



**U.S. Paralympics Cycling
2021 UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup #1
Team USA Roster Selection Process
& Information for Independent Athletes**

Ostend, Belgium

Race Dates: May 6-9, 2021

Projected Travel Dates: April 26 or 27 – May 9 or 10, 2021

U.S. Paralympics Cycling will provide support for up to 30 athletes, not including tandem pilots, at the 2021 UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup #1 in Ostend, Belgium.

This support includes the following tiers:

- **Tier 1:** Independent Athletes – up to 16 athletes, not including tandem pilots, of any gender
- **Tier 2:** Team USA Roster Athletes – up to 14 athletes, not including tandem pilots, as follows:
 - Six (6) men and four (4) women selected from the time trial ranking list(s) at the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open on 4/17 (see details below)
 - Four (4) athletes of any gender selected by discretion (see details below)

Eligibility for Support

Only athletes who meet the following criteria are eligible to receive support (outlined on Page 4) in Ostend.

- Athletes holding a valid U.S. passport, not expiring before December 30, 2021
- Athletes holding a valid USA Cycling International (UCI) license for the 2021 season
- Athletes internationally classified with an international sport class status of R-review or C-confirmed.
 - Athletes who do not have a current international classification of R-review or C-confirmed are not eligible for airfare and accommodations support as outlined in this document
 - In the event that an athlete who is not currently eligible is evaluated by a classification panel in Ostend, resulting in a change in status to an eligible classification – and – the athlete competes in Ostend, the athlete will be eligible for expense reimbursement for airfare and accommodations only.
- Athletes who submit an application by the deadline, per the link below.
- Athletes in classifications with an available start right per the allocation process outlined below
- Athletes who meet the talent pool standard or better, for their classification in the individual time trial at the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in Huntsville, AL, 4/17/21
- Athletes who compete in the road race at the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in Huntsville, AL, 4/18/21

Athletes who meet all of the eligibility requirements on the above list, except do not meet the talent pool standard or better in the Huntsville time trial and/or do not compete in the Huntsville time trial or road race, are still eligible to compete at the World Cup in Ostend as Independents but will not receive support for airfare and accommodations.

Online Application

https://usoc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0etLD6RTZpbvnhQ

Start Rights

- Start rights are allocated by U.S. Paralympics Cycling and will be allocated as follows:
 - First priority: Athletes competing as part of the Team USA roster
 - Second priority: Independent athletes. Start rights for independent athletes are based on UCI world cup rankings as of December 31, 2019.
 - Higher-ranked athletes will receive priority over lower-ranked athletes. In the event that two or more athletes apply to enter, but there are limited start rights available and the athletes do not appear on the ranking list, U.S. Paralympics Cycling will convene a Discretionary Selection Committee to allocate the remaining start rights. The committee will be made up of the following staff and athletes:
 - Director, U.S. Paralympics Cycling
 - Director, Paralympic Operations
 - Athlete Representative

Criteria Guidelines:

The Director, U.S. Paralympics Cycling is responsible for applying the process set forth herein.

- U.S. Paralympics Cycling will provide support for up to 30 athletes, not including tandem pilots (if applicable) to compete in Ostend.
- The first 30 athletes who meet the eligibility criteria, and who submit an application at the link below before the deadline will receive support as outlined on page four.
- The application period will **open on Friday , March 12**, and **closes at 5:00 pm, mountain time, on Friday, March 19**.
- Athlete applications must be submitted online and no late applications will be accepted.
- Athlete eligibility will be verified by U.S. Paralympics Cycling staff.
 - Athletes who apply but do not meet all of the pre-event eligibility requirements by Friday, March 19 will not be eligible for support
 - Athletes should ensure all eligibility requirements, as well as Athlete Safety training (see link on Page 3) - are completed **before** March 19.

U.S. Paralympics Cycling Event Goals

Earn maximum UCI points at the Para-cycling Road World Cup in order to qualify quota slots for the 2020 Paralympic Games.

1. Support at least one Team USA athlete in the maximum number of classifications in which Team USA has proven ability to earn medals.
2. Support a roster of Team USA and independent athletes who can attain top eight results across the greatest number of classifications at the UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup.

Notification

- All athletes who apply will be notified if they are eligible for support on or before Monday, March 22, 2021.

Entries

U.S. Paralympics Cycling will manage the entry and confirmation process for all U.S. athletes competing at the event.

Participation Requirements

All athletes competing in Ostend must adhere to the following requirements:

- Adult athletes must complete, or have completed within the last calendar year, the U.S. Center for SafeSport's Core training, or applicable Refresher training course if they have previously taken the Core training. The training must be completed prior to March 19 and must be valid through the conclusion of the event.
 - SafeSport Training Link:
<https://safesport.org/useractivities/index>
 - If you have not previously taken the SafeSport training, please email Jenny Ryan at jenny.ryan@usopc.org for the access code
- Athletes are required to complete and sign the COVID-19 Participation Agreement
- Athletes are required to abide by all event and USOPC COVID-19 protocols, including testing and quarantines (if applicable).
- Athletes are required to abide by the USOPC Athlete Code of Conduct.
- Athletes must have completed a background check.

Athlete Support

The first 30 athletes who apply, not including tandem pilots, and have been verified to meet the eligibility requirements will receive – at the minimum – the benefits outlined in “Tier 1” below. Up to fourteen (14) athletes will be named to the Team USA roster on April 19, and will receive additional support as outlined in “Tier 2” below.

