



NW CUP INFORMATION

What is it?

The NW Cup is a downhill race series based in the greater Pacific Northwest. It began 2006 with just 3 races and only visited 2 venues. Currently, in 2018, the NW Cup consists of 8 races, at 6 Venues, in 4 States.

Who can Race?

Anyone. We have 4 different skill based categories which are further broken down by gender and age. *(See below for more info on that).*

Do I have to go to all the races to qualify?

Racers can do one or all of the races. Each race consists of individual awards ceremonies and all add up to an overall award ceremony at the end of the year. While there are 8 races, only your best 6 races count for the overall as you're lowest scoring 2 races are dropped. The only other requirement is attending the final race every year.

Does everyone race the same track?

Almost never. With very few exceptions, there are 3 tracks at each race of varying difficulty. We do our very best to have a safe Category 3 track, a challenging Category 2 track and a difficult Pro/Category 1 track.

Do I need a license?

Yes. All NW Cup races are USA Cycling sanctioned events which requires some sort of license. The types of licenses that work are:

- USA Cycling Annual Licenses
- USA Cycling Single Event Licenses (aka. One-Day License) available at the event.
- Most UCI Licenses

What does my entry fee get me?

The entry fee provides entry into the race and some USA Cycling benefits. Each resort offers a 3 day discounted lift pass.

All NW Cups are 3 day events. You are not required to be there all 3 days, but it is ideal for getting the optimal amount of practice. As per USA Cycling, riders are required to do at least 2 practice laps prior to their race runs.

What is a typical Schedule?

In most cases Friday is registration and open practice for all categories. Saturday is typically either open practice or segregated practice base on category, followed in the late afternoon with Pro seeding runs. Sunday starts with a quick practice (typically 1 run) then racing for all categories, followed by awards.

How do I register?

Riders can pre-register prior to the event but are still required to check in on-site. All riders must check-in prior to practicing. Registration will be open both Fridays and Saturdays.

Are there are any gear requirements?

We strongly recommend as much protection as possible. While the only true "requirement" is a full face helmet and a mechanically sound bike, we suggest elbow, knee, chest, neck, hand armor. The safer you are, the better the overall experience.

Categories Explanation for the NW Cup Downhill Series

Every year we fine tune the categories for the NW Cup based on the previous year results. Given how the series has grown over the past decade, we have typically been expanding the categories by splitting out categories in an effort to give as many people as possible a chance to stand on the box at the end of the weekend. With that, we need to consider the rules from USA Cycling in regards to categories.

First off, there are a few general rules to consider:

1. In an effort to keep full podiums, we reserve the right to combine classes if there are less than 3 people registered in a category.
2. Our priorities are Safe-Fun-Fair, and the Categories are a tool to achieve this.
3. Your age is determined by how old you will be on December 31st of the current year. (Example: A Cat 2 male rider turns 15 in November, he would race Cat 2 15-18 all year, even at our April race)
4. **If you have an annual license you must present either the license or some proof that you have a current license.**

Pro Men & Women

In order to race Pro, the racer must have a Pro license issued by either USA Cycling or the UCI. This is not something we can sell or even renew at the races. Riders are eligible to be upgraded to Pro after two top-three finishes or three top-five finishes in Category 1 races at USAC events. There are just two groups in the Pro Category.

Pro Men

Pro Women

Category 1

In order to race Cat 1, the racer must have an annual Category 1 license issued by USA Cycling. **You cannot race Category 1 without a Cat 1 license even if you are the shrediest shredder from shredville.** (Doing so voids our insurance policy and no one wants that kind of risk). If you come to the first race of the year with your expired license from the previous year, we can renew it, however it is much preferred that you do that with USAC prior to the race. To upgrade: Five top-five finishes is a mandatory upgrade to Cat 1. Riders may choose to upgrade with two top-five finishes as well.

The Cat 1 age/gender groups for 2019 will be:

Cat 1 Men 0-18

Cat 1 Women 0-18

Cat 1 Men 19-29

Cat 1 Women 19+

Cat 1 Men 30-39

Cat 1 Men 40+

Category 2

Category 2 is available to all racers, even if it is their first time racing. Cat 2 typically uses a more challenging course than Cat 3 and first time riders are always encouraged to give Cat 3 a try first. A rider can always switch even mid event if they want more or less challenge. There is a mandatory upgrade rule that states that five top-five finishes in Cat 3 trigger a mandatory upgrade to Cat 2. We are flexible on this because we want people to move up when they feel comfortable to do so. The mandatory upgrades are to eliminate "sand-bagging".

The Cat 2 age/gender groups for 2019 will be:

Cat 2 Men 0-14	Cat 2 Women 0-18
Cat 2 Men 15-18	Cat 2 Women 19-39
Cat 2 Men 19-29	Cat 2 Women 40+
Cat 2 Men 30-39	
Cat 2 Men 40-49	
Cat 2 Men 50-59	
Cat 2 Men 60+	

Category 3

Category 3 is considered the best place to start and get accustomed to racing the clock. It's just as competitive as all of the other categories but in a little more controlled environment. Most of the time, we encourage people to start here for a season and then dive into a little more technical tracks.

The Cat 3 age/gender groups for 2019 will be:

Cat 3 Men 0-10	Cat 3 Women 0-10
Cat 3 Men 11-14	Cat 3 Women 11-18
Cat 3 Men 15-18	Cat 3 Women 19-39
Cat 3 Men 19-39	Cat 3 Women 40+

If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to ask!