



2023 Cyclo-Cross Season Report

As Ontario Cycling Association (OC) closes off the 2023 Cyclo-Cross Season we wanted to provide an end of season report.

The 2023 Ontario Cyclo-Cross Season was composed of 4 OCups held across the province and a Provincial Championship in Peterborough. The CX season started in St. Catharine's with Cowbell Cross, then moved to Woodstock with Dam Cross; followed by a strong back half of the series with Highlands and Baseball Cross. All events provided riders with exciting courses with challenging technical features and a variety of weather conditions that CX season is well known for and which those who attended thoroughly enjoyed. Baseball Cross in Barrie was the most-well attended CX OCup in the province – tying the record for participation at this venue going back to 2014! This event shows the continued strength in participation and sense of community among CX racers. Thank you to all registrants, volunteers, sponsors, landowners, and our partner clubs St. Catherine's Cycling Club, Woodstock Cycling Club, Collingwood Collective, and Barrie Cycling Club who contributed to making the 2023 CX OCup Series happen!

Our 2023 CX Provincial Championship took place in partnership with Peterborough Cycling Club at Nicholls Oval Park. In previous years Nicholls Oval Park played host to National Cyclo-Cross championships allowing us to provide a national level cyclo-cross course for our riders. Peterborough was the perfect course to conclude the cyclo-cross season as it provided a great challenge for riders of all ages and competition for the title of 2023 Provincial Champion.

This year also saw the addition of a new challenge within the CX OCup races. The MONTU OCup Segment Challenge, sponsored by MONTU Bikes, adding up the fastest laps in each of the CX OCup courses testing different skills through participants Strava accounts. The top ten fastest laps of the course from each OCup event were awarded points, those points and lap times from each round were then added together to determine who our MONTU OCup Segment Challenge Champions were. Unlike race results, this challenge was based on overall male and female results and not separated by age categories, meaning all riders regardless of age or ability level had the opportunity to win the challenge winner's jersey and bragging rights for the year. OC would like to congratulate Parker Bloom (E1/2M) in the Men's category with a total elapsed time of 26 minutes and 50 seconds and Elly Moore (U17 Girls) in the Women's category with a total elapsed time of 30 minutes and 40 seconds both winning the 2023 CX MONTU OCup Segment Challenge.

On the Youth side, at every OCup race this Cyclo-Cross season, a variety of different age-based categories were offered for youth racers. The future racers of tomorrow gained valuable experience on the courses and we are excited to see their progression in future seasons. A huge thank you to all young riders, parents



and clubs involved in these youth races as they have provided tremendous experiences for all our youth CX riders. In addition to the youth races offered at events, an OC HopOn Showcase was hosted in partnership with the Peterborough Cycling Club at the Cyclo-cross Provincials.

Ontario Cycling saw the return of sanctioned weekly series events on our calendar, including the Midweek Weekly Series, Nordic Cats Weekly Series, and the Eastern Ontario CX Series. Thank you to all the clubs, volunteers and organizers who ran these events. We know how hard it is and we truly appreciate their hard work and dedication to supporting the Ontario cyclo-cross racing community.

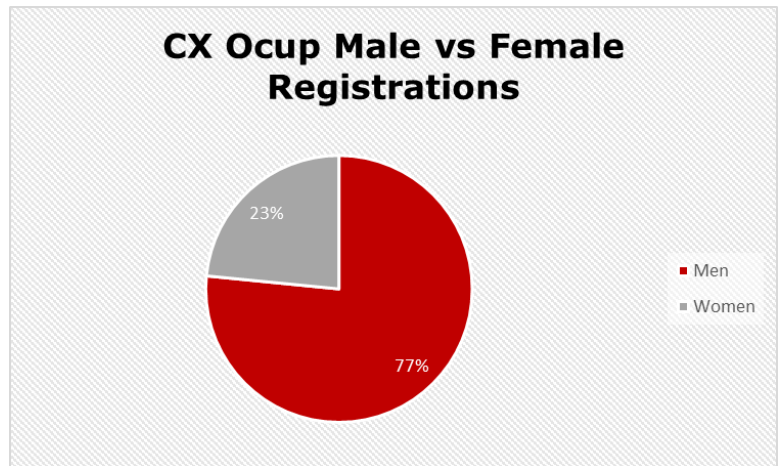
Series Winners

Ontario Cycling would like to congratulate the following OCup series winners:

