

## **ECCC Discussion Points & Voting results**

### **1. Issue 1: Consistent point penalties & procedures**

“For illegal, grossly unsportsmanlike, or other behavior unbecoming to the sport of cycling committed by an individual, the individual’s team will be penalized 20 team points for the first infraction of a member of that team, 100 team points for the second infraction by a member of that team, and team disqualification for a third infraction by a member of that team. For actions that are not illegal or otherwise DQ-worthy offenses, a warning shall be issued. Penalty-worthy incidents include, but are not limited to, public nudity, public urination, reckless driving, or any illegal behavior. Incidents should be reported directly to the presiding USA Cycling official or ECCC conference staff.”

Bottom line: we need to protect our sport from the actions of the few that can ruin things for the many.

Note: the number of team points will be adjusted according to the change in team scoring methodology discussed later in the meeting.

### **2. Issue 2: ECCC season pass**

[Discussion was tabled pending more details, but there was a lot of interest in the idea.]

### **3. Issue 3a: TTT scoring**

“ECCC team time trials may be made up of three to four riders. The time is taken from the front wheel of the 2nd rider for women and the 3rd rider for men. At conference championships, the time is taken from the front wheel of the 3rd rider for both women and men.”

Note: This ECCC rule was voted to stay the same as in previous years, with a review to happen at the end of 2007 to consider implementing the one standard for both genders.

### **Issue 3b: TTT administration**

Recommendations for a successful and on-time TTT (courtesy of John Frey/Velocity Results):

1. Look at “stats.xls” on the ECCC Race Calendar to estimate how many teams you may expect.
2. Do not assign start times to individual teams, start teams by category (i.e. “Rutgers Style”).
3. Run in order of categories with no time gap between categories: WA, WB, W-Intro, 10 minute gap, MA, MB, MC, MD, M-Intro.
4. Try to locate the start and finish reasonably close to each other, if possible.
5. Try to locate the start and finish in the same spot as the other day’s event (RR or crit).

### **Issue 3c: TTT composite teams**

All ECCC TTT events shall be open to composite teams of riders who do not have enough teammates to form their own TTT. The race will be for experience and fun, they will be listed in the results, but no points will be awarded to any rider or team from a composite TTT.

**4. Issue 4a: Provide USCF road upgrade points for ECCC events (see below for 4b)**

“Contingent on approval by all local associations in the geographic footprint of the ECCC, make riders in ECCC road events eligible for USCF upgrade points in mass-start collegiate events as long as the event meets the field size and distance requirements specified by USA Cycling. It is the responsibility of each rider to request upgrades through their online USA Cycling account and provide proof of category at race registration.”

**Issue 4b: Require minimum USCF category for ECCC road categories**

“For mass-start road events, ECCC category racers are required to have the following USCF road category:”

<b>ECCC Category</b>	<b>USCF Category</b>
A	1, 2, 3
B	3, 4
C	4, 5
D	5
Intro	5 (men), 4 (women)

Collegiate ECCC categories will remain named “A, B, C, D.” Please note that other Collegiate Cycling category rules are still in effect, see section 4.2 of the 2006 Collegiate Cycling rulebook.

**Issue 4a+b FAQ:**

**a. Why did this rule come about?**

Bicycle road racing requires a certain minimum level of experience to compete at a high level. The USCF upgrading process has been a time-tested method for moving riders up through the categories, the infrastructure exists to efficiently process upgrades, and the system works well. Further, there was a desire to provide value (i.e. upgrade points) to the Collegiate Cycling community for competing in many quality road events.

**b. Collegiate Cycling is special and I love it! Why are we using someone else’s process?**

The USCF upgrading system is time-tested and the infrastructure exists. We are all part of USA Cycling (NCCA, USCF, NORBA, USPro and BMXA) and sharing resources such as the upgrade processing system makes administrative sense. Plus, Collegiate Cycling road events are run under USCF road event permits and now you get USCF upgrade credit for racing in ECCC events.

