



National BMX Freestyle Development Academy





Overview

The Aus Cycling National BMX Freestyle Development Academy has been established as part of the pre-categorised rider development pathway for BMX Freestyle. The Academy aims to identify, develop, and support Under 15 Amateur and Over 15 Elite talented riders, helping them enhance their performance and acquire the skills needed to progress through the performance pathways.

This program is the next step in a rider's journey from a State Based Development Academy.

Contents

Structure and Purpose	4
Support Personnel	4
Program Inclusions and Funding Model	4
Selection Criteria	4
• General Eligibility Criteria	4
• BMX Freestyle Specific Selection Process	5
• Discretionary Selection Criteria	5
• Special Circumstances	5
• Selection Process	5
• Duration of Academy Intake	6
• Deselection / Athlete Exit from the Program	6



Structure and Purpose

The NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY provides structured training opportunities and coaching support to enhance the daily training environment of targeted riders. For BMX Freestyle, the target age groups are Under 15 and Over 15. The specific purpose of the Academy includes:

- Providing targeted training sessions or camps
- Enhancing and complementing the primary daily training environment (DTE)
- Developing consistent development opportunities for high performance education and skill development
- Increasing the number of riders meeting key performance targets
- Providing cross-discipline opportunities

The program will be an annual initiative, beginning each calendar year.

Support Personnel

The academy has a dedicated Lead Coach and may also include a manager. The Lead Coach and Academy Manager will be appointed by AusCycling.

Additional support coaches and staff may be added as needed for the delivery of Academy Programs. Diversity among coaching and support staff is essential.

All team personnel must have a current Working with Children Check (or equivalent) with no exemptions.

Program Inclusions and Funding Model

The program includes:

- 4x training camps per year (scheduled in school holiday periods) – mostly at the National Training Centre
- Weekly training sessions at the National Training Centre for riders who can attend. For those who cannot, athletes will be paired with an AusCycling Accredited local coach to support weekly training.
- 1x international camp opportunity per year

The NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY operates on a user-pays basis - and each athlete is required to pay a fee to attend programs and sessions. This program is always charged at the lowest possible rate to ensure it is both sustainable and delivering a quality service.

Financial hardship support is always available and can be discussed with the Academy Manager.

Training Frequency

The frequency of sessions will depend on the location of the riders. The Lead Coach and Team Manager are responsible for setting training dates.

Number of Riders

The total number of participating riders will depend on the number of riders within each state/territory and coaching capacity. A maximum number of National Academy participants may be set, based on the AusCycling coach-to-athlete ratio and the effectiveness of session delivery.

Selection Criteria

General Eligibility Criteria

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

- Be Australian citizens or residents with a current AusCycling racing membership
- Have read, signed, and returned the execution page of the current Academy Agreement
- Agree to meet all training and participation requirements as set by the Lead Coach
- Not have breached UCI or AC Anti-Doping Policies or have an unresolved sanction
- Not be suspended from the sport for any reason
- Demonstrate commitment to the sport beyond personal participation, such as engaging in volunteer work with their club



BMX Freestyle Specific Selection Process

1. Expression of interest application including video submission – each application should be endorsed by an AusCycling Accredited coach where available (if none available, this is not required).
2. A selection panel will shortlist suitable candidates from criteria based on current skill, athlete potential, training levels, head room and attitude
3. Shortlisted athletes will be invited to the January Training Camp, at the National Training Centre
 - a. You will be notified by mid December if you are shortlisted
 - b. Please note, attendance at this camp is NOT a guarantee of further selection.
4. All Shortlisted athletes will be expected to compete in the Freestyle BMX National Championships in Feb, 2026. This will be the final opportunity to impress the selection panel.
5. The selection panel will re-convene after the Nationals and assess coaches feedback from Camp, Nationals Results, and compare this with initial submission data.
6. A final list of athletes will be invited into the 2026 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY and be notified by end of Feb, 2026.

The selection panel will consist of the following:

- AC BMXFS Technical Director
- AC BMXFS National Development and Talent Coach
- AC BMX Freestyle Development Coordinator

Discretionary Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will evaluate Academy selection based on performance results. This includes podium finishes aligned with performance standards in BMX Freestyle. Performance results will be gathered from:

- National BMX Freestyle Championships
- Oceania BMX Freestyle Championships
- C1 events
- State or Territory Championships

Discretionary considerations may include:

- Rider's skill, performance, and understanding of the sport
- Potential for progress in the performance pathway

Selection panel may look at selection criteria from a skills matrix to determine current and potential skill level of athlete this will include the wholistic development of the athletes including parameters such as:

- Bike control,
- trick execution/landing,
- trick repertoire,
- style,
- height/amplitude,
- run development and
- creativity,
- training behaviors and
- coachability.

Ongoing monitoring and testing will be administered during camp activities to determine future selection and eligibility in the program with various testing measures including;

- athletic testing,
- on bike skills/ tricks testing,
- psychological screens,
- performance trials and
- coach evaluations.

Special Circumstances Discretionary Selection

Dispensation may be granted for riders affected by limited training opportunities or those who have experienced illness, injury, or adverse personal circumstances but have demonstrated prior competencies in club or state/territory training environments/events.

The maximum number of riders selected through discretionary criteria will be determined based on coach and venue capacity.

Selection Process

Unsuccessful applicants may seek feedback from their EOI. Riders who do not submit an EOI or were initially unsuccessful but demonstrate exceptional performances later in the season and meet the automatic selection criteria may be invited to join the Academy.

If a rider's ability to meet the selection criteria diminishes during the season, their status with the Academy will be reassessed by the Selection Panel. Performance drops, non-commitment, or lack of coachability may lead to a review of their membership.



Duration of Academy Intake

Academy members will participate in the program for one year. At the end of this period, their continued involvement will be reviewed. They may either be reconsidered for next year's intake or exited from the program.

An annual athlete tracking meeting will be held to assess the athlete's progress and determine appropriate next steps.

Deselection / Athlete Exit from the Program

If an athlete chooses to exit the program for any reason, a meeting will be scheduled with the Lead Academy Manager prior to their departure.

Athletes will be evaluated annually against the current academy selection criteria. Those who do not meet these standards may be exited from the program. We are committed to ensuring that exits are handled fairly, and we will provide support by connecting athletes with local providers and coaches to continue their development in the sport.



