



# Rider Feedback

Topic: How should a new U23 rainbow jersey for the 2022 Road World Championships in Wollongong, Australia be implemented?

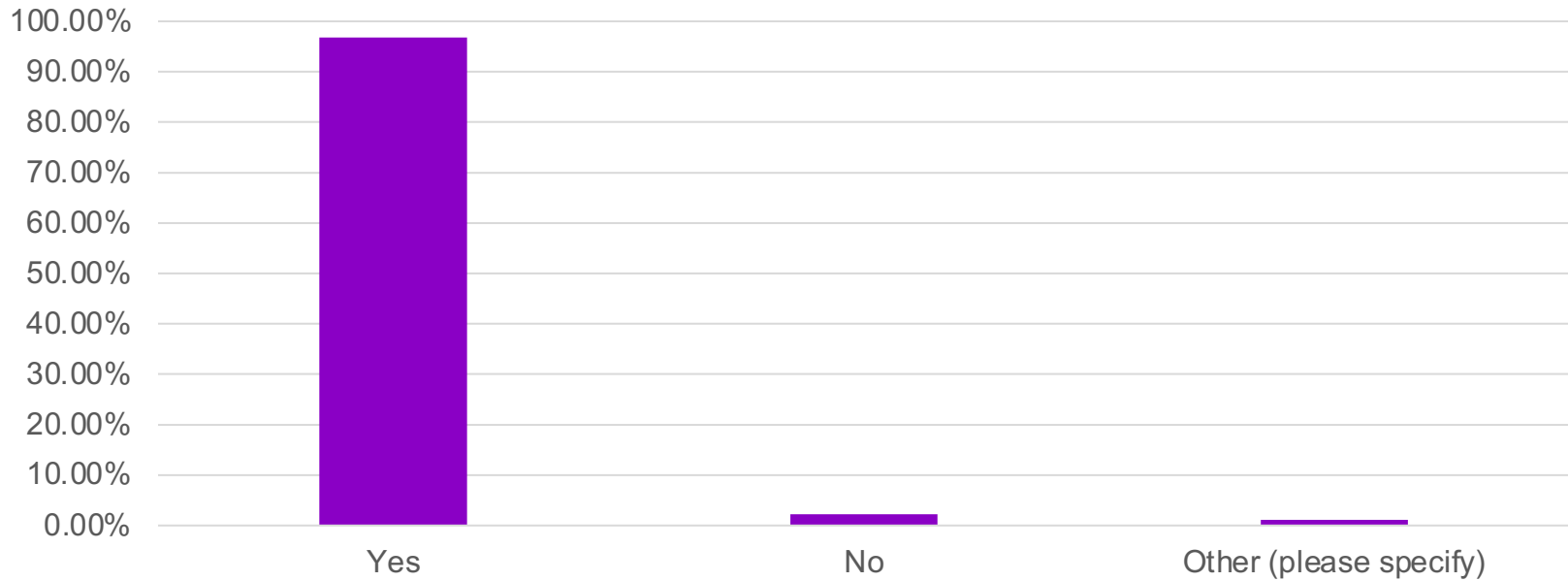
# Report overview

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- ▶ UCI president David Lappartient indicated in September 2021 to the [cycling press](#) that the sport's governing body is in a position to open up a new U23 category and new U23 rainbow jersey for the 2022 Road World Championships in Wollongong, Australia.
- ▶ However, this would be part of the existing elite women's road race, with the first rider aged under-23 to cross the line to be crowned the first U23 world champion.
- ▶ The Cyclists' Alliance wanted to understand the opinion of the riders on this topic.
  
- ▶ This document analyses the results from the survey taken by the riders in November 2021
- ▶ 96 professional female cyclists responded to the survey
  - 33% of respondents are a member of WorldTeam
  - 67% of respondents are a member of a Continental Team
  
  - 48% of respondents are in the Elite Category
  - 46% of respondents are in the U23 Category
  - 6% of respondents are in the Junior Category

