



2026 UEC MTB DOWNHILL EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Vitosha Mountain - Sofia (BUL)

14 - 16 August 2026

TECHNICAL GUIDE

as of 26.2.2026

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U E C O f f i c i a l S u p p l i e r s

INTRODUCTION

This document summarises the information needed by the national federations concerning the participation of their riders at the 2026 UEC Mountain Bike European Championships. Mainly intended for team managers, this document focuses on the purely sporting aspects of the 2026 UEC Mountain Bike European Championships. If you have any questions concerning this document, please do not hesitate to contact the UEC

1. ORGANISATION

1.1. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE (LOC)

Président	Lumparov	Georgi	eu2026@cycling.bg
Logistic	Sotirov	Petar	eu2026@cycling.bg
PR & Marketing	Paunova	Ema	ema@conceptcreative.org
VIP - Hospitality	Kolev	Yavor	eu2026@cycling.bg
Accreditation	Paunov	Alexander	eu2026@cycling.bg
Media	Paunova	Ema	ema@conceptcreative.org
Sport	Alexander	Hadzhiev	eu2026@cycling.bg
Volunteers	Georgiev	Nikolay	eu2026@cycling.bg
Finance	Ivanov	Ivan	eu2026@cycling.bg

Event website: www.cycling.g

1.2. UEC REPRESENTATIVES

UEC Management Board

President	Enrico Della Casa (SUI/ITA)
Vice President	Katarina Jakubova (SVK)
Vice President	Raivo Rand (EST)
Vice President	Georgios Georgiou (CYP)
Member	Bernd Dankowski (GER)
Member	Dafna Lang (ISR)
Member	Sabrina Tsakona Twiss (GRE)

UEC Staff

UEC General Secretary	Alasdair MacLennan (GBR)
UEC Events Coordinator	Tiziana Lardieri (SUI)
UEC Technical Coordinator	Giorgio Baruffi (ITA)
UEC Technical Delegate	Paolo Pesse (ITA)
UEC Press Officer	Stefano Bertolotti (ITA)
UEC Video-maker	Christian Bohm (ITA)
UEC Photographer	tbc

1.3. COMMITTEE OF HONOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP VITOSHA

TBC

1.4. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSAIRES PANEL

President of the Commissaires Panel (UCI)	tbc
Assistant PCP (BUL)	tbc
Race secretary (BUL)	tbc
Start Commissaire (BUL)	tbc
Finish Commissaire (BUL)	tbc
Commissaire (BUL)	tbc

Speaker: TBC

Timekeeper: TBC

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

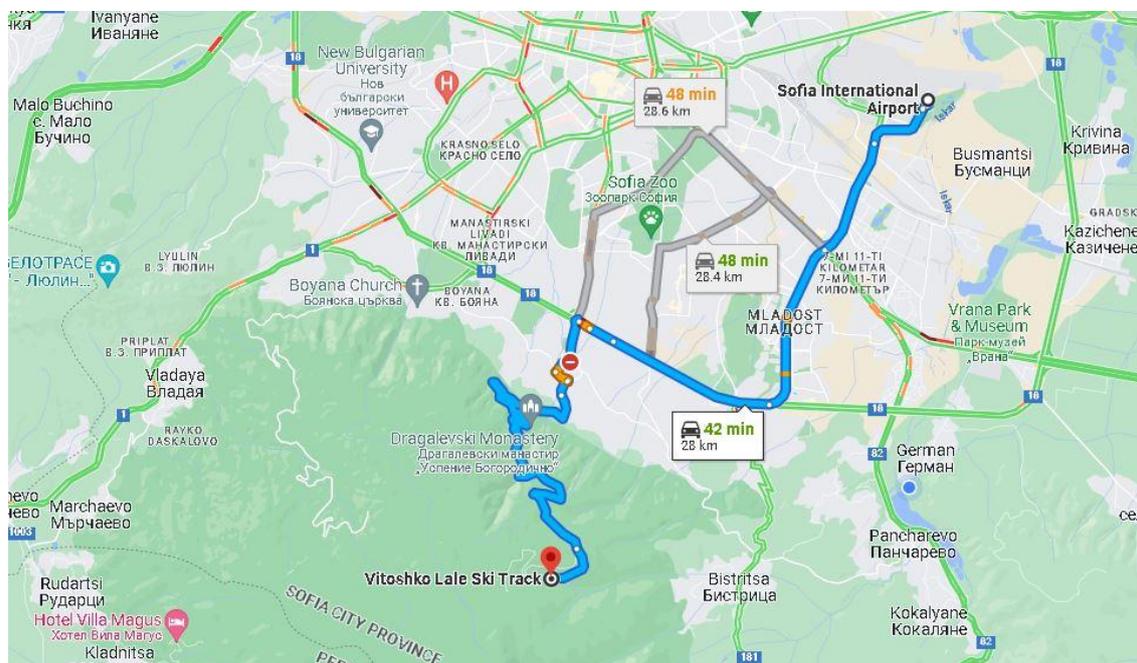
Travel and accommodation expenses to and from Sofia, Bulgaria must be covered by the National Federations and teams.

