



Cyclocross 20/21 Season Evaluation

Striving for Fairness

Report overview

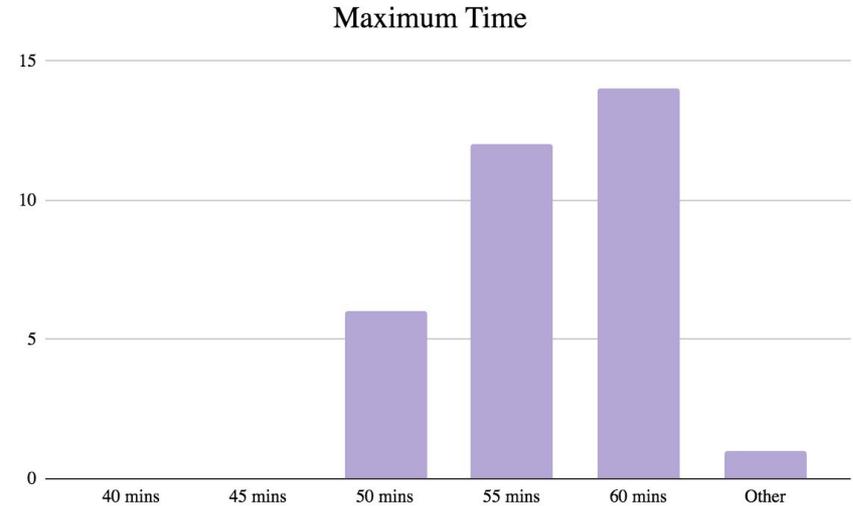
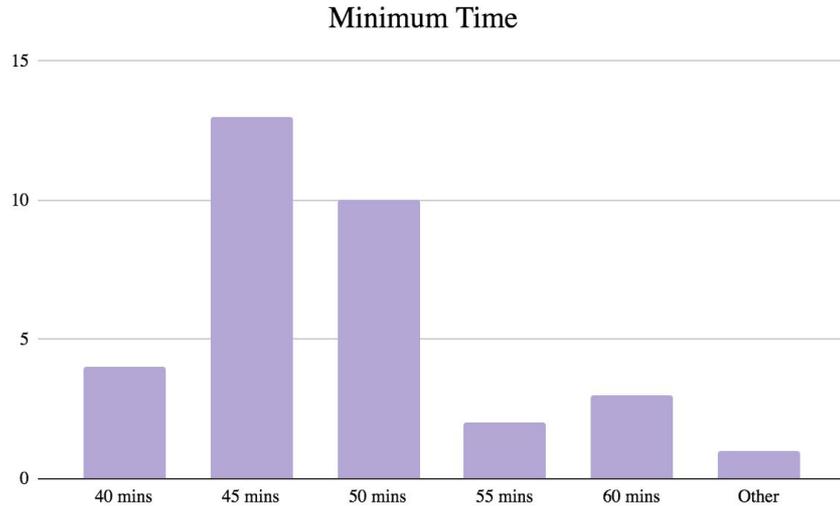
- ▶ This document analyses the results from The Cyclists' Alliance 2021 Cyclo-Cross survey. The survey included questions on Race Length, Race Format and The 80% Rule to gather direct feedback from the CX riders.
- ▶ The survey was answered by 33 Cyclo-Cross Riders:
 - 79% : Elite (aged 23 and over)
 - 18% : U23 (aged 19 - 22)
 - 3% : Junior (aged 17-18)
- ▶ The current situation is that:
 - Only the World Championship racing times are approximately 50 mins.
 - All other races that are combined with the Juniors & U23 women and formally have a length between 40 and 50 minutes, in practice tend to have a total racing time closer to 40 minutes than to 50 minutes.

Lucinda Brand - Baloise Trek Lions

- ▶ *I contacted The Cyclists' Alliance to help facilitate a survey to gather rider feedback on race length, race format and the 80% rule.*
- ▶ *I believe it is important to listen to the input directly from the riders and take this into account when trying to improve and professionalise the cyclocross discipline further for the Women.*



Race Length feedback across all respondents

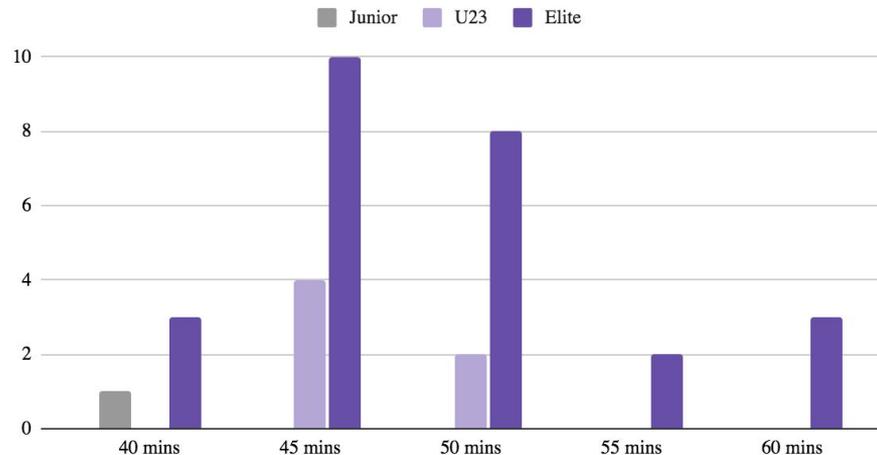


- ▶ 39% of rider respondents suggested **45 mins Minimum Racing Time**
- ▶ 42% of rider respondents suggested **60 mins Maximum Racing Time**

