

Selection Criteria:

2026 Development

Academy for Road

This document supports the expression of interest forms for the current season State and Territory Road Academies

Academy Overview

The AusCycling Development Academies have been developed as a component to the pre-performance rider development pathway. The Academies seek to identify, develop, and support Under 15 and Under 17 riders, and selected uncategorised Junior 19 riders, to support their performance development and to assist riders to acquire the skills and attributes to move into the performance pathways.

Academies are provided across the disciplines of BMX Racing, Mountain Bike (Gravity and Endurance), Road and Track. Riders may be part of one or more Academies.

Academy Structure and Purpose

The Academies provide structured training opportunities and coaching support with the aim of supporting the daily training environment of targeted riders. The target age groups include:

- Junior 19 (by invitation*)
- Under 17
- Under 15

The specific purposes of the Academies include:

- Providing targeted training sessions or camps
- Deliver a holistic athlete development program designed to support both performance and personal growth
- Enhance and compliment the primary daily training environment (DTE)

- Develop consistent development opportunities across all States and Territories
- Increase overall performance of targeted riders

Additionally, the Academies will seek to provide:

- Athletes with the opportunity to train alongside other athletes (J19+) or the National Institute Network (NIN) network (where appropriate)
- Personal development opportunities via coaching and officiating accreditation

*Invitations are dependent on the specific discipline and location. See the discipline-specific selection criteria for further information.

Support Personnel

Each Academy will have a dedicated Head Coach. The Head Coach will be required to as a minimum have an AusCycling qualification which is an accreditation level of Advanced Coach, of the discipline being coached. AusCycling prioritises diversity and where there is more than one coach delivering coaching services within the academy, a gender balance should be maintained.

The academy Head Coach will be appointed by AusCycling in conjunction with the relevant AusCycling Performance Coach and National Development Academy Manager.

Support coach(es) will be added at any time to support the academy and increase capacity. These individuals must be Development Coaches (have attended a Development Course within the last 24 months). Foundation Instructors may attend the sessions as observers and, or assistants for further development but will not be placed in charge of activities in any situation. Whereby multiple Advanced coaches are appointed, each Academy will have 1 Lead coach with all other Advanced Coaches supporting the sessions.

All team personnel must have a current Working with Children Check (or equivalent) - no exemptions will be provided for people working in these roles.



Road Development Academy - Specific Details

Development Focus

The development of physical, technical, tactical, and psychological components of road cycling are the primary focus of the Academy program.

The program focuses specifically on development for events within the performance pathway focus including Time Trials, Road Racing and Criterium Racing.

A priority focus is the skills required to perform in each of the above events and this will be embedded into the training plans provided by the head coach of each Academy.

Where possible, simulated bunch race practice sessions for tactical execution may be included.

Training Frequency

The frequency of sessions will depend on the location of members and availability of the training locations. The Head Coach, facility manager and, or State Operations Manager will be responsible for setting the training dates.

Program Inclusions and Funding

All programs will include:

- In-person Coaching Sessions or Camps
- Athlete wellness and performance education sessions
- Subsidised Personal Development Programs (Coaching and Officiating Training) J17



The program is based on a fee for service basis where AusCycling supports the program via logistics. Management, coaching support, and sport educational sessions. Each area has different venue/operations costs and these costs will be levied to the riders at the lowest possible rate.

Number of Athletes

The total number of participating athletes will be subject to the total number of riders meeting the benchmarked criteria within the state/territory and coaching capacity.

