

## **The UCI announces extensive modernisation of regulations**

Following today's meeting in Bergen, Norway at the 2017 UCI Road World Championships, the UCI Management Committee has agreed major modernisations of its rules governing road racing, mountain bike, BMX racing and indoor cycling.

To improve the safety of the riders, spectators and the race convoy, the UCI Management Committee decided to **limit the peloton size** to a maximum of 176 riders in all events on the UCI International Road Calendar. Therefore, a maximum of 7 riders will now be allowed per team in all men's road races (except Grand Tours, 8). In the UCI Women's WorldTour, there will be a maximum of 6 riders per team in one-day races, 7 in stage-races.

In mountain bike, the addition of a **Cross-country Short Track race (XCC)** to the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup programme was confirmed. Both spectator and TV friendly, the XCC race will now take place at every round of the Cross-country Olympic (XCO) World Cup. The 20-minute XCC race will occur on a wide and flowing 1 to 1.5 km long course (2 to 3 minutes per lap), using the XCO Start/Finish straight and line, and will determine the line-up of the XCO race – with the top-16 riders occupying the first two rows.

Significant increases in the overall **prize monies** for UCI Mountain Bike World Championships (+67% – from €6,000 to €10,000) and UCI Mountain Bike World Cup (+64% – from €3,950 to €6,500) were also agreed.

Following a successful first season and review of feedback from riders and teams, the UCI Management Committee has updated the new format of the **UCI BMX Supercross World Cup** so that only the top two riders – instead of the top four – will progress from the Last Chance Qualifier phase of each World Cup stage. The method of heat seedings in place prior to the beginning of the new World Cup format will also be reinstated.

The system of awarding **UCI BMX Permanent Career Numbers** – to be renamed 'International Elite Numbers' – will be updated to provide top BMX racing riders a stronger marketable identity around a number which they have the exclusive right to use for a period of time. From 2020, the top 40 men and top 40 women in the UCI BMX Ranking of 31st December, Tokyo 2020 Olympians, and all present and past Olympic and World Champions still active at the Elite level will be allowed to either keep their existing permanent number, or choose a new one between 10 and 99. These numbers will be awarded until the end of 2024, when this system will be repeated.

The UCI Management Committee also validated the launch of the **UCI Artistic Cycling World Cup** in 2018. With the support of the Indoor Cycling World Wide Association, the series will contribute towards existing efforts to increase the number of nations participating in the discipline. It is anticipated that in its first season, the UCI Artistic Cycling World Cup will comprise four rounds: Prague (Czech Republic) in February, Heerlen (The Netherlands) in May or June, Hong Kong (China) in August and Erlenbach (Germany) in November.

The UCI Management Committee also awarded the following World Championships:

- **2018 UCI Four-cross World Championships: Val di Sole (Italy)**  
Val di Sole has huge experience of organising major four-cross events, particularly having hosted the specialty's UCI World Championships in 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- **2018 UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships: Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)**  
With this event, the UCI will be the first International Federation to organise a World Championships in the Brazilian capital following the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- **2019 UCI Track Cycling World Championships: Pruszkow (Poland)**  
Situated close to the Polish capital Warsaw, the Pruszkow velodrome welcomed the UCI Track Cycling World Championships in 2009. In addition, the city will host the opening round of the 2017-2018 Tissot UCI Track Cycling World Cup.
- **2019 UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships: Apeldoorn (Netherlands)**  
Apeldoorn is one of track cycling's traditional haunts. It is particularly notable for having hosted the 2011 UCI Track Cycling World Championships and, once before, the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships in 2015. Apeldoorn will also play host to the 2018 UCI Track Cycling World Championships.
- **2019 UCI Indoor Cycling World Championships: Basel (Switzerland)**  
In returning to Basel, the city that has already successfully hosted the event in 2013, this discipline's UCI World Championships will revisit one of the flagship countries of indoor cycling.
- **2019 and 2020 UCI Masters Track Cycling World Championships: Manchester (Great Britain)**  
The Manchester velodrome is a hotbed for the Masters Track Cycling World Championships. The 2015 and 2016 editions of the event took place there and benefited from perfect conditions.
- **2020 UCI Gran Fondo World Championships: Vancouver/Whistler (Canada)**  
The event will be based around a very popular pre-existing mass participation event. The region offers some beautiful landscapes, on a continent that will host the UCI Gran Fondo World Championships for the first time.
- **2020 UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships: Dübendorf (Switzerland)**  
Located next to Zurich, the town of Dübendorf will host the first edition of this discipline's UCI World Championships to be held in Switzerland since the Eschenbach World Championships in 1995.

The **UCI President Brian Cookson** said: "We are pleased to be able to reveal the names of the hosts of a large number of UCI World Championships, and we look forward to working with the successful cities and regions to make great sporting and public successes of these events."

"Hosting our annual World Championships always arouses great interest, among both seasoned organisers and new ones from regions or cities that will host one of our highest-profile competitions for the first time. This demonstrates both the strong historical roots of our World Championships and the development of our disciplines into new areas."

Finally, the following **2018 International Calendars** were also agreed and will be published on [www.uci.ch](http://www.uci.ch) later this week: road, mountain bike, BMX, para-cycling, trials, indoor cycling and mass participation.

The next meeting of the UCI Management Committee will take place on February 2, 2018 in Valkenburg (NED) on the eve of the UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships.

#### **For more information**

**Louis Chenaille**

UCI Press Officer

+41 79 198 7047

[louis.chenaille@uci.ch](mailto:louis.chenaille@uci.ch)

**John Zerafa**

VERO Communications

+44 7813 814 816

[jzerafa@verocom.co.uk](mailto:jzerafa@verocom.co.uk)