



JANUARY 2026
UPDATE

Oregon XC Tech Guide

For passionate mountain bikers

PRESENTED TO
PASSIONATE
MOUNTAIN BIKERS

The 2026 Oregon XC Series is a multiple-race series, and the best three events count towards your overall finish in the same category.



For the latest info, [click here](#) **to the Oregon XC newsletter!**
Scroll to the submission section to request to be added to the newsletter.

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Races in the Series – 2026 Confirmed

Your Best 3 events:

Race #1 Echo Red to Red - March 14th

Race #2 Mudslinger - April 18th

Race #3 Coast Hills Classic - May 9th

Race #4 Silver Falls XC - May 16th

Race #5 Sisters Stampede - May 24th (Cat 3 Finals)

Race #6 Bend Dirt Fest - July 11th (Long Course Finals)

When registering for Bend Dirt Fest, register in the category listed and answer the question for the Series Category

Since 2001 the Oregon XC Series combines the best of Oregon Mountain Bike Racing with multiple independent race directors to bring racing to the Pacific Northwest! This series is produced and marketed by Mudslinger Events with the collaboration of independent race directors to provide consistent and fun racing for all abilities.

What makes the XC series great is YOU! We hope you will discover new areas to race, new trails to ride, and make new friends. Whether you are new to the sport or an experienced racer, we welcome you to our MTB family!

Each venue features unique terrain with fantastic trails and landscapes of Oregon. Anyone can partake as long as they have a mountain bike, helmet, and gear to protect them from the elements if it is cold or wet!

The spirit of MTB is steeped in the ability to take care of yourself and be self-sufficient. Our task as race directors is to provide an inclusive and safe environment for all to participate and have fun while maintaining competitive fairness.

We are part of the Oregon Bicycle Racing Association Rules that include licensing and insurance for the production of the Oregon XC Series.

Scoring / Awards

Each race will assign 200-500 custom race plates for you and twist ties or zip ties to attach to your front handle bars. These plates you can keep. Do not use these plates in any race other than the one you are racing. You will not use OBRA numbers for mountain bike events.

Most events will be chip timed by **E8 Timing**, for live results and consistent scoring. Red timing chips will be given to you at packet pick-up. This chip is only used for that race and must be returned that same day.

- Timing chips should be securely attached to your right front fork using 2 zip ties. (To prevent scratching: wrap electrical tape directly on the fork, then zip tie the chip on top. Do not tape chip.)
- Return the chip immediately after finishing or this will cost you \$100.
- Do not accidentally switch chips with your friend or lose your chip.
- Live results are sent to your phone when a cell phone signal exists and if you provided your cell phone number on your registration.
- For any rider who went off course, did not finish, or has questions regarding the results, please report directly to the on-site timing trailer asap. Post race questions can be sent to e8timing@gmail.com.

Series winners will be based on the best **three** races, all in the same category, to count towards your final score. First place receives 100 points, second place receives 99 points, etc. **Highest** points win the series. The final race in the series will decide any ties and, in addition, be awarded an additional 1% for first place, second place, etc, adding value for all in contention for a series win. **In addition, starting in 2026, one other race will be determined as a wild card race valued at 101 points.**

Points do not carry up to the next ability level. If you upgrade, your points will stay in that category. This also applies to the Clydesdale 200+ and Singlespeed categories.

Please note that all USA Cycling Juniors will have their USAC numbers tracked and scored for rankings. Please provide your USAC number when registering. Please also note that any race can be sanctioned by any sanctioning body or insurance provider. The Oregon XC Series simply tracks points and markets each event through the oregonxcseries.org website

THE OREGON XC SERIES AWARDS INDIVIDUAL CASH PAYOUT AT EACH EVENT FOR THE ELITE/CAT 1/SINGLESPEED WAVE. Please note that if the Singlespeeds do not start at the same time as the Elite/Cat 1's, then they will not be included in the cash purse. Double-check the start schedule for each race.

All Series winners will receive a custom hoodie for their champion efforts, and all riders who finish three or more events in 2026 will have a chance to win a Liminal Machine Works Frame at Bend Dirt Fest.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each division will be awarded a custom medal at the Series final race Stampede for Cat 3's in 2026 and Bend Dirt Fest for Cat 2 and above in 2026.



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Team Competition

Pre-register with a team name to be included in the Team Competition!

Long course only

All riders with the same team name who finish the long course will be grouped together in sets of three based on the fastest times and regardless of start time.

All Team Riders must be pre-registered by Friday before the event and must have entered their team name at the time of registration.

Your team name does not have to be officially registered with OBRA. As long as three people sign up with the same team name, they will be grouped together for the competition.

Podium recognition for the fastest team at each event will be announced.

The Overall Team winner will be based on the best **three** races for that team out of seven events. Final Overall podium and Series awards will be awarded at the final XC Series race.



