

# 2026 AUSCYCLING MOUNTAIN BIKE NATIONAL SERIES SERIES GUIDE



**National Series**  
AusCycling

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## Foreword

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The 2026 AusCycling MTB National Series is designed to be the most prestigious series of mountain bike events in Australia. The Mountain Bike National Series for the 2026 season seeks to address the needs of our riders, clubs, and community, and AusCycling's key ambitions for the sport.

It provides a platform for our riders to grow and develop their skills and experience, but it also provides a platform for our workforce, including our commissaires, and our hosts, to grow and develop their skills and capability.

It is critical to read this document in line with the [AusCycling Technical Regulations \(General and MTB Specific\)](#) and each event Technical Guide, but if you still have questions, we are here to help.

## Welcome

### Welcome to the AusCycling MTB National Series for 2026!

On behalf of AusCycling I'd like to extend a warm welcome to you all and thank you for joining us for what promises to be an exhilarating season of passionate racing with some exciting new venues, fast paced courses and exhilarating racing. The Mountain Bike National series is more than just a competition, it's a celebration of the sport, it's community and the incredible people who make mountain biking the awesome sport that it is.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to our round hosts, without whom, the series would not be possible. Their dedication and commitment to putting on these events should be commended and celebrated. Our event hosts are largely volunteer-run, and their efforts ensure we can enjoy some of the finest mountain biking venues across Australia. Please remember that these volunteers are putting time aside to offer the very best event experience they can. Be courteous and kind when interacting with your hosts.

The MTB National Series is a critical part of the development pathway for aspiring riders and provides a stage for their passion, talent and commitment to shine all the while progressing them toward international competition. AusCycling is committed to ensuring a sustainable future for the series as it continues to grow and we strive to offer a racing experience that reflects the international mountain biking landscape for those looking to take their racing to the next level whilst also offering the opportunity for new and emerging riders to test themselves against some of Australia's most technical and challenging courses.

AusCycling is committed to the continuous development and improvement of the National series and a key part of that is collecting and acting on feedback from its biggest supporters – the riders. Your feedback is invaluable and heavily guides decision making and gives us clear guidance on what the national series means for you. Please take the time to share your thoughts through the post event surveys distributed at the end of every round and help us build a series that promotes the very best of mountain biking in Australia.

Thank you once again, to everyone, for being a part of this journey. Let's make this season unforgettable!

Steve Peterson  
Executive General Manager -Major Events

## 1 National Series Web Page

The Mountain Bike National Series Hub is a central website which offers immediate access to all the relevant Event Listings, links to results from events as well as access to the National Series standings.

You can access the [National Series Hub](#) here or by copying this URL into your browser;  
<https://auscycling.org.au/event-hub/national-series/mtb-series>.

## Series Calendar

### Cross Country (XCO):

Round	Date	Location	Entries
Round 1	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2025	Mt Crosby, Brisbane, QLD	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 2	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025	Mt Crosby, Brisbane, QLD	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 3	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	La Larr Ba Gauwa Park, Harcourt, VIC	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 4	Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	La Larr Ba Gauwa Park, Harcourt, VIC	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 5	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Mt Stromlo, Canberra, ACT	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 6	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Mt Stromlo, Canberra, ACT	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 7	Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	Mt Stromlo, Canberra, ACT	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 8	Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	Bayview MTB Park, Brisbane, QLD	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 9	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Smithfield MTB Park, Cairns, QLD	TBA
Round 10	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Smithfield MTB Park, Cairns, QLD	TBA

**DownHill (DHI):**

Round	Date	Location	Entries
Round 1	Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2026	Falls Creek, VIC	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 2	Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Mt Lofty, Toowoomba, QLD	<a href="#">Entries</a>
Round 3	Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	Smithfield MTB Park, Cairns, QLD	TBA
Round 4	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026 Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026	Willunga, Adelaide, SA	TBA
Round 5	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Awaba, NSW	TBA

## 2 Race Types

### 2.1 Mountain Bike – Cross Country (XCO)

XCO is the mountain bike discipline included in the Olympic Games and provides a diverse riding experience including climbing and descending. An XCO course must be between 4km and 6km in length, preferably utilising a cloverleaf design to provide optimum course contact with the race village. No more than 15% of the course may be on paved or sealed road.

