



ILLINOIS CYCLING ASSOCIATION

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## **2010 Illinois Cup Rules for Racers**

# Introduction

The Illinois Cup was developed by the Illinois Cycling Association to recognize the most competitive racers in the Illinois Cup Series. Illinois Cup races are a balanced set of road races and criteriums that have demonstrated themselves as a challenge to racers and have met the standards set for race promoters by the ICA.

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 each category wins the Illinois Cup. The ICA will keep a running total of Illinois Cup points throughout the season and post the standings on the ICA web site. Before the start of each IL Cup race the top 3 overall racers in each category may receive call-ups to the start line.

While ability is important to win the Illinois Cup, dedication is also important. All races in the series count towards the final standings. Racers who participate in the greatest number of races and place high enough to earn points have as good of a chance to win the Illinois Cup as racers who place first but enter only a few Illinois Cup 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 hopefully help you earn the most points by the end of the season.

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

# Illinois Cup Schedule

The goal of the ICA is to have the schedule of Illinois Cup races published by February 1 of every year. Some races may be listed as tentative at that time. You can find the complete Illinois racing schedule at [www.illinoiscycling.org](http://www.illinoiscycling.org).

## Categories

- **U15 Juniors (Boys, Girls)**
- **15-18 Juniors (Boys, Girls)**
- **Masters 30+ (Category 1-4)**
- **Masters 40+ (Category 1-4)**
- **Masters 50+ (Category 1-5)**
- **Women Category 3/4**
- **Women Open**
- **Category 4**
- **Category 3**
- **Category 1/2**

Not all categories will be run at every IL Cup race. The Illinois Cycling Association works with promoters to ensure most if not all categories are included at each race. However, IL Cup categories must be scored in at least 3 or more races in order for an IL Cup to be awarded at the end of the series.

1. IL Cup points are only awarded for standalone Men Category races (i.e. Category 4) and not combined fields (i.e. Category 4/5). The only exception to this rule is in the case of Category 1/2/3 races where Category 1 and Category 2 riders will earn points towards the Category 1/2 IL Cup. Category 3 riders will not earn IL Cup points in these races.
2. The Women's IL Cup categories are combined fields of Category 3/4 and Open (Category 1/2/3/4) racers. These categories allow for larger field sizes and the Category 3 and Category 4 Women the option to race at the skill/fitness level they are most comfortable with.
3. In combined Men Category 1/2/3 races, only Category 1 and Category 2 riders earn points for their placing. If the 3rd place finisher in a Cat 1/2/3 field is a Cat 3 than that rider DOES NOT earn points, and if the 4th place finisher is a Cat 2 that rider only earns 4th place points, not 3rd place points. In this situation the 3<sup>rd</sup> place points are NOT awarded to anyone.
4. Even though most Junior races will be started together, a separate Boys and Girls IL Cup will be awarded at the end of the series.
5. If a 2nd or overflow field is held (i.e. Cat 4B) IL Cup points will only be awarded to the original race (i.e. Cat 4A).
6. Races designated as 30-39, 40-49, and 50-99 are the same as 30+, 40+, and 50+ respectively since masters riders may always race down in age. The IL Cup does NOT have separate categorized Masters fields. Masters categories are based on age and not on skill/fitness level. The 40+ IL Cup winner is the best 40+ rider, not the best Category 1/2/3 or Category 4/5 rider who is 40+. Less experienced Masters riders are encouraged to race in their USAC category.
7. Masters riders may compete in age group categories below their race age and earn points in that category. If a rider's racing age is  $\geq 50$ , they can compete in the 50+, 40+, and 30+ races and earn points in each. However,

points earned by a 50+ rider in a 30+ race only apply to the 30+ IL Cup, not the 40+ or 50+ IL Cup. Masters may also always compete in Category 4 through 1 races and earn points in those categories as well.

8. At races where not all IL Cup Masters categories are offered, only those categories started will be scored. For instance, if only a 40+ race is offered with no 50+ race, 50+ racers can only earn points in the 40+ IL Cup at that particular race. 50+ IL Cup points will not be awarded for that particular race.
9. Races must be specifically designated the same as IL Cup categories in order for riders to earn points. For instance, if a race is offered as 35+ then neither 35+ riders competing for the 30+ nor 40+ riders competing for the 40+ IL Cup categories will earn points in that race.