A maximum number of academy participants may be set where necessary and will be dependent on the AusCycling coach to athlete ratio remit 1:15 and the potential for effective session delivery and time required for athlete feedback

General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration for selection to an Academy, riders must:

- Be Australian citizens who are a current AusCycling racing member or hold a licence of another UCI National Federation with an 'AUS' designation; or
- Australian residents - this does not include visitors to Australia on work permits, student visas or visitor visas – providing they: Have not ridden for another country in that national team in the preceding two years; and have not contested the National Championships of another National Federation in the preceding two years.
- Have a current racing membership issued by AC.
- Their primary club must be within the selected State or Territory and must have lived in that State or Territory for at least 2 months prior to selection.
- Have read, signed, and returned the execution page of the current Academy Agreement.
- Agree to participate in and meet all training and participation requirements as determined by the Head Coach.
- Not have breached the Anti-Doping Policies of UCI or AC nor have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed. For 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.
- Not currently be suspended from the sport for any reason.
- Not currently be under investigation because 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 because 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 accordance with these selection criteria. Any request for the Board to consider an athlete's particular circumstances must be submitted to the AC CEO in writing at least 2 weeks prior to selection. The Board is not obliged to consider any request made under this clause.
- Display commitment to the sport beyond their own participation, such as engaging in volunteer work with their club.

Selection Criteria

Selection for the Academies shall be commenced by submission of an expression of interest from the rider and their parental representative. Applicants will need to meet the selection criteria by achieving one or more of the component criteria listed below.

Discipline Specific Selection Criteria: Road

Riders can be selected via Automatic or Discretionary selection criteria.

In all cases riders will need to demonstrate characteristics such as coachability, resilience, motivation, integrity, commitment, and teamwork.

Automatic Selection Criteria

Riders who have registered one or more of the following will become automatically eligible to apply and receive a place on an Academy:

- Top 10 placing at a previous National Road Championships in the Criterium, Time Trial or Road Race; or,
- Top 10 performance at the previous State and Territory Championships; or,

Discretionary Selection Criteria

In considering discretionary selections the following may be considered:

- Rider's level of competency and understanding of skill, performance and expected results.
- Selectors view the ability of the rider to progress toward the performance pathway.
- Riders Performances at State/Territory and National level events on the road if applicable.
- Time trials conducted by the Head Coach to demonstrate their performance potential. Where events are not possible, athlete power profiling may be required. These criteria may be implemented when numbers of applicants exceed capacity.

Special Circumstances Selection Criteria

- Dispensation may be appropriate where athletes, particularly first year's transitioning, have not yet met some of the above criteria.
- Provision may be made for athletes suffering illness or injury or adverse personal circumstances, who may have demonstrated prior competencies within club or state/territory training environments / events.

Athletes will be offered discretionary places based on order of results at the previous State Championship.

The maximum number of riders able to be selected as part of the discretionary selection criteria will be determined by coach capacity.

The Development Academy will commence in line with individual state/territory timelines relevant to season commencing along with venue availability and will run until the individual State/Territory Road Championships unless otherwise determined by the Academy and State team coaches.

Future selection policy may be revised following the completion of the individual state/territory Road Championships and will take into consideration, but not be limited to the following aspects:

- Performance throughout the Development Academy training sessions
- Results achieved at State/Territory Road Championships
- Performance and results achieved at the AusCycling National Road Championships
- Commitment to the sport (attendance at training, state/territory and club events)
- New emerging athlete performance (i.e., incoming talent identification athletes)
- Subjective assessment, where necessary, based on possibilities of injury, illness, personal circumstances etc.

Selection Process

All eligible riders will be invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).

All athletes wishing to participate in an Academy must submit an EOI for consideration.

The selection panel can include:

- Head Coaches
- Independent Selector
- AusCycling Pathway Manager (by specific discipline)

All unsuccessful applicants shall be offered feedback from the relevant coach of the Academy. Athletes who do not submit an EOI or were unsuccessful but demonstrate exceptional performances and meet the automatic selection criteria may be invited to join the Academy.



If an athlete's capacity to satisfy the selection criteria diminishes at any time throughout the season, then their continued status as a member of the Academy may be reassessed by the Selection Panel. For example, if a squad member's performance drops, they are non-committal to activities or fail to demonstrate coachability, then their membership may be reviewed.