



RULES

ARTICLE 1 - DEFINITION

The UCI Gravel World Series (UGWS) consists of individual gravel events open to all. A UCI Gravel World Series event is a competitive mass event with a mass start per category/age group where all participants are fully timed and the results are broken down by category/age group and gender.

The UCI Gravel World Championships is the final event of the series, open to riders who have qualified via the individual events.

ARTICLE 2 - LICENCES

Riders can participate in the UCI Gravel World Series if they hold one of the following licenses:

- No license, under conditions set by the national federation of the organizer.
 - Some national federations require a day license, which can be purchased on site.
 - In certain countries, a medical certificate is also required.
- Amateur license
- Master license
- Cycling for All license
- Elite license

Riders qualifying for the UCI Gravel World Championships must hold a valid license issued by their respective national federation (day licenses are excluded). In addition, they must have a UCI ID and be adequately insured against accidents and civil liability in the country where the UCI Gravel World Championships are held.

Age categories

A UCI Gravel World Series event must provide results for the following age categories, for both men and women:

- ELITE MEN
- ELITE WOMEN
- 19 – 34 years
- 35 – 39 years
- 40 – 44 years
- 45 – 49 years
- 50 – 54 years
- 55 – 59 years
- 60 – 64 years
- 65 – 69 years
- 70 – 74 years
- 75 – 79 years
- ... + any additional 5-year category for which riders have registered

The age categories in the UCI Gravel World Series are determined based on the age of the rider on 31 December of the year of the qualifying event. Riders who qualify for the following year's UCI Gravel World Championships and move into a new age category will automatically carry their qualification over to the next age category and will not need to re-qualify in their new category.

According to the UCI Gravel World Championships regulations, medals and titles are awarded to men and/or women once at least one rider has been entered in the relevant 5-year age category.

Elite riders from a UCI-registered team must always compete in the elite category. Elite riders with a national license have the choice to start in the elite category or in their respective age category, but must make that choice before the race.

Riders who register for the elite category can only qualify for the elite category at the UCI Gravel World Championships. Riders who register for an age category can only qualify for the age category at the UCI Gravel World Championships.

If a rider who started in the elites does not qualify for the elite category, he/she cannot claim qualification in his/her age category, even if his/her finishing time falls within the top 25% of that category.

ARTICLE 3 – QUALIFICATION

According to the official qualification system of the UCI Gravel World Championships, each UCI Gravel World Series event grants qualification rights for the world championships to riders who finish in the first 25% of their category.

The 25% is calculated based on the number of starters in each age category, and not on the number of riders who finished the race.

In addition, the first three riders of each official category qualify directly for the world championships, regardless of the number of starters in that age group. Riders must complete the race to obtain their qualification.

For all other methods of qualification (wildcards, national gravel champions, etc.), the local organiser of the qualification event must consult the organisation of the UCI Gravel World Championships of that year.

The names of the riders who qualified through the UCI Gravel World Series will be communicated on the UCI Gravel World Series website and will receive an official email from the UCI inviting them to register for the UCI Gravel World Championships through the dedicated online registration portal.

All riders (both licensed and non-licensed) who complete the same distance in a qualifying event will be officially considered as participants in the UCI Gravel World Series. This means that they must be part of the same ranking, regardless of which starting wave they started in.

ARTICLE 4 – PARCOURS

In order to standardise all events within the UCI Gravel World Series and make them accessible to all levels of cyclists, the UCI Gravel World Series uses fixed course formats for all qualifying events. In addition to maximum safety guarantees, each course must meet the following characteristics:

Race format

Only one-day gravel races can be part of the UCI Gravel World Series.

As the series is intended for both competitive and recreational riders (with or without a license), it is not possible to create a separate UCI starting wave within a single event.

Course distances

- The length of the race course must be between 50 and 175 km, with a recommended distance of 80-130 km.
- On a difficult mountain course, a shorter distance is recommended.

- Qualifying distance: although one distance for all age groups is an option, it is recommended to offer two distances:
 - Longer Granfondo distance for men 19-59 years and women 19-49 years.
 - Shorter Mediofondo distance for men 60+ and women 50+.

There is only one official qualifying distance per age group. The organizer must confirm this distance and publish it in advance on the website.

