

DEFINITIONS

The UCI Gravel World Series is composed of individual Cycling for All Gravel cycling competitions. A UCI Gravel World Series event is a competitive mass participation event with a mass start (or in waves with intervals between the start groups) which is fully timed for all participants and splits results per age group and gender. Riders are protected by a rolling road closure or fully closed roads during a certain time frame. The UCI Gravel World Championships is the last event of the series, open to riders qualified through the series.

RIGHTS

Licenses

Riders can take part in the UCI Gravel World Series if they hold any of the following licenses:

- No license
- Amateur license
- Master license
- Cycling for All license
- Elite license

Note: Riders qualified for the UCI Gravel World Championships, must hold a valid licence issued by their respective national federation (day licences being excluded), must hold a UCI ID and must be adequately insured against accidents and civil responsibility in the country in which the UCI Gravel World Championships are held.

Age groups

The UCI Gravel World Series event must provide results for the following different age groups, for both women and men:

ELITE MEN ELITE WOMEN

19 – 34y
35 – 39y
40 – 44y
45 – 49y
50 – 54y
55 – 59y
60 – 64y
65 – 69y
70 – 74y
75 – 79y

Age Groups applicable to the UCI Gravel World Series are defined by the rider's age on December 31st of the year of the qualifier event. Riders who qualify past the World Championships for next year's World Championships and change age group in the following year will automatically take their qualification to the next age group so don't need to qualify again in their new age group in the year of the World Championships. As per the regulations applied for the UCI Gravel World Championships, medals and titles will be awarded for men and/or women as soon as the rider is registered in the respective 5-year age category.

Elite riders from a UCI registered team must always take part in the elite category. Elite riders with a national level license have the choice to start in the elite category or in their respective age group, but must make that choice prior to the race. Riders signing up for the elite category can only qualify for the elite category at the UCI Gravel World Championships.

Riders signing up for the age group categories can only qualify for the age group categories at the UCI Gravel World Championships.

If a rider who started with the elites didn't qualify in the elite category, (s)he can't claim qualification in his/her age group if his/her finish time would be within the top 25% of his age category.

QUALIFICATION

As per the official qualification system for the 2027 UCI Gravel World Championships, each UCI Gravel World Series event grants qualification rights for the UCI Gravel World Championships for those riders finishing in the first 25% of their category.

The 25% is calculated based on the number of starters in each age group, and not on the number of riders having finished the race.

In addition, the first three riders of each official category will qualify directly for the World Championships, independently of the number of starters in that age group. Riders must finish the race to gain qualification.

The names of riders having gained qualification through the UCI Gravel World Series will be communicated on the UCI Gravel World Series website and will receive an official email from the UCI inviting them to register for the UCI Gravel World Championships via the dedicated online registration portal.

All riders (whether license holders or not) completing the same distance in a qualifier event are officially considered as participants in the UCI Gravel World Series, i.e. they must be part of the same ranking list, independently of the wave in which they started.

COURSE

The UGWS has standard course formats for all qualifier events.

Format

Only single day gravel races can be part of the UCI Gravel World Series.

Bikes

Riders may use any type of bike (road bike, mountain bike, city bike, hybrid bike, cross bike, etc.) with the exception of tandem, E-Bikes or recumbent bikes. Time trial road bikes are also forbidden.

During the UCI Gravel World Championships, all bikes should have dropped handlebars. It's not possible to participate in the UCI Gravel World Championships with a mountain bike.

Jerseys

Riders are free to wear any type of jersey in the qualifier events, with the following exception:

Reigning World Champions are obliged to wear their official jersey in UGWS qualifier events .

Mechanical assistance

All riders should bring their own tools and spare tire or tubular to the race. Tools have to be foreseen in the feed zones to give riders the opportunity to fix other problems. Riders can change wheels during the event, but have to use the same bike frame throughout the event.

Timing and qualification

All riders completing the qualifying distance, independent in which start wave they are starting, are eligible for the UCI Gravel World Championships and must be taken into account to calculate the top **25%** list of qualified riders.

For all categories, the first three finishers per age group are always qualified, independently of the number of starters in that specific age group. A five-year age group should be created from the moment that at least 1 rider from that age group participates.

The top **25%** is based on the number of riders effectively taking the start (not the number of pre-registered riders or riders finishing the race). The 25% is rounded to the highest number to determine the exact number of qualified riders per category (for instance: with 26 starters, 6.5 are eligible for qualification, meaning that the first 7 will be invited for the World Championships)

As the minimum age to participate in the UCI Gravel World Championships is 19 years old, only riders born before 31 December 2007 can qualify for the 2026 UCI Gravel World Championships. Since the event is organized in the same year and immediately following the World Championships (October-December), riders aged 18 at the moment of qualification may already qualify as they will turn 19 in the year of the 2027 World Championships.

UGWS Medal

Every rider who finishes in the top 25% of his/her category in the UGWS qualifier events shall be given a medal. The top 3 finishers per category receive their medal on the podium.

UGWS Jersey

UCI Gravel World Series will provide a jersey for every winner in his/her age category for both men's and women's races. There will also be a special design jersey for the elite male/female winner.

SAFETY

Participants

Mandatory helmet: As per UCI regulation 3.031 , wearing a helmet is mandatory for all UGWS events, throughout the whole race. Participants are informed in advance by the organization that they will be barred from the start or that their race number will immediately be withdrawn if they are caught by a member of the organization without their helmet.

Medical certificate: To confirm the physical capability of a cyclist to take part in a UGWS race, all participants should provide a medical certificate of fitness to practice cycling, which has been issued by a doctor

Accident and third-party liability insurance: All cyclists who take part in a UGWS event possess appropriate medical and third-party liability insurance.

Each rider is responsible for ensuring that they possess adequate medical insurance. This can be ensured either through an individual race license (from a National Federation affiliated to the UCI) covering races abroad or through a private insurance policy.

Cyclists must compete alone and will be eliminated immediately if they are caught benefiting from roadside assistance from a third party not belonging to the event organization.

For the well-being of the cyclists (who are increasingly prone to carry a mobile phone during the race), their families and also the marshals spread out over the race, an emergency number will be available (and notified to everyone) throughout the event.