

Alphabet soup: USAC, USCF, SCNCA, CBR, FIAC.

USAC – USA Cycling:

www.usacycling.org

USAC is the official national governing body of our sport for the United States and represents our country to the governing bodies of international competition (such as the Union Cyclists International, UCI, and the International Olympics Committee, IOC). As such, USAC makes decisions about who will be on the US Olympic and National race teams, manages the National Race Calendar (NRC) and designates national championship events. USAC is the parent organization over national organizations for sub-disciplines within cycling:

- USCF - United States Cycling Federation (road, track and cyclocross)
- USPRO – US Professional Racing Organization
- NCCA – National Collegiate Cycling Association
- NORBA – National Off-Road Bicycling Association (mountain bike)
- BMXA - Bicycle Motocross Association (not just for kids!)

SCNCA – Southern California/Nevada Cycling Association:

www.scnca.org

SCNCA is a “Local Association” recognized by USAC and given local jurisdiction over USAC activity. The SCNCA gets a share of USAC license (member dues) revenue for USAC members in its region. The SCNCA administers local development programs, manages the calendar of local events, designates regional championship races, reviews race permits and schedules officials. One of the most recognized programs from the SCNCA is the Southern California Cup Points competition in which races with qualifying categories award top finishers points toward a regional ranking.

CBR – California Bicycle Racing

www.californiabicycleracing.org

CBR is a local independent association which sanctions its own races. It was founded by Chris Lotts as an alternative to USAC which he considered to be an expensive and bureaucratic hindrance to successful “grass-roots” race promotion. CBR has its own points competition for Best All Around Rider (BAR), sells its own licenses (membership), sanctions its own races and officials and designates its own regional championships. CBR runs the Tuesday night El Dorado Park training series. CBR belongs to the Federation of Independent Associations for Cycling (FIAC) which designates its own national championships. Other independent associations include American Cycle Association (ACA), American Bicycle Racing (ABR) and Oregon Bicycle Racing Association (OBRA).

CBR – USAC Reciprocity Agreement

Simply put, up to a certain license category, riders in certain racing categories holding a license for one organization will have their license and license category recognized by the other organization. Racing results in events sanctioned by one organization may also be recognized for upgrade qualification by the other organization.

Normally riders who do not hold a license, must buy a one-day license in order to race, in sanctioned events for either organization. When John Q. Public buys a one-day license he is normally restricted to riding in an entry level category. Doesn't matter if you are on the US National Team, if you show up on race day without your license you're going to be racing Category 5. But if you have a CBR license up to Category 3 you can buy a one-day USCF license and race your CBR category. Likewise, if you show up at a CBR event with just a USCF license, you can buy a one-day CBR license and race your USCF category (up to Category 3). When purchasing an Annual USCF license, CBR category can be applied up to Category 2 when applying on-site and up to Category 1 by applying to USA Cycling in Colorado Springs.

But beware, reciprocity swings both ways. The two organizations also recognize rider disciplinary sanctions. So behave yourself no matter who's race you're doing.