

Feedback received on CC Mountain Bike XCO criteria through online form, with responses

Commentaires reçus sur les critères vélo de montagne XCO par le biais de la formulaire en ligne, avec réponses

Jan. 26, 2026 – The following responses are without prejudice.

Le 26 janvier 2026 – Les réponses suivantes sont sans préjudice.

Feedback received / Commentaires reçus	CC response / Réponse de CC
U23 Criteria using Fayetteville: does not encourage QC athlete to participate to UCI Race in Langford considering costs, timechange and logistics. Some Qc athletes were considering training camps in Victoria and chosing to race UCI event in Victoria instead of flying back to Fayetteville.	<p>One consideration in drafting the criteria is to make them as consistent as possible from one year to the next. The Fayetteville UCI event has been included in the criteria for several years; there is not always a Canada Cup early enough in the season to use to select athletes for the spring project.</p> <p>For U23 national team projects we are looking at international readiness and thus favour higher levels of competition, which is why we chose to use the HC event in Fayetteville, which is high level and consistent with previous years.</p> <p>With two events (Fayetteville and Langford) in close proximity on the calendar, whichever event is selected, unfortunately, half the athletes will feel it is the right choice and half will feel it is the wrong choice.</p> <p>This is in contrast to the junior category, which is the entry point to higher level racing and National team and thus we select primarily from domestic events.</p>
Similar to the Cyclocross selection criteria, the Junior age of birth needs to be updated. It shows 2007-2008 whereas it should say 2008-2009.	Noted, thank you; this has been fixed in the final version.
Section D - Specific Selection Criteria Page 4 of 11 - Project: Spring JR & U23 Project. We strongly recommend that the first three priorities remain unchanged, as they represent the most significant benchmarks in Canadian cycling: Junior Nationals (top three finishers) and U17 Nationals (top finisher, or top three). Podium results at Nationals reflect performance under pressure, consistency, and athlete development, and should never be outranked by a domestic Canada Cup that is not part of the Junior UCI Series. Early-season races, such as the upcoming Puerto Rico Continental Cup, Canada Cup Langford, or Fayetteville, could serve as a fourth priority to assess current-season form, allow for alternates in case of dropouts, injury, or conflicts, and provide additional racing experience. Importantly, many top Junior athletes may not attend Langford due to travel, school, or financial reasons, reducing its comparative value. First-year Juniors in particular will have little to no UCI points	We placed the Langford Canada Cup as Priority 3 for selection to the junior spring project based on recommendations by the High Performance Committee and the Coach Panel. The consensus was, given the availability of a Canada Cup prior to the selection date, junior performance in 2026 should outrank U17 performance in 2025 when selecting for a 2026 Junior event.

<p>going into these events, creating a significant disadvantage against second-year athletes, making early-season results an unequal gauge if ranked too highly. Including Canada Cup Langford as Priority 4 ensures it contributes meaningfully without diminishing Nationals results. For the Women's category, this is especially important: as currently drafted, only Priority 3 (U17 National winner) would be selected because the first two priorities are not fulfilled. Making Langford Priority 4 would give these athletes an objective early-season opportunity while still highlighting the importance of a U17 National Championship win. Many Junior athletes are also planning to race Puerto Rico for UCI points and/or Fayetteville, while Ontario Cycling is hosting a camp in Victoria shortly after Langford. Placing Langford (or another early race) as Priority 4 - and NO HIGHER - balances National Championship Result importance, early-season performance, and practical logistics, while preserving fairness and equity across Junior and U17 categories, men and women.</p>	
<p>Pg 7. Why is CC only taking 4 athletes from Junior, U23 and Elite categories? It used to be 5 athletes from each category until last year. Is it due to a lack of funding or a reduction in allocated spots by the UCI?</p>	<p>Cycling Canada has limited the team size at XCO World Championships to four riders per category since 2019. This is to ensure the National Team has the capacity to support all riders at the appropriate level, including medical, logistical, feed zone, mechanical and administrative support, rather than simply filling the quota. Historically, when we have brought more than four athletes per category we have seen a significant drop in performance after the fourth athlete, so limiting the team to a total of 24 athletes is a reasonable compromise. We have preserved some flexibility in the criteria to reallocate unused spots to add athletes to a class if there are more than four top performers.</p>