

# UCI POLICY

## ***“Fight against Technological Fraud”*** Rewards Programme

### **I. Introduction**

Technological fraud in cycling can be defined as the fraudulent or unauthorised use of a motor or any other technique that infringes article 1.3.010 of the UCI Regulations<sup>1</sup> related to propulsion. More specifically, any presence or use of a bicycle which is propelled by a system or method with electric or other assistance, at or on the margins of a cycling competition, constitutes technological fraud by the team and the rider, and is subject to disciplinary sanctions (cf. article 12.4.003 of the UCI Regulations).

Given the significant threat this poses to the integrity standards of the sport, the "Fight against Technological Fraud" (FATF) is one of the main priorities of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) to guarantee the credibility and fairness of competition results.<sup>2</sup>

To support existing detection methods and address the evolving threats effectively, the UCI introduces: **the "Fight against Technological Fraud – Rewards Programme"** (FATF-RP). This programme aims at incentivising reporting through financial rewards or other forms of compensation through confidential channels.

The FATF-RP is designed to increase the UCI's collection of actionable intelligence regarding risks, threats, and current tactics, including how unauthorised propulsion methods (e.g., motors) are being deployed in bicycles and used at races. This initiative aims to encourage individuals who may possess critical information but are reluctant to come forward, thereby providing an additional tool for the UCI to address serious attempts to defraud the cycling community. The focus will be on developing information about the use of technological advances in hidden motors and other propulsion methods, enabling targeted bike controls and in-depth investigations, including also on historical cases of technological fraud in cycling.

Ultimately, this initiative underscores the UCI's commitment to eradicating technological fraud at the highest level, reinforcing its dedication to maintaining fairness and integrity in cycling.

### **II. Policy objectives**

The aim of this programme is to provide the UCI with an additional opportunity to detect, deter and investigate potential cases of technological fraud or attempts to defraud cycling events through the use of new and innovative – and hard to detect – technology in bikes.

The development of information – with the aim to support targeted testing and to conduct in-depth investigations – shall be facilitated through financial motivation, assistance, and/or reward for information, which is designed to encourage persons who would otherwise not voluntarily come forward and/or provide the UCI with critical information about technological fraud, or who may not otherwise choose to communicate such information with the UCI.

---

<sup>1</sup> Art. 1.3.1010 of the UCI Regulations on Propulsion reads as follows:

*“The bicycle shall be propelled solely, through a chainset, by the legs (inferior muscular chain) moving in a circular movement, without electric or other assistance.”*

<sup>2</sup> See also <https://www.uci.org/technological-fraud/4PI1ZlipHvdXuL0cEOjW7a>

This programme establishes an innovative mechanism for the UCI to facilitate such financial rewards and/or incentives through a clear policy along with the processing of received information, the corroboration of the information, as well as establishing the review and approval process for the UCI to provide rewards for information.

In sum, the present policy aims at:

- enhancing the detection of technological fraud in cycling through confidential information reporting;
- incentivising individuals to provide critical information by offering financial rewards or other forms of compensation, upon verification of the veracity of the information provided;
- establishing a clear, transparent, and effective process for receiving, evaluating, and rewarding such information.

### III. Policy: the FATF-RP

#### a. Current legal framework for technological fraud in Cycling

The UCI defines and regulates **technological fraud in cycling** through **two provisions**: articles 1.3.010 and 12.4.003 of the UCI Regulations.

Article 1.3.010 of the UCI Regulations establishes the fundamental requirement that a *“bicycle shall be propelled solely, through a chainset, by the legs (inferior muscular chain) moving in a circular movement, without electric or other assistance”* (emphasis added).

Article 12.4.003 of the UCI Regulations provides further details on what constitutes technological fraud, specifying that any infringement of article 1.3.010 of the UCI Regulations is subject to a disciplinary sanction. More specifically, this article clarifies that technological fraud occurs in the following circumstance:

- in *“the presence, within the scope or fringes of a cycling event, of a bicycle that does not comply with the provisions of article 1.3.010”*; or
- through *“the use by a rider, within the scope or fringes of a cycling event, of a bicycle that does not comply with the provisions of article 1.3.010”*.

