



U.S. PARALYMPICS CYCLING OPEN

Presented by  **TOYOTA**

MEDIA GUIDE

U.S. PARALYMPICS CYCLING OPEN

The 2021 season kicks off with the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open presented by Toyota in Huntsville, Alabama, and will feature men's and women's road races and individual time trials. More than 100 athletes are expected to compete at Cummings Research Park on April 17-18, 2021 which will serve as a selection race for world cup races in Belgium and Italy, where Team USA Para-cyclists will seek qualification and selection for the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. The full competition schedule is listed on page six.

U.S. Paralympics Cycling also announced dates and locations for its remaining domestic cycling events following the Huntsville opener. Athletes will have three additional competition opportunities before the season culminates in Tokyo. Athletes will first head to Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the rescheduled U.S. Paralympic Team Trials, held June 17-20, which acts as the final qualification opportunity for cyclists to be named to the 2020 U.S. Paralympic Team. Track cyclists will head to Carson, California, June 29 – July 4 for the 2021 Para-cycling Track National Championships held in conjunction with USA Cycling. The 2021 Para-cycling Road National Championships, the final domestic competition for the season, will take place July 8-10 in Boise, Idaho, in partnership with USA Cycling and the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

ABOUT PARA-CYCLING

The Paralympic competition program includes sprints, individual pursuits, the 1000m time trial, road races and road time trials for both individuals and teams.

Para-cycling consists of handcycles, tricycles and bicycles. There are five sport classes for hand cycling, two for tricycle, and five for bicycle, whilst the three sport classes for the tandem compete in one event. Athletes participate in world cups, regional championships and world championships throughout the year.

Road Para-cycling made its Paralympic debut at New York/Stoke Mandeville 1984 and has been contested at every Games since.

The sport was developed in the 1980s and was first open to visually impaired athletes who competed in tandems with a sighted pilot. Over the following years, Para-cycling started to include those with cerebral palsy, amputations and other physical impairments, who compete on bicycles, tricycles and hand cycles.

Para-cycling is part of the Paralympic program governed by the Union Cyclist International (UCI). The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee manages the U.S. Paralympics Cycling team and works closely with USA Cycling and community partners to provide recreational and competition opportunities for Para-cyclists in the United States.

CLASSIFICATION

The International Paralympic Committee has adopted a universal classification code in order to facilitate the implementation of accurate, reliable and credible sport-specific classification systems. The classification process determines who is eligible to compete in a Paralympic sport and it groups the eligible athletes in sport classes according to their activity limitation in a certain sport.

All national classifications conducted in the United States fall under the governance of the USOPC as the National Paralympic Committee for the United States. Athletes who wish to compete in the

Paralympic divisions at events must undergo a national classification evaluation to determine their sport class.

Classification: Grouping athletes into sport classes according to how much their impairment affects fundamental activities in each specific sport or discipline, which is broken down by athletes with a physical impairment and athletes with a visual impairment.

Vision Impairment: An impairment of the eye structure, optical nerves or optical pathways, or visual cortex of the central brain that adversely affects an athlete's vision.

Physical Impairment: An impairment that affects an athlete's biomechanical execution of sporting activities, comprising ataxia, athetosis, hypertonia, impaired muscle power, impaired passive range of movement, limb deficiency and leg length difference.

- There are different sport classes for handcycling: H1-5, where lower numbers indicating restrictions in both upper and lower limbs, and higher numbers indicating restrictions in lower limbs only.
- Tricycle athletes are divided into two classes: T1 and T2, with the former being allocated to athletes with more significant co-ordination impairments.
- Athletes who are able to use a standard bicycle compete in the five sport classes: C1-5, with lower numbers indicating a more severe limitation in lower and/or upper limbs.

DIVISIONS

There are four sport classes or division that indicate what category of competition the athlete can compete in: B, C, T and H, which is listed in the athlete's classification.

Handcycle athletes, classified in handcycle classes H1- 4, compete using an arm powered (AP) or arm trunk power (HTP) hand bike where a recumbent position is mandatory. Athletes classified in the handcycle class H5 compete from a kneeling position (HK).

Tricycle athletes in the tricycle division are unable to ride a bicycle due to lack of balance and/or restriction in pedaling due to spasticity/dystonia. Severe locomotor dysfunction can be mixed pattern (athetosis/dystonia/spasticity and/or ataxia) of unilateral or bilateral involvement.

