

2004 United States National Mountain Bike Championships

Qualification Procedures and Guidelines

United States National Mountain Bike Championship Titles

The United States National Mountain Bike Championships will be a weekend-long event to determine the United States National Mountain Bike Champions in *junior expert*, *expert*, *semi-pro*, and *pro* in the following disciplines:

Cross-country: cross-country, short track, marathon (100k), and single speed.

Gravity: downhill, mountain cross, dual slalom, super D

Observed Trials: trials/modified bike, stock bike

Legends: Cross-country, downhill. Any former or current NORBA Pro rider in cross-country or downhill who has not competed at a National-level event (NORBA National Series and/or Sea Otter) or UCI World Cup in the Pro category in the last two calendar years qualifies to compete in the Legends category.

United States National Competition Jerseys for Beginner and Sport Categories

Beginner and sport riders will not be awarded National Champion titles, but will be competing for the red and stars jersey (sport) and the blue and stripes jersey (beginner).

United States Junior National Competition and Junior Olympic National Championship

Junior Olympic mountain bike racers aged 18 and under, will be vying for Junior Olympic National Competition titles in the Junior Beginner: 18 & under, 16 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under, and 10 & under age groups and Junior Sport, 18 & under. Junior Expert, 18 & under will be competing for National Champion titles. Riders who qualify in older age groups at the Junior events, State Championships, AMBC events, and NORBA National Series events will be required to compete in their respective age group, as of their racing age on December 31 of the current year.

National Championship Disciplines

Cross-country Events

Cross-country

An individual or mass start competition that is held on a circuit course comprised of forest roads, forest or field trails and unpaved dirt or gravel roads (a minimal of paved road may be necessary).

Short Track

A 15-25 minute race which will be ridden on a circuit course of one to two miles in length. Racers who may be lapped or have been lapped, are pulled by the NORBA officials.

Marathon Cross-country (100k)

The course distance for this event must be at least 60k (37.2 miles) and no more than 100k (62 miles). The course must include an adequate number of passing sections for riders. The use of repeated circuits is not recommended. There must be provision for a minimum of ten (10) riders in each row at the start of the race. Open to riders who are at least 19 years old.

Single Speed

Any type of mountain bike utilizing only a single gear (single front ring and single rear cog) and absent any front or rear derailleurs. The use of chain tensioning systems, for frames without horizontal/track-style dropouts, will be allowed, as long as the bike has no more than one front chain ring and one rear cog.

Gravity Events

Downhill

A time trial of sustained descending occurring between a start line and a finish line that is located at a lower altitude. Competitors typically depart the start line in timed intervals (i.e. 30 seconds).

Dual Slalom

An event when two competitors race head-to-head down two parallel slalom courses. The two courses should be as identical as possible with an average time differential of less than one second.

Mountain Cross

A descending style race consisting of multiple riders competing on the same course with a set number of riders advancing to the next round.

Super D

The Super D is a hybrid cross-country/downhill competition. This race can be contested with individual starts, as in downhill events, or a Le Mans mass start. The course should be 12-20 minutes in length and the start should be higher in altitude than the finish line. Courses should have significantly more descending than climbing, be void of any jumps, and not be extremely technical. A full-suspension cross-country bike would be ideal for this type of race.

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Observed Trials

Events conducted over an obstacle course including such hazards as mud, rocks, water, etc. and can have any number of sections. The riders attempt to negotiate each section without putting down a foot or hand (dab). Each dab (foot or hand) adds a point to the rider's score. The rider with the lowest score wins the event.

National Champion Disciplines, Categories, Classes

QUALIFYING EVENTS

Cross-country

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Legends, U23, Expert: 18 & under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+

Female

Pro, Legends, U23, Expert: 18 & under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55+

Downhill

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Legends, Expert: 18 & under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+

Female

Pro, Legends, Expert: 18 & under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55+

Mountain Cross

**Riders who qualify in Mountain Cross are eligible to compete in Dual Slalom.

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Expert: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Female

Pro, Expert/open

Dual Slalom

**Riders who qualify in Dual Slalom are eligible to compete in Mountain Cross.

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Expert: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Female

Pro, Expert/open

NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS

Short Track

**There will be a 50-rider field limit per category/class. If more than 50 riders enter in a category/class, then qualifying heats will be done.

Male

Pro, Semi-pro, Expert: 18 & under, 19-29, 30+

Female

Pro, Open: All Non-pro categories

Marathon (100k)

Male

Open: 19 & over, 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+

Female

Open: 19 & over, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

*The Open: 19 & over class is the only one used for UCI and US Team qualifications.

Single Speed

Male

Open

Female

Open

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Super D

Male

Pro, Non-Pro Open: 19-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50+

Junior: 18 & under

Female

Pro, Non-Pro Open: 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Junior: 18 & under

Observed Trials

Male

Pro Mod 19+; Pro Stock 19+; Expert Mod 19+; Expert Stock 19+

Junior Mod 16-18; Junior Stock 16-18

Female

Open 15+

Sport and Beginner National Competition Jerseys Disciplines and Classes

QUALIFYING EVENTS

Cross-country

Male

Sport: 18 & under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Beginner: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Female

Sport: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Beginner: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Downhill

Male

Sport: 18 & under, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Beginner: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-49, 50+

Female

Sport: 18 & under, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Beginner: 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-29, 30-39, 40+

