

## **2020 AMBCS Racer Rules:**

### **Categories and License Requirements**

The categories and license requirements for the 2020 AMBCS are as noted in the table on the following page.

NOTE: All Category 1 and Pro Men between the racing ages of 15-49 must race in the Open Class. Since it is an Open Class, riders wishing to assess their fitness before upgrading from a two, are encouraged to try the category without being forced to upgrade yet.

- Male Pro Riders are to compete within the Open Male Prize Purse Division
- Female Pro Riders are to compete within the CAT 1 15-29 Division
- Races must offer at minimum the prescribed AMBCS racing Categories.
- USA Cycling rules apply if a subject is not covered in this document.

Category / Class	Prize Purse Required?	Trophy / Medal Depth	Expected Race Distance / Time	AMBCS Ranked	USA Cycling Annual License Required?
<b>CAT 1 AND OPEN</b>					
Open Class (all Cat 1 Men 15-49 must race in this class)	Yes, per AMBCS Pay Out Chart	0	1.5 - 2.0 hours	Yes per 10 year age groups (i.e. 15-18, 19-29, 30-39, etc)	Yes
Category 1 Men 50+	No	3	1.5 - 2.0 hours	Yes	Yes
Cat 1 Women 15-29 (start with Cat 2 women)	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	Yes
Cat 1 Women 30-39 (start with Cat 2 women)	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	Yes
Cat 1 Women 40+ (start with Cat 2 women)	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	Yes
<b>CAT 2 AND SINGLE SPEED</b>					
Cat 2 Men 15-29	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Men 30-39	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Men 40-49	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Men 50-59	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 1 and 2 Men 60+	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Women 15-29	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Women 30-39	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Women 40+	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 2 Women 50+	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
Single Speed	No	3	1.5-2.0 hours	Yes	No **
<b>CAT 3/NOVICE AND CLYDESDALES</b>					
Cat 3/Novice Men 15-18	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice Men 19-29	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice Men 30-39	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice Men 40-49	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice 50-59	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice 60+	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice 15-29	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice 30-39	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice Women 40-49	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Cat 3/Novice Women 50+	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
Clydesdale	No	3	Less than 1.5 hours	Yes	No **
<b>JUNIORS</b>					
Junior Men 1-10	No	3	30 to 45 minutes	Yes	No **
Junior Men 11-12	No	3	30 to 45 minutes	Yes	No **
Junior Men 13-14	No	3	30 to 45 minutes	Yes	No **
Junior Women 1-10	No	3	30 to 45 minutes	Yes	No **
Junior Women 11-12	No	3	30 to 45 minutes	Yes	No **
Junior Women 13-14	No	3	30 to 45 minutes	Yes	No **
<b>ROOKIE</b>					
Rookie Men	No	N / R	Less than 1.5 hours	No	No
Rookie Women	No	N / R	Less than 1.5 hours	No	No

\*\* - A USAC Annual Cycling License is required to claim series awards, including medals and jerseys.

**Category License Requirements within the AMBCS:**

Category or Division	Valid USAC annual License	One Day License
All CAT 1 and Pro divisions	Required	Use not permitted
Open Class	Required	Use not permitted
Single Speed	Required to have Points tracked	Required if no Annual License. Points will not be tracked if one day is used.
CAT 2	Required to have Points tracked	Required if no Annual License. Points will not be tracked if one day is used.
CAT 3 & Clydesdale	Riders to hold either an Annual or One Day Permit. Points will be tracked regardless.	
Jr's M/F (14 and under)	Riders to hold either an Annual or One Day Permit. An annual USAC Cycling License is required to have points tracked..	
Rookie	Riders must sign the 1-day license form, but the fee is included in registration	

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- These requirements apply to all event on the AMBCS XC series schedule:
  - USA Cycling Rules will be enforced
  - It is the racers responsibility to know and follow the prescribed race course.
  - The rider's finish times are not required to be posted at race site, but will be submitted on the official results.

**POINTS & RANKINGS:**

The AMBCS shall use the following scoring method: The Base point structure will use the below chart. In addition the Starting field size for the competitive division will be added to the base point.

