

STORY STARTERS

The 2019 USA Cycling Cyclocross National Championships will be held Dec. 10-15 at Fort Steilacoom Park in Lakewood, Wash. The national championships are expected to attract nearly 2,000 top professional and amateur cyclists representing more than 45 states. A total of 37 events will determine national champions, winners of the coveted Stars-and-Stripes jerseys.

The course opens daily at 8 a.m., with racing and awards concluding 4-4:30 p.m. (check schedule online; all times Pacific Daylight). Wristband admission is \$20 per person including tax, which is good for the entire event week. Free vehicle parking will be available. The event week will showcase vendors from across the country, two beer gardens, three food trucks, two coffee vendors, and the opportunity to watch daily podium presentations. Tuesday through Sunday the main beer garden will be open near the sand pit. A satellite beer garden will be operated at Descent One / Run-Up Two on Saturday and Sunday. Proceeds benefit Rotary of Des Moines/Normandy Park.



Schedule:

Tuesday, Dec. 10	9:05 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Non-championship and Masters Women 60+, Men 70+
Wednesday, Dec. 11	8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Masters Men and Women; Non-championship Mixed Relay
Thursday, Dec. 12	8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Collegiate; Men 11-22 Non-championship; Masters Men
Friday, Dec. 13	8:10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Collegiate; Women 11-22 Non-championship; Masters Women
Saturday, Dec. 14	8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Industry and Singlespeed races; Juniors Men and Women
Sunday, Dec. 15	8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. Junior 17-18 Men and Women; U23 Men and Women; Elite Men and
	Women; 10 and under Non-championship

Image Gallery:

A selection of cyclocross photos from the Pacific Northwest are available for pre-race stories via <u>Dropbox</u>, courtesy of Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission (select shots by Derek Blagg Photography). Images from the championships will be available each day with results, courtesy of USA Cycling. To request access to these results/images, please email Jackie at <u>sportspr@pelotonsports.net</u>.

Awards and Podium Pets:

All awards ceremonies will be held at Fort Steilacoom Park at the Pavilion - one ceremony Tuesday to Saturday and two ceremonies on Sunday. For Juniors 16 and under, collegiate, masters, and singlespeed, awards will recognize the top five finishers. Juniors 17-18, U23, and elite awards will recognize the top three. Along with athletes, Podium Pets will be new to this year's ceremonies. Podium Pets is provided by Wet Noses Dry Paws, the premier Indoor Dog Park and Day Care in Tacoma, also partners with rescue organizations as far south as Mexico to give rescue dogs homes.

Athletes to Watch: KATIE COMPTON

The 41-year-old Delaware native, who resides in Colorado, is the reigning USA Cycling Cyclocross National Champion for elite women. She has held that title for 15 straight years, going back to 2004. Specializing in cyclocross, Compton has won more than 112 UCI races. She has been on the podium four times at the world championships, finishing with a silver medal at the 2013 Cyclocross World Championships in Louisville, Ky. Despite recent health issues, from hypothyroidism in 2010 and problems with allergy-induced asthma in 2011, she continues to dominate cyclocross competitions around the world.

COURTENAY McFADDEN

Currently ranked 9th overall in the ProCX standings, McFadden is excited to have a two-hour commute to Lakewood from her home in Bellingham, Wash. for nationals. She has racked up nine Top 10 finishes on the national cyclocross circuit this season, including two silvers at Supercross Cup in N.Y. in November. She has twice raced on the U.S.

national team at the World Championships, finishing 15th in 2017. Her best finish in the Women Elite race came in January 2018 in Reno, Nev. where she was fourth. McFadden races for Pivot Cycles-Maxxis p/b Stans NoTubes.

TRICIA FLEISCHER

Tricia Fleischer, 40, works in Seattle as a creative project manager for Brooks Running, and has been traveling most weekends to improve UCI points in preparation for CXNats in nearby Lakewood. She has eight Top 10s this season, including a win and second place at Cyclocross Crusade - Alpenrose in Oregon in October. She will be racing two ProCX events in Dallas, Texas Dec. 7-8. She races for the Trek Cyclocross Collective team, a grassroots program comprised of riders across the country who are world champions, state champions, weekend warriors and community bastions, and all age ranges. She will compete on Dec. 13 in the Masters Women 40-44 category, and on Dec. 15 in the Elite Women race.

STEPHANIE TAPLIN

Tacoma resident Stephanie Taplin, 30, is a rising talent who has been on the podium four times this season, including wins at Cyclocross Crusade - Alpenrose in Oregon and Bavarian CX in Washington. She competed at the ProCX races in Mass. in November, the Northampton International Cyclocross p/b Cycle-Smart, and captured two Top 10s. She rides for Indigenous Wheel Co., a bike shop in Tacoma which will host a panel of women pro cyclists on Dec. 13, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., at the Blue Mouse Theater in Tacoma. She will compete on Dec. 11 in the Master Women 30-34 division and on Dec. 15 in the Elite Women race.

STEPHEN HYDE

New Englander Stephen Hyde is a three-time and reigning USA Cycling Cyclocross National Champion. In 2017 he also won the Pan-Am Cyclocross title for a second time and the Sho-Air USCup-CX Series championship. The 32-year-old cyclist rides for the Cannondale presented by Cyclocrossworld.com team, and also mixes in a little pro road cycling in the summers. He has represented the U.S. at the UCI Cyclo-cross World Championships for the past four years. He will compete on Dec. 15 in the Elite Men race.

LOGAN OWEN

A native of Bremerton, Wash., Owen became the first American to win the U23 Liège-Bastogne-Liège road race in 2017. He started racing BMX at age 5 and has won 10 cyclocross national championships. His first pro UCI win in cyclocross was on his home course, Fort Steilacoom Park. He last competed at the USA Cycling Cyclocross Nationals in 2016, where he won a bronze in the Elite Men division. Now 24, Owen gave up cyclocross in 2016 to pursue his WorldTour dreams. He rides for the EF Education First WorldTeam and was part of their road team at the Vuelta a España. He will compete on Dec. 15 in the Elite Men race.



ABOUT TACOMA SOUTH SOUND SPORTS COMMISSION (tacomasports.org)

The Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission is a 501(c)6 nonprofit organization dedicated to marketing the South Sound as a sporting destination. Since 1991, the events we've been involved with have contributed millions of dollars in economic impact to the communities we serve. TSSSC and Low Pressure Promotions, LLC of Seattle are host partners for the cyclocross championships.

ABOUT USA CYCLING (usacycling.org)

USA Cycling is a proud member of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) and United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC). Within the United States, USA Cycling is the national governing body for the sport of cycling and oversees the disciplines of road, track, mountain bike, cyclocross, and BMX. With a mission to develop the sport of cycling in the United States and to achieve sustained international racing success, USA Cycling supports cyclists at all levels, from those just beginning in the sport and participating in fun rides to seasoned professionals. The organization not only identifies, develops, and selects cyclists to represent the United States in international competition, but also supports amateur bike racing through grassroots development programs and the provision of critical infrastructure to run organized racing.

USA Cycling is headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020. In 1920, the organization began as The Amateur Bicycle League of America and evolved to become the United States Cycling Federation in 1975 and ultimately USA Cycling, Inc. in 1995. USA Cycling's 100,000+ members are comprised of racers and cyclists of all ages and abilities, coaches, officials, mechanics, and race directors.

Contacts:

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