



**CYCLING
IRELAND**

Cycling Ireland

Road Racing Working Group

Terms of Reference

Chair: Aaron Johnson – Events Coordinator

Technical Advisor: Paul Watson – Sport & Operations Director (UCI International Commissaire)

Cycling Ireland Staff: David Mullen – Operations Coordinator

Members:

Bates, Jennifer	Women's Commission Treasurer, Racer, Leinster
Cigala, Matteo	Racer, Coach, Leinster
Dillane, Cathal	Race Promoter, Racer, Connacht
Doggett, Niall	Race Promoter, Racer, Regional Sports Rep, Leinster
Gleeson, Vincent	Race Promoter, Racer, Munster
Hendron, Orla	Race Promoter, Racer, Leinster
McKinley, Drew	Race Promoter, Racer, Ulster
McLoughlin, Ronan	Racer, Coach, Cycling Media, Ulster
O'Shea, Stephen	Race Promoter, Racer, Regional Sports Rep, Leinster
Wallace, Aaron	Race Promoter, Commissaire, Ulster

Terms of Reference

Objective: Review of road racing structure with view to increasing participation

Scope:

- Confined to domestic road racing
- Rider groups inclusion: Senior, Junior, Men, Women, Masters
- Youth categories participation excluded
- Race promoter support
- Accessibility: all racing levels/all standards
- Rider inclusivity / connection to the sport
- Technical rules

Terms of Reference

Meetings: Monthly online, and in-person working sessions

Schedule: Report including recommendations due in time for implementation for 2025 Season

Stakeholders: C.I. Technical Working Group, Regional Sporting Representatives, Provincial Committees, C.I. Woman's Road Commission and other commissions, Grading Officer, CI High Performance, C.I. Administration, Race Promoters, C.I. Road Racing Members

Identified Areas to Address

LOW RIDER NUMBERS

- Reduced racing population: 1,923 Full Comp Licence Holders
- Low entry yield: Avg 251 entries per race day (2024) / 13% of registered racers
- Low weekend entry yield: Avg 503 entries per weekend (2024) / 26% of registered racers
- Inconsistent race entry numbers leading to poor peloton sizes
- Low number of women racing: 67 Racers in total (April 2024)
- Upgraded rider fall-off due to step up in standard (A3 to competing with A1)
- Aging rider population with other commitments: 469 (19%) M40+
- National series poorly attended, especially by A2 category
- Race start times currently restrictive for many
- Weekend race participation suffering due to growth in midweek racing