Race Length feedback by Age Groups

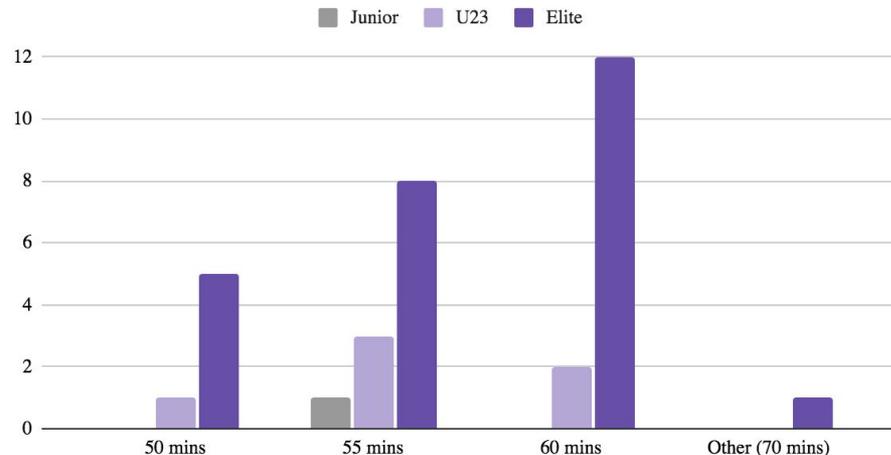
Minimum Race Time

Preferred Minimum Race Time by Age Groups



Maximum Race Time

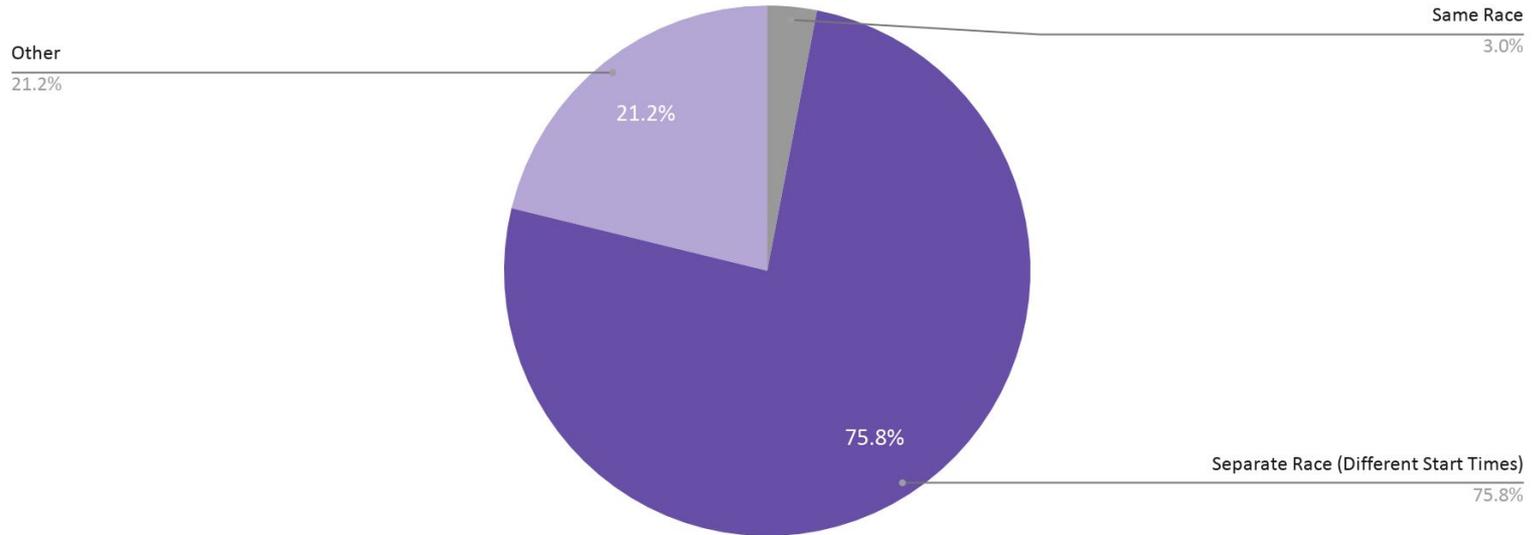
Preferred Maximum Race Time by Age Groups