Race	Name (Category)	
	Female	Male
Youth	Clare Caners (U13W) Charlotte Caners (U15W) Elly Moore (U17W)	Devin Daniells (U13M) Vail Nicoletta (U15M) Evan Moore (U17M)
Master	Dan Souter (M1M) Stephen Gray (M2M) Moise Bensimon (M3M)	Sarah Fasullo (MAW) Maureen O'Hare (MBW)
Elite	Parker Bloom (E1/2M) Alex McCabe (E3M) Olivier Dubreuil (E4M)	Sue Haviland (E1/2W) Kristen Taylor (E3W)
Single Speed	Andrew Lambert	

Event Registration

The 2023 season continued to see a major gap between female vs male registrations. OC formed a Gender Equity Steering Committee in 2022 comprised of members and OC staff to find ways to address this gap over the next 5 years. There is still a lot of work to do, but we are hopeful that we will be able to close the gap and increase equity at our CX events. Compared to the 2022 season, where 22% of participants were female – 2023 only saw a 1% increase female participation.

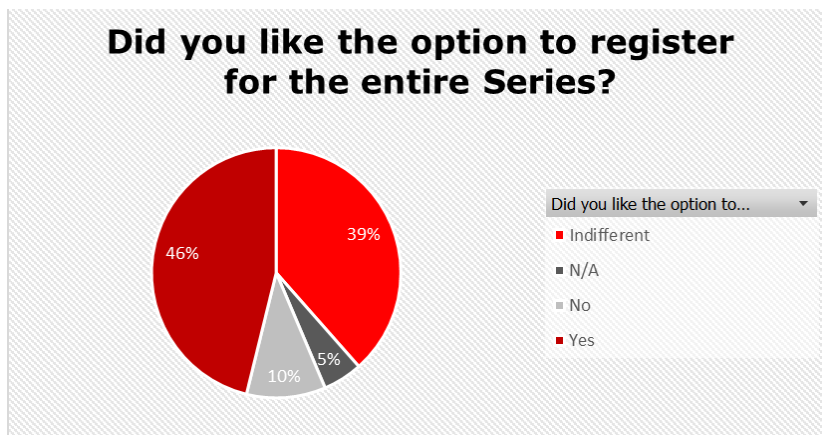
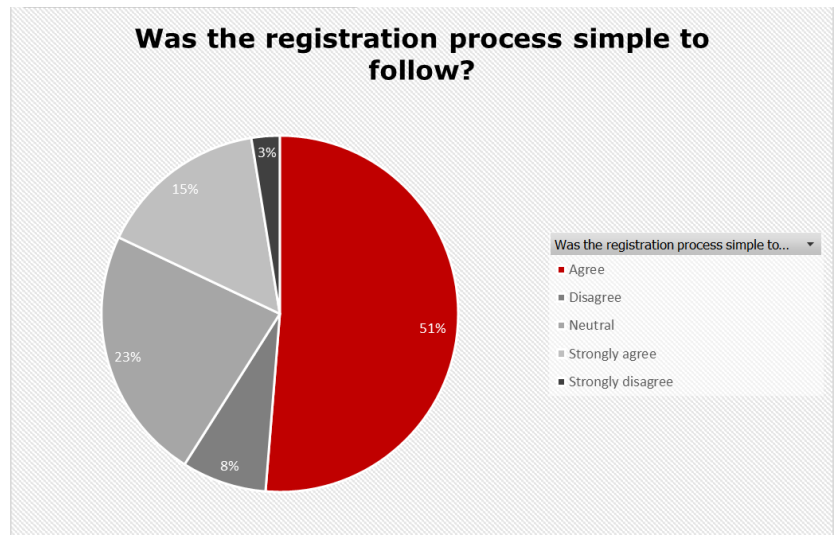


