

Guidelines for the 23rd National Mountain Bike Cycling Championship, Mahendragiri, Odisha, 2026

1. Arrival & Departure

All teams must inform the organizers about their arrival and departure at least one week prior to the commencement of the event. This is crucial for the arrangement of transportation and logistics. If this is not followed, the organizers will not provide any transport for the teams, and the responsibility will lie solely with the teams to manage their own travel to and from the venue.

2. Accommodation Arrangements

- **Accommodation will be provided 2 days prior** to the event days. Teams will only be allowed to check-in **2 days before** the start of the event and teams are required to vacate the accommodation on next day of completion of the event by 12:00 Noon.
- **No accommodation** will be provided for teams arriving **before** the designated period.
- Teams arriving earlier than the 2-day window are required to **arrange their own accommodation** for the extra days prior to the event and will be responsible for their own **transportation** from the **railway station** or **airport** to their accommodation.

3. Organization Fee

An organization fee of Rs. 1500 per person will be charged for the entire duration of the championship. This fee will be applicable to all team members, including riders and officials, irrespective of whether they avail of boarding and lodging facilities. Teams that do not need these facilities will still be required to pay the full fee. This ensures the proper functioning of the event and the availability of necessary services.

4. Rider Licenses

All participants must comply with the Rider License Guidelines as detailed in Annex - I. It is mandatory for riders to have a valid license issued by the CFI. Teams must ensure that all riders/team officials are properly licensed and meet the required standards as per the regulations, ensuring their eligibility for participation in the event.

5. Ceremonies

Participation in the opening and closing ceremonies is mandatory for all teams. Riders and officials must attend these ceremonies in their proper state uniforms. Failure to do so will result in a penalty being imposed, in accordance with the regulations. These ceremonies are an important part of the championship and reflect the discipline and professionalism expected from all participants.

6. Team Jerseys

It is mandatory for all riders within a team to wear the same team jersey during the championship which has been submitted and approved by the state Associations (Copy Attached). A jersey check will be conducted before the team Manager's meeting to ensure that all team members adhere to this rule. Uniformity in appearance is important for team representation during the competition. Last minute changes will not be allowed.

7. Sponsorship & Endorsement Guidelines

- **No rider** who holds a **license** with the Federation is allowed to have any **endorsement or sponsorship** on their race attire or equipment without receiving **prior approval** from the respective **State Association, Board, or the National Federation**.
- **State Associations/Boards** must inform the **National Federation** at least **one week prior** to the competition date if there are any **endorsements or sponsorships** involved on the riders' **race attire or equipment**.

8. Medal Ceremony Attire

Riders must appear in their State/affiliated Race Attire during the medal ceremonies wearing sports shoes. This ensures consistency and professionalism during the official recognition of the athletes' achievements. Failure to appear in proper race attire will result in a fine. The race attire should be the same as that worn during the competition, ensuring the championship's standards are upheld throughout. No caps, sunglasses, helmet and visor allowed during the medal ceremony.

9. Sportsmanship

Riders must compete with true sportsmanship and uphold the values of fairness and respect. Any form of unsportsmanlike behavior such as aggression, verbal abuse, or cheating will not be tolerated. Riders found engaging in such behavior will face disciplinary action under the rules set by the Cycling Federation of India (CFI). It is crucial that athlete

maintain integrity and respect for their fellow competitors, officials, and the sport itself.

10. Discipline

Strict discipline is expected from all participants, both on and off the field. Teams and riders should display professionalism, respect for the event, and its organizers. This extends to the management of their actions outside of the competition as well. Any violation of these standards may lead to penalties or even disqualification from the championship, depending on the severity of the incident.

11. Media Interaction

Riders and team members are not allowed to interact with the media without first obtaining official permission from the authorities. Any interviews or media statements should be coordinated through the designated channels. If there are any complaints, participants are advised to report them to the Race Director, Organizing Secretary, or PCP for proper handling. Unauthorized media interactions could cause disruptions and miscommunications during the event.

12. Age Category Participation

No riders are allowed to compete in the upper age category. If they do, they will not be allowed to compete in the lower category from that date onwards. However, for team events, one rider from a lower age group may participate, but the majority of the riders in the team must be from the same age category. *(Ex- if a team composition is 03 riders, 01 out of the 03 can be from the lower age category).*

13. Men & Women Under 23 in Elite Category

Men/Women riders under the age of 23 (U-23) who wish to compete in the Elite category are not allowed to participate in the U-23 events during said Championships.

14. Restricted Access

The **team pits, start/finish area**, and **refreshment areas** are **restricted** to authorized individuals only.

- These areas are reserved solely for **official team members, riders**, and event organizers to ensure the smooth operation of the competition.
- All non-authorized individuals must remain in the designated **spectator areas** and are **not allowed to interact with** or **disturb** the participants or event officials during the competition.

15. NCOE Coaches

For NCOE coaches/support staff (National Centre of Excellence), who are not part of the state or board teams, will only be permitted if having valid **CFI Coaches license** along with a recommendation letter from their respective NCOE's.

16. Authorized Communication

During the course of the championship, each team must designate only one authorized person during the team Manager's Meeting to communicate with the Race Secretariat, Technical Delegate, or Chief Commissaire. This ensures a clear and efficient communication channel between the organizers and the teams. No other individual will be entertained during official communications, and teams are urged to appoint their designated representative carefully.

17. Bike Check & Restrictions

For all disciplines and races, Commissaires will check each bicycle. Each rider/ coach/ mechanic must be present with his/ her bicycle check and confirm verification before the start of the event. It is essential that the equipment used in competition meets the prevailing quality and safety standards for bicycles.

18. State Team Selection

For details on the selection of state teams, please refer to Annex III. It outlines the process and criteria for how riders are chosen to represent their respective states in the competition. Teams must ensure that their riders meet these criteria to be eligible for selection.

19. Eligibility for Participation Certificate

For Time Trial & Cross-Country events, riders must complete the race according to the Article no. 4.2.064. The 80% UCI rule to be eligible for a certificate.

These guidelines are essential to maintaining the integrity, safety, and professionalism of the event. All participants and teams are strongly advised to adhere strictly to the rules and regulations outlined above.

20. Entry Limits per Category

Category	Men (Max)	Women (Max)
Elite	6	6
U23	4	4
Junior	5	5
Sub Junior	4	4
Youth	3	3
Total	22	22

Proposed XCR Team Composition

XCR Elite & U/23 Category

(a) The standard Team Relay (XCR) will consist of six (6) riders from each state unit/board. Each team must include riders from the following categories:

- 01 Men Elite
- 02 Men U-23
- 01 Women Elite
- 02 U-23 Women

XCR Junior & Sub Junior Category

(b) The standard Team Relay (XCR) will consist of six (6) riders from each state unit/board. Each team must include riders from the following categories:

- 02 Men Junior
- 01 Men Sub Junior
- 02 Women Junior
- 01 Women Sub Junior

AGE FRAUD IN CYCLING

Vide letter No. CFI/Gen./8/5/23 dated 26th May 2023 issued to every Affiliated State Units/ Boards. The following norms has to be followed:

- **Enhanced Age Verification Process:**
The expenses incurred for these tests should be borne by the state association, rather than burdening the individual cyclists.
- **Necessary age verification would be carried out** for those cyclists who are suspected in their age category. A committee deputed by CFI will undertake the physical verification of Youth & Sub Junior Category.

21. ANTI-DOPING

UCI Anti-doping rules are entirely applicable to the event. Anti-doping tests will take place in the Anti-Doping Area located at the venue. Anti-doping controls will be the responsibility of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).