Place	CAT 1 and Prize Purse Divisions only	CAT 2 & Single Speed	Cat 3 & Clydesdale
1	60	50	40
2	54	44	34
3	49	39	29
4	45	35	25
5	42	32	22
6	40	30	20
7	39	29	19
8	38	28	18

**One point separating each finish beyond 8th place.**

**Example of how individuals' points will be calculated:** The CAT 2 Men 19-29 at race XYZ has 22 starters in it. Bob finishes in 5<sup>th</sup> place at race XYZ. Bob would receive 32 points from the base point structure plus 22 points for the field size.

**Bob's point tally for Race XYZ would be:**

**32 Points (Base ranking points from the chart) + 22 (Field Size) = 54 points total toward series Rankings**

- **Series Points:** The AMBCS Administration will make every effort to have the Series Rankings (points) posted by close of business on Friday following each AMBCS Race. The Racers will have 14 days from time of posting to review them for correctness. It is the racers responsibility to notify the Series Administration within this period if there is an error. After this 14-day period, the rankings for that event, become official and final. The last race of the year is the expectation to this as series management calculates the final series standing onsite. The Racer is responsible to check for correctness the season point tallies prior to the season end award ceremony. After which they become official.
- **Overall (Season End)** AMBCS point standings and general awards will be presented at the last race of the season. If a tie exists within a class at the end of the series, the following rules will be used in the following order until the tie is broken: 1) Number of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, ... until tie is broken in all races that are used for series points. 2) Head-to-Head results in all common races. 3) Head-to-Head result in the most recent/last race. This rule is applied by starting at the last race and going backward to find the first common race. Once found, that result will be used to break the tie.

## Points allocation and submission rules:

### Protocols for Ranked Classes:

#### Race Number Counts:

- The best 6 of 10 races or best 5 of 9 will count towards overall standings.
- If the published schedule, prior to the start of the first race of the season, contains 10 races the best 6 will be counted.
- If the published schedule, prior to the start of the first race of the season, contains 8 - 9 races the best 5 will be counted.
- All racers must compete in a minimum of 4 events to be included in the overall standings.

#### District Requirements:

- All Racers must complete a minimum of one (1) race within each of the district's (Ozark District and the Ouachita District) of the State of Arkansas to have their point totals considered for season end awards.

#### Race location District definitions:

The State of Arkansas, for the purposes of the AMBCS to be divided into 2 Districts.

- The Ozark Mt district: This district will be the land area North of I40 within the State of Arkansas.
- The Ouachita District: This district will be the land area South of I40 within the State of Arkansas.

#### Misc requirements:

- Pay dirt points may replace your lowest point value as long as the racers has met the minimum number of races to qualify.
- Points are tallied based on the riders' finish at each individual event.
- During the series a rider may change category or race division, however points earned in one cannot be transferred to another.
- AMBCS Rankings Points are tabulated only on cross-country (XC) events (other events such as time trials and circuit races are not counted toward the series standings, **unless part of a stage race.**)

### Rider Start and Finish Protocols:

- Riders must have completed the registration process and signed an event wavier prior to starting or they may be DQ'ed
- Riders must be present and acknowledge they are present at role call for their respective start group.
- Riders start time will be set with their respective start group. (no time adjustments for late starts)
- Riders must check in at the finish line of the event.
- Riders which abandon the race must check in with the official at the finish line to let them know they are off the course and are not completing the race.

### Hard Plates:

- Hard Plates are mandatory for all those that wish to participate in any race that is part of the AMBCS. The exclusion to this requirement is the Rookie class.
- AMBCS Hard Plate cost will be \$5.00 for all adult riders. Junior riders 14 under are complimentary.
- The final 2 races of the series will not charge any riders for the hard plates.

### Course Requirements:

- Courses vary according to the geography of the area, and the amount of single track available. These are guidelines as the combination of terrain and distance will determine the level of difficulty
- In general, based upon the overall winner's time, the following divisions should fall within:
  - CAT 1 Men / Pro races: 1.5 - 2 hours
  - CAT 1 / 2 Women: 1.5 - 2 hours
  - Single Speed: 1.5- 2 hours
  - CAT 2: 1.5 - 2 hours
  - CAT 3: Less than 1.5 hours,
  - JR's 12 and under: 30 - 45 minutes.

