

## **Youth and Junior Upgrade Policy**

### **ROAD**

#### **Eligibility**

##### **Under 17 (U17)**

Athletes in the Under 17 (U17) age category may apply for an upgrade to race in the Men/Women Elite 3 category (temporary or full season) in Regional and Ontario Cup events. Ontario Cup and Regional ability based system. Under exceptional circumstances, an athlete may be granted an upgrade to race in Elite 2.

Athletes are encouraged to be competitive in the A category for Men and B category for Women in the Ontario Youth Road Development Series for serious consideration.

##### **Junior (U19)**

Athletes in the Junior (U19) age category are eligible to place themselves (at the time of membership registration) in Elite 3 or 4 for Men and Elite 3 for Women in Regional and Ontario Cup Events (subject to the category on their licence). An upgrade request is required from any Junior looking to compete in the Elite 2 category (temporary or full season). Athletes must have previously competed in the Junior category in 2018 to be eligible for consideration for an upgrade to Elite 2 to begin the season.

#### **Provincial Championships**

Athletes will be required to race in their age category for any provincial championships which includes their actual age category (i.e. Junior aged riders must race the Junior Category). Upgraded U17's are eligible to race in the Junior category at Provincial Championships without requiring an additional upgrade request (Full Season only). Those without a full season upgrade may submit a request specifically for the Provincial Championships provided it follows the process below. Specific information related to that process will be provided within the championship technical package.

#### **National Events in Ontario**

Ontario upgrades will not apply to any Nationally sanctioned events in Ontario. These upgrades must be obtained from Cycling Canada.

## Process

1) Coaches must complete and submit the OCA Upgrade Request form below. **Requests not coming from the athlete's coach will not be considered.**

2) Upgrade requests must be submitted by noon (12pm et) the Monday prior to the event which the upgrade is being requested for. If another event is taking place within this period and the applicant would like the result to be considered in the upgrade decision, please indicate this on the application form. (Not applicable for Youth races the day before an Ontario Cup or Regional event)

3) Any requests that don't meet the above timeline will not be considered for that event.

4) The committee responsible for reviewing youth and junior upgrades will be comprised of a minimum of three (3) members which may include the OCA Membership Manager, OCA High Performance Manager, and an OCA Provincial Coach (unaffiliated with the athlete). Alternate committee members may be used provided they are not affiliated with the athlete requesting the upgrade.

5) Decisions for upgrades will take into account the following items:

- a) The athlete's current competitive field
- b) The athlete's previous/current season results
- c) The category distance of the race(s) the rider is requesting an upgrade for
- d) The athlete's sanctioned race history
- e) The impact on the competition field

6) All Committee decisions are final.

Additional Considerations:

- When strong competition exists within a category the priority may be on maintaining the existing field.
- To ensure alignment with Long Term Athlete Development practices/theories, appropriate race distances will be a strong consideration in the review process. Therefore, riders may be denied an upgrade for one race but approved for another based on the length of the race.
- Upgrades will only be considered if the category being requested is considered an "UPGRADE". Requests will not be granted based on "desire to do more racing".

## **Out of Province Racers**

Riders from outside Ontario who want to apply for an upgrade may do so however they must follow the same rules as outlined in the Eligibility and Process sections above AND must also provide a support letter from their governing cycling body (i.e. for out-of-province racers, a letter from their provincial cycling body supporting an upgrade request; for USA Riders, a support letter from USA Cycling).

As it is difficult to compare race category structures, upgrades based on out of province race results structures only will be considered by the committee if it is clear the athlete in question has demonstrated an ability to be challenging for the podium at these events.

## **Youth Upgrade Request Form - Road**

Please complete this form if you are requesting an upgrade for a youth (Under 17) or Junior athlete to upgrade their Regional or Ontario Cup ROAD category.

Requests should be completed and/or supported by an NCCP certified cycling coach. The Committee will only consider sanctioned track racing events. Events such as club events will not be considered when reviewing the applicant's request.

Requests will be reviewed based on the information provided below. For any information on the process or eligibility for upgrades, please read the **Youth and Junior Upgrade Policy – ROAD** document.

**EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO: [SUPPORT@ONTARIOCYCLING.ORG](mailto:SUPPORT@ONTARIOCYCLING.ORG)**

**Athlete Name:**

**Athlete Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD):**

**Club/Team (If Applicable):**

**Coach's Name:**

**Event (Name specific event or season)**

**Requested Category:**

**Reason for Request:**

**Race Results:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Race Name</b>	<b>Result (in Cat)</b>	<b>Result Web Link</b>

Please note all decisions by the Committee are final.