

## Youth Upgrade Policy

### 2020 Track Season

#### Purpose

To provide athletes with a meaningful and developmentally appropriate competition opportunity when they are no longer challenged in their current competitive youth category.

#### Eligibility

Athletes in the Under 17 age category may be eligible to apply for an upgrade to race in the Track O-Cup series (Events 1 and/or 2). Riders in the Under 15 age category may be eligible to apply for the Under 17 category at O-Cup 3 and Provincial Championships.

To be considered for an upgrade, Ontario athletes should meet the minimum criteria below:

|               | <b>YTDS Category</b> | <b>Minimum Requirement</b>                   | <b>O-Cup Category Considered</b> |
|---------------|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Male Riders   | A Category           | Consistently amongst top 3 in the A Category | Cat B or Higher                  |
| Female Riders | B Category           | Consistently amongst top 5 in the B Category | Cat D or Higher                  |

Athletes must demonstrate a history of results showing they are not being challenged in their current Youth Track Development Series category (Ex. Lapping the field or consistently winning each race). Athletes with results that show they are racing in a competitive category for their abilities will not be considered for an upgrade.

Athletes must also indicate if they are upgrading for ENDURANCE or SPRINT or BOTH types of events [it is possible an upgrade may be granted for one and not the other].

**NEW for 2020:** The Youth Upgrade/Downgrade Committee will review all requests at the time of eligibility cut-off (One week prior to registration closing) and will decide on three items:

1. Is the rider eligible for an upgrade to the Ontario Cup Series?
2. Is the upgrade granted for a specific event or for the Series?
3. What category is the rider recommended for if approved to race the Ontario Cup Series (This may be different than the requested "Preferred Category" on the application form)

#### Out of Province Riders

Riders from outside Ontario will also be considered for upgrades however they must demonstrate a clear ability to be competitive. It is recommended that all out of province youth riders compete in the Youth Track Development Series to improve their chance of being considered for an upgrade. The committee will review requests from out of province riders who have not raced in the Youth Track Development Series however results for these riders must show a consistent ability to podium at a level consistent with that of the Youth Track Development Series. Riders will not be considered for upgrades based on the distance traveled to attend the event.

## **Application Process**

Note this is an application process. Athletes will not be automatically considered for an upgrade if they have not submitted a formal request. Please ensure you understand all the steps of the process below:

- 1) An NCCP Certified Coach (or equivalent for out of country riders) must complete and submit the OCA Upgrade Request form below.
- 2) Upgrade requests must be submitted by the eligible cut-off date for consideration.

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE IF THE REQUEST COMES AFTER THE POSTED CUT-OFF DATE.

| <b>Cut-Off Date For Request</b> | <b>Event</b> | <b>Event Date</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| December 3 2019, Noon ET        | O-Cup #1     | December 15, 2019 |
| January 2, 2020, Noon ET        | O-Cup #2     | January 12, 2020  |

- 3) The upgrade process also applies to out of province riders looking for upgrades. Coaches must submit a formal request AND provide links to prior results for the committee to be able to give consideration for an upgrade.
- 4) The committee responsible for reviewing youth upgrades will be comprised of a minimum of three members not affiliated with the athlete applying for the request.
- 5) A detailed TRACK results summary must be provided. Results outside of the TRACK discipline will NOT be considered.
- 6) Decisions for upgrade will take into consideration the following items [in no priority order]:
  - a) The athlete's current competitive field
  - b) The athlete's current season's results [e.g. Youth Series]
  - c) The athletes sanctioned race history [e.g. Youth Series]
  - d) The impact on the competition field
  - e) The athlete's ability to be competitive in the recommended Ontario Cup category
- 7) **Category limits:** The number of upgraded athletes may be restricted as a result of the maximum field size allowable.

*Athletes who have been approved for an upgrade will be notified of the committee's Recommended Category. Riders may not race above this category without prior Committee approval.*

*Note that this does not guarantee this will be the rider's category on race weekend. All final decisions on category allotment will ultimately be up to the OCA Track Panel based on each event's registration and rider's may be forced into a lower category (no more than one lower than recommended) should it be required.*

*All athletes approved for an upgrade to the Ontario Cup Series are still expected to compete in Youth Track Development Series events.*

### O-Cup #3/Eastern Challenge

Athletes will be required to race in their recognized National racing age category for the Eastern Challenge.\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Under 15 age category riders (Born in 2006) may be eligible for an upgrade to the Under 17 category for the Eastern Challenge. All requests for this event must be submitted by the cut-off date listed below.

| Cut-Off Date For Request | Event                      | Event Date             |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| January 23 2020, Noon ET | O-Cup #3/Eastern Challenge | February 07 – 09, 2020 |

### Provincial Championships

Athletes will be required to race in their recognized National racing age category for Provincial Championships.\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Under 15 age category riders (Born in 2006) may be eligible for an upgrade to the Under 17 category for the Eastern Challenge. All requests for this event must be submitted by the cut-off date listed below.

| Cut-Off Date For Request  | Event                    | Event Date          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| February 25 2020, Noon ET | Provincial Championships | March 06 – 08, 2020 |

### Policy Fine Print

\*Any deviations from the above may be considered in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the committee.

The committee reserves the right to review and make athlete category modifications and adjust the Upgrade Policy at anytime as deemed required.

All decisions of the committee are FINAL. Coaches may submit a new request for their athlete after their next event. Please ensure you include that most recent result with any updated requests.

**\*\* The contacting of Committee Members regarding upgrades or downgrades is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in the Athlete's Coach/Parent losing the privilege to request other athlete upgrades. \*\***

## Youth Upgrade Request Form - Track

Please complete this form if you are requesting an upgrade for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year youth athlete (U17 for Ontario Cups or U15 for Eastern Challenge or Provincial Championships) to upgrade their race category in Track. Requests should be completed by an NCCP certified cycling coach or equivalent for those outside Canada. 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 within 48 hours of the posted cut-off date in the policy. For any information on the process or eligibility for Youth upgrades, please read the **Youth Upgrade Policy – 2020 Track Season** document.

Please email your request to [support@ontariocycling.org](mailto:support@ontariocycling.org)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Athlete Name</b>                              |  |
| <b>Athlete Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD)</b>        |  |
| <b>Club/Team (If Applicable)</b>                 |  |
| <b>Coach's Name</b>                              |  |
| <b>Event Request is for</b>                      |  |
| <b>Type of Event (Endurance, Sprint or Both)</b> |  |
| <b>Preferred Category</b>                        |  |

**Reason for Request:**

**Race Results:**

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Race Name</b> | <b>Result (in Cat)</b> | <b>Result Web Link</b> |
|-------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
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Please note all decisions by the Committee are final.