



## Cycling Canada Allocation of Wild Card Positions for the 2026 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships

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### INTRODUCTION

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The 2026 Canadian Road Championships (Masters) will serve as a direct qualifier for the 2026 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships. All Canadian Championship category\* winners (in road race and time trial) will receive automatic qualification to the World Championships. **As of 2026, Cycling Canada recognizes 5-year age categories.**

Per the [UCI Regulations](#), "all countries not hosting a UCI Gran Fondo World Series qualifier event may grant 10 wild cards (5 men / 5 women) to riders of their choice. These wild cards are confirmed to the UCI by the respective National Federation." With no Gran Fondo World Series event in 2026, Cycling Canada has been allocated 10 wild card positions for the 2026 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships.

This document outlines Cycling Canada's process for awarding wild card positions to Canadian riders for the 2026 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships.

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### PROCESS

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Cycling Canada will be awarding wild card positions following the below process:

#### 2026 Canadian Road Championships (Masters)

- One (1) wild card position will be awarded to each second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place finisher in each Canadian **Master's License** category (**i.e 35-44, 45-44, etc.**), only if the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place finisher is in the same UCI 5-year Gran Fondo age category as the Canadian Champion. These athletes will have **48 hours to confirm acceptance**.
  - o If the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place finisher is in a different UCI 5-year Gran Fondo age category as the Canadian Champion, no wild card will be awarded to this Canadian Championship category (as this athlete will already receive qualification through the UCI special exception noted above).
- Should the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place finisher decline the wild card allocation, the allocation will be awarded to the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place finisher in that respective Canadian Championship category, only if the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place finisher is in the same UCI 5-year Gran Fondo age category as the Canadian Champion. These athletes will have **48 hours to confirm acceptance**.
  - o If the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place finisher is in a different UCI 5-year Gran Fondo age category as the Canadian Champion, the wild card will be re-allocated to the random draw (as this

athlete will already receive qualification through the UCI special exception noted above).

- Should there not be a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place finisher in that respective Canadian Championships category (i.e., only two registered riders in the age group, only two riders finished the race, all other riders were DQ'd, etc.) the wild card will be re-allocated to the random draw.
- Should there be any remaining wild card positions following the conclusion of the event and athlete acceptance timelines, these positions will be re-allocated to the random draw (see below for details on process).

#### 2026 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships Wild Card Draw

- Should there be any remaining wild card positions following the above process for wild card allocation, these remaining wild card positions will be allocated to the random draw.
- The draw will be open to all individuals who meet the following criteria:
  - UCI license in the Masters category with Canadian as their Nationality;
  - UCI license in the Elite category with Canadian as their Nationality, with the exception of:
    - Any rider who has during the current year been a member of a team registered with the UCI;
    - Any rider who has taken part in a World Championships, the Olympic Games, Continental Games, Regional Games, the Commonwealth Games, or a World Cup during the current year;
    - Any rider who has scored UCI points in the year of the World Championships.
- The draw will open immediately following the publishing of this document and will remain open until 11:59 PM EST Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026. The draw will take place on Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 before end of day. Cycling Canada will contact all draw winners within 24 hours of the draw.

TO APPLY: If you are interested in being selected for a wild card position and meet the above criteria, you must complete the [online registration form](#) (free to enter) before 11:59pm EST Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

**NOTE:** If there are no remaining wild card positions to be allocated following the allocation at the 2026 Canadian Road Championships (Masters), a random draw will not take place.

Selections from the Wild Card Draw cannot be appealed under Cycling Canada's Appeal Policy.

Please contact Jacob Graper [jacob.graper@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:jacob.graper@cyclingcanada.ca) if you have any questions regarding this process.

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## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

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[Information about the 2026 Canadian Road Championship \(Masters\)](#)

[Information about the 2026 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships](#)

<b>Official Canadian Championship and UCI Gran Fondo World Championship Age Categories</b>	
<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
19-34	19-34
35-39	35-39
40-44	40-44
45-49	45-49
50-54	50-54
55-59	55-59
60-64	60-64
65-69	65-69
70-74	70-74
75-79	75-79
(5-year category created as soon as 1 rider is registered in that age group)	