Event Participation Survey

In 2022, Ontario Cycling created a season long Event Participation Survey to provide ongoing feedback throughout the season by event participants. We continued to offer this through 2023. The survey is accessible for all disciplines and anyone who attended an OC sanctioned event is encouraged to provide their feedback after each event. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the survey and we have pulled the survey results as they directly related to Cyclo-Cross events for this report. Additional comments can be added with each survey submission, and these comments were provided to the events department as part of the season debrief. OC will use the data and feedback to help us improve our members' event experience in the future and the survey will continue to run next season, so please make sure to fill it out after each event!

Event Registration Process

The registration process for 2023 CX events was regarded as simple to follow for most riders, with 66% of participants agreeing or strongly agreeing that the registration process is easy to follow. 11% of riders found the cyclo-cross registration process hard to follow. The survey responses show that there is rider satisfaction that support the processes and systems that are currently in place for the registration at sanctioned events.



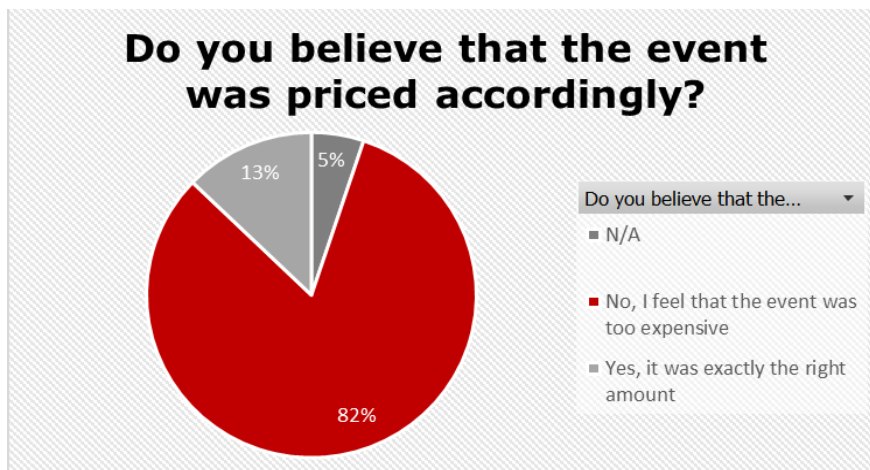
The introduction of the option to register for the entire series was introduced this CX season, and riders were asked to provide feedback on this option being included. The feedback received was balanced between positive and indifferent feedback, with the majority (85%) being either in support of or unbothered by this new option. Additionally, we

received a lot of great feedback and ideas in relation to this new option and the events department will review the feedback and use it to look at how we can improve riders' experiences next season.

Opinions on New Requirements

In addition to the series registration option, Ontario Cycling also introduced the requirement for riders to have participated in at least one OCup to participate in the Provincial Championships. Both positive and negative comments were received about this new requirement for the cyclo-cross season. Most participants' feedback was either indifferent or against this new requirement. In addition, we received a lot of excellent feedback and ideas in relation to this new requirement. The events department will evaluate the feedback received and utilize it to determine how we can enhance riders' experiences over the upcoming season.

Event Pricing



Riders who provided feedback on the 2023 CX season believe that the events hosted this past season were priced too expensive, with over 80% of feedback received sharing similar sentiment. Under 20% of riders feel that this seasons cyclo-cross events were priced correctly. The results of the survey are