Course format

Two different types of courses can be used:

- Multiple laps on a circuit (minimum 40 km per lap, maximum 3 laps).
- Point-to-point race:
 - With the same start and finish location, or
 - With different start and finish locations

Gravel races must comply with the following course characteristics:

- Gravel races take place on all types of unpaved roads and may include gravel roads, forest paths, farm roads, cart tracks and cobblestones.
- Asphalted roads may not exceed 40% of the total distance of the race. Cobblestones are not included in the calculation of this maximum of 40% paved roads.
- The course must avoid grass and meadows and must always run on existing paths and roads. Walking passages must be avoided as much as possible and may only occur as a result of weather conditions. The entire course must be passable in normal weather conditions.
- The majority of the course must have a minimum width of 3 metres. Singletrack must be kept to a minimum and may only be included when necessary to connect other sections, and only if an alternative route is available for essential vehicles (e.g. medical services).
- The following elements, typical for mountain biking and cyclo-cross, are not allowed in gravel races: planks (obstacles), stairs, drops, rock gardens, technical single tracks, artificial sand strips and very steep climbs where dismounting is necessary.

Feeding zones

The local organiser must provide feeding zones where participants have access to food and drinks every 25-30 km.

Having food or drinks handed over by a personal assistant is permitted under the following rules:

- Only on paved roads
- Not on descents

Each feeding zone is also a waste zone. The local organisation can provide additional waste zones on the course. These additional waste zones must be clearly communicated in advance and also clearly indicated by means of signage on the course.

All feeding zones must have the following facilities:

- Drinks: water, isotonic drinks and, in cold weather, a hot drink.
- Food: fruit, energy bars and a food with a high nutritional value.
- Sufficient mobile toilets.

The following number of supply zones are mandatory:

- For races with multiple laps on a circuit:
 - 2 supply zones evenly distributed over the distance of the circuit
- For point-to-point races:
 - <90 km: at least 2 supply zones.
 - >90 km: at least 3 supply zones.
 - An additional drink provision per rider at the finish.

Waste management

During the UGWS races, it is requested not to leave any waste on the course. Waste can be thrown away in the designated waste zones. Riders who are caught throwing waste outside the waste zones will be disqualified.

ARTICLE 5 – SIGNAGE

In addition to the standard signs warning participants of dangers on the course or indicating the direction to follow, specific signs must be placed on both sides of the road as follows:

- Circuit races
 - Signs at 5 km, 1 km and 500 m before the finish.
 - Signs indicating the start and end of the feed zones.
 - Signs indicating the number of laps remaining.
- Point-to-point races
 - Signs at 50 km, 25 km, 10 km, 5 km, 1 km and 500 m before the finish.
 - Signs indicating the start and end of the feed zones.
 - Signs indicating feed zones at least 5 km in advance.

ARTICLE 6 – ROAD CODE

The race will be preceded by a motor vehicle five minutes before the start to ensure safety. 300 to 500 metres before the start, a second motorcycle with a red flag will open the race.

Riders will be protected by police, traffic controllers and/or volunteers for a certain period of time during which traffic will be closed. The duration of the traffic closure, and therefore the period during which riders are protected, will be determined in advance in consultation with the local authorities. The organisation is obliged to communicate this duration to the riders in advance via the website, briefings and by having it mentioned by the speaker.

IMPORTANT: After the period during which riders are protected, a motorcycle with a green flag will pass, after which riders must comply with the applicable traffic rules and road code. From then on, they will belong to the recreational part of the event and may continue their journey and will also be given a time when crossing the finish line, but will no longer receive a ranking.

ARTICLE 6 – BICYCLES

Bicycles

The following types of bicycles are permitted during the UCI Gravel World Series qualifying events:

- Road bike
- Mountain bike
- City bike
- Hybrid
- Cross bike

- ...

The following types of bicycles are NOT permitted:

- E-bikes
- Tandems
- Time trial bikes
- Recumbent bikes

During the UCI Gravel World Championships, all bicycles must have drop handlebars. Mountain bikes are not permitted during the UCI Gravel World Championships.

Clothing

Riders are free to choose which jersey they wear during qualifying events. Reigning world champions are required to wear their official rainbow jersey.

Mechanical support

Riders must bring their own tools and spare tyres. Tools must be available in the feeding zones. Wheel changes are permitted, but the bicycle frame must remain the same throughout the race

ARTICLE 8 – TIMING & RANKING

The event must be timed for all participants over the entire length of the course. The timing service must establish a general classification by category and gender.

The timing of the event starts at the starting gun and not when each individual rider passes the starting mat (GUN time principle).

For events with a very large number of participants, an exception to this rule can be requested from the UCI Gravel World Series, so that riders in later starting waves can be timed according to the NET time principle (from the moment they pass the starting mat until they reach the finish).

The winner of the different age categories can only be determined on the basis of Gun time.

Results

The organizer must provide Golazo Sports with the full results list within 5 days after the race. The list must be provided in Microsoft Excel or another spreadsheet program and contain the following information: category, full name, email, nationality (or country of residence if nationality is not available).