**c. How will this affect my ability to race in the category I want?**

Chances are, you will be able to race in the category you want. You may have to submit an upgrade request online, which are processed efficiently.

<b>I am a...</b>	<b>I want to race in...</b>	<b>You will need to</b>
New rider	Welcome to the ECCC! We are glad to have you. You may compete in the Men’s C, D, Women B or Intro categories right away. Talk to your teammates or other experienced riders for guidance on which category	

	may suit you best.	
Men's D	Men's C	No problem! You're good to go.
Men's C	Men's B	Race in 10 mass-start events or 1 intro race plus four other mass-start events, then process your upgrade.
Men's B	Men's A	Qualify for a category 3 upgrade. This can be based on upgrade points earned in ECCC and USCF events, or can be experienced based. Then process your upgrade.
Men's A from 2006	Men's A in 2007	Chances are, you've got a lot of experience and points based on your past performances. Compare with the upgrade table above and put in for your upgrade if you qualify.
Women's C	Women's B	No problem! You're good to go.
Women's B	Women's A	Qualify for a category 3 upgrade. This can be based on upgrade points earned in ECCC and USCF events, or can be experienced based. Then process your upgrade.
Women's A from 2006	Women's A in 2007	Chances are, you've got a lot of experience and points based on your past performances. Compare with the upgrade table above and put in for your upgrade if you qualify.

**d. Can I use my past ECCC or USCF events towards my upgrade?**

Yes, absolutely! Check out the comprehensive results listings on the ECCC website if you can't remember all your past results.

**e. I was planning on racing with my teammates in the A's, will we all be able to race in the same category?**

See above, and realize that there may be 50+ other riders in the field who have gained the minimum experience necessary to compete in this category.

**f. I trained hard all winter and was planning on racing in the Men's B category.**

No problem. Assuming you've done 10 mass-start road events, you can process your upgrade to category 4.

**g. I trained hard all winter and was planning on racing in the A category.**

If you're a returning ECCC rider, you can use your past events towards your upgrade. Thus, the upgrade to category 4 is a snap. From there, you only need a few solid results to make

the jump to category 3 and start off in the B's. If you've been training all winter and expect to be competitive in the A category, top B race results should come quickly.

**h. We have an ex-rower who is way fast, she/he simply belongs in A's.**

That rider most likely does have the fitness to be competitive in the A category. However, they need to gain experience in other categories that are less physically demanding so they may focus on developing the skills critical to safely competing in mass-start bicycle races.

**i. My question wasn't answered by this comprehensive FAQ. Who can I yell at?**

We are here for you! We understand that this change has a lot of administrative details and riders are concerned about how it may affect them and their teams. Simply ask your friendly ECCC conference staff, the officials at an event, or your local association about the upgrade process. We are all here to help and make your Collegiate Cycling experience a positive one.

Qualifying Road Races for each category upgrade (from <a href="http://www.usacycling.org">www.usacycling.org</a> on 11/21/2006)									
USCF Category Upgrade	Eligible Collegiate Categories	Gender	Min. Road Race Length	Min. Criterium Length	Min. Field Size	USCF Points Upgrade	Points, Places Awarded	Experience Upgrade	Description
5 – 4	C, D, Intro	Men, Women	15 mi	10 mi	10	n/a	n/a	10 races	Experience in 10 mass start races that meet the criteria in the table (qualifying races). Local Associations may also establish policies where upgrade credit is given for taking a sanctioned rider education clinic.
4 – 3	B, C	Men	25 mi	20 mi	30	20 points	7-5-4-3-2-1 (6 places)	25 races	20 points in any 12-month period; or experience in 25 qualifying races with a minimum of 10 top ten finishes, or 20 pack finishes with fields over 50. 30 points in 12 months is an automatic upgrade.
	B, Intro	Women	25 mi	15 mi	10				
3 – 2	A	Men	50 mi	20 mi	50	25 points	RR: 10-7-5-3-2-1 (6 places)  Crit: 7-5-4-3-2-1 (6 places)	n/a	3-2: 25 points in any 12-month period 60 points in 12 months is an automatic upgrade.
		Women	40 mi	15 mi	20				
2 – 1	A	Men	80 mi	35 mi	60	30 points	RR: 10-7-5-3-2-1 (6 places)  Crit: 7-5-4-3-2-1 (6 places)	n/a	2-1: 30 points in any 12-month period 60 points in 12 months is an automatic upgrade.
		Women	50 mi	20 mi	30				

For experience upgrades from 5 to 4, riders may do so with at least 1 participation in an "Introduction to Bicycle Racing category" event and four other mass-start road events.

