



# USAC/BRAC 2019 Road Categorization Guidelines



**Rider upgrades/downgrades 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. Only races permitted by USA Cycling or foreign races permitted by a UCI affiliated National Federation will count for upgrading. If the upgrade/downgrade is approved, your USAC account 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:** **Voluntary Upgrade:** 5 mass start events with 3 being criteriums  
**Mandatory Upgrade:**  
 Acquire 10 points by a combination of the following:
- 2 pts - complete all 3 sections of a BRP Clinic (Max -10pts)
  - 1 pt - finish a massed start race
  - 1 pt – participate in a BRAC mentored race experience (Max- 5pts)
  - 1 pt – participate in a USAC Gran Fondo (Max- 3pts)
- 4 → 3:** **Voluntary Upgrade:**
- 20 upgrade points in 36 months -or-
  - experience in 25 qualifying races with a min. of 10 top 10 finishes with fields of 30+ riders -or-
  - 20 pack finishes with fields of at least 50.
- Mandatory Upgrade\*:** 30 pts. in 12 months  
*Juniors must have some experience riding in Senior 4 events before an upgrade to 3's will be granted.*
- 3 → 2:** **Voluntary Upgrade:** 30 pts. in 36 months  
**Mandatory Upgrade\*:** 40 pts. in 12 months
- 2 → 1:** **Voluntary Upgrade:** 35 pts. in 36 months\*\*  
**Mandatory Upgrade\*:** 50 pts. in 12 months

\* Juniors are exempt from mandatory upgrades, however, points accrued in Senior events will be used for mandatory upgrading to Cat 3.

\*\* For Cat 1 upgrades, only 10 points may be earned from training race series or masters' races; and no points may be earned in collegiate races.

### Qualifying Distance by Category

Cat.	Class	RR	Crit Duration
5 - 4	Men	15 mi	20 min
	Women	10 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 road races shorter than the min. distance are *not* qualifying races.

However, if a road race is less than the road race min. but above the criterium min. it will count for upgrading using the criterium points.

### Points for Crits & 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 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

### 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

G.C. & 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.

Cat 4's will not receive SR points - each stage that meets qualifying criteria will be given points as indicated in charts to the far 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. *Riders will not be allowed to downgrade to cat 5.*

In regards to the points tables, if the field contains mixed categories (e.g. cat 3-4), then the number of starters is the number of riders that are the same category or higher as the person requesting the upgrade. The number of points awarded is the raw finish across the finish line, not taking account the category of the rider. In other words, in a 3-4 race the cat 3 riders are not subtracted out so that the cat 4 appears to have a higher finish place. The only time separate upgrade points is given is if a separate prize list is offered.