The timing company must use the following rules to determine the number of qualified riders per age category:

- All riders who complete the qualifying distance, regardless of their starting wave, are considered for qualification.
- The first three per age group always qualify, regardless of the number of starters.
- The top 25% is calculated based on the number of starters (not the number of finishers).
- The 25% is rounded up (for example: with 26 starters, the first 7 riders qualify).
- The minimum age for participation in the World Championship is 19 years. For qualifying events held between October and December, 18-year-olds can qualify if they turn 19 in the year of the UCI Gravel World Championships.
- Provisional lists of qualifiers may be published, but are only official after approval by the UCI on www.ucigravelworldseries.com.

ARTICLE 9 – START PROCEDURE

OPTION 1

The elite men start at the front, followed by the elite women with a small interval (minimum 1 minute). Both elite starts must have a priority box with a maximum of 25 riders. Only elite riders can register to be a candidate for the priority box with the organizer, and it is the organizer who allocates the 25 places for the priority box.

Age categories must start with a minimum interval of 2 minutes after the elite women and can be combined in one big start or in separate starts per age category with small intervals (always minimum 1 minute), depending on the size of the total field.

OPTION 2

The elite men start at the front (with priority box), followed by the men in the age categories 19-34, 35-39, 40-44 and 45-49 with a minimum interval of 1 minute. Men in the age categories can start together or in small intervals, depending on the size of the field, but always in order of category.

The women elite (with priority start box) start behind the men in the age categories 19-49.

All different starts will have different gun times.

Organisers can request to apply a different starting procedure if the event has been run differently in previous editions. The technical delegate of the UCI Gravel World Series will examine the request and confirm the procedure that will be applied.

Starting procedures at the UCI Gravel World Championships

At the UCI Gravel World Championships, riders in the Elite category are placed at the start based on a points system, which is a cumulation of the following points:

- Points earned during the UCI Gravel World Series events in the overall men/women results per race for the top 25: 200-180-160-150-140-130-120-110-100-90-80-70-65-60-55-50-45-40-35-30-25-20-15-10-5 points.
- Points earned at the UCI Gravel World Championships of the previous year in the elite category for the top 25: 1000-750-600-500-450-400-350-300-275-250-225-200-180-160-140-120-100-80-70-60-50-40-30-20-10 points.
- 50% of the points in the UCI ranking for road cycling, mountain biking, cross country (XCO), mountain bike marathon (XCM) and cyclo-cross.

Age group riders will continue to be positioned on a first come, first served basis at the start of the World Championships, with a priority box for the winners of the various qualifying events.

A neutralised start is prohibited at a UCI Gravel World Series event and the UCI Gravel World Championships. As these are mass events with often many participants, riders want to be at the front of the group during the neutralisation, which causes dangerous situations and often results in more crashes.

The start must be given at least 15 minutes after sunrise to ensure good visibility for all riders in the race.

Finish line

The finish must consist of a straight line of at least 100 metres long and marked with barriers on both sides for at least the last 100 metres before and 50 metres after the finish line. These distances may be shortened in the case of a mountain top finish, where the speed is lower.

The finish should preferably be on a paved road or, better yet, a gravel road.

ARTICLE 10 – PRICES

The organizer must announce the exact timing of the podium ceremony both on the website and at the registration. The top three of each age category, both men and women, are expected to be present at the podium ceremony.

The podium ceremony can start with the younger age categories, as they often finish earlier. This gives the older age groups a chance to prepare while the ceremony has already started.

The order of the podium ceremony by age category is as follows:

- Elite Men
- Elite Women
- Men 19-34
- Women 19-34
- Men 35-39
- Women 35-39
- Men 40-44
- Women 40-44
- Men 45-49
- Women 45-49
- Men 50-54
- Women 50-54
- Men 55-59
- Women 55-59
- Men 60-64
- Women 60-64
- Men 65-69
- Women 65-69
- Men 70-74
- Women 70-74
- And any additional 5-year age categories for which riders have been registered.

The announcer will first call the number three to the podium, followed by the number two and then the winner. The names will be announced in the local language and in English. When all riders are on the podium, the third rider receives his/her medal, followed by the second. The winner first receives the winner's jersey of his/her age category and then the medal. The jersey must be worn on the podium and may not simply be handed over.

UGWS medal

Each rider who finishes in the top 25% of his/her category in the UGWS qualifiers will receive a medal. To ensure that all riders involved receive their medal and confirmation of qualification, the organizer will set up a stand where these medals will be handed out

to the participants after the race. The top three per category will receive their medal on the podium.

UGWS jersey

The UCI Gravel World Series provides a jersey for each winner in his/her age category, both men and women. For the winners in the elite category (men and women), there is a specially designed jersey.

