

Feedback received on CC MTB XCO criteria through online form, with responses
Commentaires reçus sur les critères XCO par le biais de la formulaire en ligne, avec réponses
Jan. 31, 2025 / le 31 janvier 2025

Comment received	CC response
<p>Page 9 under 2025 World Championships selection criteria: I noticed there is no priority given to the 2024 World Championships results for U23 but there is for junior. Why isn't there any priority given to the U23 World Champion but there is a new and specific priority given to a U23 male racing in Elite?</p>	<p>For the U23s and elites, we have added consideration for athletes who finished on the podium at 2024 worlds or World Cups in the 12 months prior to selection.</p> <p>Given there are some U23 riders electing to race elite World Cups in 2025, we have included an avenue for them to meet criteria for U23 worlds.</p>
<p>Page 9: Je crois qu'il serait temps de repenser la façon de sélectionner les athlètes U23 et élites pour les championnats du monde, puisque l'accès aux coupes du monde est désormais restreint. Certains athlètes ayant espoir de se sélectionner pourraient ne pas pouvoir participer à la course de sélection, ce qui est injuste. Les coureurs amateurs doivent désormais courir les événements sur le circuit pan-américain, qui est très coûteux, pour possiblement remporter le privilège de pouvoir participer à leurs frais aux coupes du monde, pour possiblement se sélectionner pour représenter le Canada à un championnat qui sera aussi très coûteux. J'ai l'impression que le critère de sélection #1 est désormais les moyens financiers de l'athlète. Je comprends la vision qui existe depuis longtemps de sélectionner les athlètes en se basant sur des courses de calibre international, mais j'ai l'impression qu'avec le nouveau fonctionnement du circuit, Cyclisme Canada limite l'accessibilité à l'équipe nationale et passe à côté de talents qui sont moins privilégiés. Il serait l'heure de repenser les avantages et inconvénients.</p>	<p>Nous sommes conscients que l'accès aux Coupes du monde est plus restreint qu'auparavant. Mais les critères de sélection incluent les résultats aux championnats panaméricains et aux championnats canadiens. Ces deux événements sont ouverts à tous les athlètes qui souhaitent y participer.</p>
<p>Hello, Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our thoughts on the selection criteria. I have wanted to do this for a long time, but out of fear of being blacklisted, I never dared. In my opinion, Cycling Canada has been discriminating against men for several years by applying the same selection criteria based on positions for both men and women. Here are examples for each category based on the selection criteria for the World Championships. Here's an example for the U23 category, where a top 24 finish in a World Cup is required: Nove Mesto 2024 U23 Men • #1 = 1:14:31 • #24 = 1:18:40 (difference of 4:11 or 94.8% of the leader's time) U23 Women • #1 = 1:15:54 • #24 = 1:24:00 (difference of 8:06 or 90.5% of the leader's time) So, a man must be within only 4 minutes of the winner, even though it is well-known</p>	<p>When setting criteria, we do aim to be fair. Our opinion is a placing in a qualifying event is more representative of the ability to achieve a similar placing at the world championships than time behind the winner when looking at World Cup Performances.</p> <p>Time behind the winner is affected by speed; as speed in men's races are typically higher, time gaps are closer, like the difference in time gaps we see in fast conditions (less climbing, smooth terrain) vs. slow (lots of climbing, mud). Gap off the winner is therefore not a linear representation of depth of field, while finishing position consistently shows how far from the lead an athlete is.</p>

that the men's field has much greater depth. Meanwhile, women have an 8-minute margin to qualify! Here's an example for the Elite category, where a top 32 finish in a World Cup is required, or at least a top 50: Elite Men • #1 = 1:21:41 • #32 = 1:25:41 (difference of 4:00 or 95.3% of the leader's time) • #50 = 1:27:34 (difference of 5:54 or 93.3% of the leader's time) Elite Women • #1 = 1:24:44 • #32 = 1:33:14 (difference of 8:30 or 90.9% of the leader's time) • #50 = Lapped or more than 12 minutes (or less than 80.7% of the leader's time) So, a man must be within only 4 minutes of the winner, even though the men's field has much greater depth. Meanwhile, women have an 8.5-minute margin to qualify! Even worse, men must finish within roughly 6 minutes to meet the prerequisite, while women have at least 12 minutes. Another point: this time, the discrimination affects all Elites. All categories have 5 spots available, while the Elite category only has 4. And then we wonder why Elites retire so young and why the number of Elites we currently have is so low. With the last Olympics, Cycling Canada should have learned something... Gunnar Holmgren represented Canada, despite never having had extraordinary results during his U23 years. Rather than making efforts to develop its athletes, Cycling Canada prefers to abandon them early and always turn to the next generation that Canadian clubs have worked so hard to develop. Unfortunately, I don't expect any changes to come from these comments... Have a great day!

When setting team quotas, we are trying to optimize development and performance opportunities within our fiscal means. This means bringing fewer athletes to worlds than our quota would allow. Despite this, Canada does take one of the largest teams of any nation at worlds. Note that in the final version of the criteria we have set the quota at 4 athletes in each class, but we have allowed for additional spots above that quota for world and continental champions.

For an individual athlete, not qualifying for Worlds one year does not mean they cannot qualify the following season if further development time is needed. Gunnar is a great example: after missing some U23 years during the pandemic he had his best U23 race in his last year as a U23 and then was able to hit Priority 1 criteria multiple times in his first year as an elite.

Achieving the highest level in sport is challenging. Not meeting Worlds Criteria does not mean a rider is not successful and should not be interpreted this way.