Mountain Cross

**Riders who qualify in Mountain Cross will be eligible to compete in Dual Slalom.

Male

Sport: 18 & under, 19-39

Beginner: 14 & under, 15-18, 19-39

Sport/Beginner: 40+

Female

Beginner/Sport Open

Dual Slalom

**Riders who qualify in Dual Slalom will be eligible to compete in Mountain Cross.

Male

Sport: 18 & under, 19-39

Beginner: 14 & under, 15-18, 19-39

Sport/Beginner: 40+

Female

Sport/Beginner Open

Observed Trials

Male

Sport: Stock, Mod

Junior Sport/Beginner: 9-10, 11-12, 13-15, 16-18

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Qualification Requirements

Riders may compete if they meet all of the following criteria, with the exception of # 3 if the discipline does not require a rider to qualify prior to the US National Mountain Bike Championships:

1. They are American citizens (must be indicated on license or proof of citizenship must be provided on site).
2. They are current annual NORBA members
3. They have qualified through a NORBA State or Regional Championship, an AMBC event, the NORBA National Series, a USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camp, Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike calendar event or they defending NORBA National Champions in the class, category, and discipline in being contested at the 2004 National Championship competition.

Qualifying Events

There are six possible ways for riders to qualify and compete in the 2004 United States National Mountain Bike Championships, which are outlined below:

1. **NORBA State or Regional Championship Series or NORBA State or Regional Championship Event (one-day)**
The top-10 overall riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the US National Mountain Bike Championship and offered at a NORBA State or Regional Championship will be eligible to compete at the 2004 National Mountain Bike Championship. If the NORBA State or Regional Championship series is not finalized by the qualification deadline, the top-10 ranked series riders will be extended invitations. If the overall NORBA State or Regional Champions are determined after the 2004 qualification deadline, those riders will automatically be qualified to compete in the 2005 US National Mountain Bike Championships.
2. **American Mountain Bike Challenge (AMBC) events**
The top-five riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at the US National Mountain Bike Championships and offered at any AMBC event will be eligible to compete in the 2004 US National Mountain Bike Championship. Riders who compete at AMBC events held after the qualification deadline and/or after 2004 US National MTB Championships will be eligible to compete in the 2005 US National MTB Championships if they place in the top-five in their respective discipline, class, and category.
3. **NORBA National Series**
The top-five riders in each discipline, class, and category offered at any NORBA National Series event will be eligible to compete in the 2004 US National Mountain Bike Championship.
4. **Defending United States National Mountain Bike Champions**
All defending United States Mountain Bike Champions are automatically qualified to compete at the 2004 US National MTB Championships in their respective discipline and category.
5. **Alison Dunlap Junior Olympic Mountain Bike Events (ADJOMTB)**
The ADJOMTB is open to junior racers aged 18 years old and younger as of December 31 of the current year. Riders who qualify for the US National MTB Championships in an older junior age group than their official racing age, will still be qualified, but they will compete at the US National MTB Championship in their age group as of their age on December 31 of the current year (racing age).
6. **USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camps**
The top-six riders from each of the USA Cycling Junior Development Regional Mountain Bike Camps will be extended invitations to compete at the US National Mountain Bike Championships.

Qualification Guidelines

1. Riders are to qualify and compete in their respective age group based on their racing age that is determined as of December 31 of the current year.
2. Beginner and sport riders who have met the upgrading requirements (as defined in the 2004 NORBA Competition Rulebook), but have qualified to compete in one of these categories at the 2004 US National MTB Championships, may do so for only this event. After the US National MTB Championships, the beginner and sport riders must immediately upgrade to the next higher category in the discipline in which they met the upgrade requirement and qualified.
3. Riders who finish in the top-five in the beginner or sport categories at the US National MTB Championships must move up to the next higher category for the remainder of the current season and following season. Experts who place in the top-three in the 19-24, 25-29, and 30-34 age groups will automatically be eligible to upgrade to semi-pro (men) and pro (women) for the remainder of the current season and following season.

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Riders must verify they wish to upgrade to semi-pro (men) or pro (women) by completing and submitting the automatic category upgrade form to the NORBA office. The upgrade will not be changed unless the rider has agreed to do so by written consent.

4. Any male or female racer, aged 19-22, who has qualified for the United States National Mountain Bike Championship in cross-country, has the option of competing in the U23 Championship race or their respective category. Racers in the U23 Championship race will be competing on the Pro-level course and distance.
5. Riders who have qualified for the 2004 US National MTB Championships will be posted to the USA Cycling website as they are determined. If there is a discrepancy in the qualifier list, the rider must contact the NORBA Regional Manager for their state.
Eastern: klusk@usacycling.org or Western: rkillen@usacycling.org
6. A standard qualifiers form will be issued to the race promoters organizing the qualifying events. This form must be submitted to the NORBA Eastern Region office within seven (7) business days of the event. Please submit to: klusk@usacycling.org or fax: 413.256.6271
7. A letter and/or email will be sent to riders who have qualified for the 2004 US National MTB Championships. Entry forms may be included after they have been printed (these may not be available for the early-season qualifying races, but contact information for race registration will be provided).
8. The deadline for riders to qualify is September 6, 2004.

NORBA State Team Competition Cup

Each state will have the top-two riders from their state score in each discipline, class, and category for the overall NORBA State Team Competition Cup. A state will need at least two riders in a discipline, class, and category in order to score for their State. The points scale will be based on cross-country running scores (i.e. 1 pt for 1st, 2 pts for 2nd, etc.). Lowest scores place the highest in the overall State Team Competition Cup. Riders will be riding in the State Team Competition Cup based on the state (residency) listed on their NORBA license.

2004 United States National Mountain Bike Championship Organizers and Contacts

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