Cycling and tandem athletes are able to compete with a standard bicycle and cyclists with a vision impairment race tandem with a sighted cyclist in front.

Sport Class B applies to athletes with a visual impairment who meet the Minimum Impairment Criteria. While there is one sport class for athletes with a vision impairment in Para-cycling (B), athletes are designated B1, B2, B3 in the Classification Master List in accordance with the IBSA visual classes.

Eligible Impairment Types

Impaired muscle power	Limb deficiency
Athetosis	Ataxia
Impaired passive range of movement	Leg length difference
Hypertonia	Vision Impairment

ATHLETES TO WATCH

Oz Sanchez is an H5 road cyclist and competes in the time trial and road race events. Sanchez is one of the top handcyclists in the world as a three-time Paralympian (2008, 2012, 2016) and a six-time Paralympic medalist (2 golds, 1 silvers, 3 bronzes). Sanchez grew up in Los Angeles and spent six years as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He became a part of the Special Forces unit, deploying twice to the Middle East. In 2001, while in the process of transferring to the Navy to become a Navy SEAL, Sanchez was involved in a motorcycle accident that injured his spinal cord. He started handcycling competitively five years after the accident. He was a 2012 ESPY nominee in the Best Male Athlete with a Disability category. He graduated from San Diego State University in 2006 with a degree in Business Administration and was named the 2009 San Diego Hall of Champions Athlete of the Year. His story is featured in the 2009 documentary *Unbeaten*. His hobbies include reading, working out, cycling, swimming, shooting and skydiving.



Jennifer Schuble competes in four events, including time trial, road race, pursuit and team sprint. A current resident of Homewood, Alabama, Schuble is a three-time Paralympian (2008, 2012, 2016) and five-time Paralympic medalist (1 gold, 3 silvers, 1 bronze) competing in the C5 classification. While attending the United States Military Academy at West Point to become a commissions officer, Schuble was a varsity athlete in three separate sports. During hand-to-hand combat class, she sustained a traumatic brain injury. She sustained an additional TBI later in a car wreck, and in 2004, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. This led her to the Lakeshore Foundation, a Paralympic training site in Birmingham, Alabama, where she was encouraged to get into cycling and started in 2007. In 2008, she won a gold medal and set a world record in the 500-meter time trial at the Paralympic Games Beijing 2008. She was the first female in the world to compete in team sprint as Team USA was only country to do it. At London 2012, she was the first woman to medal as a part of team sprint. She works as an engineer and enjoys cycling, triathlons and playing with her bulldogs, Panzer and Sherman.



Ryan Boyle competes in the time trial and road race events for the road cycling T2 class. Boyle competed in his first Paralympic Games in 2016 where he won silver in the road time trial in Rio. In October of 2003, Boyle acquired a traumatic brain injury while riding a Big Wheel where he was hit and dragged by a pick-up truck causing him to immediately go into a coma. Emergency brain surgery was performed to save Boyle's life, but he lost a portion of the back of his brain. At the age of 10, he had to learn to how to breath, swallow, talk, eat, stand, sit and walk all over again. Boyle wrote his own book titled, *"When the Lights go Out: A Boy Given a*



Second Chance,” when he was a freshman in high school. He is a resident athlete at the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and attended the University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. Boyle is the founding president of the St. Joseph High School Car Club and he also managed the boys’ varsity basketball team, was elected to the student council, was involved with the video production club and was a student ambassador.

Will Groulx is a six-time Paralympic medalist (2 golds, 2 silvers, 2 bronzes) and four-time Paralympian while competing in wheelchair rugby (2004, 2008, 2012) and cycling (2016). Looking to make his second cycling appearance at the Paralympic Games, Groulx competes in time trial and road racing in the H2 class. Groulx served in the United States Navy from 1995-2001 before a motorcycle accident left him paralyzed from the chest down. Seven months after the accident, Groulx discovered wheelchair rugby and was immediately interested. His Paralympic career began with making three U.S. Paralympic Teams before switching to handcycling. Prior to his injury, he served as a nuclear-trained electrician’s mate and diver on a fast-track submarine stationed out of Norfolk, Virginia. Before joining the Navy, he attended the University of Tennessee on a volleyball scholarship. Groulx was nominated for an ESPY in the Best Male Athlete with a Disability category in 2009 and was named the U.S. Quad Rugby Association Athlete of the Year in 2010.



