

# IMBCS 2017 Race Series Information

## MISSION

The Iowa Mountain Bike Championship Series is dedicated to providing a series of mountain bike races in Iowa with different levels of competition for lowans of all ages and mountain biking abilities. This means that everyone can get involved from the seasoned experienced rider to the first time rider to those riders who only compete for fun and socialization.

## YOUR 2017 IMBCS VOLUNTEER STAFF

**Co-Directors** – Bruce Brown & Cam Kirkpatrick

**Series Points Coordinator** – Rob Cook

**Series Sponsorship Director** – Rose Ayers

**Advisory Board** – Tom Anderson, Cheryl Dralle, Kevin Betters, Karmen Woelber Rob Cook, Andre Rethman, Andy Peterson, Julie Kirkpatrick, Anthony Branch, Nicholas Eckermann, Mike Frasier, Katherine Roccasecca

This season we continue to celebrate and champion all those elements that have come before us in the history of mountain bike racing here in Iowa that has led to the present, and will continue to lead to the future.

**IMBCS** is proud to announce our 15<sup>th</sup> season will include the following 10 XC races, and 6 Marathon races in 2017.

## 2017 IMBCS XC Race Dates

IMBCS #1 – FORC Illiniwek Abermination – April 23

IMBCS Special Endurance Event – Sugar Cubed Marathon – May 13\*

IMBCS #2 - Ewing Park Kickback Classic - May 20

IMBCS #3 – Beverly Fat Tire Frenzy – June 3\*

IMBCS #4 – Summerset Shootout – June 10\*

IMBCS #5 - Moorehead Park - June 17\*

IMBCS #6 - Sunderbruch Park - June 25

IMBCS #7 – Whiterock Conservancy – July 2\*

IMBCS "8 - Lewis & Clark Border Battle - July 8\*

IMBCS #9 – George Wyth MTB Race – August 12

IMBCS #10 – Sugar Bottom Scramble – August 20

IMBCS TBA – Make Up Dates – August 26/27

\*Denotes a Marathon Race Category Included

The [USA Cycling](#) Rulebook is available [HERE](#).

### **IMBCS will use the following structure for categorizing mountain bike racers in 2017:**

- **Category I (Expert)** for men and women. (Winning Finish Time Target: 2 Hours)

This category is the highest level of competition that IMBCS offers. Course length, depending on the course, is approximately 25 – 30 miles. CAT I Women will race one lap less than the men (same distance as the COMP course). Cash payouts will be awarded for *overall* winners for both genders based on the number of racers participating using the cash payout schedule.

- **COMP** – This category is an open category for male racers. (Winning Finish Time Target: 90 Minutes)

This class is for male racers seeking a step up from the Category II Sport class to compete against regional competition at a longer distance. Open to a racer holding either a CAT II or CAT I license. Course length, depending on the course, is approximately 20 miles.

- **Category II (Sport)** for men and women. (Winning Finish Time Target: 60 - 70 Minutes)

This class is for more experienced riders. Course length is approximately 12 – 15 miles.

- **Category III (Novice)** for men and women. (Winning Finish Time Target: 30-45 Minutes)

This class is for recreational riders age 19 and above with little racing experience. It is ideal for a rider who may be trying out their first mountain bike race or their first racing season. Course length is approximately 5 – 10 miles. Courses will have a lower degree of difficulty.

- **Juniors** – 18 and under for boys and girls. (Winning Finish Time Target: 30-45 Minutes)

This class is for boys and girls between the ages of 11 – 18. Course length is approximately 5 – 10 miles and will be the same as the Category III (Novice) course.

- **4 Hour Marathon Category** – Endurance racing for men and women (Winning Finish Time Target: 4 hours)

This class is for endurance racers. The race is 4 hours. One lap minimum must be completed to collect series points. Racers must start their final lap before the clock hits 4 hours. The race will run simultaneously with other classes.

- **Kids Races**

Kids Races are for ages 10 and under. The short distance race of ¼ mile up to a mile will be for prizes on very low degree of difficulty terrain. Series Points will not be collected for Kids Races in 2016.

