

## WUCA Challenge Series Rules – 2026

### 12HR, 24HR, Ultra-Distance and World Cup Challenge Series

Home/UCCS Rules for 2025

WUCA's "Ultra Cycling Challenge Series" (UCCS) provide an opportunity for members to compete in a series of events to determine the best ultra cyclists in the world. To accomplish this goal, WUCA will list events on its calendar from which members may select events to race. At the conclusion of the season, winners will be determined in each Challenge identified below and an overall male and female champion declared. In addition to the Challenge Series, WUCA selected Continental Championships will be designated on the WUCA calendar for 12-hour, 24-hour, and ultra-distance (500 mile/750km) events. A World Ultra Distance Championship will also be designated, recognizing a single event of distance greater than 1,500km.

At the pinnacle of competitive ultra cycling, a World Cup ranking may be entered by those wishing to compete at this level. Entry for this competition is by special registration, which must be filed with WUCA not later than March 31<sup>st</sup> of the running calendar year. This World Cup ranking will be based on a point system, recognizing competitive success over a wide range of ultra cycling event formats.

## II Challenge Series

- There will be four Challenge Series for 2025; two reflecting different timed events, another for fixed distance events of 750km+, and one, the World Cup, that blends a racer's performance across a wide range of durations.
  - **12-HOUR CHALLENGE:** Racers accumulate mileage in any 12 hour race on the WUCA calendar with the combined total mileage of their best three events to determine placing. See a fuller description below in Section VIII.
  - **24-HOUR CHALLENGE:** Racers accumulate mileage in any 24 hour race on the WUCA calendar with the combined total mileage of their best three events to determine placing. See a fuller description below in Section VIII.
  - **ULTRA-DISTANCE CHALLENGE:** A racer must race in at least two ultra-distance events (not less than 750 km) to qualify for this challenge. The racer whose average speed is highest for their best two races will win this challenge. See a fuller description below in Section VII.
  - **WORLD CUP OF ULTRACYCLING:** This competition combines competitive results across two timed events and two fixed-distance events. A racer may earn points in one event in each timed format; 12-hour and 24-hour, and additionally, two fixed-distance events; one of 750km to 1,500 km and one of greater than 1,500 km.

A point system is used for ranking combined results, with the racer accumulating the most points across these four events becoming the winner of the World Cup. See a fuller description below in Section VI.

### **III RANKING AND INCLUSION**

- CATEGORIES – In each of the Challenges identified above, racers will be ranked in categories based on GENDER (male; female) and AGE (<18; 18 – 49; 50 – 59; 60 – 69; 70 – 74, 75+).
- BICYCLE TYPE (standard; recumbent; HPV) – The following distinctions apply to the various Challenge Series rankings;
  - Timed and Distance Events will distinguish between bike types
  - The World Cup will not distinguish between bike types, but excludes HPVs
- RIDER CONFIGURATION – All divisions will rank WUCA members as solo racers only. (No compilation of results for clubs, teams or tandems.)
- Age is determined by birth year, regardless of actual age on the day of a given event.

### **IV REGISTRATION AND EVENT CREDIT**

- All WUCA members are automatically entered in the Challenge Series, however separate registration is necessary for participation in the World Cup competition.
- To receive credit for any event, a racer must be a member of WUCA prior to that event. Under no circumstances will credit for any event be awarded retroactively.

### **V GENERAL RULES**

- The UCCS season begins January 1st, and ends on December 31st, except that no event will be added in December without a minimum of 90 days notice to WUCA members.
- Results of events will be submitted by event organizers and/or compiled by WUCA officials and posted on the WUCA website. Individual racers do not have to submit their results, but it is strongly recommended that each racer check the standings to verify that their results are posted correctly. For the World Cup competition only, contestants must identify any race results which they would like to use for points contribution.
- If a racer finds an error with posted results and/or standings, the racer has two weeks from the date of posting of the results on the WUCA website to make a protest. Protests must be made in writing to WUCA (results@ultracycling.com). Emailed protests are acceptable. Once a protest is made, WUCA will investigate and render a decision within two weeks of receiving the protest.
- If a racer feels these rules have been misinterpreted, or if they feel they have been treated unfairly according to these rules, they may file a protest. Protests must be made in writing to the WUCA Secretary and copied to the WUCA President. Racers may email their protests. The deadline to file a protest is two weeks from the date of the alleged

infraction, or two weeks after the final event on the WUCA calendar, whichever comes first. Once a protest is made, WUCA will investigate and render a decision within two weeks.