Tier 1 Support:

- Roundtrip airfare and accommodations, arranged and covered by U.S. Paralympics Cycling
- Registration and confirmation as an independent athlete, coordinated by U.S. Paralympics Cycling
- Assistance with pre-event travel documents and travel authorization
- Facilitation of required COVID-19 testing
- Limited, on-the-ground, in-person support at the event, which **may** include, but is not guaranteed:
 - Mechanical help and use of trainers and rollers, if available
 - U.S. Paralympics Cycling staff who will attend the race technical meetings, confirmation of starters, and other meetings as needed. Staff will help athletes coordinate schedules for race day and interface with event organizers and officials on behalf of all U.S. athletes.
- Traveled insurance for the duration of the event

Tier 2 Support:

- Entry into the event as a Team USA roster athlete
- Roundtrip airfare
- Ground transportation (athlete and equipment)
- Accommodations
- Baggage reimbursement up to \$400 (receipts required)

- Accommodations
- Entry fees
- Meals
- Race Day nutrition
- Team USA high performance support leading up to, and during the competition(s)
- Team USA competition gear and casual clothing
- Coordination and implementation of COVID-19 testing
- Travmed insurance for the duration of the event

Team USA Roster Selection Process

Due to the tight timeline between the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open (“the selection event”), arrangement for athlete entries and travel may begin for all athletes prior to the selection event. In order to finalize the Team USA roster for the event, two processes will be used:

- **First**, up to six (6) men and four (4) women, not including tandem pilots, will be selected based on results from the individual time trial at the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in Huntsville, AL (April 17-18, 2021).
 - The top six (6) men and the top four (4) women who have submitted applications – **up to a maximum of one (1) athlete per classification** - on the individual time trial ranking list(s) from the selection event will be named to the Team USA roster.
 - To create ranking lists from the individual time trial, each finish time will be converted to a “result” by expressing it as a percentage of the 2021 *U.S. Paralympics Cycling National Standard*, per classification.
 - Each Result will be rounded to the nearest one hundredth of a percent. Lower percentages are better than higher percentages (97% beats 99 % beats 103%). Result = (finish time/National Standard) x 100. All Results will then be utilized to formulate two ranking lists.
 - There will be a separate ranking list for men and women, which will include results for ordered from lowest percentage (best) to highest percentage.
- **Second**, up to four (4) athletes of any gender will be selected by a discretionary selection committee made up of the following staff and athletes:
 - Director, U.S. Paralympics Cycling
 - Director, Paralympic Operations
 - Athlete Representative
 - Performance criteria used to evaluate athlete performance for discretionary selection include, but are not limited to:
 - The athlete’s performance in the road race at the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open
 - The athlete’s performance in the time trial at the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open
 - An athlete with a history of podium performances at UCI Para-cycling World Cup events during the 2018 or 2019 season(s).
 - An athlete who demonstrates a trend of improving performance in international competition, that when extended to World Cup 2, intersects the current international performance standards help Team USA meet its goals at the event.
 - An athlete with potential to earn a top-5 performance in their classification at the 2021 Ostend World Cup
 - An athlete with potential to help a teammate attain a top-3 finish in an event at the World Cup in Ostend.
 - An athlete who experiences an illness, injury, or other problem during the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open that made it impossible for them to compete, but who – based on performances from the 2018 or 2019 seasons – would have likely ranked high in the results in Huntsville.

Handcycle Relay Selection Process

U.S. Paralympics Cycling will enter one (1) team **only** in to the Handcycle Relay at the World Cup in Ostend. The relay composition (3 athletes) must comply with the UCI rules on total points for mixed classification events.

- Team composition can be made-up of athletes who are selected to the Team USA roster for the event as individual athletes, or it can also include independent U.S. athletes.
 - The composition may be a mix of Team USA roster athletes and independent athletes, exclusively Team USA roster athletes, or exclusively independent athletes, however;
 - The roster entered in to the relay will be entered as a Team USA squad and will wear Team USA uniforms.
- The team will be selected by the discretionary selection committee at the same time the individual athletes are selected.
- Performance criteria used to evaluate athlete performance for discretionary selection to the handcycle relay roster include, but are not limited to:
 - The athlete's performance in Handcycle Relay events 2018 and 2019 UCI Para-cycling Road World Cups
 - The athlete's performance in the road race at the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open
 - An athlete with potential to help Team USA win Gold in the Handcycle Relay at the 2021 UCI Para-cycling Road World Cup #1.
- Athletes will be notified if they earned a position on the Handcycle relay roster on March 22.

Travel Information

Due to the pandemic, there is currently a 7-day quarantine mandated by the Belgian government. Athletes must arrive in Belgium no later than April 28 (U.S. Athletes and staff will likely not travel together, or all on the same day) and must submit to quarantine as arranged by U.S. Paralympics Cycling with the race organizers and the Belgian government. In addition, race organizers will require COVID-19 testing prior to travel, during quarantine, and at the event.

U.S. Paralympics Cycling will help coordinate quarantine and testing for all U.S. athletes. Travel protocols and restrictions are subject to change at any time without notice. U.S. Paralympics Cycling will keep athletes up-to-date on changes to the restrictions.

Classification

Athletes who attend the event and compete as independents, but do not yet have an international classification with a status of C-confirmed or R-review, are not eligible for airfare and accommodations support as outlined in Tier 1, but will receive all other support as outlined in Tier 1. These athletes should expect to go through a classification evaluation at the event and will be required to submit documentation within four (4) weeks prior to the start of competition.

- In the event that an athlete who is not currently eligible is evaluated by a classification panel in Ostend, resulting in a change in status to an eligible classification – and – the athlete competes in Ostend, the athlete will be eligible for expense reimbursement for their accommodation and airfare only.

For questions about this document, or entry in to the World Cup, please contact: jenny.ryan@usopc.org