



2012 Road Categorization Guidelines



Rider upgrades are handled electronically through a rider's USAC account. The request will be sent to Yvonne van Gent, USAC LA representative. Please follow the instructions online and provide the information about your race experience and placings. The information you provide must include the race date, name, type of event, category, number of participants in your category, and placing. If the upgrade is approved, your account will be changed so that when you request a new license, the category will be changed.

Categorization

Categories indicate cycling abilities relative to riders of the same sex without regard to age.

Road Requirement by Category

- 5 → 4: Finish 10 massed-start races.
- 4 → 3: Need 20 points in any 12 month period; experience in 25 qualifying races with a minimum of 10 top ten finishes with fields of 30 riders or more; 20 pack finishes with fields over 50.
30 pts. in 12 months is a mandatory upgrade.
Jrs must have some experience riding in Senior 4 events before an upgrade to 3's will be granted.
- 3 → 2: Need 25 points in any 12 month period;
40 pts. in 12 months is a mandatory upgrade.
- 2 → 1: Need 30 points in any 12 month period;
50 pts. in 12 months is a mandatory upgrade.

ACA State Representative may upgrade riders at the end of the season that have reached the minimum amount of points but not maximum.

Qualifying Distance by Category

Cat.	Class	RR	Crit Duration
5 - 4	Men	15 mi	20 min
4 - 3	Men	25 mi	30 min
	Women	25 mi	30 min
	Juniors	25 mi	30 min
3 - 2	Men	50 mi	40 min
	Women	40 mi	30 min
2 - 1	Men	80 mi	60 min
	Women	50 mi	40 min

To qualify for upgrading points, races must meet distance requirements.

Time Trials and races shorter than the min. distance are *not* qualifying races. However, if a road race is less than the road race minimum but above the criterium minimum, it will count for upgrading using the criterium points.

Points for Criteriums & Circuit Races

Place	Number of Starters			
	5-10	11-20	21-49	50+
1	3	4	5	7
2	2	3	4	5
3	1	2	3	4
4		1	2	3
5			1	2
6				1

Points for Road Races

Place	Number of Starters			
	5-10	11-20	21-49	50+
1	3	7	8	10
2	2	5	6	8
3	1	4	5	7
4		3	4	6
5		2	3	5
6		1	2	4
7			1	3
8				2
9				1

Points for Stages Race (3 → 2, 2 → 1)

Place	Number of Starters			
	10-19	20-35	36-49	50+
1	5	7	10	20
2	3	5	8	18
3	2	3	6	16
4	1	2	5	14
5		1	4	12
6			3	10
7			2	9
8			1	8
9				7
10				6
11				5
12				4
13				3
14				2
15				1

GC & stage places count for points, but only up to a max. of 20 for a cat.1 upgrade or 15 for a cat 2 upgrade.

For cat 1 upgrades only 10 points may be earned in races that are part of a training series or may be earned in master's races.

Cat 4's will not receive SR points- each stage that meets qualifying criteria will be given points as indicated in charts to the left.

Omniums are not regarded as a Stage Race.

Downgrades: Any rider who in the preceding 12 months has never placed in the top 10 in a qualifying race in the rider's category may be assigned to the next lower category.
In no case will a rider be allowed to downgrade to category 5.