

Version 1 | November 2025

INDEPENDENT ATHLETE ENTRY CRITERION

FEDERATION ENTRY CRITERION

2026 OLYMPIC CROSS-COUNTRY (XCO) WORLD CUP

1. PREAMBLE

This criterion should be read in conjunction with the **Privateer and Independent Athlete Policy**. The policy provides general information on eligibility, extenuating circumstances, and clothing requirements.

AusCycling administers entries for XCO World Cup events for Australian riders not on UCI World Series. This includes riders that have qualified for independent entry under UCI regulations. Riders that have not qualified must apply for a Federation entry. Riders on UCI World Series teams are entered by their team. **See Table 1 for full information on qualifying and Federation entry quotas.**

Federation entries are provided by the UCI to National Federations and are the equivalent of National Team entries, similar to World Championships. As a result, there are minimum standards, a selection process, and specific mandatory requirements that must be met to be eligible. Federation entries are limited and demand for entries often exceeds the number of places available. All riders are advised to carefully read and understand all the information below.

1. MANDATORY EVENT REQUIREMENTS (Federation Entries Only)

- 1.1. To be eligible for a federation entry applicants **MUST** compete in the following events **or apply for exemption for extenuating circumstances as outlined in the Privateer and Independent Athlete Policy**.
 - 1.1.1. **Elite Men and Women XCO**
 - a. 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships (Elite category) **AND**
 - b. A 2026 Continental Series XCO event OR the 2026 Oceania XCO Championships (Elite category)
 - 1.1.2. **U23 Men and Women XCO**
 - a. 2026 AusCycling XCO National Championships (Elite or U23 category) **AND**
 - b. A 2026 Continental Series XCO event OR the 2026 Oceania XCO Championships (Elite or U23 category)

2. MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (Federation Entries Only)

- 2.1. To be eligible for a federation entry applicants **MUST** meet at least 1 of the following minimum performance standards **or apply for exemption for extenuating circumstances as outlined in Privateer and Independent Athlete Policy**.
 - 2.1.1. **Elite Men and Women XCO**
 - a. Finish on the lead lap at any event listed in 1.1.1. **OR**
 - b. Finish on the lead lap in any UCI listed Continental Series, HC, C1 or C2 XCO event during 2025/26 (Elite category, or U23 category in 2025 if the applicant is a first year Elite in 2026)
 - 2.1.2. **U23 Men and Women XCO**
 - a. Finish on the lead lap at any event listed in 1.1.2. **OR**
 - b. Finish on the lead lap of any UCI listed Continental Series, HC, C1 or C2 XCO event during 2025/26 (Elite or U23 category) **OR**
 - c. Finish on the lead lap of any UCI listed Continental Series, HC, C1, C2 or Junior Series event in 2025 (Junior category, first year U23s in 2026 only)

3. FEDERATION ENTRY SELECTION PROCESS

3.1. Entry allocation will be made using the following process and criteria:

3.1.1. **Elite Men and Women XCO**

Entries will be allocated on the dates listed in table 2 below from applications received using the following criteria:

- a. Eligible athletes in order of UCI ranking at each respective allocation dates.

3.1.2. **U23 Men and Women XCO**

Entries will be allocated on the dates listed in table 2 below from applications received using the following criteria (in order):

- a. Any athletes selected for a 2026 AusCycling Pathways project (only applicable to World Cups included in the Pathways project)
- b. If any entries remain after clause a., eligible athletes in order of UCI ranking at each respective allocation dates.

3.2 Any federation entries remaining after each allocation date will be allocated on a first come first serve basis during the season. Applications must be received at least 2 weeks prior to the entry closing date (see table 2).

3.3 AusCycling reserves the right to allocate federation entries to riders who were granted exemption from attending mandatory events in extraordinary circumstances.

3.4 Riders who are allocated federations entries who subsequently cannot race due to injury, illness, changed travel plans or any other circumstance **MUST** notify AusCycling's MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager immediately so entries can be allocated to the next rider in line. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of any other federation entries allocated and ineligibility to apply again in the future.

4. INDEPENDENT ATHLETE ENTRIES

Athletes that have qualified for entry through the UCI system (see table below for details) can request entry processing using the application form in clause 5.

5. APPLICATIONS

Applications for Federation entry allocation and requests for qualified independent athlete entries can be made via the form [HERE](#).

All enquiries to AusCycling's MTB and Non-Olympic Operations Manager – Evan James evan.james@auscycling.org.au

Table 1: Summary of the UCI requirements for UCI XCO World Cup entry (changes for 2026 in red)

UCI rankings and points can be found at <https://www.uci.org/mountain-bike/rankings>

Category	UCI Qualification for Independent Entry	National Federation Entry Allocation per round
XCO - Elite Men and Women	• Top 100 XCO ranking at entry ranking date (see table 2) • Top five riders of any round of a Continental Series - limited to 1 round of the current UCI MTB World Cup (Golden Ticket - valid for 52 weeks) • Top five riders from the final standings of any 2025 Continental Series, Elite category • Top five riders from the final standings of any 2025 Continental Series, U23 category (if progressing into Elite category) • Current UCI World Champion, Continental Champion, National Champion (where applicable)	3 Men + 3 Women
XCO - U23 Men and Women	• Top 200 XCO ranking at entry ranking date (see table 2) • Top five riders of any round of a Continental Series - limited to 1 round of the current UCI MTB World Cup (Golden Ticket - valid for 52 weeks) • Top five riders from the final standings of any 2025 Continental Series, U23 category • Top five riders from the final standings of any 2025 Continental Series, Junior category (if progressing into U23 category) • Current UCI World Champion, Continental Champion, National Champion (where applicable)	4 Men + 4 Women

Table 2: XCO World Cup Federation Application, Entry Allocation and Entry Closing Dates

Entry ranking and closing dates will be updated when released by the UCI.

Event Date	Event Venue	Country	Entry Ranking Date	Entry Closing Date	Federation Entry Application Close	Entry Closing Date	Allocation Block
1 - 3 May	Yong Pyong	KOR	TBC	TBC	24.03.2025	26.03.2025	Block 1
22 - 24 May	Nové Město na Moravě	CZE	TBC	TBC			
11 - 14 June	Leogang	AUT	TBC	TBC			
19 - 21 June	Lenzerheide	SWI	TBC	TBC			
3 - 5 July	La Thuile	ITA	TBC	TBC	14.04.2025	16.04.2025	Block 2
9 - 12 July	Pal Arinsal	AND	TBC	TBC			
21 - 23 August	Les Gets	FRA	TBC	TBC			
18 – 20 September	Soldier Hollow, Utah	USA	TBC	TBC	14.07.2025	16.07.2025	Block 3
3 - 5 October	Mt Van Hoevenberg - Lake Placid	USA	TBC	TBC			