



2026 ILLINOIS CUP

# Race Director Communiqué

February 8th, 2026

Welcome to another year of bicycle racing in Illinois and the surrounding region! The snow is slowly melting, the weather is warming, and most of you are hard at work planning your races and events for 2026.

First, we'd like to thank all of our returning races and race directors for helping us create a compelling, competitive environment here in Illinois. The structure of the Cup will remain largely the same in 2026, with a couple of key changes that will be highlighted below.

## Key Changes

- Open category
- Masters 4/5 updates
- Sponsorship

## Open Category

USAC recently changed Policy VII to modify the definition of the word “female” and limit who may participate in women’s categories. This updated policy also has implications for which fields may occupy the course together, work together, and be scored together.

We are encouraging races that wish to be considered for the Illinois Cup to add an “Open” field, running concurrently with another field on the schedule but scored separately. Clarifying language such as “This category is intended for women, transgender women, and non-binary athletes who want to race together. This category is scored separately.” should be added to the BikeReg page under this category.

Adding an “Open” category will be taken into consideration with your application, but is not mandatory and will not be considered a requirement for a race to be added to the Cup.

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## Open Category (cont'd)

Two sample schedules (both including an open field) will be included at the end of this letter. Both of these schedules have been reviewed by USAC's Technical Director and are in compliance with the updated Policy VII.

## Masters 4/5 Updates

The Master's 4/5 breakout fields will still be scored separately but will be considered "non-award" fields. The winners of these fields will not receive medals and will not be eligible for complimentary entry to races in 2027. We will consider providing coffee mugs or another small gift to 4/5 champions at the final race on the calendar. This is a purely economic decision, both for the ICA and the promoters who provide free entry to Cup winners.

## Sponsorship

Along those lines, we are currently in discussion to add a title sponsor to cover the cost of awards in 2026 (which will be similar or lower than the expenditure in 2025). If your business or one you know would be interested in sponsoring "The Illinois Cup p/b ...", please reach out to Robby Kanyur at [robertkanyur@gmail.com](mailto:robertkanyur@gmail.com) or 602-448-1147.

## Conclusion

Thank you again for making bike racing possible in Illinois and all of the surrounding states. We are looking forward to a great season in 2027. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Best,

Robby Kanyur  
Director, Illinois Cup  
602-448-1147

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## Sample Schedule 1 (Large Race)

9:00am Women Masters 40+ (Cat 4/Novice)

9:00am Women Masters 40+ (Cat 1-4)

9:00am Women Masters 50+ (Cat 1-4)

9:00am Women Masters 60+ (Cat 1-4)

9:01am Open (Cat 1-4, Novice)\*

9:50am Men Masters 40+ 4/Novice

10:40am Men Junior 9-14

10:40am Men Junior 15-18

10:41am Women Junior 9-14

10:41am Women Junior 15-18

11:20am Women Cat 4/Novice

12:20pm Men Cat 4/Novice

1:10pm Women Cat 3/4

2:00pm Men Cat 3/4

2:50pm Men Masters 40+ (Cat 1-4)

2:50pm Men Masters 50+ (Cat 1-4)

2:50pm Men Masters 60+ (Cat 1-4)

3:50pm Women Pro 1/2/3

6:00pm Men Pro 1/2/3

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## Sample Schedule 2 (Small Race)

9:30am Men Junior (All)

9:31am Women Junior (All)

10:10am Women 4/5

10:50am Men 4/5

11:40am Men Masters 40+ (Cat 4, Novice)

11:41am Women Masters 40+ (Cat 1-4, Novice)

12:30pm Men 3/4

1:30pm Men Pro 1/2/3

2:40pm Men Masters 40+ (Cat 1-4)

2:41pm Women Masters 40+ (Cat 1-4)

2:42pm Open (Cat 1-4, Novice)\*

3:40pm Women Pro 1/2/3