### 2.2 Mountain Bike – Down Hill (DHI)

DH is a point-to-point format race involving a course of between 1.5km and 3.5 km. Total race time should be between two and five minutes. The course will consist of a variety of different terrain types. There should be an emphasis on technical skills rather than pedalling.

## 3 Technical Regulations, Policies and Important Information

### 3.1 Technical Regulations

All events will be conducted in accordance with the AusCycling Technical Regulations:

- [General](#)
- [Mountain Bike \(MTB\)](#)

Events may be subject to UCI regulations on a case-by-case basis:

- [UCI Technical Regulations \(MTB\)](#)

Please take the time to review the technical regulations prior to entering events.

### 3.2 Mountain Bike – Cross Country (XCO)

All National level events will have courses between 3.5 and 6km in length with target lap times between 9 and 18 minutes. All courses will be marked with clear signage at 250 meter intervals. All events at a state and national level will have dedicated feed and technical zones where riders can receive assistance from outside parties and non-riders. This can be in the form of food, or mechanical repairs or adjustments to the riders bike. All riders will have the opportunity to complete the course prior to the event (typically the day prior to race day). Riders must be registered participants and have race plates attached to their bike in order to complete any practice of the course.

### 3.3 Mountain Bike – Downhill (DHI)

All downhill racers are expected to comply with the clothing and equipment requirements outlined in the AusCycling Technical Regulations (4.00, pg. 16). These requirements are;

- a) Full-face helmets with a fixed non-detachable mouthpiece are mandatory at all AusCycling sanctioned events.
- b) The jersey shall be a long-sleeved shirt with sleeves that extend down to the rider's wrists. Jerseys used in downhill events should be of a type specifically designed and sold for use in BMX Racing or Mountain Bike downhill events. Jerseys designed for road cycling, skinsuits, or one-piece suits comprising the jersey and the pants/shorts are not permitted for use in downhill events. The jersey must be either close fitting around the waist or must be tucked into the pants before the start to not cause interference. Knees must be covered by full-length trousers and/or self-fastening knee or knee/shin guards expressly designed for off-road competition.
- c) For all riders who are eligible to compete in U13, U15 and U17 categories, the following equipment is mandatory at all times while on track regardless of registered category:
  - Full-finger gloves must be worn;
  - Full length jersey – jersey must cover elbows at all times;
  - Knee pads and elbow pads must be worn.
  - The use of the following for all competitors is strongly recommended:
    - Neck brace expressly designed for off-road competition
    - Back and shoulder protection expressly designed for the purpose;
    - Full finger gloves;
    - Elbow protectors and/or long sleeve jersey to the wrist;
    - Goggles expressly designed for the purpose

### 3.3 Policies & Regulations in effect

Please see the list of AusCycling Policies which apply to the 2026 AusCycling MTB National Series.

- [AusCycling Event Entry Policy](#)
- [AusCycling Refund Policy](#)
- [AusCycling General Technical Regulations](#)
- [AusCycling Discipline-Specific Regulations](#)
- [National Integrity Framework](#)
- [Australian Concussion Guidelines for Youth and Community Sport](#)

## 4 Adaptive

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AusCycling are continuing to expand the opportunities for adaptive MTB athletes to participate. Using the guidelines for adaptive MTB found [here](#) and where trails and venues are able to accommodate adaptive MTB into their program, the National Series will include individual adaptive races integrated into the schedule.

## 5 Schedule of Events

### Official Race Schedule

The Race Director of each event will develop the official race schedule for that round of the Series, in consultation with AusCycling and the appointed PCP. To plan your travel and logistics, the following is an example of what a round of the Series (both XCO and DHI) may look like. Please refer to the AusCycling website for each event for the final event schedule.