ARTICLE 11 – SAFETY

Participants

- **Helmet mandatory:** In accordance with UCI regulation 3.031, wearing a helmet is mandatory during all UGWS events, for the entire duration of the race. Participants will be informed in advance by the organisation that they will not be allowed to start or that their race number will be immediately withdrawn if they are caught without a helmet by a member of the organisation.
- **Medical certificate:** In order to confirm the physical fitness of a rider to participate in a UGWS event, the organiser must provide one of the following guarantees:
 - Either each participant has a medical certificate of fitness to practice cycling, issued by a doctor. This option is strongly recommended for UGWS events.
 - Or the organiser states in the registration conditions that the participant confirms (and signs) that he/she is in perfect health and physically able to participate in a cycling event of this calibre.
- **Accident and civil liability insurance:** The organiser must ensure that all riders participating in a UGWS event have adequate accident and civil liability insurance.
- **Medical insurance:** Each participant is responsible for having adequate medical insurance. This can be guaranteed by an individual competition licence (from a UCI affiliated national federation) covering foreign competitions, or by a private insurance policy.

Safety on the course

- **Safety plan:** The organiser must draw up a complete safety plan, including:
 - A detailed plan of the course (or courses), with all the necessary instructions on the course of the route, and in particular the dangerous points (crossroads, bends, damaged road surface, etc.), including the measures taken to protect these dangers.

- The requirements imposed by the legislation of the country (or countries) in which the competition takes place, including the traffic regulations applicable to a cycling event on public roads, and the regulations of the national cycling federation affiliated to the UCI.
 - The number of crossroads and the presence of signallers or police.
 - The emergency system that will be deployed during the event.
 - The details of all nearby hospitals that have been informed of the event.
 - All important telephone numbers that must be known to the organisers and emergency services.
- **Use of cones prohibited in first 10 km:** The use of cones to divide the road is prohibited in the first 10 kilometers of the event, as they often cause dangerous situations. In practice, riders use both sides of the cones, which often leads to falls. If a separation is needed between traffic and participants, full barriers must be used and not loose cones.
 - **Time registration mat at the finish:** The time registration mat at the finish must be as thin as possible to ensure the safety of the participants. A flat mat with a system of cables or timing on both sides of the finish is preferred, rather than a bumpy mat as often used in running events.
 - **Indication of dangerous points:** The organiser is responsible for the clear indication of all dangerous points, such as sharp or steep descents, damaged road sections, etc. This is done via signalling boards or employees who warn the riders in good time. Crossroads, as risk points par excellence, must be secured by signallers wearing an official vest of the organisation, equipped with a flag and/or whistle. They ensure a smooth and safe crossing for the riders and keep the traffic under control. In addition, a sign must be placed at every important crossroads to warn approaching road users that a cycling race is in progress, and a signaller must be present at those locations.
 - **Support vehicles:** In order to guarantee sporting fairness and to avoid possible incidents, the organiser must explicitly state in the regulations of the event that riders must ride alone. Anyone caught receiving assistance from third parties from/on a vehicle (car/motorcycle/E-bike...) that is not part of the organisation, will be immediately excluded from the race.
 - **Radio or mobile phone connections:** Radio or mobile phone communication is essential during the event. The organisation must provide a system that allows fast and efficient communication between all parties involved. For the safety of the riders (who increasingly carry mobile phones), their families and the distributed signallers, an emergency number will be available throughout the event and communicated to everyone.

First aid

Emergency system: The organiser must meet the following requirements regarding medical assistance:

- For point-to-point events: At least one ambulance must be available for an event with a maximum of 2,000 participants. For every additional 2,000 participants, one additional ambulance must be provided. These ambulances must be strategically placed so that they can quickly reach dangerous points or are centrally located on the course.
- For events with multiple laps on a closed circuit: At least one ambulance must be on standby, with one additional ambulance for every additional 2,000 participants.

The UGWS also accepts a modified emergency system set up by the organiser, provided that prior permission has been sought and obtained from the UGWS.

The organiser must also ensure that first aid is available at both the start and finish of the event.

Information on the back of the race number: In order to respond as effectively as possible in the event of an accident and to facilitate the work of the emergency medical services, the organiser must provide race numbers with a medical form on the back that must be completed by the participant. The organiser must inform all participants of the urgent importance of completing this form correctly and inform the doctors that this vital information is available on the race numbers.

The minimum information required by the UCI on the back of each race number is:

- Surname and first name
- Blood group
- Any medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, allergies, epilepsy, etc.)
- Current medication
- Surname, first name and telephone number (including country code) of the person to contact in case of emergency.