishing. However, changes to UCI regulations and the release of specific information from the UCI during 2026 may require updates to this policy in which case a new version will be released.

2. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

2.1 General Eligibility Criteria: To be eligible for consideration as a Privateer for entry to, and/or selection for a federation entry, athletes must:

- 2.1.1 Be an Australian citizen.
- 2.1.2 Have a current racing licence issued by AC or another federation affiliated with the UCI with Sporting Country of 'AUS'.
- 2.1.3 Are compliant with all AusCycling's policies including the settlement of, or a payment plan in place, for all past levies.
- 2.1.4 Agree to participate in and meet all competition, camps, training and participation requirements as determined by the MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager.
- 2.1.5 Be available for sample collection and have provided accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information on a regular basis as directed by UCI and/or Sport Integrity Australia (SIA), under any relevant recognised Anti-Doping Policies including those of the UCI and AC, and the World Anti-Doping Code.

- 2.1.6 Not have breached the Anti-Doping Policies of the UCI or AC nor have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed. For the purpose of considering eligibility for selection, a breach of an Anti-Doping Policy may include:
- an athlete currently under investigation for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) where an infraction notice has been issued or the athlete has been stood down under UCI and/or AC Anti-Doping Policies; or
 - a failure to comply with an athlete's obligations under either UCI or AC Anti-Doping Policy, even if such a breach does not result in an ADRV.
- 2.1.7 Have completed SIA Anti-Doping Education: To be eligible for consideration for selection, all athletes must be up to date and fully compliant with Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) e-learning, and therefore have completed, and be current at the end of the discipline nomination period, with all online updates. Please refer to: <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/what-we-do/education> for more information.
- 2.1.8 Not currently be suspended from the sport for any reason.
- 2.1.9 Not have served a period of suspension of two years or more for:
- having been found guilty of an ADRV; or
 - any other rule breach.
- 2.1.10 Not currently be under investigation as a result of any indictable criminal charge (even where such charge has been heard summarily) having been brought against them, nor be currently serving a penalty issued by a Court as a result of an indictable criminal charge being proven, unless he/she is able to satisfy the AC Board (at its sole discretion) that exceptional circumstances (in the context of the charge and/or penalty) apply. Where the Board is satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply, the athlete may be considered for selection in a WCT in accordance with these selection criteria. Any request for the Board to consider an athlete's particular circumstances must be submitted to the Board in writing. The Board is not obliged to consider any request made under this clause.
- 2.1.11 Have submitted an expression of interest by the closing date listed in the relevant specific discipline criteria.
- 2.1.12 Meet, if stipulated in the relevant discipline specific criteria, the mandatory events, or apply for an exemption under clause 5 of this document.
- 2.1.13 Meet the minimum performance standards stipulated in the relevant discipline specific criteria. Meeting the minimum performance standards does not guarantee selection.

2.2 Junior Specific Eligibility Criteria

- 2.2.2 **Education:** Specific eligibility for the Junior (U19) Athletes will be based on the principle that those athletes be in formal education or training and remain engaged in that education or training course to completion throughout the World Championships selection and competition periods. This requirement will be given weight by the Selection Panel but will not be mandatory. Education requirements may include but are not limited to:
- Secondary School certificate of Education (i.e. SACE, VCE, International Baccalaureate (IB));
 - TAFE and/or Vocation Education Training (VET) (i.e. Traineeship, Apprenticeship);
 - Tertiary Study. i.e. Undergraduate degree

- 2.2.3 Athletes who are unable to satisfy the education or training requirements of clause 3.2.2 will need to provide reasons to the Selection Panel as why this is the case. The rationale for the inclusion of this clause is that AusCycling does not believe it is generally in the best interests of junior athletes to focus solely on cycling at this point in their development.

3. CLOTHING

- 3.1 Independent athletes must compete in their own clothing.
- 3.2 Privateer athletes must compete in the current design of the official Australian Cycling Team competition clothing.
- 3.3 To verify if clothing in your possession is current and/or to purchase clothing, contact the AusCycling MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager, evan.james@auscycling.org.au.

4. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE

- 4.1. Extenuating circumstances only apply to Privateer athletes.
- 4.2. In considering a Privateer athletes' performances and participation in mandatory events under the discipline specific criteria, the Operations Manager MTB & Non-Olympic may consider and approve extenuating circumstances.
- 4.3. For the purposes of clause 4.2 above, extenuating circumstances means an inability to compete or perform at an optimum level arising from:
- a. Injury or illness
 - b. Travel delays
 - c. Equipment failure
 - d. Bereavement or personal misfortune
 - e. Education requirements
 - f. Any other factors reasonably considered by the Operations Manager MTB & Non-Olympic to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 4.4. Athletes unable to compete and/or perform at an optimum level must advise and seek approval from the MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager of this fact and the reasons for the inability, with as much advance notice as possible (ideally at least seven days) prior to the commencement of the competition.
- 4.5. All extenuating circumstances applications and correspondence must be directed to the MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager – Evan James
evan.james@auscycling.org.au
- 4.6. In the case of injury or illness, athletes must provide a medical certificate or report and may be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors nominated by the MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager.

Appendix 1 – Events Covered by this Policy

Discipline	Category	Event	National Team Clothing	Entry by AC	Quota Limit	Athlete Definition
Cyclo-Cross	Elite	World Cups (not a member of a UCI Team)	No	Yes	Yes	Independent
Cyclo-Cross	U23, Junior	World Cups (not a member of a UCI Team)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	Elite, U19	Enduro World Cup – federation entry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	Elite	Marathon World Cups	No	Yes	No	Independent
MTB	Elite, U23	XCO World Cups (non-UCI Team athletes without required ranking – <u>federation entry</u>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	Elite, U23	XCO World Cups (non-UCI Team athletes that have met UCI requirements for individual entry)	No	Yes	No	Independent
MTB	Elite, Junior	DHI World Cups (non-UCI Team athletes without required ranking – <u>federation entry</u>)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Privateer
MTB	Elite, Junior	DHI World Cups (non-UCI Team athletes that have met UCI requirements for individual entry)	No	Yes	No	Independent

