



The Epic Singletrack Series is a non-sanctioned race series that is open to riders of all ages and abilities. To increase enjoyment for all riders, we have four racing classes; novice, sport, expert, and pro, as well as three special categories; single speed, Open and Clydesdale. Racers who are currently competing in US Cycling sanctioned events should compete in the category they are licensed in. To keep the competition fair and fun for all riders, in 2009 we implemented category upgrade criteria. Below are the category descriptions and criteria to help you find the best fit for you.

### **Category Descriptions**

**Novice:** Designed for the entry- level rider. Beginner races help the rider understand the subtleties of racing allowing one to experience the thrill of mountain biking. In some cases, the novice course may be shorter than for the rest of the field (see course descriptions at [www.epicsingletrack.com](http://www.epicsingletrack.com)).

**Sport:** This category reflects improved skills and developed strength and stamina. Very fit and experienced riders may start racing at this level if they wish. In some cases, the sport course may be shorter than for experts and pros (see course descriptions at [www.epicsingletrack.com](http://www.epicsingletrack.com)).

**Expert:** In this category racing skills, strength, and stamina have reached an exceptional level and racing is very competitive.

**Pro:** The highest category for both men and women. Top finishers are eligible for prize money in the Colorado Freeride Festival event (we do not offer prize money awards in our other events). There are not age breakdowns in the pro class.

**Single-speed:** Riders competing on a single-speed bike may register for this class. Single-speed racers will compete on the same course as the expert class. Riders may elect to compete in certain races in the single-speed category, and other races in their class. Points earned in one class will not transfer to another class. **Riders must notify the Race Director at least one day before the event if they wish to race single-speed instead of their regular class.** Riders can compete in single-speed for the whole series. Season series awards are presented to the top three single-speed racers.

**Clydesdale:** This category is for male racers who weigh 200 pounds or more. Clydesdale racers compete on the same course as racers in the sport category. There are not age breakdowns in the Clydesdale class. Season series awards are presented to the top three in the Clydesdale class.

## Category Upgrades

### General upgrade rules:

- Riders may advance as quickly as they wish up to the next category.
- Once a rider has upgraded, he or she will not be permitted to downgrade to a less difficult category without making a written request to the Race Director.
- Single race upgrades may be approved by a written request to the Race Director at least two days in advance of the event.
- Due to series scoring implications, mandatory upgrades will only be made at the end of each season.
- Starting in the 2009 season, mandatory upgrading for riders with top results during the 2008 season will be enforced to allow for fair and fun racing for all levels.
- Voluntary upgrades based on results from the 2007 season are encouraged where appropriate.

### *Novice to sport and sport to expert upgrades:*

Riders must advance to the next category in the following season after placing in the top five in four races in a season.

### Exceptions:

- Sport riders in the Open category will only be required to upgrade if the majority of their times in races qualifying for an upgrade are within the top half of the expert 50+ age class (not counting races where sport and expert riders compete on different length courses)
- Beginner riders in the 15 & under category will only be required to upgrade if the majority of their times in races qualifying toward an upgrade are within the top half of the sport 18 & under class (not counting races where beginner and sport riders compete on different length courses)
- Minimum class size: If the class has between eleven and fifteen participants, the criterion is changed from top five to top three finishes. If the class has between six and ten participants, the criterion is based on top two finishes. If the class has five or fewer participants, the criterion is top finisher if the time was within the top half of finishers in the next category's age group.

### *Expert advancement to pro:*

Expert riders must advance to the pro category in the following season if they win three or more races in their class in a season *and* the times in at least two of those races would put them in the top half of the pro rider results.

## Enforcement

Effective the 2009 season, riders must upgrade based on these standards. Riders are responsible to register for the correct category based on these standards. The race committee will periodically review categories to ensure upgrades have been made properly.