Category Descriptions

Please note most events will have two distances, while some may have an even longer loop for the Elite, Cat 1 over 19, and Singlespeed riders.

**All Racers may self select any category with the exception of Elite.
All Elite riders must have prior approval and/or be an annual OBRA licensed Elite.**

Elite = Pro or highest ability (Longer Course)

Super fast, depending on distance versus elevation. Requires approval to race at this level email [OBRA](#). Note: this group stages and races with the Cat 1s.

Cat 1 = Expert with advanced endurance and skills (Longer Course)

If you can ride anything and can go fast for over 2 hours, then try the "Expert" or "Category 1" (Cat 1) field. If you race Cyclocross Cat 1/2 or Road Cat 1/2/3, then this is likely to be your category. Note: this group stages and races with the Elites.

Cat 2 = Intermediate or Sport Level. (Longer Course)

If you've done several races or raced in other sports, you may choose "Sport" or "Category 2" (Cat 2). Racing Cyclocross Cat 3/4 or Road Cat 4 would be equivalent. These races vary from 2 to 3 hours and may include technical features and sustained climbs. 60% of all racers are Cat 2 (Sport), and having fun on your bike is the name of the game.

Cat 3 = Novice or New to the sport (Shorter Course)

If it's your first race and you want to take it one step at a time, you're in the "Novice" division or "Category 3" (Cat 3). These races take most people about an hour and are accessible to all abilities. Once you move up, you cannot downgrade unless you send a written request or by emailing [OBRA](#).

Clydesdale = Over 200 lbs (Longer Course)

No requirement to be any certain category - anyone may enter as long as they are over 200 lbs. These racers will ride the longer course distance and will be scored as their own category.

Singlespeed = 1 Gear all day long! (Longer Course)

Anyone may enter if they ride a bike with just one gear or no means of changing gears.

Singlespeed racers will ride the longer course or, when three distances are available, the middle distance, as determined by the event director. They will be scored in their own category.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHOULD YOU SELF SELECT TO ELITE
WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM OBRA or the Series Director.
PLEASE UPGRADE WHEN YOU MEET THESE CRITERIA FROM OBRA: [LINK](#)**

Please do not self-downgrade, such as Elite to Cat 1 or Cat 1 to Cat 2 or Cat 2 to Cat 3. The time to request a downgrade is prior to the season or by submitting a request to [OBRA](#). Please notify any event that you have signed up with, alerting them to this change in category.

Categories

Race age is based on how old you will be on December 31st of the current series year.



Longer Course:

Elite Men

Elite Women

These categories require an upgrade or prior approval from **OBRA** or a current USAC Pro License:

The rest of the categories are self-select; please refer to the [Category Level Descriptions](#).

Cat 1 Junior Men

Cat 1 Junior Women

Cat 1 Men 19-49

Cat 1 Men 50+

Masters 60+ Men are not required to upgrade beyond Cat 2, but may do so by meeting the upgrade criteria. We won't be adding a Cat 1 Men 60+ as to not dilute the Cat 2 Competition. Same Course anyway

Cat 1 Women 19+

Masters Women 50+ are not required to upgrade beyond Cat 2.

Cat 2 Men 14-18

NOTE: Only downgrade with prior approval from **OBRA**. Please see the [Downgrading](#) section for more information.

Cat 2 Men 19-39

Cat 2 Men 40-49

Cat 2 Men 50-59

Cat 2 Men 60-69

Cat 2 Men 70+

Cat 2 Women 14-18

Cat 2 Women 19-39

Cat 2 Women 40-49

Cat 2 Women 50-59

Cat 2 Women 60+

Clydesdale 200+

Singlespeed Men

Singlespeed Women



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Categories cont.

Shorter Course:

Cat 3 Men 9-13

Cat 3 Men 14-18

Cat 3 Men 19-39

Cat 3 Men 40-49

Cat 3 Men 50-59

Cat 3 Men 60-69

Cat 3 Men 70+

Cat 3 Women 9-13

Cat 3 Women 14-18

Cat 3 Women 19-39

Cat 3 Women 40-49

Cat 3 Women 50-59

Cat 3 Women 60-69

Cat 3 Women 70+



Each event may offer additional unique age groups or other categories (such as Ebike) in addition to the above Series Categories, as long as it is clearly identified as a **NON-Series Category**.

At certain events parents may be allowed to ride with a junior racer. This is up to the individual event director and must not impede the other racers on course. All racers including parents must sign the waiver online or in person.

The **Oregon XC Series** allows the completion of the series in the same category in the current year if you do not meet the upgrading requirements after race #4. (See Upgrading section below)

Upgrading / Downgrading / Staging

Upgrading

Mandatory upgrade rules

Cat 3 → Cat 2: You have 3 finishes in the top 3 in class with a minimum of 15 competitors for men and 10 for women in a 12-month period.

Cat 2 → Cat 1: You have 5 finishes in the top 3 in class with a minimum of 15 competitors for men and 10 for women in a 12-month period.