Furthermore, according to article 12.4.003 of the UCI Regulations:

- *“All riders and teams, or other entities that a rider may represent (in particular National Federations at races contested by national teams), are responsible for ensuring that all their bicycle comply with the provisions of article 1.3.010 at all times”*.
- *“The presence of a bicycle that does not comply with the provisions of article 1.3.010, within the scope or fringes of a cycling event, shall constitute technological fraud by the rider and the team, or other entity the rider represents, irrespective of whether or not the bicycle has been used during the event”*.
- Technological fraud is subject to a statute of limitation of 10 years from the date of the offence.

Finally, it is recalled that all individuals subject to the UCI Regulations (specifically to Part 12, Discipline and Procedures<sup>3</sup>) have “*the obligation to report any infringement of the regulations that has been noted [thereby including technological fraud] to the UCI*” pursuant to article 12.2.012 of the UCI Regulations.

## **b. FATF-RP scope of application**

### ***i. Scope of personal application - eligibility***

The programme will be **open to individuals or entities, whether they are licence-holders or registered with the UCI or not, who provide actionable information on technological fraud in cycling voluntarily and in good faith.**

This includes informants, whistleblowers, or any sources who willingly and in good faith provide information that materially helps towards the detection, investigation, or prevention of technological fraud in the context of a past or future cycling competition under the authority of the UCI and involving licence-holders.

### ***ii. Substantive scope***

Requests under the FATF-RP will be considered at the UCI’s discretion and **granted only upon determination of the veracity of the information provided and assessment of its evidentiary value.** This includes but is not limited to its contribution to, or to the initiation of any investigation or disciplinary proceedings in relation to an alleged case of technological fraud pursuant to UCI Regulations.

The UCI shall take into consideration any relevant factors in terms of the value or relevance of the information such as:

- the quality and reliability of the information provided;
- the relevance of the information with a view to establishing the alleged technological fraud;
- the extent of general assistance and cooperation demonstrated by the source throughout the process; or
- any other factors that may enhance the value or relevance of the information.

The UCI shall also consider relevant factors related to the circumstances of the disclosure, including without being limited to:

- the source’s personal circumstances, including any potential risks or hardships faced as a result of their disclosure;
- the sources’ underlying motivations for disclosing information;
- the sources’ obligations pursuant to the UCI Regulations (including in particular the UCI Code of Ethics) if they are licence holders; or
- the lawfulness of the acquisition of the information disclosed.

---

<sup>3</sup> Namely: “*National Federations and Continental Confederations; Licence holders, as well as any person without a licence who participates in an event or activity authorised or organised by the UCI, a Continental Confederation or an affiliated National Federation; Teams and groups of Teams; organisers of cycling events; commissaires; riders’ agents; individuals subject to the UCI Code of Ethics; any person or entity representing or working on behalf of the UCI, excluding UCI employees; any person or entity representing or working for a team, a group of teams, or an organiser of cycling events*”.

Relevant factors for assessment, as illustrated above, shall be taken into consideration for any decision under this FATF-RP, including on proceeding with steps outlined in section c. below and on the type of reward to be granted. In this context, the UCI shall have full discretion in the assessment of relevant factors and decisions be made on such basis.

### ***iii. Type of rewards***

To incentivise the reporting of actionable intelligence related to technological fraud in cycling, the FATF-RP provides various types of rewards to eligible individuals, as follows:

- **Material support (“Support”)**
- **Financial assistance (“Financial Assistance”)**
- **Monetary or value reward (“Reward”)**

These measures are designed to appropriately compensate individuals or entities which contribute valuable information that aids in the detection, prevention, or investigation of fraudulent activities. The extent of the compensation or value shall take into consideration the material effort and potential investment put forward by the source as well as the potential risk of hardship or repercussion from such disclosure.