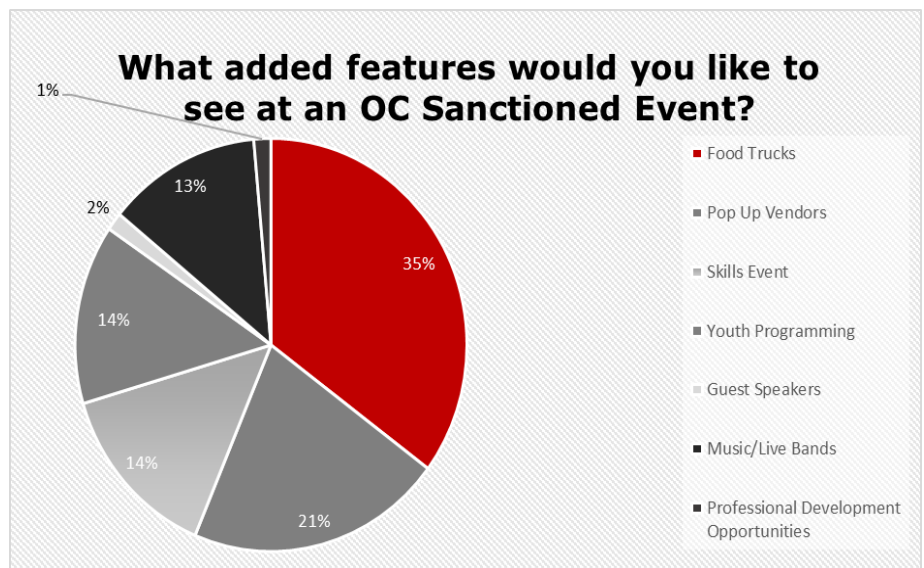
representative of what we hear while at events, with riders claiming that events were too expensive. From the event organizing perspective the increase in cost was needed to ensure that OCup events were able to break even, requiring a \$10 increase for all categories. Upon this realization and after careful consideration the decision was made to only increase adult categories and not youth, to ensure we maintain a healthy number of youth riders in our sport. This however meant that all adult categories increased by \$20 rather than \$10 so that break-even would be feasible without impacting youth.

Event Features

Most riders that participated in a CX event in the past season have highlighted that they would like to see features that would resemble a festival. 70% of participating riders highlighted that they would like to see these events include more food trucks, pop up vendors, and/or some music/live bands. 27% of the riders highlighted that they would like to see the inclusion of other cycling activities such as skills events or youth programming for attending families. The creation and inclusion of these potential features would increase the incentive for riders to participate in our events in a way that is not only on the course, but with our sponsors, local businesses, and community partners that make these events possible.

At the time of writing this report, we had received 40 responses.

The Events Department at Ontario Cycling will use the feedback and ideas received from the comments section and will be added to the end of season debrief. This information will be used to help improve riders' experiences for the next road season.



Partners

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all the partners who have contributed to making the Road OCup races a success this past season. We would like to thank:

| Government of Ontario | City of Barrie | City of Woodstock | City of Peterborough |

| SRAM | Montu | The Biking Lawyer LLP | CLIF Bars | HOJ | Ontario by Bike | Beyond Reach Productions |

| Upper Thames River Conservation Authority | Big Valley Outdoor Resort | Service Course Halton | Highlands Nordic | Wildrock Outfitters | Zone4 | Odyssey Medical | Stage 21 |



Your support has been invaluable in ensuring that each event follows a consistent framework and experience for all participants. We appreciate your commitment and contributions to road cycling in Ontario and look forward to working with you at future events.

Volunteers

Ontario Cycling would like to take the time to thank all our dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to make these events a success! We could not put on these events without each of you, and we truly value your generosity with your time and the passion you have for our sport! We encourage all our participants to please remember to take the time to thank a volunteer at the next event you are at or consider becoming a volunteer at your next local cycling event!

Commissaires

We are very fortunate to have a great group of commissaires for our road events in Ontario. We wish to extend our appreciation and gratitude to each of them for their professionalism, dedication, and passion for our sport. Being a Commissaire can be challenging, and we cannot maintain the standard of fairness and safety in our sport or events without them. Please make sure to thank a Commissaire for their time and generosity at each event you are at. And if you are interested in becoming a commissaire, please reach out to the office to find out how you can be a part of this fantastic team.

Clubs & Teams

A final Thank You to all the clubs, teams, and coaches who continue to support our Cyclo-cross Cycling programming and events in Ontario. It's wonderful to watch the development of their athletes and see their smiles and excitement as they hit the course! We encourage everyone to join their local club and volunteer to support. The sport cannot run without those who work so hard to run programming for our athletes.