Racing Membership '15-'24



2017

A1: 300

A2: 400

A3: 900

A4: 1750

2024

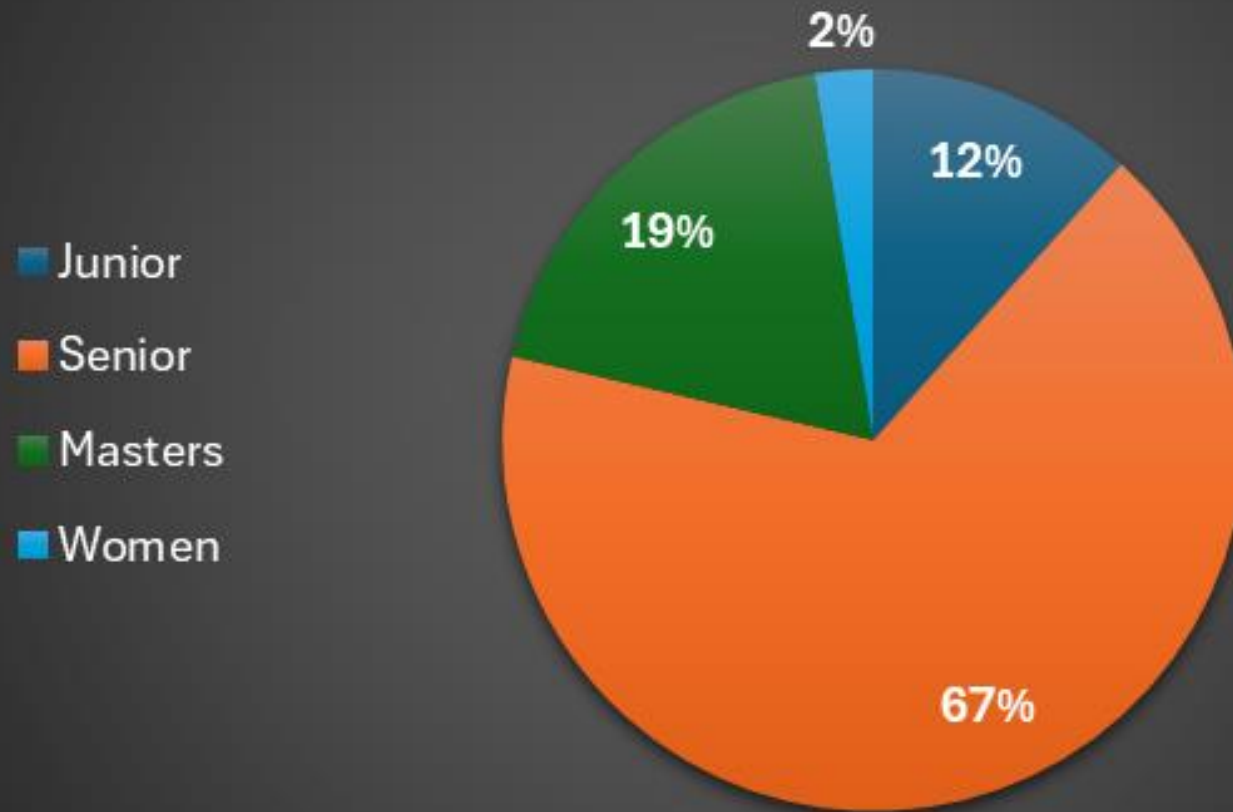
A1: 130

A2: 230

A3: 630

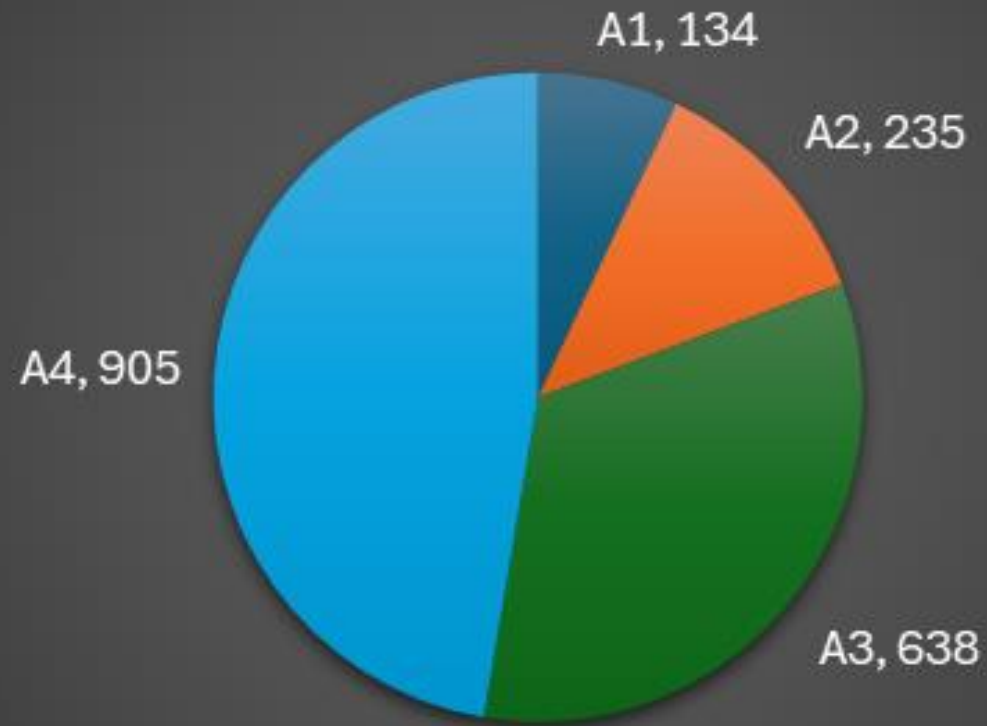
A4: 900

2024 Membership: General



2024 RACING MEMBERS: 1,923 Total

(21/03/2024)



