

2009 Changes for Category Upgrades

Please note an important change in the 2009 USA Cycling rulebook (http://www.usacycling.org/forms/USAC_rulebook.pdf):

Only races permitted by USA Cycling or foreign races permitted by a UCI affiliated National Federation will count for upgrading (1D1).

This means that results from events without USA Cycling permits—such as races at Pacific Raceways, Seward Park on Thursday nights, and (with minuscule exceptions) in Oregon—may not be used for points toward a category upgrade.

If, however, you feel that your placings in these events support your upgrade request, you may list them in the race results you submit with your upgrade request.

Cat 2 riders should also note that, for cat 1 road upgrades, only 10 points may be earned in masters races or training races (1D2(3)).

Checklist for Road Category Upgrades

Information on the upgrade process and how to calculate your points begins on page 19 of the USA Cycling rulebook.

1. When you think you've earned enough points to upgrade, tabulate the points you've earned in the last 12 months (cat 5 men simply need experience in 10 mass-start events). For road categories, points vary depending on race type and field size.
2. Log in to your My USA Cycling web page, click on the License Info tab at the top of the page, and then click on the Upgrade/Downgrade link corresponding to the race discipline/category you wish to change.
3. On the Upgrade/Downgrade page that appears, click on the category you wish to change to and provide detailed information in the text box to justify your request. For each event in which you've earned upgrade points, please include: name and date of the race, type of event (crit or RR), category, field size (estimated number of starters—show those in your category if it's a combined field), your placing, and the number of points you earned at this event.

4. After you submit your request, it will be forwarded to a local or regional coordinator (depending on category) for consideration. As soon as it is approved (or denied), you will be notified by email. Allow up to two weeks for processing your request.

5. When you receive notification of your upgrade, go back to your My USA Cycling web page, click on the Print Authorization to Ride link near the top, and print that page. It is your proof that your category has changed, and you will need to present it at races with your license.

6. If you would like an upgrade sticker to go on your license, please contact roadupgrades [at] wsbaracing [dot] com.

Answers to Some FAQs

Riders cannot earn upgrade points in time trials or in events outside the particular cycling discipline the upgrade is requested for (that is, mountain bike results don't count toward a road upgrade).

Riders may earn a few upgrade points at weekly series races if they are events permitted by USA Cycling. The higher the category, however, the less reliance there should be on results from these races (that is, they are great experience for upgrading from cat 5 to cat 4 but a rider should not hope to become a cat 2 or cat 1 based mostly on results at weekly training races).

Riders may earn upgrade points from combined-category races. But, for example, in a combined cat 4-5 field, the field size for a cat 4 rider is only all the other cat 4s in the race, not all riders (no points for beating riders in lower categories).

Riders may earn upgrade points from masters or juniors races, although there are limits to the number of points, especially for riders upgrading to cat 1 (see rule 1D2(3)).

Final GC placings in stage races count only for upgrades to categories 2 and 1, and riders are limited in the number of points they may earn from any given race (see rulebook). Note that an omnium does not qualify as a stage race; a stage race is defined as an event where a rider must complete one stage in order to start the next.