



Information nr1 – 15.08.2021

## UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup: travel to USA

### NATIONAL INTEREST EXEMPTION

With the current travel restrictions, only travelers approved with the “National Interest Exemption” (NIE) are allowed to enter the US territory. Crew and participants to sport events (even of top level) are not recognised automatically as entering the US territory for “professional reasons”.

We have worked with the Organisers of Waterloo, Fayetteville, Iowa City - Flanders Classics, USA Cycling and the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee in order to propose a simple process to submit the request of NIE for travelers participating to the 3 UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup organised in October on the US territory.

### US VISA

The **NIE will not replace any standard travel documentation** (i.e., passport, visa, ESTA, etc.). International travelers will still need to apply for an ESTA if they qualify or schedule an appointment for visas.

Just to note, if travelers are not eligible for an ESTA and need a US Visa instead, we recommend they apply as soon as possible given consular delays due to COVID.

Check also carefully the information on the US embassy where you reside and your local authorities' travelling restrictions: knowing COVID Protocol needed to re-enter the country they depart to.

### TO OBTAIN THE NIE

**Any participant to the US UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup is requested to fulfill this form ([FORM](#)), deadline: 10 September 2021 13h00 CET.**

The UCI will prepare all data for a grouped submission by USOPC to the US Customs and Border Protection. When the NIE is granted, USOPC will provide a confirmation letter as evidence of the NIE waiver.

Please note that for the moment, the NIE is valid:

- for athletes and coaches: for 1 year and multiple entry to the US,
- for staff and officials: for 30 days and a single entry.

### DATA TO SUBMIT

**Do not send these data by e-mail or other text.** Only submit them via the [FORM.](#), deadline: 10 September 2021 13h00 CET.

An individual's role at the events must be clearly defined (i.e., Athlete, Coach, Mechanics, etc.). Family members and certain support staff may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the US Customs and Border Protection.

### DEADLINES

The data must be provided by USOPC to the US Customs and Border Protection within 30 days of your arrival on the US territory. The granting of NIE status should be made approximately 7 days from the day of request. Thus we advise to book your travel and stay, with the best cancellations conditions and not to wait for the grant of the NIE. The UCI, Flanders Classics and the World Cup Organisers will not reimburse any expenses if you do not obtain the NIE.

### NEGATIVE COVID-TESTING

At this time, any proof of vaccination is not accepted for entry to the US, and any traveler (including US citizens) will need to show a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours of departure to US, or be prepared to show documentation of recovery (proof of a recent positive viral test and a letter from your healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).

A COVID test must be taken 3 days upon arrival to the US per state guidelines and of course you will need an additional negative test to fly back.

## **VACCINES**

Some media report that the USA are working on a new plan and may open their frontiers to vaccinated travelers. Without any guarantee on the planning and content of those changes, **we kindly advice you to go through the vaccination procedures available on your territory**, that could make easier your travel and your stay to the US. Please note that not all marks of vaccine are recognized on the US territory ([read more here](#)).

## **ON-SITE COVID PROTOCOLS**

COVID protocols adapted to the situation at the date of the events will be soon released.

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***Do not hesitate to submit your questions, we will then publish a FAQ in order to share clear information and statement about the travel to USA for the 2021-2022 UCI Cyclo-cross World Cup.***