Clara Brown has been competing in the Para-cycling world championship circuit for two years and has already won six medals (2 golds, 2 silvers, 2 bronzes) with hopes of competing in her first Paralympic Games. Brown competes in the C3 class in three events: individual pursuit, time trial and road race. The postponement allowed Brown the opportunity to try out for Tokyo 2020 since she would have been unable to compete last year due to injury. Brown was an avid athlete competing as a competitive gymnast, runner and skier before sustaining an incomplete spinal cord injury at the C5/C6 level at age 12. After several years of physical rehabilitation, and some unexpected compounding injuries, Brown joined her high school rowing team as a coxswain.



After rowing in high school and early college, she sought a competitive activity powered by her own means and purchased her first modified road bike her freshman year of college, which ignited her passion for bikes as a means of transportation and as a way to stay active. After graduating, she was hired at a bike touring company where one of her clients served on the USOPC’s Paralympic Advisory Committee and encouraged her to race competitively. Brown was invited to a talent ID camp in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in June of 2018, and then proceeded to compete at the third Para-cycling road world cup in Baie Comeau, Quebec, in August of 2018, taking bronze in the road race. Her hobbies include cooking, hiking, camping, and downhill skiing. She is currently working on obtaining her private pilot’s license and hopes to attend law school.



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HUNTSVILLE, AL
APRIL 17-18, 2021

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, 17 APRIL, 2021

9:00	M	T2 / H1 / T1	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 1 lap	15.0 km
	W	T2 / H2 / T1 / H1	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 1 lap	15.0 km
10:00	M	H3 / H2	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 1 lap	15.0 km
	W	H5 / H4 / H3	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 1 lap	15.0 km
11:20 - 12:00	Awards Ceremonies				
12:00	M	C2 / C1	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 1 lap	15.0 km
	W	C5 / C4 / C3 / C2 / C1	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 1 lap	15.0 km
12:50	M	B / C5 / C4 / C3	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 2 laps	30.0 km
	W	B	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 2 laps	30.0 km
13:45	M	H5 / H4	Individual Time Trial	15 km x 2 laps	30.0 km
14:40 - 15:30	Awards Ceremonies				

SUNDAY, 18 APRIL, 2021

8:30	M	T1 / H1	Road Race	12.1 km x 2 laps	24.2 km
8:30	W	T1 / H1 / H2	Road Race	12.1 km x 2 laps	24.2 km
8:32	M	T2	Road Race	12.1 km x 3 laps	36.3 km
8:32	W	T2	Road Race	12.1 km x 3 laps	36.3 km
10:00	M	C1 / C2 / C3	Road Race	12.1 km x 5 laps	60.5 km
10:00	W	C1 / C2 / C3	Road Race	12.1 km x 5 laps	60.5 km
12:00 - 12:30	Awards Ceremonies				
12:30	M	H2 / H3 / H4 / H5	Road Race	12.1 km x 4 laps	48.4 km
12:32	W	H3 / H4 / H5	Road Race	12.1 km x 4 laps	48.4 km
14:00 - 14:30	Awards Ceremonies				
14:30	M	B	Road Race	12.1 km x 6 laps	72.6 km
14:30	W	B	Road Race	12.1 km x 6 laps	72.6 km
14:32	M	C4 / C5	Road Race	12.1 km x 6 laps	72.6 km
16:30 - 17:00	Awards Ceremonies				