#### 5.1 DHI

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
1 (Friday)	All Day	Training and Registration,
	1400-1600	Course Walk
2 (Saturday)	0800 – 1200	Official Practice Group B
	1230 – 1630	Official Practice Group A
	All Day	Community / Participation Programs
3 (Sunday)	0800-0930	Official Practice Group A
	0930-1100	Official Practice Group B
	1100-1500	Racing/Seeding/Qualifying
	1300-1600	Finals
	All Day	Community / Participation Programs

## 5.2 XCO

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
1 (Friday)	All Day	Training and Registration,
		Optional racing activity
2 (Saturday)	07:30 – 09:00	Rider Briefing and Official Practice
	0900 – 1600	Racing
	1400 – 1600	Community / Participation Programs
3 (Sunday)	0730-0900	Official Practice
	0900-1600	Racing
	1000-1600	Community / Participation Programs

## 6 Race Format

Current UCI & AusCycling Rules and regulations apply, any change to race format will need to be approved by AusCycling.

### 6.1 DHI

Dependent upon entry numbers and uplift capacity schedules may vary venue to venue, however we will endeavour to reach a level of consistency across the series wherever possible. This may include some differences in seeding vs qualifying. Please note the group A and group B category split for practice may vary between events to ensure we are balancing rider numbers across practice sessions.

**DHI Sunday Race Format:**

**Group B**

Single race run format for the following categories will be used. Each rider will receive one timed run. The fastest rider in that timed run will be declared the winner.

1. U15 Women
2. Expert Women (if we want to have this category)
3. Masters Women All Categories (1 to 9)
4. U15 Men
5. Masters Men All Categories (1 to 9)
6. Expert Men

**Group A**

Subject to entry numbers and uplift capacity a Qualifying format for the following categories may be used, with an identified and published number of riders progressing through to a final race run. The fastest rider in the timed finals run will be declared the winner.

1. U17 Men (seeding\qualifying)
2. U17 Women (seeding\qualifying)
3. U19 Women (seeding\qualifying)
4. U19 Men (seeding\qualifying)
5. Elite Women (seeding \qualifying)
6. Elite Men (seeding \qualifying)

Category starting order and format may be as follows: (This may vary with entry numbers and uplift capabilities for each event).

1. U17 Women (seeding\qualifying)
2. U17 Men (seeding\qualifying)
3. U19 Women (seeding\qualifying)
4. U19 Men (seeding\qualifying)
5. Elite Women (seeding \qualifying)
6. Elite Men (seeding \qualifying)
7. U15 Women
8. Expert Women
9. Masters Women All Categories (1 to 9)
10. U15 Men
11. Masters Men All Categories (1 to 9)
12. Expert Men
13. U17 Women (final)
14. U17 Men (final)
15. U19 Women (final)
16. Elite Women (final)
17. U19 Men (final)
18. Elite Men (final)

## 6.2 XCO

Each XCO race weekend will consist of two or three XCO format events. A sample schedule is included here below simply for explanatory purposes and to describe how categories are likely to work, per round. Check the schedule for the rounds you wish to race for further detail. Dependent on entries, masters categories are likely to be combined.

### Schedule for Saturday and Sunday

Race 1	0900 – 1015 1 hour and 15 minutes	Men U15, U17 Masters 5,6,7+	Wave Starts
Race 2	1030 - 1145 1 hour and 15 minutes	Women U15, U17 Masters 5,6,7+	Wave Starts
Race 3	1215 – 1415 2 hours	Women Elite/U23, WX, U19 Masters 1, 2,3 and 4	Wave Starts
Race 4	1430 – 1630 2 hours	Men Elite/U23, MX, U19 Masters 1,2,3, and 4	Wave Starts

## 7 Membership Requirements

Either a Race All -Discipline or Off-Road Membership is required to be eligible for Series participation. Single day event licenses or 7 Day trail memberships are not available for any National Series event or National Championship events. If you are unsure about your current membership, please contact [membership@auscycling.org.au](mailto:membership@auscycling.org.au).

