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UMCA Policy on Qualifying for RAAM

Approved by the Board of Directors on March 1, 2004 by a vote of 13-2

Who must qualify for RAAM

Solo ultra racers: must meet the qualifying standards in this policy in order to race in RAAM.

Tandem bicycle racers: at least one of the riders must meet the qualifying standard in this policy in order to race in RAAM.

Relay team racers do not have to qualify in order to race in RAAM.

Categories for qualifying

To qualify for RAAM riders compete in categories based on the following:

Gender	Male	Female		
Age	18-49	50-59	60-69	70 and up
Bike Type	Solo including single speed & fixed gear	Recumbent	HPV	Tandem

Duration of qualification

An ultra racer is eligible to compete in RAAM for the three years following the year in which the ultra racer qualified by one of the methods below.

If a racer is an official finisher of solo Race Across AMerica or tandem RAAM, then the racer is qualified for RAAM for life.

Qualifying Races

The UMCA sanctions three types of RAAM Qualifiers. For specific events and dates go to:

<http://www.ultracycling.com/events/races.php>

1) RAAM-style qualifiers

To qualify for solo RAAM, a rider must finish within the specified time of the first not currently qualified rider in a division:

age	men	women
<50	115%	115%
50-59	125%	125%
60-69	135%	135%

For example, Rider A finishes sixth overall in 35 hours. Rider A is not currently qualified to race in RAAM. Rider B, 55-year old man, must finish within 125% of Rider A's time, i.e., 43 hours 45 minutes. Rider C, a woman, wins the women's division in 30 hours. Rider C is not currently qualified for RAAM. Rider D, a 45-year old woman, must finish within 115% of the Rider C's time, i.e., or 34 hours 30 minutes.

2) 24-hour qualifiers

To qualify for solo RAAM at a sanctioned 24-hour qualifier a rider must cover the specified distance within 24 hours:

age	men	women
<50	425 miles	400 miles
50-59	400	375
60-69	375	350

3) Team RAAM

Riders who officially finish four-person, two-person or tandem RAAM will be qualified for solo RAAM.

Other Qualifying Opportunities

In addition the UMCA recognizes other opportunities to qualify for RAAM:

4) 1200 km randonnées

1200 km randonnées sanctioned by the Randonneurs Mondiaux (RM) or Audax Club Parisien (ACP) are drafting events with time limits, rather than non-drafting races. As such, they are neither sanctioned by nor supported by the UMCA. However, a 1200 km randonnée is a significant test of a rider's fitness and a rider may use an RM/ACP-sanctioned 1200 km to qualify for RAAM under the following conditions:

- the rider is a current, annual member of the UMCA, and
- the rider informs the UMCA in writing before the 1200 km that the rider intends to use the 1200 km to attempt to qualify for RAAM, and
- the rider finishes within the specified time in a division:

age	men	women
<50	<65 hrs	<70 hrs
50-59	<70 hrs	<75 hrs
60-69	<75 hrs	<80 hrs

5) British 24-Hour Championship

Although not sanctioned by nor supported by the UMCA, riders may use the British 24-Hour to qualify for RAAM under the following conditions:

- the rider is a current, annual member of the UMCA, and
- the rider informs the UMCA by letter or e-mail before the 24-hour that the rider intends to use the 24-hour to attempt to qualify for RAAM, and
- the rider meets the qualifying standard for a division listed above under 24-hour races.

6) Individual time trial

If a rider lives on a continent with no RAAM qualifier, then the rider may qualify by meeting the 24-hour qualifying standard in an individual time trial officiated by the rider's national cycling federation.

7) Invitation of the RAAM director

Based on a rider's cycling resume, the RAAM director may issue an invitation to compete in RAAM.

Questions?

E-mail UMCA Chair, Qualifying for RAAM

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