## Eligibility

Any Illinois resident can earn Illinois Cup Points. The only stipulations are:

1. Racers must hold an annual, unsuspended USAC license by the last race of the series.
2. Racers must be a member of an Illinois based club or team that is registered and in good standings with USA Cycling. For instance, even if a rider’s annual USAC license is in good standing, if their team has not paid their annual USAC dues the rider cannot earn IL Cup points. There is no time limit on this requirement as long as the racer’s team is in good standing with USAC before the start of the final race in the IL Cup. Racers must join a team before the second to last IL Cup race of the season.
3. Racers must be a member of a club or team that is registered and in good standings with the Illinois Cycling Association. There is no time limit on this requirement as long as the racer’s team is in good standing with the ICA before the start of the final race in the IL Cup. Racers must join a team before the second to last IL Cup race. If an Illinois rider is on a team registered in another state besides Illinois, the team must be in good standing with that state’s USAC Local Association.

Once riders and their teams have met all the above obligations, they will earn Illinois Cup points. If the ICA cannot determine if a rider or team has met all of the above obligations, it is the rider’s responsibility to provide proof that they were in compliance at the time of the race.

## Point System

Points are awarded to all eligible racers at each IL Cup race according to the following schedule. However due to out of state riders, small field sizes, and other rules set forth above not all points will actually be awarded in each category at each race.

| Place     | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Road Race | 30 | 25 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 6  | 5  | 4  | 3  | 2  | 1  |
| Criterion | 25 | 21 | 18 | 15 | 12 | 10 | 8  | 6  | 4 | 3  | 2  | 1  |    |    |    |



Some races also entail a point multiplier. Races that earn 1.5 times the normal points are showcase races and will change from year to year. Races that earn 2.0 times the normal points are the State Criterion Championship and the State Road Race Championship (when held). These races will be designated with IL Cup point multiplier logos on their flyers. To find out which races have point multipliers please visit [www.illinoiscycling.org](http://www.illinoiscycling.org)

## **Racers Who Upgrade**

Riders upgrading mid-season take HALF of their points with them to the higher category, but only if they upgrade BEFORE the race which is  $1/3 +$  one race (rounded down) through the season. For instance, for a 14 race series riders must upgrade before the 5th race to take half of their points with them. Otherwise all points earned in the lower category are forfeited. This rule only applies to Women Category 3, Category 3, and Category 4 riders. After a racer upgrades his/her points in the lower category are no longer counted as part of that category's competition. The upgrade rule only applies to category racers and NOT to age group racers. Masters categories can NOT transfer points to another category.

Racers downgrading during the season will not have their higher category points (if any) follow them to the lower category, but may still compete for Illinois Cup points in the lower category. Racers who meet the requirements for a mandatory category upgrade (30 points for category 4, and 40 points for category 3) in any 12 month period will stop earning Illinois Cup points in their current category. USAC officials will be informed of any riders requiring a mandatory upgrade.

Final IL Cup standings will be based on a rider's USAC license category as of the last IL Cup race of the season, regardless of whether the rider actually raced the last IL Cup race.

## **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 and will not be changed. Changes to correct obvious errors (spelling of names, teams, etc) 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 needs to be corrected. IL 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 IL Cup race either of the riders finished. If rider A finished the last IL Cup race and rider B did not, then by default rider A will win the tie.

Current IL Cup overall standings will be available on [www.illinoiscycling.org](http://www.illinoiscycling.org).

## **Team Competition**

The IL Cup awards one Team Competition winner. The top five individual point earners from each team across all categories will have their individual Cup points count towards the team competition. In this way both quality and quantity will help teams score points. Team points are tallied after individual Cup standings are determined after each IL Cup race. Riders earning IL Cup points in more than one category will only have their highest point total counts towards the team competition. Teams have the same eligibility requirements as individuals. Racers who officially join or change a club mid season will have their points applied as of the date they joined their new team. Previous points earned will still apply to a rider's individual IL Cup points, but not to their new team for the team competition.