### Feed Zone and water Support

- All AMBCS XC races are required to have a feed zone area available and must provide access to water within the feed zone on courses longer than 15 miles. This may be a self serve system.
- Races are required to provide at minimum access to water pre-and post-race that all can access.

### Series Rider Upgrade Requirements:

Riders who place 1<sup>st</sup> in their categories at the end of the season, and have an average field size of 5 or more for all races in the season, will be required to upgrade to the next highest category. This rule does not affect the following Classes – Juniors 1-18 years of age, Rookie, Clydesdale, Singlespeed.

**NOTE – The 2019 season is not included for this rule. Upgrades via this rule will commence in January Of 2021. So don't panic yet.**

### Specialty Categories specific items:

- Single Speed: This division can be raced by males and/or females; however, they are scored as one group with no distinction to gender. All bikes used by riders in this division will have only one gear available on the rear wheel and on the Crank. The bike may not have a derailleur on it that is connected in any fashion to a shifting devise. Riders in this division must hold either an Annual USAC License for their results to be listed in the AMBCS Ranking and to be eligible for season end awards.
- Clydesdale: - This division can be raced by males and/or females; however, they are scored as one group with no distinction to gender. All riders must weight a minimum of 220 lbs on race day while wearing not more than their race clothing. This excludes wearing a camelback, fanny sack, or other items while being weighed. Clydesdales will race the same distance as CAT 3.
- Rookie: This division is open to any rider who has never raced a mountain bike race prior to joining this category. Entry Fees are set at \$20/rider to cover the USAC 1-Day License and Insurance Fees. AMBCS will not charge promoters any rider fee for a Novice rider, and will provide promoters with temporary hard plates for the rider to use. Riders may race as a rookie all season after they join the category, but no series awards will be given, and race day rewards are not required.

**Men’s Open Class**

- All Category 1 male riders between the race ages of 19-49 MUST race in this category
- This division is open to all riders holding a valid annual USA Cycling racing license
- This division will race at a distance that requires 1.5 – 2.0 hours for the winner to cover.
- This division is required to offer, at minimum, a prize purse as per the “Unified Field” Pay out chart.
- No other award other than Prize money is required to be presented within this division at each race.
- Series points will be tracked within this division.
- Points accrued within this division will remain within this division and are not transferable.
- The Series Manager will announce annually what the series end winners for this division will receive.

**CAT 1 / CAT 2 Women’s Open Division:**

- This group will consist of CAT 1 and CAT 2 female riders within the following age Groups:
  - 15-29
  - 30-39
  - 40+
  - 50+
- Pro Female Riders will also be assigned to race with this group as a default.
- All Female riders within this division will start as one group and race for the same prize purse..
- This group will be defined as a "CAT1/2 Women's Open Division".
- The unified start field size is determined by the total number of riders within the divisions:
  - The minimum prize purse is to be awarded to the top finishers within the CAT1/2 Female Unified Start field.
  - This division is required to offer, at minimum, a prize purse as per the “Unified Field” Pay out chart.
  - The CAT1/2 Women’s Open Division prize purse will follow the same payout chart as the Male Division
  - See "Unified Field" Prize purse distribution chart on AMBCS website
- This division is required to offer Age Group Awards (Medals or Trophies) 3 deep as per below:

CAT and Age Group	Trophy award depth	CAT and Age Group	Trophy award depth
CAT 1 Female 15-29	3 Deep	CAT 2 Female 15-18	3 Deep
CAT 1 Female 30-39/Pro	3 Deep	CAT 2 Female 19- 39	3 Deep
CAT 1 Female 40+	3 Deep	CAT 2 Female 40+	3 Deep
		CAT 2 Female 50+	3 Deep

**Stage Races:**

To be considered for bonus points as a stage race, promoters must list the stages in the event description which they are holding, and promote the event with the word “stage” in the title

- Only cross country centric stages will be counted as stage races, which typically include trail that can be ridden on a hard tail or limited suspension bike.
- These may include, but not limited to, short track, cross country, & time trials.
- Stage races may be two or three stages.
- Riders will receive an extra five (5) series points for each stage race they finish in the general classification, whether first or last.

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