## 8 Series Points

The points for the Series will be awarded based on the finishing place on each stage in accordance with the following tables:

### 8.1 DHI Seeding / Qualifying Points Scoring

Group A DHI Seeding Points							
Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points
1st	50	6th	25	11th	19	16th	9
2nd	45	7th	23	12th	17	17th	7
3rd	40	8th	21	13th	15	18th	5
4th	35	9th	20	14th	13	19th	3
5th	30	10th	20	15th	11	20th	1

### 8.2 DHI & XCO

FINAL RACE RUN POINTS									
Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points	Position	Points
1st	200	11th	110	21st	90	31st	70	41st	50
2nd	186	12th	108	22nd	88	32nd	68	42nd	48
3rd	176	13th	106	23rd	86	33rd	66	43rd	46
4th	168	14th	104	24th	84	34th	64	44th	44
5th	160	15th	102	25th	82	35th	62	45th	42
6th	152	16th	100	26th	80	36th	60	46th	40
7th	144	17th	98	27th	78	37th	58	47th	38
8th	136	18th	96	28th	76	38th	56	48th	36
9th	124	19th	94	29th	74	39th	54	49th	34
10th	116	20th	92	30th	72	40th	52	50th	32
								51st~	30
								DNF	20
								DNS	0

## 8.3 Series Points Calculation

Series points will be calculated by adding the total points for individual races. In 2026, the following rules regarding series points calculations will come into effect.

- Series points will be calculated on a rolling basis (after each weekend of racing).
- In order to qualify for a podium finish in the 2026 National Series XCO, riders must race and post results in at least 5 races of the XCO National Series. DNFs count towards this number, DNS does not.
- In order to qualify for a podium finish in the 2026 National Series DHI, riders must race and post results in at least 2 races of the DHI National series. DNFs count towards this number, DNS does not.

### Series Points Calculation – Feb 2026 Update

With the inclusion of additional rounds in the 2026 AusCycling MTB National Series, series rankings will be calculated using a best-results model.

- Downhill (DHI): A rider's best four (4) results will count toward their overall series ranking.
- Cross Country (XCO): A rider's best eight (8) results will count toward their overall series ranking.

Riders may compete in more rounds than the number of counting results. Where this occurs, only the rider's highest-scoring results will be included in the final series standings.

This approach ensures competitive fairness where additional rounds are introduced and allows riders to improve their overall series ranking without mandatory participation in every round.

All other Series Points, eligibility requirements, minimum start requirements, and tie-break rules remain as published in this Guide.

## 8.4 Tie Break

Should any riders within the top 3 finish on the same number of points at the end of the Series, the tie will be broken by way of countback as follows:

- The number of 1st places achieved
- The number of 2nd places achieved
- The number of 3rd places achieved
- The number of races started

Should the tie remain after the countback, the riders will receive the same placing in the Series. Any riders outside the Top 3 who are tied will receive the same place.

## 8.5 Riding Up

As per the [AusCycling Junior Policy](#) (Section 1.1.1), riding up is not permitted in these series events for any age categories.

## 9 Race Categories

National Series categories are as follows. Age categories will be determined by the riders age as at 31 December 2026 for all rounds, including rounds that fall into the 2025 calendar year to maintain consistency across the series.

XCO	DHI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elite / U23</li> <li>J19</li> <li>J17</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J15</li> <li>Masters 1 - 10</li> </ul>

Additional participation categories may also be included for J9, J11 & J13, however this may vary between events. In some cases, smaller categories will race together as part of the race schedule, however results and National Series Points will be awarded based on rider age category rather than the race schedule. All present age categories will be awarded at podiums for all events.

## 10 Seedings / Rankings

The seeding policy for each round of the National series is outlined below, the call up order will not be updated between rounds of the series which occur on consecutive days (i.e Rounds 1 & 2, Saturday & Sunday). Please note that the seeding policy may deviate from the below if the National Series round doubles as an International UCI event, such as a Continental Series round. Seeding policies for these rounds can be found in the technical guide for that event.