## **Additional Series Rules for the 2017 IMBCS Season**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winners in all of the men's, women's, junior boy's and junior girl's categories of their respective age divisions will receive awards at the end of the season! Series awards will be given at the conclusion of the last series race held, Sugar Bottom Scramble on August 20th.
  - 2017 events will include starting line **call ups** on race day for the series leaders. The first three overall leaders in each age class for their respective category will be called to line up at the front of the start line before your race, or race wave begins. Once series leader **call ups** are completed, the remaining racers will line up behind the leaders for the start of the race.
  - As mentioned above with regard to the series awards in 2017 (top 3 finishers in each age class and division), additionally everyone in attendance at the awards presentation ceremony on August 20th that raced the *required minimum number of events* for their category will be eligible for the swag drawing prizes.
  - In order for a racer to qualify for an **IMBCS** series award within a respective category, the participant must compete in a minimum of three **IMBCS** races for the Marathon Category, a minimum of three **IMBCS** races for the Junior and CAT III (Novice) categories, and a minimum of five **IMBCS** races for CAT II (Sport), COMP, and CAT I (Expert). If you participate in the minimum number of **IMBCS** events and you happen to DNF in one or more of them, you will still qualify to be considered for a series award at the end of the season.
  - A participant's four best scores will count towards their series overall score in the Marathon Category. A participant's five best scores will count towards their series overall score for Junior and CAT III (Novice). A participant's six best scores will count towards their series overall score for CAT II (Sport), COMP, and CAT I (Expert). If you choose to do more **IMBCS** XC races than the numbers used for *best scores*, you will receive ten additional points for each race beyond that as bonus points. Bonus points for the Marathon Category will be a bonus of 25 points for racing the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> races.
- \* **Age classes for 2017:** IMBCS partners with events in the Illinois State Championship Series, and Nebraska Psyowpath Series. All three follow the USA Cycling age classes. IMBCS bases our age classes on those used at various times throughout the previous 14 seasons. Age classes have changed for IMBCS more times than any other rule in the previous 14 years. The end result is that we tried a few new additional age classes within various categories for the 2015 season, and they worked well enough to keep them.
- Race Directors reserve the right to combine age groups as necessary to insure reasonable field sizes at individual events. However, IMBCS will break down the results into the series designated age classes listed below for tracking series points for the year-end awards. In the event of an individual race having to combine age groups due to low rider turnout, points will still be tracked based on the following age class chart.

• Age groups within each category for IMBCS 2017 Series Points Tracking will be as follows:

CATEGORY I (Expert)**	COMP	CATEGORY II (Sport)	CATEGORY III (Novice)	JUNIORS
Men 19 - 29	Men 39 and under	Men 19 - 29	Men 19 - 29	Junior Men 11-14
Men 30 - 39	Men 40+	Men 30 - 39	Men 30 - 39	Junior Men 15-18
Men 40 - 49		Men 40 - 49	Men 40 - 49	
Men 50 - 59		Men 50 - 59	Men 50 - 59	
Men 60+		Men 60+	Men 60+	
Women 29 and under		Women 29 and under	Women 29 and under	Junior Women 11 - 14
Women 30+		Women 30+	Women 30+	Junior Women 15 - 18

Racing Age will be determined by one's age on Dec 31, 2017.

MARATHON CATEGORY	KIDS RACES
Men open age class	Boys ages 10 and under
Women open age class	Girls ages 10 and under

Racing Age will be determined by one's age on Dec 31, 2017.

• **Series Points:** IMBCS moved from a set scoring system in 2005 to a weighted scoring scale based on the number of participants from 2006 - 2014. We went back to a set scoring system for 2015 that is similar to the Illinois and Minnesota mountain bike series.

The IMBCS 2017 scoring will again be based on points, and will be scored as follows:

Placing Rank	Placing Rank	Placing Rank	Placing Rank	Placing Rank
1 <sup>st</sup> Place = 150	11 <sup>th</sup> Place = 100	21 <sup>st</sup> Place = 66	31 <sup>st</sup> Place = 36	41 <sup>st</sup> Place = 14
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place = 142	12 <sup>th</sup> Place = 96	22 <sup>nd</sup> Place = 63	32 <sup>nd</sup> Place = 33	42 <sup>nd</sup> Place = 12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place = 135	13 <sup>th</sup> Place = 92	23 <sup>rd</sup> Place = 60	33 <sup>rd</sup> Place = 30	43 <sup>rd</sup> Place = 10
4 <sup>th</sup> Place = 129	14 <sup>th</sup> Place = 88	24 <sup>th</sup> Place = 57	34 <sup>th</sup> Place = 28	44 <sup>th</sup> Place = 8
5 <sup>th</sup> Place = 124	15 <sup>th</sup> Place = 84	25 <sup>th</sup> Place = 54	35 <sup>th</sup> Place = 26	45 <sup>th</sup> Place = 8
6 <sup>th</sup> Place = 120	16 <sup>th</sup> Place = 81	26 <sup>th</sup> Place = 51	36 <sup>th</sup> Place = 24	46 <sup>th</sup> Place = 5
7 <sup>th</sup> Place = 116	17 <sup>th</sup> Place = 78	27 <sup>th</sup> Place = 48	37 <sup>th</sup> Place = 22	47 <sup>th</sup> Place = 4
8 <sup>th</sup> Place = 112	18 <sup>th</sup> Place = 75	28 <sup>th</sup> Place = 45	38 <sup>th</sup> Place = 20	48 <sup>th</sup> Place = 3
9 <sup>th</sup> Place = 108	19 <sup>th</sup> Place = 72	29 <sup>th</sup> Place = 42	39 <sup>th</sup> Place = 18	49 <sup>th</sup> Place = 2
10 <sup>th</sup> Place = 104	20 <sup>th</sup> Place = 69	30 <sup>th</sup> Place = 39	40 <sup>th</sup> Place = 16	DNF = 1