**5. Team scoring methodology**

"ECCC team points will be applied at the conclusion of each race event to both women and men. For the purposes of team scoring, a race event is defined as a given stage within a weekend, such as 'road race,' 'criterium,' or 'time trial.' The women and men are scored separately, the team total is determined by the sum of the women's team results and the men's team results from that weekend."

**a. How is this different, new and bold?**

In the past, ECCC events have been scored by simply adding up all of the individual points won in each category for both women and men, then declaring the winner for the weekend. Those team results are then assigned "ECCC Season Overall" points.

**b. What are some of the benefits of this new system?**

The largest benefit is that the women's teams and the men's teams are worth exactly same amount, irrespective of how many categories are run in each gender or how many participants are in each field. Teams must have strong women's teams, strong men's teams, and take part in each event during a weekend to succeed.

**c. Does anyone else use this scoring method?**

This is precisely how scoring is run at Collegiate Cycling National Championships.

**d. Wait a minute... what are the downsides?**

The new scoring system is a multitier procedure that is not as easy to figure out at first glance as the "simple sum" method. However, we have some software automation behind it that should lead to even faster scoring and standings during the weekend.

**6. Field splitting calculus**

"Men's category D and Women's category B fields should be split into division 1 and division 2 fields once the entrants exceed 60 for criteriums, 80 for road races.

Men's category C fields should be split into division 1 and division 2 fields once the entrants exceed 70 for criteriums, 90 for road races."

**7. "Introduction to Bicycle Racing" categories**

"All ECCC events shall include an 'Introduction to Bicycle Racing Category' for both women and men. The format shall be 50% coaching and 50% racing in mass-start events, with the coaches coordinated by the individual ECCC race promoters and composed of experienced riders, team coaches and other knowledgeable cyclists. The women's category shall be applied category C points, the men's category shall be awarded points to 5 places (Criterium/RR/ITT: 9, 7, 5, 3, 1; no primes; TTT: 16, 11, 8)." Note: TTT points schedule was developed to follow a similar points/places ratio.

**FAQ:**

**a. I'm just starting out, what category should I pick?**

The Introduction to Bicycle Racing category was made just for you! These events provide coaching tips in a welcoming environment that caters to newer riders looking to try out bicycle racing and gain some experience. At the halfway point, the green flag goes down and you're racing to the line.

**b. Can I do the Women B, Men D or Men C race as my first race instead?**

Yes. As a new rider, your category is 4 for women and 5 for men. This qualifies you to participate in any of those categories.

**c. Do I have to do the intro race?**

No. No one is required to partake in the intro category at ECCC events.

**d. What can I expect in the "Introduction to Bicycle Racing" events?**

If 2006's events were any indication, expect to have a really good time, meet other folks new to the sport of bicycle racing, and learn a lot from seasoned experts. The first half of the race is a coached format where you'll get comfortable riding in a pack, taking corners and other skills. The second half is an actual race with prized ECCC points awarded for the top places.

**e. I'm an experienced rider, coach or other knowledgeable cyclist. Can I help coach?**

Absolutely! This could possibly be the best way to "give back" and support new rider development. Plus, it's a ton of fun. Be sure to contact ECCC conference staff and the event promoter to coordinate.

**8. Undergraduate Points Leader**

The ECCC will recognize the top undergraduate individual points scorer for both Women A and Men A over the season. Thanks go to the Bucknell Cycling Team for introducing this idea!