TIME TRIAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021



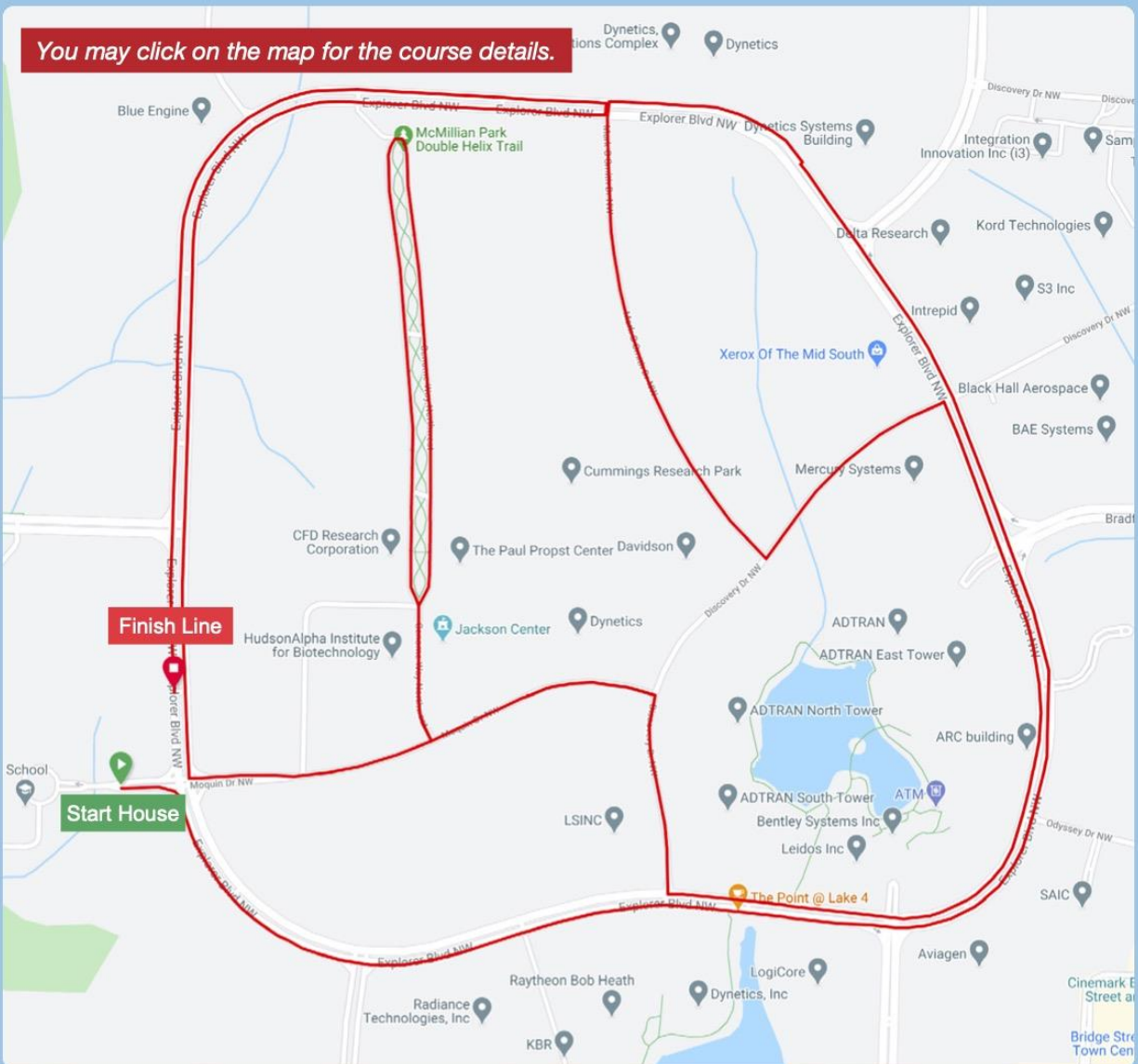
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OFFICIAL DISTANCE: 9.3mi (15km)

ELEVATION GAIN +266ft; ELEVATION LOSS -254ft

You may click on the map for the course details.



