



ILLINOIS CYCLING ASSOCIATION

2024 Illinois Cup Guide for Riders

Introduction

The Illinois Cup was developed by the Illinois Cycling Association (ICA) to recognize competitive racers in the Illinois racing series and to establish a fun path for riders to work toward upgrades and prepare for State Championships. The Illinois Cup races have demonstrated themselves as a challenge to racers and have met the standards set for race directors by the ICA.

The ICA also hopes that the Illinois Cup encourages participation in Illinois racing events. **To that end, scoring eligibility in IL Cup races will remain open to non-Illinois residents in 2024.**

Each Illinois Cup race awards points to racers according to a predetermined scale. At the end of the series, the racer with the greatest number of points in a category or age group wins the Illinois Cup for that category or age group. Winners will be awarded free entries into the IL Cup races held the following year.

The ICA will keep a running total of points throughout the season and post the standings on the ICA web site. Before the start of each Illinois Cup race the top 5 overall racers in each category may receive call-ups to the start line.

While ability is important to win the Cup, consistency is also important. All races in the series count toward the final standings. Racers who participate in the greatest number of races and place high enough to earn points have as good a chance to win as those who place first but enter only a few races.

The rules set forth below will help you understand how the Illinois Cup Series works so you can better prepare for the season and implement a plan that will help you earn the most points by season's end.

The ICA may revise these rules periodically and the rules are subject to change between seasons.

IL Cup Schedule

The IL Cup Schedule is posted on the ICA website at www.illinoisbicycling.org/racing/illinois-cup

Categories

➤ Juniors

- **Girls: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18**
- **Boys: 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18**

➤ Masters Open*

- **Women: 35-44, 45-54, 55+**
- **Men: 35-44, 45-54, 55+**
 - **Masters Category 4/5/Novice riders will also be scored separately in each age group**

➤ Elite Women

- ☐ **Category 4**
- ☐ **Category 3**
- ☐ **Category 1/2**

➤ Elite Men

- ☐ **Category 4**
- ☐ **Category 3**
- ☐ **Category 1/2**

* Masters riders will be scored according to their age. For example, Masters 55+ riders cannot earn points in lower age Masters categories, and are only eligible for Masters 55+ points. Masters riders who are in Category 4 or 5/Novice are eligible to earn overall points AND points toward the Masters 4/5 age-specific Cup.

Because not all events draw enough participants to support a separate race for each category, discretion will be left up to the race director to combine fields as needed. Combined fields may even compete for the same prize list, but will be scored separately for the Cup. The ICA will be working directly with race directors to ensure all categories are included and are clearly noted on flyers.

Category Scoring Details

Combined Field Scoring Scenarios:

- A. Two IL Cup categories are combined (e.g., Women 3 and Women 1/2)
 - a. Racers in each category will be scored separately and will not displace each other for points. For example, a Woman 3 rider who finishes 4th in the combined field will be awarded 1st place points in the Women 3 category. A Woman 1/2 rider who finishes 5th will be awarded 4th place points in the Women 1/2 category.
- B. Non-scoring category combined with an IL Cup category (e.g., Cat 3 added to Cat 1/2)
 - a. Some races may choose to add a field to an existing Cup category (e.g., adding Cat 3 to a 1/2 IL Cup race). The non-scoring category will not displace the IL Cup category for points (e.g., a Cat 3 riders wins a Category 1/2/3 race, but will *not* earn Cup points with the top finishing Category 1/2 rider earning 1st place points instead).
 - b. Non-scoring category will only earn points in their designated IL Cup race (e.g., in this instance in a separate Cat 3 or a Cat 3/4 race) as designated by the race director.
- C. Juniors
 - a. Juniors will be scored separately by age and gender, even if combined for racing/prizes.

Eligibility

All riders are eligible to earn IL Cup Points, not just Illinois residents. The only stipulation is:

1. Racers must hold an annual, unsuspended USAC license by the last race of the series.

Riders that have met the above obligation are eligible to earn Illinois Cup points. If the ICA cannot determine if a rider or team has met the above obligation, it is the rider's responsibility to provide proof that they were in compliance.

Point System

Points are awarded to all eligible racers at each Illinois Cup race according to the following schedule. Due to small field sizes and other rules set forth above, however, it is possible that not all points will be awarded in each category at each race.

Place	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Points	35	30	25	21	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	3	2	1



Racers Who Upgrade

Riders upgrading mid-series will keep their points in their original category and will take HALF their points with them to the higher category, but only if the upgrade occurs BEFORE the mid-point of the Cup series. Riders upgrading after the mid-point will keep their points in their original category but will not be able to transfer points to the higher category. Racers who meet requirements for a mandatory upgrade in any 12-month period will stop earning points in their current category. Racers downgrading during the season will not have their higher category points transferred to the lower category, but they may still compete for points in the lower category.

Final Illinois Cup standings will be based on a rider's cumulative point total in each category participated in throughout the year. If a rider should happen to win more than one category, they would still be eligible for just one IL Cup prize (one free entry in next year's Cup races).

Results and Tie Breakers

Once results are posted at a race, per USAC rules racers have 15 minutes to protest the results. After 15 minutes the results are official. Changes to correct obvious errors (spelling of names) are allowed. Results will not be changed after the 15-minute protest period unless upon further review and at the discretion of the Chief Judge at the race it is deemed an error. Illinois Cup points will be awarded based on these final results.

If there is a tie in points after the last Illinois Cup race, the tie will be broken by the highest placement in the last Illinois Cup race either of the riders finished. If rider A finished the last Illinois Cup race and rider B did not, then by default rider A will win the tie.

Current Cup overall standings will be available at <http://www.illinoiscycling.org/racing/illinois-cup>.

Series Awards

Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in each category. The winner of each category/age group will also receive one free entry into each Illinois Cup race the following year. This **award is non-transferable to any other rider or to any other race**. If the winning rider upgrades or moves into a new age group, they can apply their winning entry to their new category/age group. This award is good for one entry per race. If the rider chooses to enter a 2nd race, they must pay the fee for another race at the discretion of the race director.

Questions

Send questions to the ICA Officer-at-Large (Chad Briggs; briggs32281221@gmail.com).

Best Wishes on the 2024 IL Cup!