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Canadian Championship attendance policy

Version on May 30, 2025

Changes from the previous version in blue text

*Reviewed by the Cycling Canada Athletes' Council
and the Cycling Canada High Performance Committee*

Purpose

This document is intended to explain Cycling Canada's policy on athletes attending Canadian Championships, and to provide guidance and consistency for athletes who require an exemption from this obligation.

Background

Cycling Canada facilitates the organization of more than 12 Canadian Championships each year across the various cycling disciplines.

These Championships represent the cornerstone of the domestic calendar. Attending these events is a major milestone for developing athletes, and winning a national title is an honour and a privilege.

These events also represent a significant investment on the part of Cycling Canada and the host organizers, and they award important international ranking points to the athletes.

Athlete attendance

Canadian Championships provide Canadian athletes with opportunities to participate, compete and engage with their peers, and showcase the sport and our top athletes to Canadians. Canadian Championships also provide the opportunity to earn international ranking points; to allow our younger athletes to race alongside our international stars; and to help raise the events' profile and marketability.

Because of this, Cycling Canada requires athletes to participate in the Canadian Championships to maintain their eligibility for selection to the National Team at international competitions; for nomination to the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP); and to maintain their status on the National Team Performance Pools. In principle, an athlete must attend the Canadian Championship in each discipline in which she or he wishes to be selected.

Exemptions

Circumstances in which an athlete may be considered for an exemption from attending Canadian Championships include:

- The athlete is attending a major event on the UCI calendar, and attending the Canadian Championships would significantly affect the athlete's ability to prepare for and perform at that event;
- The athlete is ill or injured, and competing in the event presents a health risk;
- The athlete has already attended a Canadian championship in another cycling discipline.

Any other situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

All exemption requests are to be sent in writing by email to the Cycling Canada [Director of High Performance Services \(DHPS\)](#) at least two weeks prior to the championships in question (except in the case of an injury or illness suffered closer to the championships date, in which case the athlete is asked to submit documentation as soon as possible once the injury or illness is identified).

Cycling Canada's High Performance Committee (HPC) will review all requests prior to granting approval. Making a request is not a guarantee that it will be approved.

For any case to be considered the athlete must provide:

- Valid medical documentation (from an accredited doctor) of the illness or injury; or
- A letter from their professional team stating that their athlete is mandated to take part in a major event on the UCI calendar, if applicable; or
- Other detailed rationale for the request.

Failure to participate at the Canadian Championships without an approved exemption, or submitting false documentation, may jeopardize the athlete's selection to future competitions, to the Athlete Assistance Program, or to the National Team Performance Pools.

[Exemption requests](#) and any questions regarding this policy can be directed to Director of High Performance Services Kris Westwood at kris.westwood@cyclingcanada.ca.