## 97% believe that there should be a separate u23 women's World Championship race

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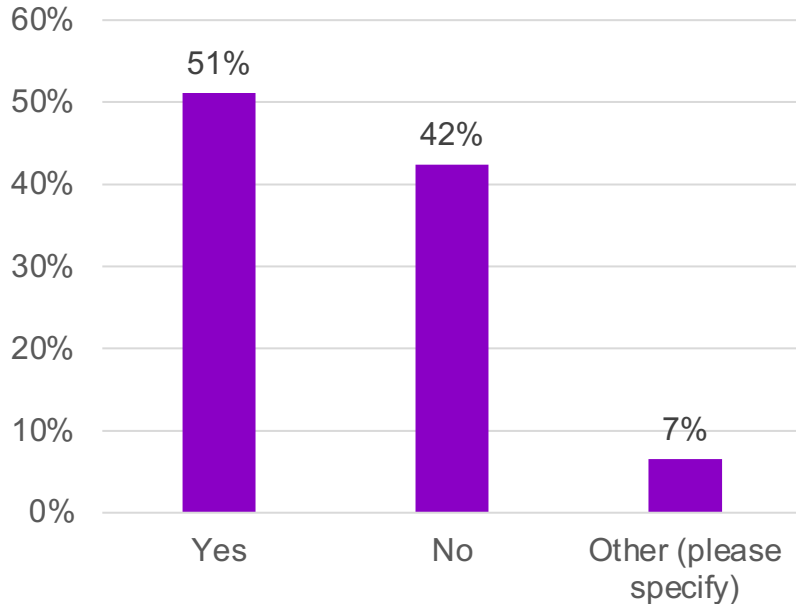


- ▶ Comments: *“Yes, separate race, but like the Europeans it should be discussed if u23 riders wish to race up in the Elite category, then that should be allowed”*

## What if a separate race for the U23 category can't be created until 2024?

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Do you think an u23 women's category should be included in the Elite World Championship Road race as a first step (for example in 2022 and 2023)?



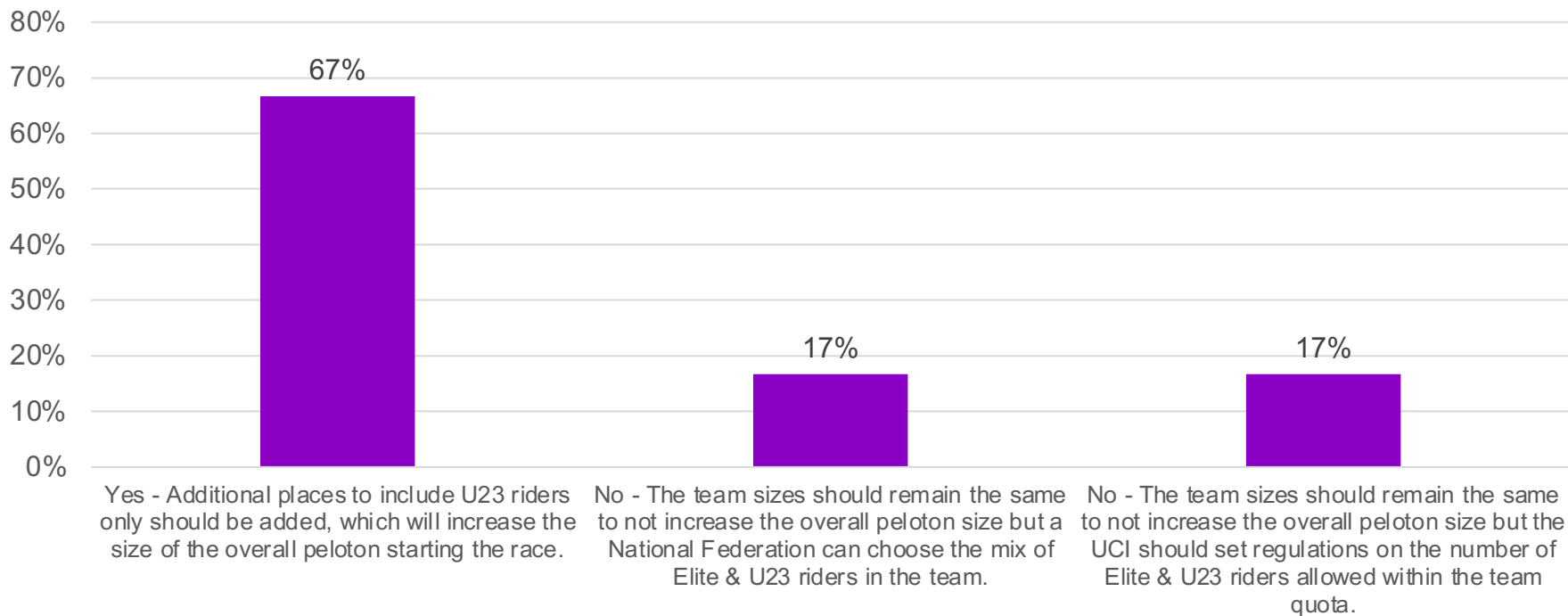
▶ 51% agree that U23 should be combined with Elites as an interim solution. Out of the 51% (Elite (25%), U23 (63%), Junior (12%) - therefore this is demanded more by the U23/Junior and less so by Elite riders)