Cat 1 → Elite: You have 5 finishes in the top 3 in class with a minimum of 15 competitors for men and 10 for women in a 12-month period.

Juniors can self-select like all other age groups and are encouraged to start as a Cat 3 and work their way up the ability scale. All loops require you to be self-sufficient.

All riders must request your upgrade from [OBRA](#).

Downgrading

Please do not race in different ability levels from race to race. If you start out and are over your head, you can downgrade officially through [OBRA](#) and move to your appropriate ability. A rider may downgrade one category when: They have no significant results for 2 seasons or at rider's discretion **AND** approval of OBRA. However, you may race in the unique Singlespeed or Clydesdale 200+ categories regardless of your ability.

The most common downgrading situation is when someone does not feel like racing the longer course in Cat 2 and downgrades to Cat 3 for the shorter distance. **Do not do this, please.** Also, if you are signed up ahead of time for any race and receive an upgrade, or choose to upgrade, please notify the individual race director to update your file.

Staging

Please see each event's staging schedule with staging time for all 35 categories.

If you are top 3 in your category, please take the front rows by calling out top 3. In some cases the start line will be crowded, so be patient and make your move on the course when it is safe to do so.

Junior Staging

Cat 2 Juniors will stage with Cat 1 Juniors on the Long Course when two courses are available (Long and Short) and Medium loops when three loops are offered, such as Echo and Silver Falls.

This is to allow for ranking points at the National Level from USA cycling for all annual Junior Members. OBRA and USA Cycling have a reciprocal agreement to allow Junior riders to gain ranking points for USA Cycling Nationals starting position. Please note that unless you attend USA Cycling events if you are attempting to increase your ranking for Nationals, this service above does not due much to help.

Cat 3 Juniors race the short course at each event.

Safety / Rules

Please wear a helmet AT ALL TIMES while on your bike. This includes before and after events. You can be disqualified for not doing this. OBRA rules apply!

The most important rule of any race is: **BE RESPECTFUL!!** It is on **YOU** to follow the rules, to show consideration for others, and to be a good example for others to follow.

All of the events in the Oregon XC Series operate on open land. This means that the course is **NOT** closed to others. In some cases, other foot, bike, or vehicle traffic may be present. **Pay attention at all road and trail crossings.**

Mountain bike racing is a participate-at-your-own-risk sport. Once you have signed up, you are not required to participate if you feel your safety or the safety of your junior racer is in danger. Over the years, the collective group of mountain bike races has had very limited issues with injuries outside of normal crashing, scrapes, and bruises.

Numerous hazards exist, including terrain, possible trees on the course, weather, vehicles, spectators, and other recreational riders not involved in the event that may be unaware that the event is going on. All of the courses are open to others, and your race does not supersede the **safety** of any other person. We encourage all to be self sufficient and **Rules of the Road are in place at all times!**

When warming up on nearby roads, please stay to the right and watch for vehicles. Having a taillight for your safety is encouraged, as well as bright reflective clothing.

Do not drop gel packs or anything on the course except for your sweat.

No bad language or attitude.

Please use toilets and do not urinate where others can see.

BE nice when passing slower riders and ALWAYS do so in a safe area. Calling out "Coming by" or "On your Left/Right" as you approach is encouraged.

In case of an emergency, send someone to the nearest checkpoint with the **injured Rider's Plate number** and details of the injury if possible, and milage into the course. We reserve the right to call the EMT or 911, but depending on where you crash it may take up to 30 minutes or more to get to you. If evacuation is needed, Search, and Rescue will take another hour at least.

RIDE WITHIN YOUR LIMITS! There is limited insurance provided by OBRA if you crash. Accident Insurance is available through **Get Spot** for purchase as an individual monthly plan or as an add on with an OBRA annual membership. This is a third party plan, so please check all conditions to see if this is a good fit for you.

OBRA Membership

Being an OBRA member is required for each race when those races sanction with OBRA.

You can do this in two ways:

Purchase a 1-Day OBRA membership available at each event or through online registration.

\$5 for adults

OR

Become an Annual OBRA member

See obra.org for pricing for Juniors, 19-22, and Adults. Save big before the 1st of the year each season.

This will cover you for an entire year of racing any discipline.

We prefer you order direct from [OBRA online](http://obra.org) to receive your license as soon as possible.

Please visit obra.org for all rules and regulations including upgrade policies which occur through OBRA. membership@obra.org

Sponsors

We could not promote the series and host each event without support!

Please contact [Mike](#) who manages the marketing of the Oregon XC Series to get involved! Mudslinger Events operates Mudslinger, Sisters Stampede and Bend Dirt Fest. All other events are independently operated.

We need support to keep the wheels turning as we reach well over 2500 mountain bikers per year and continue to be a guiding force in cycling culture for all abilities.

Thank you so much for all our current sponsors! We appreciate all you do!

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