Airports

Sofia - Vasil Levski Airport (SOF) – Approximately 30 minutes by car

- You can rent a car/bus directly from the airport: <https://www.rentacar.motopfohe.bg/> - (Special rates have been negotiated for all riders and staff)

All participants must hold a valid passport or identity card. Visa obligations must be respected.



2.2. ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Moreni 5*

Bike in/out or 10 minutes by car from the race office, bike storage room - <https://hotelmoreni.bg/>

Hotel Vitoshka Tulip 3*

Approximately 20 minutes by car from the race office, bike storage room - <https://www.hotel-vitoshatulip.com/>

Aleko Mountain Lodge

Bike in/out or 10 minutes by car from the race office, bike storage room - <https://www.motensport.com/aleko/>

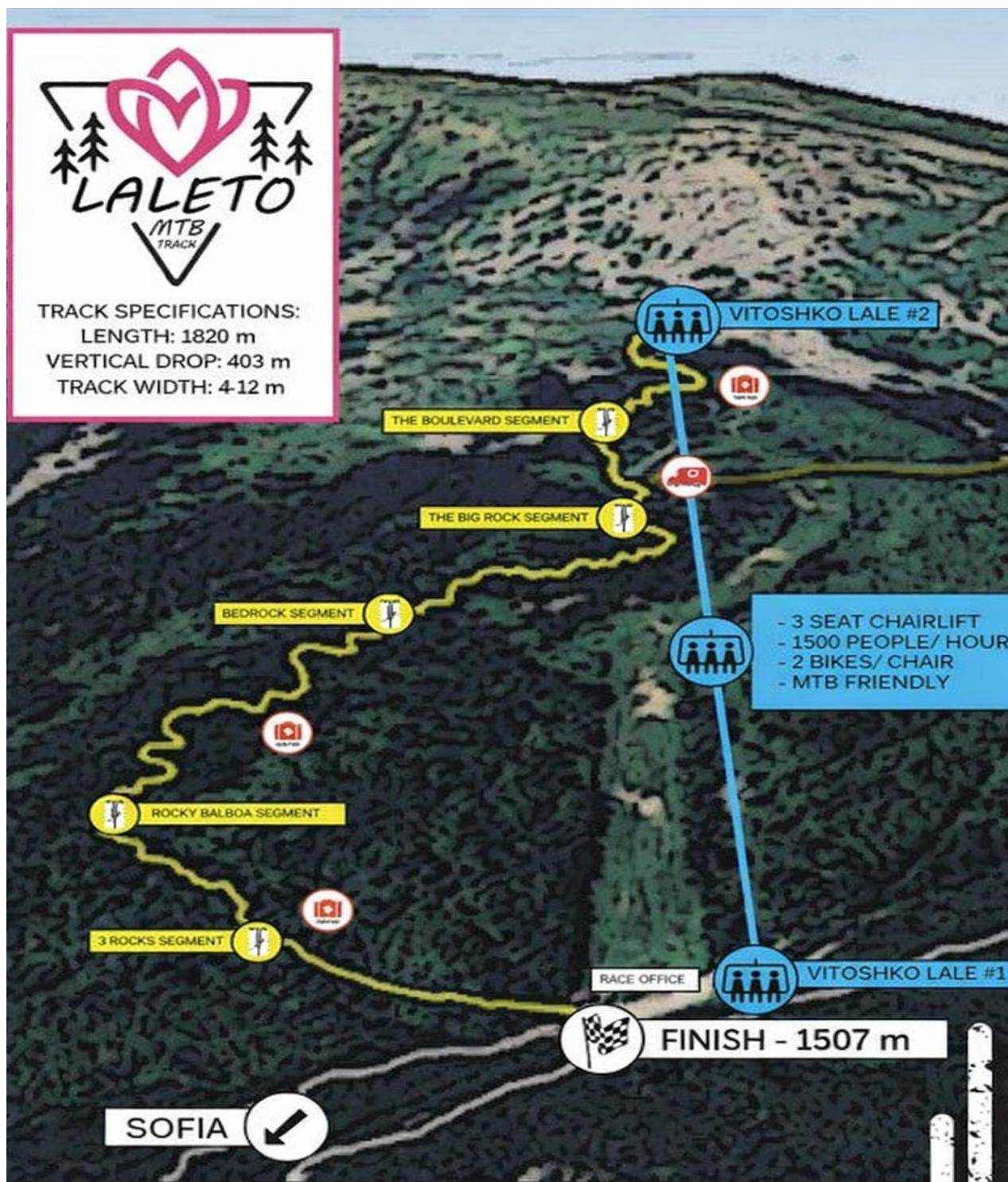
Hotels in Sofia - <https://www.booking.com/city/bg/sofia.bg.html>