▶ Comments:

- ▶ *“why is next season not already possible?”*
- ▶ *“Yes, but then there needs to be bigger teams to select a u23 rider. In the Netherlands for example, they already have too many great elite riders. So, an u23 rider will not get selected”*
- ▶ *“Yes, it's nice for them to have the recognition like a white jersey however it needs to be noted that it could change how team selections are made and race dynamics.”*
- ▶ *“Yes, for an interim solution, but the U23. should really have their own race”*
- ▶ *“No give the U23 their own separate race”*

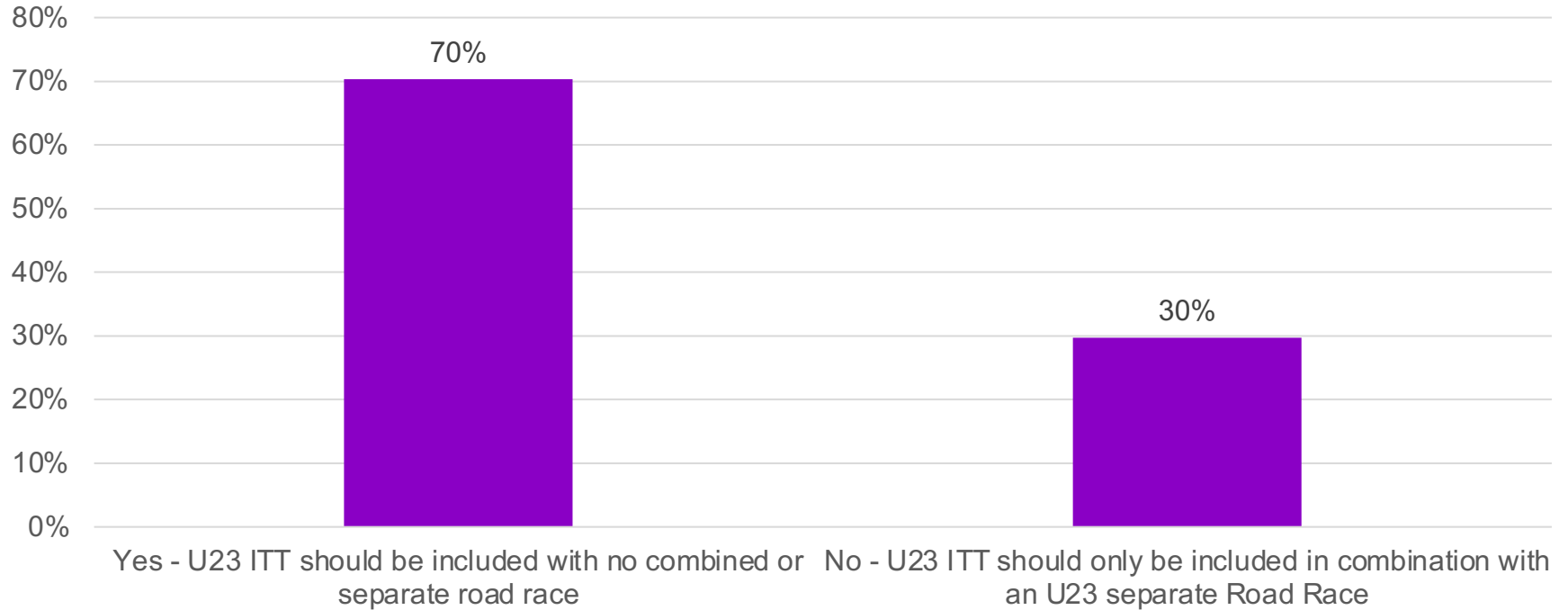
## Additional quotas required if combined categories in one single race.

- ▶ 67% believe that there should be additional quotas for u23 riders within each national team if both categories are combined in one race?