### 10.1 XCO

The seeding for grid positions for Round 1 will be as follows	Seeding for subsequent rounds 2 through to 10 will be as follows
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UCI World Champion</li> <li>AusCycling National Champion</li> <li>Top 200 UCI riders by points</li> <li>2025 National Series rankings</li> <li>Order of entry</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current Series Rankings</li> <li>UCI World Champion (where applicable)</li> <li>AusCycling National Champion</li> <li>Top 200 UCI riders by points (where applicable)</li> <li>2023/24 National Series rankings</li> <li>Order of Entry</li> </ol>

## 10.2 DHI

<b>Seeding for start order for round 1 will be as follows. Highest ranked rider last, lowest ranked rider first.</b>	<b>Seeding for subsequent rounds 2 through to 5 will be as follows.</b>
1. UCI World Champion 2. AusCycling National Champion 3. Top 200 UCI riders by points 4. 2023/24 National Series rankings 5. Order of Entry	1. Current Series Rankings 2. UCI World Champion (where applicable) 3. AusCycling National Champion 4. Top 200 UCI riders by points (where applicable) 5. 2023/24 National Series rankings 6. Order of Entry 7. Group A Finals Run 8. Starting order for Elite, U19, U17 Rider race runs will be in order slowest to fastest based on the specific event seeding times.

## 11 Series Awards & Results

### 11.1 Series Awards - Elite

AusCycling will be responsible for Series Champion awards for Elite/U23 combined category, & J19 categories for Men and Women in both DHI and XCO.

Prizing	Cash
1st	\$1500
2nd	\$1000
3rd	\$750
4th	\$500
5th	\$250

Cash prizes are on offer for the combined U23/Elite Category in both XCO and DHI series as per the table.

Riders must race at least 2 rounds of DHI or 4 rounds of XCO to qualify for series prizeing and podium finishes.

### 11.1 Series Awards – Under 19 (Junior)

AusCycling is working with commercial partners to develop prizeing for the J19 categories as part of the 2026 AusCycling National Series (Downhill and Cross-Country). More information will be released closer to the commencement of the series.

### 11.2 Results

All event results will be posted to the [AusCycling Results Website](#).

## 12 Anti-Doping Testing

### 12.1 Therapeutic Use Exemption

All competitors may be subject to anti-doping testing under AusCycling and Sport Integrity Australia regulations.

**Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)** A TUE is an exemption that allows an athlete to use, for therapeutic purposes only, an otherwise prohibited substance or method (of administering a substance). TUE approval may protect athletes from receiving a sanction if a prohibited substance is found in their sample.

To find out if you need to complete a TUE in-advance, you can use the [SIA TUE in-advance requirements checker](#)

TUE in-advance are typically required for athletes who are;

- A member of the Registered Testing Pool, National Testing Pool or Domestic Testing Pool
- A member of a national open team/squad including athletes with a disability planning to compete at the Elite National Championships.

If you are currently taking any medication, please check whether this substance is banned in or out of competition via [www.globaldro.com/AU/search](http://www.globaldro.com/AU/search) Further information on the TUE process can be found on the Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) website <https://www.sportintegrity.gov.au/resources/therapeutic-use-exemption> or by calling 1300 027 23.

### 12.2 Sport Integrity Australia App

Any athlete and official can download the SIA app.

The SIA App has been designed with athletes in mind. The App gives a complete list of all supplements sold in Australia that have been screened for prohibited substances by an independent laboratory. The testing and certification of sports supplements cannot provide athletes a 100% safety guarantee but does significantly lower the risk of a positive test. For non-tested supplements the App gives athletes access to a quiz to assess the risk posed by highlighting key risk factors. The App can also be used to report doping, check if a medication is banned in sport, give SIA feedback on testing missions, and complete online education modules.

## 13 Concussion Policy

The AusCycling Concussion Policy will be in effect at all National Series Rounds for both Downhill and Cross-Country events. The AusCycling Concussion Policy can be found [here](#).

## 14 Cameras

Cameras are permitted to be used in accordance with Section 1.03.06 of the AusCycling Technical Regulations - General