- All racers earning top average and/or mileage ratings will be eligible for divisional awards and/or prizes as determined by the WUCA Board.
- Most event organizers will have WUCA membership application forms available at their event and can accept your membership application on behalf of WUCA. If you join WUCA at any event, you will be considered a member immediately, and can earn UCCS credit beginning with that event.
- Event organizers are not responsible to ensure that an individual racer is a member of WUCA prior to their event. That responsibility lies solely with the individual racer, and it is strongly recommended that racers confirm their membership status beforehand.
- Each event on the WUCA calendar will have a set of rules by which their event is governed. Racers must abide by the event's specific rules and regulations. Event organizers are solely responsible for enforcing their event's rules and regulations. They are required to resolve infractions, irregularities, disqualifications, adjustments of time and so forth, in their final standings before submitting official results to WUCA.
- To have a specific event qualify toward World Cup, or any Challenge, racers must officially finish an event that is based on a time or distance. For timed events, racers are credited for their distance for that event. For distance events, racers must finish the entire distance for that event. (Exceptions may be considered only in extreme cases where an event was suspended by the event director after it's start due to unsafe weather or other conditions.)
- Racers earn average speed and/or mileage credit, as well as World Cup points in any and all Challenges that the racer participates in. For example, if a racer participated in Bike Sebring 24, they would earn mileage toward the WUCA 24-hour Challenge and points, as earned, for the World Cup.
- WUCA has a zero-tolerance policy regarding the use of performance enhancing drugs (PEDs) or technological fraud such as the use of any mechanical device to aid pedaling. Any racer found to have violated this policy will forfeit any events participated in and be barred from competing for a period as determined by the WUCA Board of Directors. Any racer under suspension by another sporting sanctioning/governing body, the World Anti-Doping Agency or a national anti-doping agency, is not eligible to have any events count toward any WUCA events during their period of suspension. WUCA reserves the right to conduct testing for any and all performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) and mechanical devices. Any athlete who refuses to be tested will be disqualified and subject to suspension as determined by the WUCA Board of Directors.
- WUCA is not responsible for cancellations or schedule changes for the events listed on their calendar. If an event is cancelled and a racer was counting on that event to help them meet the minimum requirement for any Challenge, it is up to them to make sure they race in a different event.

**Racers may only earn credit for an event that is listed on the WUCA calendar.** To view the complete calendar, go to: <https://ultracycling.com>

- WUCA reserves the right to modify the rules and the calendar at any time.

## **VI WORLD CUP OF ULTRACYCLING**

- Ranking will be established among those members who have registered for this competition. Registration is achieved by contacting WUCA President or their designee and must be filed not later than March 31<sup>st</sup>, of the relevant year.
- During the year, participants will be ranked based on their points earned, year to date, by gender and age categories.
- Points are accumulated by participants toward this World Cup ranking according to the system detailed in Appendix 1 to this document. At each event, points are awarded based on placement among all participants of the relevant gender at that event.
- A participant may substitute up to two personal record attempts for any of the four included events, potentially earning World Cup points. Further stipulations, performance levels and their associated points values are detailed in Appendix 1.
- Event substitutions –
  - A fixed-distance event may be substituted for a timed event (i.e. a 500 mile race for a 24hr time trial), provided that the duration is at least equal to the timed category being replaced.
  - A 24hr event may be substituted for a 12hr event.
  - In either case of substitution, competitive ranking in the substitution does NOT translate and a maximum of one point may be earned or included in a rider's point total. For example, if two 24hr races were completed and first place finishes accomplished in both, one of those may be substituted for a 12hr race, but the full points earned at only one of those will count in the 24hr event and a single point will carry over to the 12hr category.
- Should a tie occur between two riders' points total on December 31<sup>st</sup> each year, then the rider with the greatest distance contributing to their point total will be declared the overall winner. (In the case of a substitution, a proration of distance will be calculated.)

