

Pathway to the Podium: A system that delivers cycling champions for Brisbane 2032 and beyond

4 September 2025

With just seven years until Brisbane 2032, AusCycling is upping the game — elevating its Performance Pathway to be more intentional, inspiring, connected, and world-leading.

At the heart of AusCycling's response to an independent review into junior world championship selection policies is a clearer, more future-focused Performance Pathway, reaching from under-15 to elite.

Maintaining selection processes that meet rising international standards; stronger recognition of both current performance and long-term potential; improved feedback and communication; and comprehensive, more structured development opportunities will be cornerstones of the journey for Australia's future cycling champions.

Earlier this year, as part of its commitment to transparency and impact, AusCycling commissioned an independent review into junior world championship selection policy and criteria.

The review featured an extensive stakeholder engagement process: hundreds of athletes, parents, coaches, selectors, clubs, state institutes, and AusCycling performance team staff contributed via surveys, submissions, interviews, and focus groups over a three-month window. International comparisons of other leading cycling nations and sports also informed the review.

These insights shaped 10 key areas for considerations, which will now guide reforms and ways of working with clubs, coaches and our system partners to even better prepare, inspire and elevate our young, talented riders towards Brisbane 2032 and beyond.

Among the changes being advanced are:

- A clearer, more future-focused 2032+ Performance Pathway strategy that maps the pursuit of excellence from club to podium;
- Rider Development Principles that unite the AusCycling community around best practices in junior development;
- Greater policy awareness and communication, including the publication of an AusCycling Performance Pathway Playbook;

- More nationally led development opportunities, to help riders progress toward meeting high selection standards;
- Consideration of a 'squad-to-team' model, providing year-round development opportunities beyond a one-off junior world championship selection event;
- Stronger education and communication for parents, coaches, and athletes on the route to excellence; and
- Reforms that extend to non-Olympic disciplines, with tailored selection and development approaches and the exploration of innovative partnerships and revenue streams.

Implementation will begin over the next eight months under a project dubbed Project Ascent B2032+, a dedicated initiative to maintain momentum from the review and ensure translation to frontline impact. Project Ascent B2032+ will work with stakeholders to translate the recommendations into the world's most future-focused cycling Performance Pathway — identifying, preparing, and inspiring the sport's brightest talent. This has never been more important than in the run up to the home Games in Brisbane 2032.

AusCycling CEO Marne Fechner welcomed the review's findings and acknowledged the depth of community contribution:

"We're committed to working with clubs, coaches and system partners to create the best possible Performance Pathways and development environments for young athletes across Olympic, Paralympic and non-Olympic disciplines. This has never been more important than in the run-up to a home Games — and ensuring we create a sustainable legacy for our sport."

Executive General Manager Performance Jesse Korf echoed this, saying:

"After the outstanding success of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, we are determined to build further momentum for Los Angeles 2028 and especially Brisbane 2032. These recommendations are important signposts as we build the world's most admired and effective Performance Pathway that underpins our success and legacy."

Click to [read the summary report](#).