

USA Cycling and the Illinois Cycling Association present:

THE ILLINOIS CUP



2026 Race Director Guide



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to another year of bicycle racing in Illinois and its bordering states! We know all of you are already hard at work planning your races and events for 2026.

The Illinois Cup presents a unique opportunity for the Illinois Cycling Association (ICA) and local race directors to join forces in **promoting races and fostering a compelling, competitive atmosphere.**

Our schedule and format remain largely unchanged from 2025, but we are excited to debut an updated look and feel and social media presence for 2026.

Thank you for hosting an event and making bicycle racing possible here in Illinois. The ICA is actively pursuing promotional opportunities to amplify the reach and prestige of the Cup for 2027 and beyond.

See you out there!

Robby Kanyur
Director, Illinois Cup

Rage Thomas
President, ICA

UPDATES FOR 2026

Expect an updated look and feel and a refreshed social media presence in 2026. Besides that, not much has changed – we’re focused on keeping a good thing going. Here’s what’s changing (and staying the same):

Category updates – the Masters 4/5 breakout category will continue to be scored, but will be considered a “non-award” category. This means winners of these breakout categories will not receive an award or comped entry to events in 2027.

Open category – USAC recently changed Policy VII to limit who may participate in women’s categories. This updated policy also has implications for which fields may occupy the course together, work together, and be scored together.

We are encouraging Cup races to add an Open category to their schedule, running concurrently with another field on the schedule but scored separately. However, we recognize the logistical challenges associated with any schedule change, and we will not be making this field mandatory for Cup races in 2026.

CUP REQUIREMENTS

All Illinois Cup events must be [permitted through USA Cycling](#) and meet the minimum required length for a criterium.

All rules in the USA Cycling road rulebook must be enforced.

Each required category must be offered at an Illinois Cup race. [Cup categories may be combined](#) (e.g. running multiple Junior fields simultaneously) but must be scored separately.

Promoters should clearly denote on all printed and electronic materials which race categories are part of the Illinois Cup.

Logos for USA Cycling and the Illinois Cycling Association should be included on all promotional materials (such as flyers and BikeReg pages).

[Photo finish equipment is required.](#) If BikeReg is used as the registration platform, the ICA can supply a finish line camera and other associated equipment.

2025 CUP CATEGORIES

While we'd like to adhere to these categories as closely as possible, we are willing to work with you based on the specific needs of your event.

Contact Robby Kanyur at robertkanyur@gmail.com with any questions or concerns regarding these categories.

- **Elite Men and Elite Women**
 - Category 1/2
 - Category 3
 - Category 4
- **Masters Men* and Masters Women***
 - Age 40-49
 - Age 50-59
 - Age 60+
- **Junior Boys and Junior Girls**
 - Age 9-12
 - Age 13-14
 - Age 15-16
 - Age 17-18

*Masters Cat 4/5 will be scored separately as a non-award, breakout category.

AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The winner of each Illinois Cup category will receive **a free entry into each Cup race the following year**. This award is non-transferable and good for one entry per race. For this offer to be valid, the rider must pre-register.

As the Illinois Cup does not have one unified registration page, we have instructed the 2026 winners to reach out to you via the contact information on your BikeReg page to claim their award.

Occasionally, the same individual will win multiple Cup categories (e.g. Elite and Junior). This occurred in 2024 and in 2025. They would be eligible for 2 comped entries, but they must personally claim both entries for themselves.

The ICA and Illinois Cup will provide other prizes and awards to the winner of each category (e.g. medals, socks, etc.).

A full list of last year's winners is available on the Illinois Cup website at www.illinoiscup.org.

CONTACT

Thank you for making the Illinois Cup possible! We are excited for another great season in 2026. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.



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