All racers are encouraged to race in more than one of each of the events required, and the best results (most points earned) for that event will be used in calculation of rankings.

- Both drafting and non-drafting timed events will count.
- In the case of events that include both supported and unsupported categories, either format may be selected, but finish placement will be counted based on performance (i.e. fastest overall time) without distinction between these.

- Any solo racer using a standard or recumbent bicycle is eligible for the overall male and female World Cup championship. HPV's are, however, excluded from this competition.
- Any rider who wants to substitute a record attempt must inform the WUCA President or designee of this request within 30 days of record validation and before the end of the calendar year.
- Distance categories are 'nominal'; WUCA reserves the right to grant credit for an event that is very slightly under a cutoff for event type, particularly if the event includes other challenges such as extreme temperatures, altitudes or amount of climbing.

## VII ULTRA-DISTANCE CHALLENGE

- **500mi/750km Ultra-Distance Challenge:** Any WUCA member who rides at least two qualifying races listed on the WUCA calendar will be ranked on average speed in the appropriate division/category. Racers may compete in more than two qualifying events, with their two fastest used and averaged together. To be a qualifying event for this competition, the distance must be no less than nominally 500 miles, or 750km. Members will be included in the preliminary rankings throughout the current year, ranked on average speed in the appropriate division/category.
- In order to qualify for official and final ranking at year-end, a WUCA member must have completed two events of the distance defining this series.
- Substitution rule: One (1) valid and complete record attempt may be substituted for the same length event for the 500mi/750km Distance Challenge. Also, even if the rider has completed more than the minimum required events for the Challenge, if their record attempt yields a faster time, then that record attempt may be substituted for a slower event. Any rider who wants to substitute a record attempt must let the WUCA President or designee know what record attempt should be substituted. This must be done before the end of the calendar year.

## VIII Twelve and 24-hour TIMED CHALLENGES

- Any WUCA member that rides at least one 12 or 24-hour race listed on the WUCA calendar will be included in the preliminary rankings throughout the current year, ranked on total mileage in the appropriate division/category.
- In order to qualify for official and final ranking at year-end, a WUCA member must have completed two events of the duration defining that series.
- Standings in each respective division are based on the combined mileage for a WUCA member's top three mileage earning 12 or 24-hour events listed on the calendar.
- Racers may compete in more than three 12 or 24-hour events, but only their top three mileage earning events will count toward the standings.
- Racers may earn mileage credit for only one event at a time; a 12-hour event may not be credited for mileage if embedded within a 24-hour event running concurrently.

- Substitution rule: One (1) valid and complete record attempt may be substituted for the same duration event for these Timed Challenges. Also, even if the rider has completed more than the minimum required events for the Challenge, if their record attempt yields a greater distance, then that record attempt may be substituted for a comparable event of the same duration. Any rider who wants to substitute a record attempt must let the WUCA President or designee know what record attempt should be substituted for what Challenge event. This must be done before the end of the calendar year.

## **IX EXCLUSION POLICY**

The WUCA has an interest in maintaining an atmosphere of fairness. And while WUCA does not determine the rules of the separate races, it is the expectation of WUCA that all such rules be applied fairly. Race directors shall give all applicants and racers equal treatment under the rules of their event. A race director shall not refuse entry to an applicant without a race-related cause, nor give prejudicial treatment to any applicant or racer. If a race director is found to be in violation of this policy, WUCA shall have the right to remove the event from the WUCA calendar, and to publicize such removal.

WUCA also requires that any WUCA member participating in any event that is on the WUCA Calendar adheres to the rules delineated in this document, the published race rules, and conducts himself or herself in a manner that does not bring himself or herself or WUCA into disrepute. This includes any behavior or communication before, during or after the event. Any member in violation of this policy may have any event earned deducted, be subject to disqualification for the season or expelled from the organization.