2.3. OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF THE COMPETITION VENUE

Laleto MTB Track
Vitoshko Lale Tourist Zone
Vitoshka mountain, Sofia, Bulgaria
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKfT6YaV461nR9>



2.4. COURSE MAP / VENUE



Laeto' MTB Track on Vitosha offers a unique riding experience, remarkably blending raw natural terrain with precisely crafted man-made features. Challenging lines through massive rock sections and technical obstacles turn every descent into a true adventure for high-adrenaline enthusiasts.



2.5. MEDICAL – EMERGENCY - LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A medical team will be on site during official training sessions and competitions. The medical team will be based at the finish and on the track. Mountain Rescue equipment will be positioned at various points along the course during official trainings and competition days.

Official Race Doctor: TBC

Nearest hospitals

As the capital of Bulgaria, Sofia has over 12 operational emergency hospitals, and according to current legislation, each individual case is handled based on the specific situation and the measures that need to be taken. The use of medical helicopters is an integral part of emergency medical services in Bulgaria. There is a designated landing zone located in the immediate vicinity of the trail.

GENERAL EMERGENCIES: 112

3. TEAM SERVICES

3.1. TEAMS / OFFICIALS ACCREDITATION

Please ensure that you collect your accreditation before arriving at the venue as it will be required for access to all parts of the venue. Accreditations must be worn and visible whenever you pass through accreditation controls.

Race office location - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKFT6YaV461nR9>

3.2. ACCREDITATION CENTRE OPENING HOURS

Wednesday, 12 August		15:00 - 18:00
Thursday, 13 August	09:00 - 12:00	13:00 - 16:00
Friday, 14 August	08:30 - 12:00	13:00 - 16:00
Saturday, 15 August	08:30 - 12:00	13:00 - 16:00
Sunday, 16 August	8:30 - 12:00	=====

Please be mindful that many of the event personnel you will encounter at the venue are volunteers so please treat them with courtesy, as without them the event would not be able to happen.

Remark: The accreditation pick-up for a rider cannot be considered as a confirmation of his participation.

TEAMS PARKING AREA



Finish area and paddocks

TEAM AREA 1: NATIONALS and UCI registered TEAMS
 TEAM AREA 2: other TEAMS
 FINISH AREA: SERVICES AND SPONSORS

Book a Paddock in Vitosha Mountain

For the paddock, all reservations must be made through eu2026@cyclimg.bg **before July 30, 2026.**

For National Teams and UCI teams: free 3mx3m spaces.

For other teams: 3mx3m spaces. Price per space is €50.

Paddocks with reservations shall have electricity.

If you would like a custom-sized paddock, please contact eu2026@cyclimg.bg

3.3. PERMANENCE ORGANISATION

Location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKFT6YaV461nR9>

Opening hours:

Wednesday, 12 August	15:00 - 18:00
Thursday, 13 August	09:00 - 18:00
Friday, 14 August	08:30 - 18:00
Saturday, 15 August	08:30 - 18:00
Sunday, 16 August	08:30 - 18:00

For general query, accommodation, car parking, lost property, etc.

4. OFFICIAL MEETINGS

4.1. CONFIRMATION OF STARTERS / LICENSE CHECK

Location: To be advised

Opening hours:

Thursday, 13 August	11:00 – 12:30 (RESERVED NATIONAL TEAMS) 12:30 - 17:30
Friday, 14 August	08:00 - 14:00

All National Federations have to show up at the time of the riders' confirmation to ensure the participation of their riders. The accreditation pick-up for a rider cannot be considered as a confirmation of his participation.