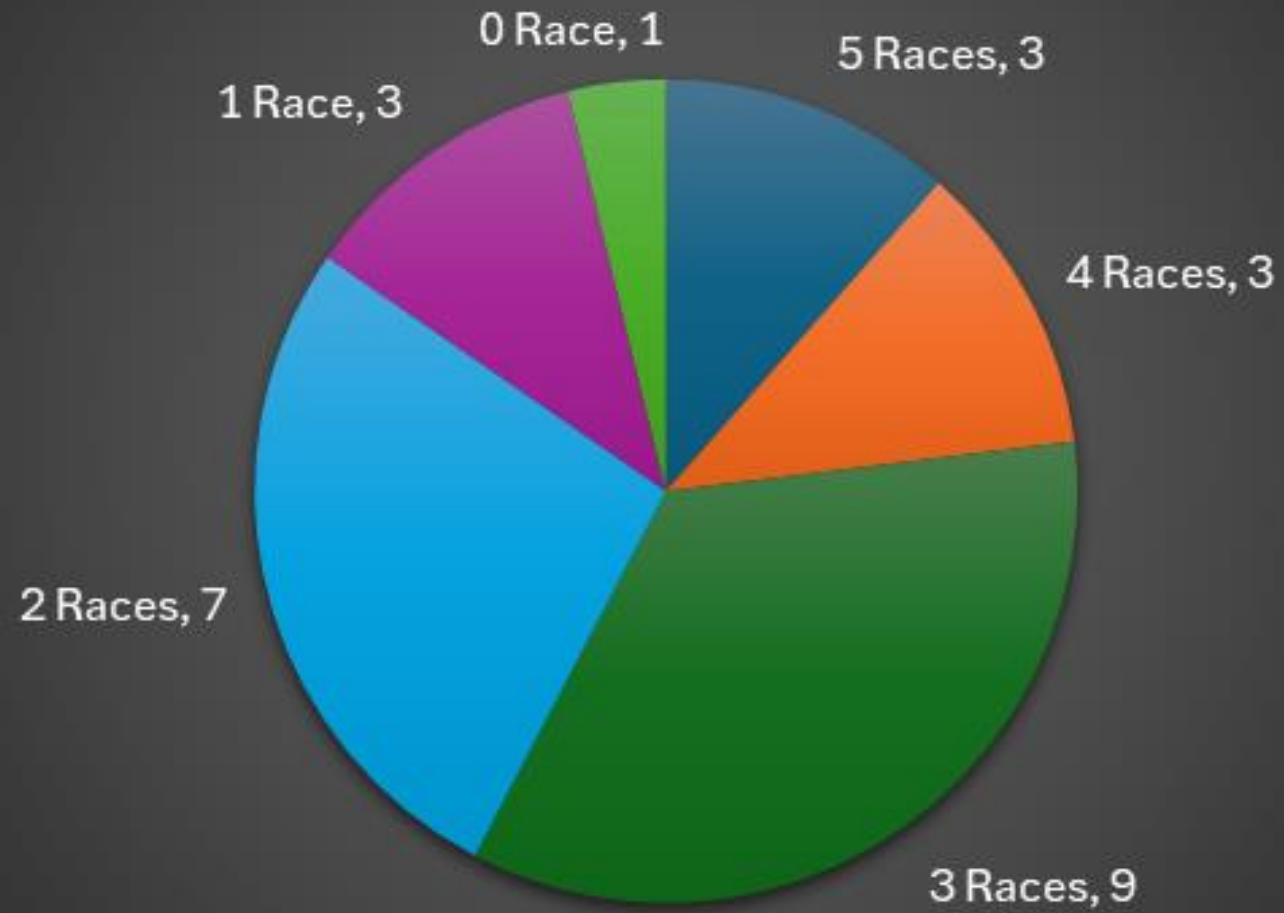
A1 A2 A3 A4

Current Problems

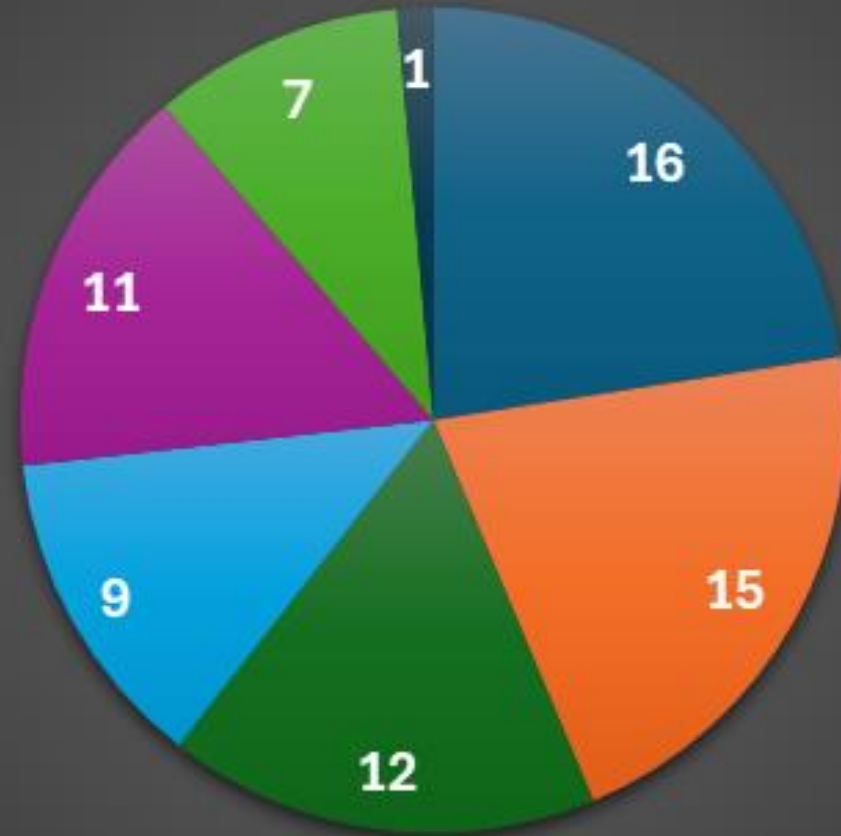
RACING STRUCTURE

- Race clashes with race promoters competing for riders
 - Same day clashes
 - Same province/geographical area on back-to-back days same weekend
 - No clear differentiation between races
- Uneven and inconsistent event calendar
- Difficulty securing National Series event promoters
- Race schedules modifying on race day / at last minute – combining A1+2

2024 Race Distribution Across Weekend



2024 Number of Races Per Month



■ March ■ April ■ May ■ June ■ July ■ August ■ September

Current Problems

RACING ADMINISTRATION

- Cancellation of races
- Inconsistent pre and post race promotional information
- Post race results delays and lack of visibility
- Results typically captured and published for riders in top 10 only – Lack of recognition for ALL racers
- Post race follow up (results, ranking points, photos, etc) not centralised
 - Dependent upon race promoters and 3rd party private organisations
- Poor visibility and promotion of race calendar (currently restricted to NS)
- Lack of pre & post race connection/interaction at races since COVID

Current Problems

COST

- Race promotion losses: cost (prize money, commissaires, support vehicles, etc)
- Rider Travel & Accommodation Costs
- Medical Cover Cost
- No merchandising of Road Racing

Objectives - Solution Plan Must Achieve The Following:

1. Increase percentage of registered racers at racers (yield)
2. Increase peloton sizes per category race (to viable number to improve quality of race)
3. Provide concentration of riders per category to provide high quality races
4. Provide opportunity to race locally (take account of rider commitments and safety issues)
5. Create incentives for more balanced participation throughout the racing season
6. Improve distribution of races throughout racing season
7. Improve geographical distribution of races from week to week
8. Provide coordinated women's specific races & calendar
9. Provide progression opportunity for women's racing
10. Provide improved opportunity for Masters racing
11. Improve recognition / sense of belonging of competitors at all levels
12. Increase security of race entries for race promoters
13. Provide a centralised user-friendly system for race promotion (calendar/race promoters info/race results/league table/upgrades etc)
14. Obtain better level facilities at races (medical cover/changing facilities/ etc)

