



# USAC/BRAC 2015 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. Only races permitted by USA Cycling or foreign races permitted by a UCI affiliated National Federation will count for upgrading. 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: Acquire 10 points by a combination of the following:
- 2 pts - complete all 3 sections of a Beginner Racer Program Clinic
  - 1 pt - finish a massed start race
  - 1 pt - complete a USA Cycling approved education clinic
  - 1 pt – participate in a BRAC mentored race experience

*Rider clinics/camps can be used to only a max. of 5 points, except that a rider may obtain all 10 points from the Beginner Racer Program*

- 4 → 3: Voluntary Upgrade:
- 20 upgrade points -or-
  - experience in 25 qualifying races with a minimum 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

*Jrs must have some experience riding in Senior 4 events before an upgrade to 3's will be granted.*

- 3 → 2: Voluntary Upgrade: 30 points  
Mandatory Upgrade\*: 40 pts. in 12 month

- 2 → 1: Voluntary Upgrade: 35 points\*\*  
Mandatory Upgrade\*: 50 pts. in 12 months

\* *Jrs are exempt from mandatory upgrades on the road*

\*\* *For category 1 upgrades, only 10 points may be earned from training race series or masters' races; only 15 of the points may be earned in collegiate races.*

### 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 road 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 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 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

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.

*In no case will a rider be allowed to downgrade to category 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 I can give separate upgrade points is if a separate prize list is offered.