ROAD RACE

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021



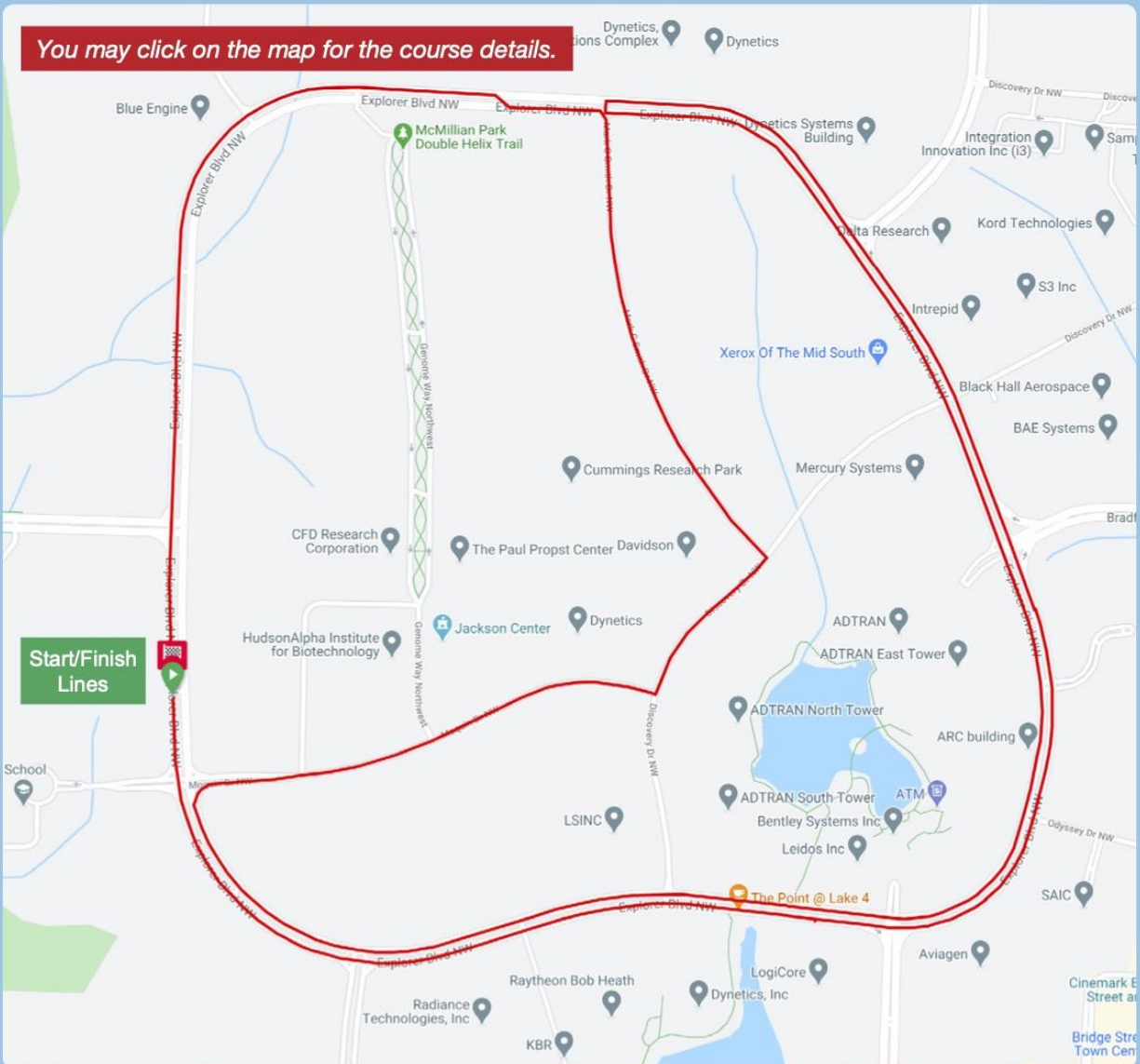
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OFFICIAL DISTANCE: 7.5mi (12km)

ELEVATION GAIN +209ft; ELEVATION LOSS -204ft

You may click on the map for the course details.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is Para-cycling different than able-bodied cycling?

Both Olympic and Paralympic cycling programs contain track and road events. Olympic cycling competition also includes BMX and mountain bike events that are not a part of the Paralympic program.

How many athletes will be competing?

More than 100 athletes are set to compete in April's event in Huntsville.

What is the difference between the Paralympics and the Special Olympics?

The Paralympics is the third largest sporting event in the world, and the first for driving social inclusion. Held just a few weeks after the Olympics in the same host city and venues, the term 'Para' means in parallel to the Olympics. The Paralympic Games features elite level athletes with a range of disabilities, primarily physical. The Special Olympics is a separate organization with events dedicated to individuals with intellectual disabilities competing at various levels of athletic ability.

Why is this event important?

The event will be the first opportunity for Para-cyclists to return to competition since Feb. 2020. It will also serve as a selection race for world cup races in Belgium and Italy, where Team USA Para-cyclists will seek qualification and selection for the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.