## **X CONTINENTAL AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

In addition to the annual Challenge Series and World Cup competitions, WUCA will select Continental Championship events in each calendar year for 12-hour, 24-hour and ultra-distance events. These events are selected by the WUCA Board of Directors, with the intent of choosing events that enjoy a history of being well run, safe and highly regarded by members who have completed them in prior years. To the greatest extent practical, Championships will be rotated year to year so as to afford the best opportunity for participation across a broad geographic range. Championship events will be clearly designated on the WUCA calendar. In addition to the Continental Championships, WUCA will designate a single race event as the WUCA World Ultra-Cycling Championship.

## APPENDIX 1 – WORLD CUP POINTS SYSTEM

- For 12-hr and 24-hr timed events -
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place            6 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place            5 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place            4 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place            3 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place            2 points
  - 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> place        1 point
- For fixed distance events between 750 and 1,500 km –
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place            7 points
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place            6 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place            5 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place            4 points
  - 5<sup>th</sup> place            3 points
  - 6<sup>th</sup> place            2 point
  - 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> place        1 point
- For fixed distance events of length beyond 1,500km, participants may select between two sub-categories; 1,500km to 3,000 km *OR* 3,000km and greater. Points from only one event from these two sub-categories will be included, but participants may race in either or both, applying their highest single-event points for the use in their ranking.

For events from 1,500 to <3,000 km -

- 1<sup>st</sup> place            9 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place            8 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place            7 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> place            6 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> place            5 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> place            4 point
- 7<sup>th</sup> place            3 points
- 8<sup>th</sup> place            2 points
- 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> place        1 point

For events 3,000 km and beyond –

- 1<sup>st</sup> place            10 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place            9 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place            8 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> place            7 points
- 5<sup>th</sup> place            6 points
- 6<sup>th</sup> place            5 points
- 7<sup>th</sup> place            4 points
- 8<sup>th</sup> place            3 points
- 9<sup>th</sup> place            2 points
- 10<sup>th</sup> place            1 point

- For those events that have been designated by WUCA as a continental championship event, two additional points will be added to the first-place finisher. This same two point 'bonus' will also be applied to the event designated as the World Ultra-Cycling Championship. For all placements at these Championship events below first place, but earning points as defined on the above schedule, the point values above will be increased with a single bonus point.
- Outstanding performance levels will be granted an additional bonus point in timed events, according to the following performance levels, irrespective of the competitive placement earned. In the case of timed events in which racers are allowed to complete a timed lap that results in a finish time greater than the nominal 12 or 24 hours, a pro-ration of finish distance will be calculated for determination of this bonus point. WUCA will not, however, add to a racer's accomplished distance in cases where an event's rules preclude an incomplete final lap. (Note – the below bonus points do not apply in the case of a record attempt substitution.)
  - For 24hr timed events which are drafting-legal, all finishers who complete 560 miles / 902km or more.
  - For 24hr timed events which are non-drafting, all finishers who complete 500 miles / 805km or more.
  - For 12-hr timed events which are drafting-legal, all finishers who complete 286 miles / 460km or more.
  - For 12hr timed events which are non-drafting, all finishers who complete 260miles / 418km or more.
- In all events, points are awarded to participants in the World Cup competition based on their overall (not age group) finish ranking within their respective gender.
- A racer may not participate in two events simultaneously, such as a 12hr event as a subset of a 24hr event. Only one such event result may be credited to the rider. This restriction applies to both race events and embedded record attempts.

#### Individual record attempts –

A participant may substitute up to two personal record attempts for any of the four included events, potentially earning World Cup points according to the following stipulations and performance levels:

- The record attempt must align with the duration of the event for which the record is being substituted or greater – for example a 12-hr record or greater substituting for a 12-hr time trial event.
- Virtual records will not be allowed for this substitution.
- Point to point or Highest Mileage (weekly, monthly or annual) records may be substituted for any of the fixed distance events but again must align with or be greater than the distance substituted.
- For the record substitution to yield points per below, the performance will be measured against the highest level for the relevant record of the participant's

gender at the time of the record attempt – not the record for the participant's age group.

- Breaking an existing record or setting a new record where no previous record existed -- point value equals a first place finish in a competitive event of same duration
- Failing to break an existing record but completing the course -- 1 point for 12 or 24 hour attempts or for distances less than 1,500 km, 2 points for distance records of 1,500 km or greater