

Youth Upgrade Policy

2022 Track Season

Purpose

To provide athletes with a meaningful and developmentally appropriate competition opportunity when they demonstrate superior competitive ability in their current competitive Youth Track Development Series category.

Eligibility

Athletes in the Under 17 age group may be eligible to apply for an upgrade to race in the Track OCup series (Events 1 and/or 2). Riders in the Under 15 age category may be eligible to apply for the Under 17 category at O-Cup 3 and Provincial Championships.

To be considered for an upgrade, Ontario athletes should meet the minimum criteria below:

	YTDS Category	Minimum Requirement	OCup Category Considered
Male Riders	A Grade Category	Consistently amongst top 3 in the A Grade	Cat C Men or Higher
Female Riders	A/B Grade Category	Consistently amongst the top 5 of the B Grade	Cat A Women

Athletes must demonstrate a history of results showing they are not being challenged in their current Youth Track Development Series category (Ex. Lapping the field or consistently winning each race). Athletes with results that show they are racing in a suitable category for their competitive abilities will not be considered for an upgrade.

Athletes must also indicate if they are upgrading for ENDURANCE or SPRINT or BOTH types of events [it is possible an upgrade may be granted for one and not the other based on the results provided].

2022 SEASON: The Youth Upgrade/Downgrade Committee will review all requests at the time of eligibility cut-off (One week prior to registration closing) and will decide on three items:

1. Is the rider eligible for an upgrade to the Ontario Cup Series?
2. Is the upgrade granted for a specific event or for the Series?
3. What category is the rider recommended for if approved to race the Ontario Cup Series (This may be different than the requested "Preferred Category" on the application form)

Out of Province Riders

Riders from outside Ontario will also be considered for upgrades however they must demonstrate a clear ability to be competitive. It is recommended that all out of province youth riders compete in the Youth Track Development Series to improve their chance of being considered for an upgrade. The committee will review requests from out of province riders who have not raced in the Youth Track Development Series however results for these riders must show a consistent ability to podium at a level consistent with that of the Youth Track Development Series. Riders will not be considered for upgrades based on the distance traveled to attend the event.

Application Process

Note this is an application process. Athletes will not be automatically considered for an upgrade if they have not submitted a formal request. Please ensure you understand all the steps of the process below:

- 1) An NCCP Certified Coach (or equivalent for out of country riders) must complete and submit the OCA Upgrade Request form below. If the athlete does not have an NCCP Certified Coach, a parental submission will be considered.
- 2) Upgrade requests must be submitted by the eligible cut-off date for consideration. No Exceptions.

Cut-Off Date For Request	Event	Event Date
November 30, 2021, Noon ET	O-Cup #1	December 12, 2021
January 4, 2022, Noon ET	O-Cup #2	January 16, 2022

- 3) The upgrade process also applies to out of province riders looking for upgrades. Coaches must submit a formal request AND provide links to prior results for the committee to be able to give consideration for an upgrade.
- 4) The committee responsible for reviewing youth upgrades will be comprised of a minimum of three individuals not affiliated with the athlete applying for the request.
- 5) A detailed Track results summary must be provided. Results outside of the TRACK discipline will be considered for the 2022 season due to the absence of a 2021 Ontario Track season; however previous track experience will be weighted highly.
- 6) Decisions for upgrade will take into consideration the following items [in no priority order]:
 - a) The athlete's current competitive field
 - b) The athlete's current season's results [e.g. Youth Series]
 - c) The athletes sanctioned race history [e.g. Youth Series]
 - d) The impact on the competition field
 - e) The athlete's ability to be competitive in the recommended Ontario Cup category
- 7) **Category limits:** The number of upgraded athletes may be restricted as a result of the maximum field size allowable.

Athletes who have been approved for an upgrade will be notified of the committee's Recommended Category. Riders may not race above this category without prior Committee approval.

Note that this does not guarantee this will be the rider's category on race weekend. All final decisions on category allotment will ultimately be up to the OCA Track Panel based on each event's registration and rider's may be forced into a lower category (no more than one lower than recommended) should it be required.

All athletes approved for an upgrade to the Ontario Cup Series are still encouraged to compete in Youth Track Development Series events.

O-Cup #3/Eastern Challenge

Athletes will be required to race in their recognized National racing age category for the Eastern Challenge.* 2nd Year Under 15 age category riders (Born in 2008) may be eligible for an upgrade to the Under 17 category for the Eastern Challenge. All requests for this event must be submitted by the cut-off date listed below.

Cut-Off Date For Request	Event	Event Date
February 01 2022, Noon ET	O-Cup #3/Eastern Challenge	February 11 – 13, 2022

Provincial Championships

Athletes will be required to race in their recognized National racing age category for Provincial Championships.* 2nd Year Under 15 age category riders (Born in 2008) may be eligible for an upgrade to the Under 17 category for the Eastern Challenge. All requests for this event must be submitted by the cut-off date listed below.

Cut-Off Date For Request	Event	Event Date
February 22 2022, Noon ET	Provincial Championships	March 04 – 06, 2022

Policy Fine Print

*Any deviations from the above may be considered in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the committee.

The committee reserves the right to review and make athlete category modifications and adjust the Upgrade Policy at anytime as deemed required.

All decisions of the committee are FINAL. Coaches may submit a new request for their athlete after their next event. Please ensure you include that most recent result with any updated requests.

**** The contacting of Committee Members regarding upgrades or downgrades is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in the Athlete's Coach/Parent losing the privilege to request other athlete upgrades. ****

Youth Upgrade Request Form – Track

Please complete this form if you are requesting an upgrade for a Youth (Under 17 or younger) rider to upgrade to the Ontario Cup Track Series. Requests should be completed by an NCCP certified cycling coach. The Committee will only consider sanctioned racing events and will prioritize Track results when reviewing the applicant’s request.

Requests will be reviewed based on the information provided below. For information on the process or eligibility, please read the **Youth Upgrade Policy – 2022 Track Season** document.

Email your request prior to Noon on the cut-off date listed in the policy Tuesday for consideration:
support@ontariocycling.org

Athlete Name:	
Athlete Date of Birth:	
Coach’s Name (If Applicable):	
Affiliated Club/Team:	
Event(s) Request is For:	
Type of Event (Endurance, Spring or Both)	
Preferred Category:	

Reasoning for Request:

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Sanctioned Race Results/Race History (Including Link to Results):

Date	Race Name	Result	Link to Event Results