Remarks:

- At the time of the riders' confirmation, team managers must present their national outfit to the commissaries.
- Race numbers must be collected at the time stated in the Championships programme. Riders' licences and passports must be submitted to the commissaires panel.
- rider shall ensure that their identification number is always visible and legible. The identification number shall be well fixed and may not be folded or altered.
- Please note that training will not be authorised without a number plate.

4.2. TEAM MANAGERS MEETING

Date: Friday, 14 August 2026
Time: 18:00
Location: Laleto MTB Track Finish Area (Finish house)
GPS: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKFT6YaV461nR9>

Attendance is required by:

- UEC MTB Commission President
- Representative of the Local Organising Committee
- UCI and National Commissaires
- Team Managers
- Event Director
- UEC Technical Coordinator

4.3. OFFICIAL INFORMATION

All official information related to the event, Entry Lists, Starting List, Official Results and Official Communiqué will be, in addition to being affixed at the Race Office, published using the following communication channels to which you can add yourself using the links or QR Code at the side:

WHATSAPP :	
TELEGRAM:	https://t.me/+lOf-YhvlloA4OTA0

5. MEDIA

5.1. MEDIA CENTRE

The Media Centre is located at Finish Area Race House here -
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKFT6YaV461nR9>

In order to access the Media Centre an accreditation is necessary.
Media accreditation and photographers' bib's can be collected during the opening hours of the media centre.

Please ensure that you collect your accreditation as soon as you arrive onsite as it will be required to access all parts of the venue. Accreditations must be worn and visible whenever you pass through accreditation controls.

For any further information please contact:

Stefano Bertolotti, UEC Press Officer s.bertolotti@uec.ch or

Ema Paunova LOC Media Officer ema@conceptcreative.org

MEDIA CENTRE - OPENING HOURS

Thursday	13.08.2026	09:00 - 18:00
Friday	14.08.2026	09:00 - 18:00
Saturday	15.08.2026	09:00 - 18:00
Sunday	16.08.2026	09:00 - 18:00

5.2. MIXED ZONE – FLASH INTERVIEW

At the exit of the course after the finish line, next to the Award Ceremony podium, the UEC will organise for the Media, a Mixed Zone area available for short interviews with riders.

Please note that only UEC OFFICIAL MEDIA (red bib) will be allowed inside the finish area. For all other accredited media, a mixed zone will be available.

5.3. MEDIA ACCREDITATION

To apply for media accreditation, please visit the UEC website <https://uec.ch/en/media>

Media accreditation and photographers' bib's can be collected during the opening hours of the accreditation centre. €50 will be requested for the bib as deposit. It will be refunded when the bib will be returned at the info point

6. PROVISIONAL COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change depending on the entries.

Thursday 13 Aug	09:00 – 16:00	Accreditation Centre opens
	11:00 – 12:30	Riders Confirmation – National Teams only
	12:30 – 17:30	Riders Confirmation – all categories
	14:00 - 18:00	"On foot" course inspection

Friday 14 Aug	08:30 – 16:00	Accreditation Centre opens
	08:00 - 14:00	Riders confirmation - final confirmation - all categories
	08:00 - 09:45	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP C
	9:45 – 11:30	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP B
	11:30 – 13:30	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP A
	13:30 – 14:45	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP C
	14:45 – 16:30	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP B
	16:30 – 18:00	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP A
18:00	Team Managers Meeting – Finish Race House	

Saturday 15 Aug	08:30 – 16:00	Accreditation Centre opens
	08:30 - 09:45	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP C
	09:45 - 11:15	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP B
	11:15 - 13:15	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP A
	13:45 -	Seeding round - All Categories
	30 min after finish	"On foot" course inspection

Sunday 16 Aug	08:30 – 12:00	Accreditation Centre open
	08:30 – 09:30	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP C
	09:30 – 10:30	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP B
	10:30 - 11:45	Official Downhill Training >> GROUP A
	12:00	Final Downhill European Championships all categories Followed by Awards Ceremonies

GROUP A = Men Elite + Women Elite

GROUP B = Men and Women Junior + Men Master

GROUP C = U15 (Boys & Girls) + U17 (Boys & Girls) + Women Master

The training groups are indicative only and may be subject to modification.



