

USA Cycling and the Illinois Cycling Association present:

THE ILLINOIS CUP



2026 Racer 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 training and preparing for the crit season.

The **Illinois Cup** was established to recognize competitive racers and highlight some of the best criterium races in Illinois and the surrounding area. Once again, **the Cup will remain open to all riders** – not just residents of Illinois.

As in past years, all winners will receive a trophy or medal, a special gift from the ICA, and one free entry into each Illinois Cup race for 2027.

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.

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):

- **A similar race calendar** – all seven races are returning from 2025, although Monsters of the Midway is moving from the season opener slot to the penultimate weekend. The Edwardsville Rotary Criterium will remain the series finale, in addition to being the Illinois 2026 Criterium Championship.
- **One freebie** – we know that life happens, so your Illinois Cup points will be calculated based on your best six (6) results. This will allow you to skip or DNF a race and stay in contention for the Cup.
- **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.

CUP CALENDAR

April 26 – Battle on the Border (Kenosha, WI)

<https://www.bikereg.com/battle-on-the-border-2026>

May 9 – Muskego Park Criterium (Muskego, WI)

<https://www.bikereg.com/muskego-park-criterium>

May 25 – Quad Cities Criterium (Davenport, IA)

<https://www.bikereg.com/quadcitiescriterium>

June 6 – Elmhurst Cycling Classic (Elmhurst, IL)

<https://www.bikereg.com/73366>

June 7 – Cobb Park Criterium (Kankakee, IL)

<https://www.bikereg.com/cobb-park-criterium>

August 8 – Monsters of the Midway (Chicago, IL)

<https://illinoisicycling.org/event/monsters-of-the-midway-8>

August 15 – Edwardsville Criterium (Edwardsville, IL)

<https://www.bikereg.com/71082>

2026 CUP CATEGORIES

The Elite, Masters, and Juniors categories will remain the same for 2026.

- **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.

ELIGIBILITY

All riders are eligible to earn Cup points, not only Illinois residents. The only requirement is that riders hold an **annual, unsuspended USAC license** on August 15, 2026 (the last race of the series).

If the ICA cannot determine if a rider has met this requirement, it is the rider's responsibility to provide proof.

In order to be crowned a Cup champion, riders must participate in at least 50% of the calendar (4 races) and defeat at least two other riders in their category.

SERIES AWARDS

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 riders (based on series points) in each category. **The winner of each category will also receive one free entry** into each Illinois Cup race the following year.

This award is non-transferable to any other rider or race. Riders must contact the race director via BikeReg and pre-register to claim this benefit.

UPGRADING

Riders who upgrade mid-series will keep their points in their original category and take half their points with them to the higher category, but only if the upgrade occurs by the midpoint of the Cup series (before Quad Cities).

If you upgrade mid-series, please contact Robby Kanyur at robertkanyur@gmail.com so we can update the standings.

Racers who meet requirements for a mandatory USAC category upgrade will stop earning Cup points in their current category.

Racers downgrading during the season will not take their higher category points with them, but will begin to earn points in the new, lower category.

The final Cup standings will be based on **the sum of points earned in each rider's top six (6) results** in each category. In the event that a rider wins the Cup in multiple categories, they will only be eligible for one set of free race entries.

POINTS AND SCORING

Illinois Cup points will be calculated based on the results posted by ICA officials at the race. Points are awarded to all eligible racers according to the following schedule:

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11	P12	P13	P14	P15
35	30	25	21	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	1

Due to schedule constraints, events will combine some fields. Regardless of how each race director determines podiums and prizes, **each Illinois Cup field will be scored separately** for the purpose of calculating Cup points.

When a non-scoring category is combined with an Illinois Cup field (e.g. Novice racers in a Cat 4 field), riders from the non-scoring category will not earn Cup points and will not displace Cup riders. They will be excluded completely.

If there is a tie in points for any category after the final Cup race, the tie will be broken by the highest placement in the last Cup race either rider finished. If Rider A competed in the final race and Rider B did not, Rider A wins by default.

The ICA will keep a running total of points and post updated standings on <https://www.illinoiscup.org> after each race.

BONUS POINTS

Very rarely, a smaller Cup race will not have a separate field for Masters Women (e.g., Quad Cities Criterium). Female racers may either race in the men's field and be scored separately, or race in any available Women's field and earn a flat 15 point bonus, regardless of position.

CONTACT

Thank you for racing with us! We are excited for the 2026 season and for the future of the Illinois Cup. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach



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