

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FOR THE 2026 UCI GRAVEL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (NANNUP, AUSTRALIA)

The UCI Management Committee approves the qualification system each year.

This document sets out the qualification system for the UCI Gravel World Championships, as determined by the UCI Management Committee. To be eligible under this system, riders must meet the following requirements:

Participation in the UCI Gravel World Championships is open to holders of Cycling for all, Masters and Elite licences.

Riders taking part in the UCI Gravel World Championships must hold a valid licence issued by their respective National Federation (day licences being excluded), must hold a UCI ID and must be adequately insured against accidents and civil responsibility in the country in which the UCI Gravel World Championships are held.

1. Qualification through the UCI Gravel World Series

Each UCI Gravel World Series event of the 2026 season grants qualification rights for the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships. Based on the results of each race, the first 25% of athletes in each age group will be qualified for the UCI Gravel World Championships. The 25% is calculated based on the number of riders who effectively take the start in each age group, not on the number of pre-registered or finishing riders.¹ For the sake of clarity, the 25% is rounded up to the nearest whole number (e.g., with 26 starters, 6.5 is rounded up to 7 qualified riders).

All riders completing the qualifying distance, regardless of the start wave in which they began, are eligible for qualification and must be taken into account when calculating the top 25% in their respective age groups.

In addition, for all the categories, the first three riders of each official age category will qualify directly for the UCI Gravel World Championships, regardless of the number of starters in that age group. Riders must finish the race to gain qualification.

The age categories of the UCI Gravel World Championships are the following:

- ELITE
- 19 – 34
- 35 – 39
- 40 – 44
- 45 – 49

¹ The percentage of 25% may be reviewed by the UCI Management Committee on a yearly basis, taking into consideration the participation in the UCI Gravel World Championships, the number of events in the UCI Gravel World Series calendar and the evolution of the UCI Gravel World Series calendar.

- 50 – 54
- 55 – 59
- 60 – 64
- 65 – 69
- 70 – 74
- 75 – 79
- Etc.

Age groups are defined by riders' age on 31 December of the year of the UCI World Championships. The minimum age to participate in the UCI Gravel World Championships is 19 years. Therefore, only riders born on or before 31 December 2007 can qualify for the 2026 edition. However, for qualifying events held in October to December 2025 (i.e., after the 2025 UCI Gravel World Championships), riders who are 18 at the time of qualification are also eligible as they will turn 19 in the year of the UCI World Championships they are qualifying for.

At the UCI Gravel World Championships, medals and titles will be awarded in each age category for men and/or women, provided at least one rider is registered in the respective category.

Qualification is always based on results per age group. The overall results are only published for ceremonial reasons.

On the top of the age category, medals and titles will also be awarded for Elite, men and women, having a separated dedicated race.

N.B: The names of riders who have qualified through the UCI Gravel World Series will be published on the website (<https://www.uci gravelworldseries.com>). Qualified riders will also receive an official email from the UCI's partner for the UCI Gravel World Series and UCI World Championships, Golazo, inviting them to register for the UCI Gravel World Championships via the dedicated online registration portal.

2. Outgoing UCI Gravel World Champions

The outgoing UCI Gravel World Champions may take part in the first UCI Gravel World Championships following their title.

3. Gravel National Champions

All Masters, Elite and U23 Gravel National Champions from the current year may enter the UCI Gravel World Championships without having to qualify through the UCI Gravel World Series. The Gravel National Champions are confirmed to the UCI by the respective National Federation.

4. Gravel Continental Champions

All Masters, Elite and U23 Gravel Continental Champions from the current year may enter the UCI Gravel World Championships without having to qualify through the UCI Gravel World Series. The Gravel Continental Champions are confirmed to the UCI by the respective Continental Confederation.

5. National Federation – Wild cards

Each National Federation may award a maximum of 10 wild cards (5 men and 5 women) in the Elite category.

These wild cards are confirmed to the UCI by the respective National Federation.

6. National Federation of the country organising the UCI Gravel World Championships

The National Federation of the country organising the UCI Gravel World Championships may award an additional 10 wild cards (5 men and 5 women), which allow athletes to participate in the Elite category.

These wild cards are confirmed to the UCI by the respective National Federation.

7. UCI Wild cards

UCI Wild cards can be given at the discretion of the UCI only.

Original version in English.