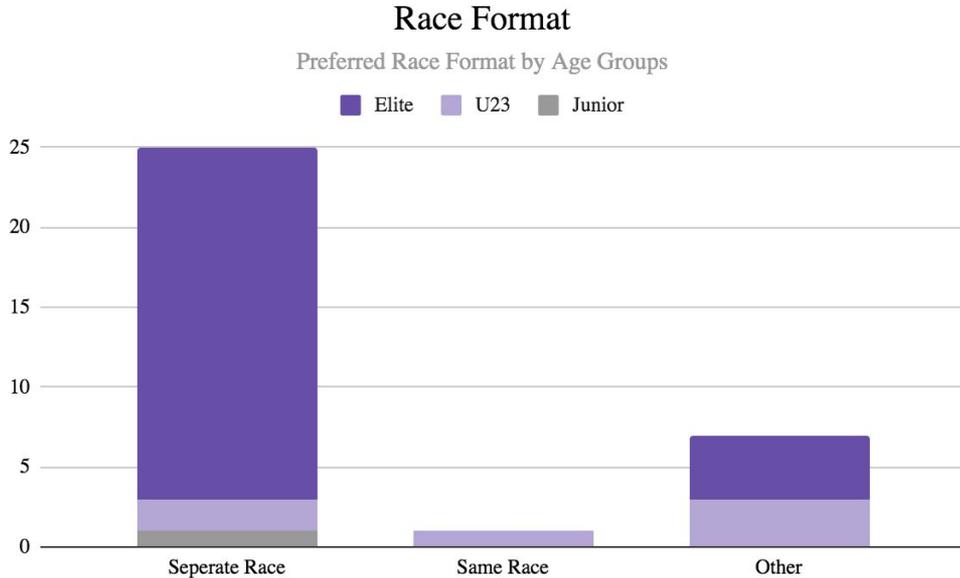
- ▶ When analysing race time preference by age group, it is clear that junior riders prefer a shorter race to the Elite riders
 - Majority of Elite Riders suggested a Minimum Race Time of 45 mins and a Maximum of 60 mins
 - Majority of U23 Rider suggested a Minimum Race Time of 45 mins and a Maximum of 55 mins
 - Junior Rider suggested 40 mins as Minimum and 55 mins as a Maximum

Race Format

- ▶ **75% of ALL riders** suggested for all categories to have their own separate races with different start times



Race Format



- ▶ **85% of all Elite Riders** suggested for all categories to have their own separate races with different start times

Other Suggestions:

- ▶ “Juniors should have their own separate race, with U23 and Elite racing together”
- ▶ “Keep it fair men and women should be the same so if the men have a separate junior race the women should also, and if the men have a separate u23 race so should the women”

80% Rule

- ▶ **67%** felt that the 80% Rule is good and they were satisfied by the rule
- ▶ Whereas, **33%** feel that the 80% Rule could be better

Although riders are mainly satisfied by the current 80% rule, please see below for rider suggestions regarding improvements/changes to the 80% Rule to further improve it:

- ▶ The 80% rule should **not be used in World Championships**
- ▶ Is **not fair on Juniors** if they have to race with other age groups
- ▶ There needs to be **more consistency** when enforcing it so it is fair for every race
- ▶ The 80% Rule **should be based on the 2nd Lap** not the 1st Lap
- ▶ There should **be two places on the course where riders are pulled out** to avoid interference with race leaders

Suggestions made by riders on CX Race Time and Regulations

Majority of rider comments/suggestions focused on concerns with the race times and lack of consistency of the length of races that have been grouped and summarized below:

- ▶ Riders want practice times and race times to be protected and not shortened due to scheduling issues but they also don't want anyone else practice time or races compromised. We want to look to a solution that gives equal circumstances for all participants.
- ▶ A stricter system to determine race length/number of laps that is consistent for each race
- ▶ Race length/number of laps determined before the start
- ▶ Riders commented positive on how World-cup races have improved significantly and it is clear what the riders will expect to happen with the length of races and separating categories.

Additional rider suggestions:

- ▶ National Federations should allow riders to race despite not being a top finisher
- ▶ Concerns about the top 50 point system which affects start positions and leads to unfair advantages
- ▶ Encourage riders from different disciplines to participate in CX
- ▶ Junior Riders should have their own category

TCA recommendations from the analysis

Race Time:

- ▶ Extend the Elite race time to 50 - 60 mins
- ▶ Extend the U23 race time to 45 - 55 mins.
- ▶ Make the system stricter and ensure race organisers consistently adhere to the same system for determining the final race time within the category as well as on-course practice time
- ▶ Don't allow race times under the category minimum

Categories & Race Format:

- ▶ Preferably, all categories have a separate race with different start times. This is the longer-term ambition to also include C1 & C2 races.
- ▶ At a minimum, juniors should have their own race, and U23 and Elite's race together.
 - The current regulation states that "Except when separate category races are organised, women junior, women under 23 and women elite shall race together."

80% Rule

- ▶ Riders are mostly satisfied with the 80% rule, but further improvements could be made by:
 - 80% rule always based on the 2nd lap, not the 1st lap (see 5.1.052 UCI regulations)
 - there should be two places on the course where riders can be pulled out of the race, in order to avoid interference with race leaders
 - the rule should be applied consistently for all categories of racing rather than decided by the president of the commissaires' panel after discussion with the organiser

THANK YOU

The Cyclists' Alliance