Recommendation

10 Point Road Racing Action Plan

Action Item No.	Action Item	Objectives Met
1	Migrate Full Licence Racing Categories from 4 to 3: Cat 1 / Cat 2 / Cat 3. Modify LC Licence	2, 3, 12
2	Create Tiered Race Categorisation Structure	1, 2, 3, 4, 12
3	Grading Points Adjustment in line with Race Categorisation	2, 3, 12
4	Centralised Balanced Calendar Creation System based on Race Categorisation	1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12
5	Create Unique Women's Calendar annually	8, 9
6	Create Unique Masters League Calendar annually	10, 11
7	Create 'Road Cycling Cup' at each racing level, & Masters League (replace National Series)	1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12
8	Centralised Interactive CI System for Race Promotion (Pre Race/Race Results/Rankings-Ind&Team/Upgrades)	11, 13
9	Chip Timing Results System	11, 13
10	Set out minimum Medical Cover & Race Facilities for National Events	11, 14



Action Item No.1

Migrate Full Racing Categories from 4 to 3:

Cat 1 / Cat 2 / Cat 3

Modify Limited Competition Licence



Migration From A1/2/3/4 to C1/2/3

- Current Racing Categories: A1/A2/A3/A4 + W1/W2/W3
- Proposed Categories: C1/C2/C3 + W1/W2/W3 + LC
- Redistribute rider numbers to increase racing tier populations
- At end of 2024 season condense A1/2/3/4 to C1/2/3 (based on end of season rankings) as follows:
 - All A1s migrate to C1
 - Top 100 A2s (excl J/M50/W) migrate to C1 - All other A2s (incl. all J/M50/W) migrate to C2
 - Top 350 A3s (irrespective of category) to C2 - All other A3s migrate to C3
 - All A4s (incl JA4s) migrate to C3
 - All W1/2/3s remain as W1/2/3s
 - Any rider can apply to grading officer for one category higher than the rules above allow for 2025 ONLY

Proposed Category Redistribution



2024	A1	A2	A3	A4
	134	235	638	905
2025	C1	C2	C3	
(approx.)	250	450	1200	

Predicted Entries (based on recategorization only)

	A1	A2	A3	A4	W-Only	W-Combined
Members by Category	134	235	638	905	69	69
Avg Entries (Mar 2024)	25	25	48	35	19	4
% Yield	19%	11%	8%	4%	28%	6%
Proposed Categories	C1	C2	C3			
Proposed Members	250	450	1200		69	69
Predicted Avg Entries	37	41	69		19	4

Modify Limited Competition Licence

- 'Introduction to open racing' LC Licence
- First racing licence available for new members
- Restricted Participation: 'Regional C3 Only' & 'Local' Races Only
- No ranking points collected – may collect prize money
- Limited comp licence may ride a maximum of 5 Regional C3 Only races, after which they can upgrade to full competition C3, or remain as LC with no access to C3 races



Action Item No.2

Create Tiered Racing Categorisation



Single Day Race Categorisation

- **Concept: 3 Racing Tiers**
 - National / Regional / Local - Maximum 3 Races Per Weekend
- **National Event Races Offer:**
 - Concentration of riders / Larger Pelotons / Higher quality races
- **Regional & Local Races Offer:**
 - Race for every motivation / Riders with varying commitments / Riders of all standards
- **Offers Progression**
 - Novice / Intermediate / Elite
- **Inclusivity for all**
 - Women's Racing / Masters Racing

Single Day Race Categorisation

National Event

- Top Tier National Event
- Separate C1/2/3 Races
- Min. Distance 90/80/70km
- Women's Only Race Optional*
- LC not permitted
- Max 1 per Weekend (approx 18 per year max)
- None permitted on weekends of NC, RC, Stage races.
- Highest Grading Points
- Earliest Possible Start time 11am

Single Day Race Categorisation

(Promoters Self-Select Category Upon Calendar Application)

Regional Open

- Second Tier Regional Events
- Separate/Combined/Handicapped Races for any/all categories
- C3s must be given a separate start in combined races
- Promotion of Masters Only races
- LC permitted in C3 only races
- LC will NOT earn ranking points
- Fri/Sat/Sun & Bank Hol Mon Only
- Max 1 Sat & 1 Sun (max 48 per year) on weekends of National Events & Stage Races
- Max 1 Sat & 2 Sun (or vice-versa) on weekends with NO National Event & Stage Race
- None permitted on weekends of NC & RC
- No restriction on start times
- 2 Grading Point Bands (lower than National):
 - Regional A (80k+)
 - Regional B (50-80k & Masters Only Races)

