

January 2026

Summary: Changes to the UCI World Championship Selection Policy

This summary has been prepared to help athletes, parents, coaches and other interested stakeholders understand the background, rationale and key changes introduced in the 2026 *AusCycling Selection Policies for UCI World Championships*.

Background

Following a comprehensive community review involving more than 2,000 participants, AusCycling examined Junior World Championship pathways and selection processes. This review resulted in ten key recommendations aimed at improving clarity, fairness and alignment with long-term athlete development.

These recommendations are being implemented through Project Ascent 2032+, an eight-month reform program overseeing the first phase of updates to the overarching World Championship Selection Policies and Junior Discipline-Specific Criteria. Further recommendations will be progressed as part of the 2027 policy cycle.

What's changed - at a glance

Two separate World Championship Selection Policies now apply, distinguishing between:

- Olympic and Paralympic Sports, and
- Non-Olympic Sports

This change ensures selection frameworks better reflect the differing performance environments and pathways for each stream.

For U23 and Elite Olympic and Paralympic Sports, the Objectives at clause 1 have been streamlined:

- The total number of objectives has been reduced to three.
- Clause 1.1 has been split into two objectives.
- Clauses 1.3 and 1.4 have been removed.

For U23 and Elite Non-Olympic Sports, the Objectives at clause 1 have been adjusted:

- References to “teams” have been removed.
- Language in clauses 1.2 and 1.3 has been refined.
- Greater weighting has been applied to objective 1.1 relative to **objectives 1.2 – 1.4**.

Anti-doping provisions within clause 3.1 (General Eligibility Criteria) have been updated to align more closely with the **2026 Commonwealth Games Nomination Policy**.

Junior-specific eligibility requirements have moved from Discipline-Specific Selection Criteria to the policy level at **clause 3.2**. This includes:

- The introduction of an **Expression of Interest (EOI) process** for Junior Olympic disciplines at **clause 3.2.3**.

This EOI process is designed to encourage athletes, parents and coaches to consider readiness, commitment and suitability before entering a Junior World Championship campaign.

Minor updates to the **General Performance Selection Criteria** at **clause 3.3**, including:

- Clearer conduct expectations aligned with **AusCycling values**.
- A requirement that levies are paid, or a payment plan is agreed.
- For the non-Olympic policy, amendments to better reflect the realities of the non-Olympic performance environment.

Changes to the National Selection Panel at clause 4, including:

- Inclusion of the **Head Coach – High Performance Network** as a U19 Olympic panel member.
- Clarification around the **weighting of selection events**.
- Introduction of **circular resolutions** to allow late inclusions by the Selection Panel (where quotas permit), and clearer guidance on when late inclusions may occur.
- A new **clause 4.3.3**, providing additional clarity on the **replacement of athletes**.
- Confirmation that Selection Panels retain discretion over criteria weighting.
- At **clause 4.3 (Size of WCT)**, team size remains subject to UCI quotas, with the addition that AusCycling may elect not to use the full quota due to financial considerations, performance levels or other constraints.

Extenuating Circumstances approvals under **clause 5** have been streamlined, with approval authority now resting with the **National Selection Panel Chair**, replacing the previous EGM-Performance approval process.

Athletes are encouraged to read the full Selection Policy and relevant Discipline-Specific Criteria to understand how these changes apply to their individual circumstances.

Changes to Discipline Specific Selection Criteria

Our Discipline Specific Selection Criteria will look different in 2026 thanks to a new format. Where possible, criterion will be 1-page in length.

The U23 and Elite Discipline Specific Selection Criteria are currently being finalised and will be available shortly. In the meantime, if you would like to look at the new format please refer to one of the published [Junior Discipline Specific Selection Criterion](#).

Changes to how selection information is published online

To make selection information easier to find and understand, AusCycling has updated the structure and navigation of selection content on its website.

- **Rider Selection Policies** are now accessible directly from the **top menu** of the AusCycling website, making selection-related information more visible and easier to locate.
- Selection documents and supporting information are now organised across **three dedicated webpages**:

- [Junior Selection Policies](#)
- [U23 and Elite Selection Policies](#)
- [Selection Calendar](#)

This structure is designed to help athletes quickly find the information that is relevant to their age group and competition level.

Junior Selection Criteria webpage

The **Junior Selection Criteria** page contains the following sections:

- **Expressions of Interest (EOIs)**
Links to EOI forms for junior selection and pathway opportunities.
- **World Championships**
Access to:
 - Selection Policies
 - Discipline-Specific Selection Criteria
 - Appeal Policy and processes
- **Pathway Projects**
Links to EOIs for approved junior pathway projects and development initiatives.
- **Rider Development Principles**

U23 and Elite Selection Criteria webpage

The **U23 and Elite Selection Criteria** page contains (or will contain) the following sections:

- **Expressions of Interest (EOIs)**
Links to EOI forms, where an EOI is required.
- **World Championships**
Access to:
 - Selection Policies
 - Discipline-Specific Selection Criteria
 - Appeal Policy and processes
 - World Cup Federated Entry processes for MTB disciplines
- **U23 Pathway Projects**
Links to EOIs for approved U23 pathway projects.

Note:

U23 and Elite Discipline-Specific Selection Criteria are currently in the **final phases of drafting** and will be published as soon as they are finalised.