



## MiSCA 2014 FAQ's

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## Answers

### 1. How do I join MiSCA and what does it cost?

There is no fee involved with belonging to MiSCA. MiSCA does not have memberships but is a non-profit organization that promotes scholastic cycling and puts together a fall interscholastic mountain bike racing program. [top](#)

### 2. Do I need a license to race?

2014 USAC Rules require all racers to have a USAC license. Annual USAC Junior MTB license is \$35 and one-day licenses are \$10. To receive a USAC championship students must have a USAC annual mountain bike license. MiSCA partners with USA Cycling and charges for a one day license if a student does not hold a current USAC annual mountain bike license.

USAC junior licenses are \$35 and are good until the end of the calendar year. They can be purchased on line or paid for at a MiSCA race. The online process starts at the USAC website. <http://www.usacycling.org/> Don't confuse the member sign up with the license process. The license is an additional step and requires payment to USAC. Becoming a member of USAC is not the same as getting a license. Holding a USAC license has many benefits including additional insurance coverage at USAC races, discounts on goods and services, and eliminates the day of license fees which could be as much as \$10 at cyclocross races. [top](#)

### 3. What age groups and categories does MiSCA have?

Due to the increased level of competition within the 15-18 ages, we've added a new category and restructured our existing categories in this age range. There are now 3 categories for ages 15-18 - Beginner, Junior Varsity (JV), and Varsity. It is important to understand that the Varsity category will contain more advanced trail conditions and lengths than in previous years. A good measure for considering how to align - Beginner = Beginner; JV is similar to Sport; Varsity is similar to Advanced or Expert.

(Continued on next page)



For 2014 MiSCA will offer the following race categories:

- a. Varsity Men 15-18
- b. Varsity Women 15-18
- c. JV Men 15-18
- d. JV Women 15-18
- e. Beginner Men 15-18
- f. Beginner Women 15-18
- g. 11-14 Men
- h. 11-14 Women
- i. 10 and Under , Combined

Again, Varsity is about the same as the Expert class, JV is Sport, Beginner is Beginner. 11-14 and under is also considered a Beginner level class. [top](#)

#### **4. Do I have to race in my age group?**

Any student can race up in age so those under age 11 can race in the 11-14 groups and those under 15 can race in the 15-18 age groups. Students may NOT race down in age.

#### **5. What about USAC categories?**

USAC has categories based on skill level or experience. For instance Cat 1 is considered Expert, Cat 2 is Sport and Cat 3 is Beginner. If you sign up for a USAC annual license you should indicate what class level you are most likely to race in. you can upgrade later if your skill level progresses.

MiSCA does not use USAC categories and Cat 1 racers can race in the Varsity class. But other promoters and the USAC national championships will probably limit Cat 1 racers to the Expert class, if available.

#### **6. When are the races?**

The races are generally held on Saturdays or Sundays, starting with the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend after Labor Day and ending with the State Championship around the last weekend in September. Races start about 10:00 in the morning and the events are usually complete by 3:00 pm. You will need to check each race for the actual start times for you class. [top](#)

#### **7. What does it cost to race?**

Race costs are set by the promoters of the races but generally range from \$10 to \$30. Sometimes there is a discount for registering early. [top](#)



#### **8. Do I have to be on a team?**

No, students can race without being on a team and still earn the same awards as those on a team. But we encourage students to find or start a team. Belonging to a team provides race support, a group of like minded students to race and train with, and a chance to contribute points toward the team award. [top](#)

#### **9. How can I find a team to join?**

If you want to start a team, check out MiSCA's web page for the section on starting a club. Also check out the website for a listing of teams to see if there is one close by. [www.miscabike.org](http://www.miscabike.org) [top](#)

#### **10. What about cyclocross, is MiSCA involved with this type of racing?**

MiSCA believes that cyclocross is an exciting sport for both racers and spectators. MiSCA may work in the future to support cyclocross races but nothing is planned in 2014 at this time. [top](#)

#### **11. How can I start a team?**

Teams can be started by anyone. Check out the MiSCA web page for the section and documents on starting a team. MiSCA will work with you to help find volunteers and students, including attending information and recruiting sessions that you might schedule. Contact us if you would like more information or have questions. [www.miscabike.org](http://www.miscabike.org) [top](#)

#### **12. What types of teams are there?**

There are three types of teams in MiSCA team competition, teams affiliated with a school, composite or open teams made up of students from multiple areas, and unaffiliated teams made up of students that formed their team just for a particular race. We encourage schools to form teams but if they are reluctant to do so or if there are not enough students from one school form a team, then students may join with those in the surrounding area to form a composite or open team. If there is a scholastic cycling club at a school then students from that school cannot belong to any other scholastic cycling club for the mountain bike season. [top](#)

#### **13. What does it cost for a team to be in MiSCA?**

There is no charge for teams to compete in the MiSCA series. Teams may wish to become official USAC teams. Teams associated with schools can become USAC clubs



at no charge the first year, and the \$50 for each successive year. Composite teams can become independent USAC clubs and the charge is \$150 per year. Becoming a USAC club can provide benefits including the ability to purchase liability insurance and coverage during training rides for students that have annual USAC licenses. More information on becoming a club can be found on the USAC website.

<http://www.usacycling.org/how-to-create-a-usa-cycling-club.htm> or here  
<http://www.usacycling.org/highschool> [top](#)

#### **14. What about team insurance?**

MiSCA does not provide insurance for individuals or team insurance. Racers are provided a level of insurance at USAC sanctioned races. Clubs and teams may wish to become official USAC clubs which offers several types of insurance for purchase. Clubs may purchase club liability insurance and also D&O (Directors and Officers) insurance. Students with annual licenses that are members of official USAC Clubs and teams are also provided individual insurance while on a club training ride or event. More information about USAC clubs and insurance can be found on the USAC website <http://www.usacycling.org/> and <http://www.usacycling.org/news/user/story.php?id=630> [top](#)

#### **15. What is the team award, and how does it get awarded?**

There are three types of teams in MiSCA team competition, teams affiliated with a school, composite or open teams, made up of students from multiple areas, and unaffiliated teams made up of students that formed their team just for a particular race. During the MiSCA Mountain bikes series an award will be given to the top team in each category based on the finish positions of the team. Usually the top four racers for each team, across all classes, are tallied to determine a team score. Check the MiSCA web site for competition and team scoring rules.. [top](#)