7. RACE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

1. GENERAL RULES

- 1.1 The 2026 UEC MTB DHI European Championships are organised by the Union Européenne de Cyclisme (UEC) in cooperation with Bulgarian Cycling Federation

Technical Co-ordinator LOC: Peter Sotirov

Technical Director LOC: Georgi Lumparov

Technical Delegate & Event Coordinator UEC: Giorgio Baruffi

- 1.2 The event will be organised in accordance with rules of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) and these rules will be the reference for everything that is not mentioned in the current document.

- 1.3 The current European MTB Championships consist of the following races: Downhill (DHI).

These Championships may be contested by riders entered by their National Federation as a National Team or by riders belonging to an official team.

2. TYPE OF THE EVENT

The participation is open for the following categories:

- ✓ **U15** **Men & Women** **13-14 years old**
- ✓ **U17** **Men & Women** **15-16 years old**
- ✓ **Juniors** **Men & Women** **17-18 years old**
- ✓ **Elite** **Men & Women** **19+ years old**
- ✓ **Masters Men**
35-39 / 40-44 / 45-49 / 50-54 / 55-59 / 60-64 / 65-69 / 70+
- ✓ **Masters Women**
35-39 / 40-44 / 45-49 / 50-54 / 55-59 / 60-64 / 65+

It is entered on the UCI calendar as a Continental Championships event (UCI CC).

3. PARTICIPATION

Participation – NATIONAL TEAMS

The participation is open for European riders only.

National Federations may enter the following riders free of charge:

- ✓ **Juniors:** **3 Women & 3 Men**
- ✓ **Elite:** **3 Women & 3 Men**

The National Federations have to register their teams (riders, staff and NF Official Delegates) directly on the UEC website <https://uec.evodata.it/landing/index.php>

Registration opening: **Wednesday, 30 May 2026 (12:00 CET)**
Registration deadline: **Thursday, 05 August 2026 (23:59 CET)**

Riders must compete in their national jersey.



Participation – OTHER RIDERS

Participation is only open to athletes with European sporting nationality

UEC MTB DHI European Championships for the Mens Elite and Mens Junior are open to riders corresponding to one of the following categories and criteria:

A. MEN ELITE

1. Having obtained at least **20** UCI points in the UCI DHI individual reference ranking (*).
2. Riders belonging to a UCI World Series MTB Team or a UCI MTB Team;
3. Reigning National Champions in this category;
4. The National Federations may enter a maximum (in excess of the numbers listed at point 3.1 - Participations NATIONAL TEAM - and paying the entry fee) of **6** supplementary riders (**QUOTA B**) per category. These riders must wear national team clothing. Such national team clothing may be presented in a format different from that of the elite (Team A) national team, provided that it is officially approved by the respective National Federation.

B. MEN JUNIOR

1. Having obtained at least **2** UCI points in the UCI DHI individual reference ranking (*).
2. Riders belonging to a UCI World Series MTB Team or a UCI MTB Team;
3. Reigning National Champions in this category;
4. The National Federations may enter a maximum (in excess of the numbers listed at point 3.1. - Participations NATIONAL TEAM - and paying the entry fee) of **8** supplementary riders (**QUOTA B**) per category. These riders must wear national team clothing. Such national team clothing may be presented in a format different from that of the elite (Team A) national team, provided that it is officially approved by the respective National Federation.

(* **The date of such reference rankings is fixed on 05 August 2026.**

It is the sole responsibility of the athletes to ensure that they meet the required eligibility criteria as of the specified date.

The National Federations interested must send the lists of Elite and Junior male athletes registered in quota B to the email address g.baruffi@uec.ch. This is mandatory by 23:59 on 10 August 2026.

Participation shall be reserved exclusively to riders holding a European sporting nationality.

In the event of dual nationality, the sporting nationality shall be the one recorded in the UCI Data Ride system, which shall be deemed authoritative and binding for all regulatory and eligibility purposes.

Riders who register individually without belonging to any federation must register through the following link: <https://api.endu.net/r/i/105903>

Registration opening: *Wednesday, 30 May 2026 (12:00 CET)*
Registration deadline *Thursday, 05 August 2026 (23:59 CET)*

(* The attention of all registered participants in the MASTERS categories is drawn to the importance, before registration and before presenting themselves at the licence check, of checking that they meet the requirements defined by the UCI for participating in events on the UCI international masters calendar"

Masters

- * 4.1.009 All riders, aged 35 or over, who hold a masters licence, are allowed to ride mountain bike events on the UCI international masters calendar, apart from:
1. riders who, during the current season starting January 1st, have scored 1 or more UCI points during the same calendar year in a UCI masters event.
 2. riders who during the current year have been a member of a team registered with the UCI. *(text modified on 1.01.18; 1.01.20, 1.01.21)*

Entry Fees:

Entry fees – DOWNHILL 2026				
	ELITE	JUNIORS	YOUTH	MASTERS
30.05 to 30.06	€ 65	€ 55	€ 45	€ 75
01.07 to 05.08	€ 85	€ 75	€ 65	€ 95

The age of a rider shall be determined by the difference between the year of the event and the year of birth of the rider.