Single Day Race Categorisation

Local

- Third Tier Local Events
- Separate/Combined/Handicapped Races for any/all categories
- LC permitted
- LCs and C3 will be given a separate start in combined races
- No Min Distance
- Mon to Thurs Only
- No ranking points available (Criteriums will have ranking points)



Action Item No.3

Grading Points Adjustment



Grading Points Tied To Race Categorisation

- 3 Main Racing Tiers
 - National / Regional / Local
- Grading Points To Match Racing Difficulty / Tiers
 - National C1,C2,C3,Women's Only W / Regional A (80k+) / Regional B (50-80k) & Masters Only / Other

Points Band	Event Classification	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Band 1	UCI National Championship	60	50	42	36	32	30	28	26	24	22	20	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2
Band 2	Non-UCI National Championship	30	25	21	18	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
	National	30	25	21	18	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Band 3	Regional A (>80km)	20	15	11	9	7	5	4	3	2	1										
Band 4	Regional B (50-80km)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1										
	Masters Only	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1										
	Provincial Champs (restricted)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1										
Band 5	County Champs (restricted)	5	4	3	2	1															
Band 6	Any Weekend Race >50km with less than 20 riders	3	2	1																	
Non-Ranking	Local (Open) Mon-Thurs Races (regardless of distance)	0																			
	Local Closed League Races	0																			
	Any Open Race <50km	0																			

- Stage Race, TT, Criterium, Hill Climbs, etc Points TBC

Grading Points Adjustment: Benefits

- Higher Grading Points for National Events
 - Creates higher status top tier events
 - Rewards rider performance at higher level
 - Incentive to centralise riders for larger, better quality races
 - Rewards promoters for organising National Events
- Lower Grading Points for Regional Events
 - Allows access to local/regional racing (riders not forced to travel)
 - Rewards appropriate for racing standard
 - Promoters retain maximum flexibility
- No Points for Local Races
 - Local races will not affect overall national rankings
 - Appropriate for 'training/fun' races
 - Novices not focused of 'points hunting'


Ranking Upgrades

- Appropriate to C1 / C2 / C3
- Any C3 rider who obtains 60 ranking points will be upgraded to C2
- Any C2 rider who obtains 60 ranking points will be upgraded to C1
- Ranking upgrades will apply at END OF YEAR by default
 - Riders will remain in existing category, even when upgrade points achieved, until end of season
- Riders who obtain the minimum ranking points required for an upgrade at any point in the season, may self-select to receive the upgrade immediately (before end of season)
 - Riders who self-upgrade are no longer eligible to compete in the original season long Divisional Cup, but may compete in the upgraded category Divisional Cup
- Any rider who does not obtain any ranking points may apply for a downgrade of licence for the following season (commencing on zero points)
- Any M50+ who, at the end of the season, obtains the minimum ranking points required for an upgrade, may if desired, apply for the current category for the next season



Action Item No.4

**Centralised Balanced Calendar Creation System
based on Race Categorisation**



Calendar Creation Regulations

- Approx 30 Weekends in Racing Season (Mar 1st to Sep 31st)
- No National Events to take place on NC/RC/Stage Race weekends
 - 18 (typically) Weekends available for National Events
- 1 National Event Per Weekend Max.
- Min. 3 National Events per Province (may be redistributed if under subscribed)
- 3 Races per weekend Max throughout season
- National Events may be held on a Saturday or Sunday
- 1 Regional Race Saturdays/1 Regional Race Sundays on weekends with a National Event
- 1 Regional Race Saturdays/2 Regional Races Sundays (or vice-versa) on weekends with NO National Event
- Minimum of 100km distance between national & regional events regardless of which day (exception if one club is running both events)
- Promoters choose event type at permit application: National or Regional
- Race Entries Automatically Close at Predetermined Time (set and controlled by CI):
 - National Events: 6pm 2 days before race
 - Regional Events: 6pm day prior to race



Action Item No.5

Create Unique Women's Calendar Annually



Create Unique Women's Calendar Annually

- Equal status as men
- National Season Long Competition
- 67 Open Racing Riders Total A2 3 /A3 24 /A4 40 / LC 88
- Calendar Races:
 - National Women Only / Regional Women Only / Regional Combined / Local
 - No Mandatory Events Due to Unsustainability
 - Courses to suit/match demand
- CI Co-Ordinator works with Women's Commission to approach race promoters as needed
- CI Co-Ordinator works with Women's Commission to finalise Calendar



