



THE 2025 HERO UCI CROSS-COUNTRY MARATHON WORLD CUP: THE SHINING STARS OF THE WORLD CIRCUIT

Just a month to go until the opening race of the first ever edition of the HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup. Over 50 pro cyclists, representing 11 UCI MTB Marathon Teams, will compete for the top spot in the marathon world circuit.

Hashtag: #HERO #UCI #HEROWorldCup #HEROUCIMarathonWorldCup #RACEtoGLORY



HERO UCI Marathon World Cup – Photocredit Mattia Mocci

The **2025 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup** comprises five races and will start at the beginning of May. Athletes from eleven UCI MTB Marathon Teams will compete for the chance to become the UCI Marathon World Cup overall winner. The discipline's crème de la crème is raring to prove their skills and determination on the international circuit, which boasts five of the most beloved professional marathon races.

ELEVEN UCI MTB MARATHON TEAMS - ONE CUP

Spain aims for the top of the leaderboard, in keeping with previous seasons, by lining up five teams (**Buff Megamo Team, Cannondale ISB Sport, Costa Cálida Kraken, Extremadura Ecopilas, and Klimatiza Orbea Team**). Germany is right on its heels, its strong, professional mountain bike track record reflected by three UCI teams vying for a win (**Singer KTM Racing, Stop&Go Marderabwehr MTB Team, and Team Bulls**). Italy (**Torpedo Kenda FSA Factory**), France (**Canyon CLLCTV XCO**), and Romania (**Dinamo-Mit Clima-Bikexpert**) will race with one team each. The name of seven of the eleven UCI teams in the UCI World Cup features the name of the manufacturing company supplying them with bikes – a clear sign that these companies strongly believe in sponsoring professional teams.

UCI President **David Lappartient** said: *"The inaugural edition of the HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup is about to begin, and I am delighted by the interest it has generated among the top specialists in the discipline. With the announced participation of 11 UCI Mountain Bike Marathon Teams, bringing together around fifty professional athletes to date, we can look forward to some great battles in each of the five rounds and for the overall UCI World Cup standings.*

This outstanding line-up will share the stage with Masters riders from various age groups participating in the different events of the series. The combination of elite riders aiming to win the HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup and amateur riders striving for strong

performances in one or more races, or even the top spot in their age group ranking, will give the event as a whole a unique flavour."

Gerhard Vanzi, CEO and founder of the HERO, says: "We've had a strong uptake of top, professional athletes. We'd like to thank them and, more than anyone else, their team managers for placing their trust in our new HERO UCI Marathon World Cup circuit. We aim to whip up even more enthusiasm and interest for the marathon discipline, and we're sure we'll be up to the task. We'll create and implement an incredible, five-race circuit which will be packed with plenty of great surprises!"



HERO UCI Marathon World Cup/Naturland – Photocredit wisthaler.com

Currently, the eleven teams have a grand total of **50 athletes**, **14 of whom are women**, representing **14 countries**.

THE MEN FIGHTING FOR THE TITLE

Among the men, one name outshines the others: Italian **Fabian Rabensteiner** (Torpado Kenda FSA Factory), the current UCI Marathon World Cup overall winner, having won the title in 2023 and 2024. Originally from Villandro, South Tyrol, he'll have to face a group of seasoned cyclists, including Germans **Andreas Seewald** (Singer KTM Racing), 2021 UCI Mountain Bike Marathon World Champion and currently at the top of the UCI XCM Individual Ranking, and **Jakob Hartmann** (Singer KTM Racing), also vying to go this season. **Samuele Porro** (Klimatiza Orbea Team) from Italy will also join the starting grid. He placed fourth overall in last year's UCI Marathon World Cup, only 5 points off third-placed German **Simon Schneller** (Team Bulls). The circuit will also feature another star, **Martin Štošek** (Buff Megamo Team) from Czechia, fourth in the UCI XCM Individual Ranking. **Alban Lakata** (Team Bulls) from Austria will also join the fray – he boasts three UCI MTB Marathon World Cups as well as three UCI World Championships under his belt and, despite being born in 1979, he's as competitive as ever!

Hector Leonardo Páez Leon, from Colombia, is also among the cyclists, aiming to improve his second place overall obtained at last year's UCI MTB Marathon World Cup.

ALL EYES ON THE WOMEN

Among the women racing to the podium of the **2025 HERO UCI Cross-country Marathon World Cup**, **Janina Wüst** (Buff Megamo Team) from Switzerland stands out. She placed third overall at the 2024 UCI MTB Marathon World Cup, while her teammate, **Stephanie Walter**, ended the last season in eighth place. There's plenty of expectations for **Costanza Fasolis** (Cannondale ISB Sport) from Italy, who's currently sixth in the UCI XCM Individual Ranking. While they may not be part of a UCI MTB Marathon Team, there are other athletes who are podium favourites. Take 31-year-old **Vera Looser** from Namibia, for example, who conquered the 2024 UCI Marathon World Cup and is currently first in the UCI XCM Individual Ranking, or **Lejla Njemčević** from Bosnia Herzegovina. **Rosa Van Doorn** also features among the favourites and is currently second in the UCI XCM Individual Ranking. Eyes are also on **Adelheid Morath**, from Germany, and **Sandra Mairhofer**, from Italy – both are capable of outstanding, high-quality performances.

THE RACES

The first stage is just around the corner - the **Capoliveri Legend Cup** will take place on 10 May 2025, followed by the **Naturland** in Andorra on 1 June. The cyclists will then head back to Italy on 14 June for the **HERO Südtirol Dolomites**. Germany will follow on 13 July with its **Black Forest ULTRA Bike Marathon** and, last but not least, the **La Tramun Sea Otter Europe** will take place in Girona on 21 September, crowning the winners of the HERO UCI Marathon World Cup.

For further information visit heroucimarathonworldcup.com

About the UCI

Founded on April 14, 1900, in Paris, France, the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) is the worldwide governing body for cycling. It develops and oversees cycling in all its forms and for all people: as a competitive sport, a healthy recreational activity, a means of transport, and also just for fun. The UCI manages and promotes the eleven cycling disciplines of road, track, mountain bike, BMX Racing, BMX Freestyle, cyclo-cross, trials, indoor cycling, cycling esports, gravel and snow bike. Five of these are featured on the Olympic Games programme (road, track, mountain bike, BMX Racing and BMX Freestyle), two in the Paralympic Games (road and track), and four in the Youth Olympic Games (road, mountain bike, BMX Racing and BMX Freestyle). For more information: www.uci.org

Organising Committee

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