Note: in case of cancellation the entry fee will be refunded except for 10 euro to cover administrative costs

4. TEAM MANAGERS MEETING

The team managers' meeting, organized in accordance with the UCI regulations in the presence of Members of the Commissaries Panel, is scheduled for all races, all age categories on:

Date: Friday, 14 August 2026
Time: 18:00
Location: Laleto MTB Track Finish Area (Finish house)
GPS: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKfT6YaV461nR9>

5. RACES PROCEDURES

Masters (Women and Men)

These categories are doing a seeding run - all riders will qualify for the final - but they must take **the start of** the seeding run;

The results of the seeding run determine the start order in the final, with the slowest rider from the seeding run starting first.

If a rider does not complete the Seeding Run (DNF), he/she will start as the first in his/her category (ahead of the slowest rider who finished the Seeding Run). If several riders from the same category do not finish the Seeding Run, they will start first in order of the Seeding Run start list (between them).

If a biker validly entered in the race does not take the start in the Seeding Run, he/she will be considered DNS and will not be allowed to participate in the Final Run.

Youth categories (Women and Men)

These categories are doing a seeding run - all riders will qualify for the final - but they must take **the start of** the seeding run;

The results of the seeding run determine the start order in the final, with the slowest rider from the seeding run starting first.

If a rider does not complete the Seeding Run (DNF), he/she will start as the first in his/her category (ahead of the slowest rider who finished the Seeding Run). If several riders from the same category

do not finish the Seeding Run, they will start first in order of the Seeding Run start list (between them).

If a biker validly entered in the race does not take the start in the Seeding Run, he/she will be considered DNS and will not be allowed to participate in the Final Run.

Juniors and Elite (Women and Men)

These categories are doing a seeding run - all riders will qualify for the final - but they must take **the start of** the seeding run;

The results of the seeding run determine the start order in the final, with the slowest rider from the seeding run starting first.

If a rider does not complete the Seeding Run (DNF), he/she will start as the first in his/her category (ahead of the slowest rider who finished the Seeding Run). If several riders from the same category do not finish the Seeding Run, they will start first in order of the Seeding Run start list (between them).

If a biker validly entered in the race does not take the start in the Seeding Run, he/she will be considered DNS and will not be allowed to participate in the Final Run.

6. AWARDS CEREMONIES

In accordance with articles 1.2.112 and 1.2.113 of the UCI Regulations, the 3 best riders of each category must attend the official awards ceremony, any interviews organized and the press conference if any.

Unless otherwise stated, riders shall appear at official ceremonies wearing competition clothing. Riders must present themselves at the podium right after crossing the finish line.

7. POINTS SCALE

For 2026 UEC MTB Downhill European Championships, points will be attributed in accordance with the UCI MTB regulations, Annex 3.

8. AWARDS AND PRIZE MONEY

Jersey and medals

At European Championships the following shall be awarded:

1st place:	European Champion jersey and gold medal
2nd place:	Silver medal
3rd place:	Bronze medal

Prize money (Amounts in Euro):

Elite:	1 st place	€ 625,00
	2 nd place	€ 375,00
	3 rd place	€ 250,00
Juniors:	1 st place	€ 300,00
	2 nd place	€ 170,00
	3 rd place	€ 125,00

The prize money will be transferred by the UEC directly to the respective National Federations by mid-November. Therefore, prize money should be requested from your National Federation in due course thereafter.

9. ANTIDOPING

The UCI antidoping regulations are entirely applicable to the event.

GPS: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8W6HKfT6YaV461nR9>

10. PENALTIES

The UCI penalty scale is the only one applicable.

11. RESPONSIBILITIES

The organiser and UEC will not, under any circumstances, be liable to any accidents or damage that occurs during training and competitions.

The organiser and UEC decline all responsibilities towards the riders and others in case of an accident.

For all cases not covered by these specific regulations, the UCI rules will apply. Any problems will be solved between the organizers, the Commissaires Panel and UEC officials.