### **c. Process for application of the FATF-RP**

The process for requesting and being granted financial assistance, support, or rewards under the FATF-RP is structured to ensure fairness, transparency, and confidentiality while upholding the integrity of the programme. The following steps outline the planned procedure:

#### ***1. Submission of Request for Support, Financial Assistance or Reward***

- Persons or entities in possession of relevant information (*i.e.* sources of information) may submit a request for financial assistance, support, or a reward by providing actionable intelligence on technological fraud to the UCI. The information provided must include sufficient detail to allow for the initial assessment of the information's relevance, reliability, and potential impact. Anonymous reports are admissible, subject to good faith cooperation and identification of the source to the UCI prior to a potential decision on disbursement of a reward.
- Requests may be submitted:
  - through existing reporting mechanisms (UCI's SpeakUp platform);
  - to the Fight Against Technological Fraud department ([TechFraud@uci.ch](mailto:TechFraud@uci.ch)).
- In line with existing international standards (e.g. the “[Resource Guide on Good Practices in the Protection of Reporting Persons](#)” published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), the information provided will be handled through confidentiality measures and processes established by the UCI to ensure confidentiality and to protect the safety of sources, their identity and the integrity of the information provided.
- The UCI will respect and preserve the anonymity of sources but may request their identification (i) if deemed necessary to verify the veracity and/or relevance of the information provided, and/or (ii) to proceed with a potential disbursement of Support, Financial Assistance or Reward (see *infra*).

- The UCI will retain the discretion to request the identification of a source to proceed with the assessment of the information or investigation. The source's identity will not be disclosed in any disciplinary proceedings unless such disclosure is deemed essential to uphold the defendant's rights, including the right to a fair trial and the right to be heard. This assessment shall be made in accordance with existing standards, such as the "[Guidelines for the hearing of vulnerable witnesses and testifying parties in CAS Procedures](#)". Any such disclosure will be notified to the source with explanation of the relevant circumstances, in advance.

## 2. *Initial Review and Assessment*

- Upon receiving a request, the UCI Head of the Fight Against Technological Fraud will conduct an initial review to verify the authenticity and relevance of the information. This will include assessing whether the information pertains to technological fraud as defined under the UCI Regulations and whether the source meets the requirements for the application of the FATF-RP.
- If the initial review determines that the request meets the applicable criteria, the assessment of the information will be examined in a detailed manner.

## 3. *Detailed Assessment and Verification*

- The UCI (e.g. Head of the Fight Against Technological Fraud, or others as may be appropriate to consider the information while preserving confidentiality and anonymity, if requested, such as the Equipment Unit and/or Legal Department) will undertake a thorough evaluation of the submitted information to determine its veracity and evidentiary value.
- Specific factors will be considered during the assessment (see *supra*).

## 4. *Decision-Making on Support, Financial Assistance or Reward*

- Following the detailed assessment, the UCI will determine whether to grant Support, Financial Assistance, or Reward.
- The decision on whether to grant Support, Financial Assistance, or Reward may be postponed until assessment of the suitability of the information to establish a case of technological fraud by the competent decision-making authority.

## 5. *Disbursement of Support, Financial Assistance or Reward*

- If approved, Support, Financial Assistance, or Reward will be provided to the beneficiary in accordance with UCI financial policies. The disbursement may include monetary payments or value-in-kind (VIK) rewards, such as items or access to events.
- All disbursements will be processed confidentially to protect the identity of the beneficiary and other potential sources as well as the integrity of the FATF-RP.

## 6. *Record-Keeping and Confidentiality*

- The UCI will maintain a secure record of all requests, assessments, decisions, and disbursements related to the FATF-RP. This record will be kept in accordance with established

data protection and confidentiality standards, ensuring that only authorised personnel have access to sensitive information.

- Any financial reward or support provided will be subject to strict confidentiality by all parties as governed by a specific agreement, unless explicitly authorised by the UCI.

#### **IV. Enforcement**

The FATF-RP **enters into force** upon its approval by the UCI Management Committee (UCI MC) **on 24 September 2024**.

The UCI Head of the Fight Against Technological Fraud will be responsible for overseeing the application and execution of the FATF-RP, closely monitoring all aspects of the programme to ensure it is applied consistently and effectively, thereby fulfilling its intended objectives.

Furthermore, the UCI Head of the Fight Against Technological Fraud shall regularly report to the UCI Management Committee on the application of the programme and any required revisions.