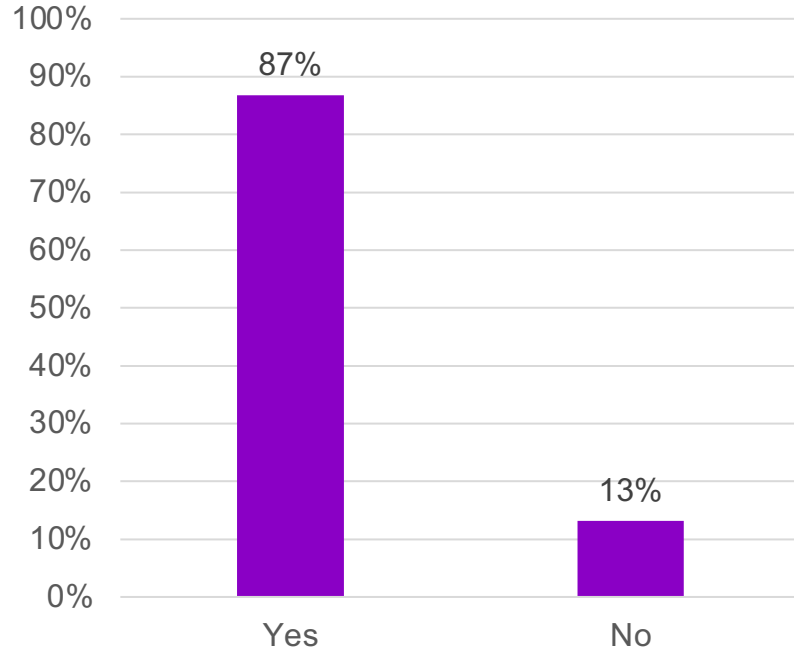
# 70% agree that an U23 ITT should be included with no combined or separate road race

Do you think there should be an u23 women's category in the ITT but not in the road race if they cannot run a separate road race?

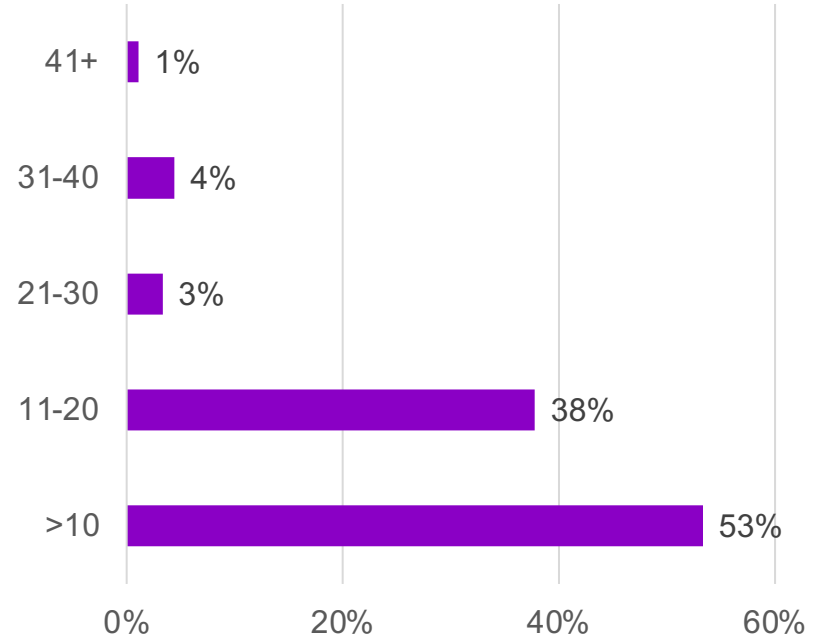


# 87% think there should be an u23 series, with 91% wanting up to 20 u23 races per season

Do you think there should be an u23 series in the season?



How many separate u23 races do you think there should be each season?



## Summary

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- ▶ The clear outcome from this feedback gathered from the peloton is that there is a significant desire for an U23 category in the World Championships
  - Ideal scenario: Separate Race for U23 Category
  - If a separate race is not possible, it must not cost places for Elite Riders, it must not create dangerous racing conditions with two races and therefore different race tactics happening in a single race.
    - › A combined race if a separate race is not possible is welcomed significantly more by U23/Junior riders vs Elite riders.
  - Riders request that more thought on the composition of the team selection should be considered and consulted with the riders/teams before a decision is made.
  - If a separate race is not possible in the road race, a separate ITT for the U23 category is also a welcomed Alternative.
- ▶ Another outcome is the desire for a separate U23 Season for the Women. This is paramount to help develop riders as they transition out of the junior category and provide a pathway for creating greater depth in riders ability and technical skills before they transition to the Elite category.
- ▶ We ask the UCI to (1) take this feedback gathered and presented by TCA into account and (2) to consult with TCA, the riders, the teams, National Federations and the athletes road commission representative to develop the Women's junior and U23 categories and the addition of an U23 rainbow jersey at future World Championships.



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# THANK YOU

The Cyclists' Alliance