Action Item No.6

Create Unique Masters Calendar Annually



Create Unique Masters Calendar Annually

- Encourage promotion of Masters Only Races
- Race Option upon calendar application
- Regional Events Only
- Open to all Masters M40/50/60. Races may be separate/combined/handicapped.
- Similar ranking points as Regional B Races
- National Season Long Competition incl National Masters Championships (approx 6-8 races)
- CI Co-Ordinator works with race promoters directly as needed (calendar, race distances etc)
- CI Co-Ordinator finalises Calendar Prior to Season Commencement



Action Item No.7

**Create 'Road Cycling Cup' at each racing level,
& Masters League
(replace National Series)**



Road Cycling Cups

Season Long Competitions (Effective Annual Ranking Systems) & Contributing Races

- **Irish Men's Road Cycling Cup**

Contributing Events: NC, National C1, Regional, Stage Races

- **Irish Women's Road Cycling Cup**

Contributing Events: NC, National W, Regional W, Regional Combined, Stage Races

- **Irish Road Cycling C2 Divisional Cup**

Contributing Events: NC, National C2, Regional, Stage Races

- **Irish Road Cycling C3 Divisional Cup**

Contributing Events: National C3, Regional, Stage Races

- **Irish Road Cycling Masters League**

Contributing Events: Masters NC, Masters Only Regional Races



Action Item No.8

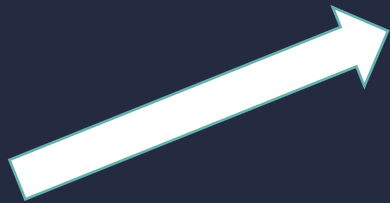
**Centralised Interactive CI System for Race Promotion
(Pre Race/Race Results/Race Photos/Rankings/Upgrades etc)**



Cycling Ireland Race Promotion Hub

Make CI Website The 'Go-To' Place For All Pre-& Post- Race Information

- Permit application system
- User-Friendly Race Calendar
- Womens Calendar
- Masters Calendar
- Race registration
- Race Promoter Hub
- Cup Rankings (Updated Weekly)
- Upgrades published
- Regular newsletter email



Race Promoter Hub

- Standardised pre-race promotional information
- Provisional results uploading section
(confirmed following commissaire report)
- Race report section
- Race photo section



Action Item No.9
Chip Timing Results System



Chip Timing: Easy Application & Race Modernisation

- Mandatory use at all National events (necessary for collecting Top 20 places in each race)
- Optional use at regional events for 2025
- Small chip ownership cost (<€10 per rider per year)
- Equipment held and managed by each province separately (approx. €2,500 per system)
- Minimal setup effort for promoter
- Minimal race results management admin fee for race promoters (approx. €100)
- Speeds up points ranking confirmation & prize-giving post-race
- Provisional results can be uploaded to CI Hub within minutes of finish
- ALL riders receive a result / Rider inclusivity
- 'Race entry' and 'prize money' account possible via chip system
- Return the use of frame plate numbers



Action Item No.10

**Set out minimum Medical Cover & Race Facilities
for National Events**



Race Facilities

- Outline explicit minimum medical cover requirements for race promoters
- Draft a facilities requirement document for National events to include (but not limited to) detailed explicit requirements of:
 - Mandatory changing facilities
 - Mandatory sign-on facilities (return of physical sign-on requirement)
 - Post race prize giving ceremony procedure

CONCLUSIONS

- Registered racing numbers are currently too low to sustain current rider categorisation and maintain racing quality
- Lack of differentiation between races leads to unnecessary competition between promoters
- Lack of centralised, hierarchical, calendar generation leads to race clashes & race cancellations
- Lack of category competitions and current upgrade system leads to falloff in participation as season progresses
- Lack of standardised race promotion and insufficient access to results leads to rider disenfranchisement

- Full Implementation of 10-Point Plan for 2025 will lead to increased participation via:
 - Concentration of rider numbers to major events
 - Continuation of regional and local racing
 - Even distribution of races through season and geographically
 - Incentivising riders to continue racing all season
 - Giving all riders a fuller sense of participation and ownership of road racing

- Reconstitute the Road Commission for 2025 going forward to review implementation of this plan and if necessary modify