DNF's = 1 point

**Volunteer Points:** Racers who choose to forfeit their racing participation in a single race to help run the event qualify for volunteer points. A racer is allowed to claim volunteer points for **one event only** per season to be used towards their series point totals. That doesn't mean you cannot volunteer for more than one event. It just means earning volunteer points will only be from one event. A racer must contact the race director **at least 2 weeks in advance** of the event to be placed on the race director's volunteer crew, work a minimum of 5 hours on race day, fill out the IMBCS volunteer form at the registration table, and have it signed by the race director who will turn into one of the three IMBCS Administration at the race (Bruce Brown, Cam Kirkpatrick, or Rob Cook). The number of volunteer points you can earn will be equal to your lowest scoring race for the season (excluding DNF's). Example: if the lowest score you have received is 9<sup>th</sup> place for 108 points, you will receive 108 points for being a volunteer at one of our events this season. This will be calculated in August **before final race**, Sugar Bottom Scramble.

• **Upgrading:** Please note that [USA Cycling Rulebook](#) states that a Category III (Novice), Category II (Sport), and COMP racer should consider an upgrade to the next highest category **if the following** occurs:

A. Upgrades from CAT III to CAT II: Five top-five finishes is a mandatory upgrade.

B. Upgrades from CAT II to CAT I: Five top-five finishes is a mandatory upgrade. (Riders in CAT II may choose to upgrade with two top-five finishes.)

The above USA Cycling mandatory upgrades for IMBCS will be based on **overall category** top five finishes, not age class. IMBCS uses the CAT II COMP category that is not a USA Cycling Category. Due to this, our IMBCS rule B will read:

B. Upgrades from CAT II Sport to CAT II COMP to CAT I: Five top-five finishes is a mandatory upgrade. (Riders in CAT II Sport or COMP may choose to upgrade with two top-five **overall** finishes. A CAT II Sport Rider can choose to leapfrog the CAT II COMP and use the mandatory upgrade to CAT I if so desired.)

In order for a top-five finish in your category to qualify as one of the top-five finishes used for a mandatory upgrade, there must be a minimum of 15 men in the overall men's category for that race, or 10 women in the overall women's category for that race.

When else should you consider the upgrade if you have not hit the mandatory upgrade requirements? If you are consistently placing in the top 3 finishers **overall** for your entire category, and finish significantly ahead of your competitors in the results, you will be asked to consider upgrading to the next race category to compete against racers that are at a similar level by the IMBCS Co-Directors, Bruce Brown & Cam Kirkpatrick.

The purpose behind all of this is to encourage competition and fairness within each category structure.

During the series a rider may upgrade to the next USA Cycling category (CAT III to CAT II Sport or CAT II COMP) without having to qualify for the upgrade, however points earned in one category or class will not be transferred to another.

**Downgrades:** A rider who feels they have advanced too quickly or is otherwise no longer competitive in their category may ask for reclassification by submitting a written request to USA Cycling identifying their results and reasoning, or speak with an IMBCS Director.

## 2017 EVENT DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

IMBCS Event Directors are responsible for the following:

1. Insurance for the event through USA Cycling.
2. Filling out the online permitting process at USA Cycling.
3. Entry and release forms for the event.
4. Personnel (USA Cycling Official(s) will be assigned, scorers, medical, etc.)
5. Awards for the event.
6. Submission of results to IMBCS personnel and USA Cycling.
7. A \$1 surcharge for each paid entry fee will go to IBRA (Iowa Bicycle Racing Association).
8. Provide a neutral Feed/Water Zone for any race that exceeds 90 minutes in duration.

## LENGTH OF IMBCS MTB XC RACES

The IMBCS recommends that race directors keep the winning finish times as follows:

JUNIOR & CAT III (Novice) races at 30-45 minutes

CAT II (Sport) classes will race at 60-70 minutes

COMP at 90 minutes

CAT I (Expert) at 120 minutes.

This helps standardize the race experience, and allows racers a fairly level competitive field from which Category they will choose to race in for the season.

## LENGTH OF MTB MARATHON RACES

Marathon mountain bike race venues will be scored using the number of laps completed within a **4-hour time frame**. Racers will not be allowed to start a new lap after the **4-hour mark**, however any lap started before the **4-hour mark** will be allowed to finish. Participants must complete a minimum of one lap to receive placing points for the series. A neutral FEED/WATER ZONE will be available and set up the Race Director and his volunteer organization. Racers will be able to place coolers, water bottles, and nutrition items that they need for the race within this neutral FEED/WATER ZONE.

## WEATHER/CANCELLATIONS

All IMBCS events are subject to inclement weather that could delay the race, postpone the race to the announced back up date, cancellation of a race, or require an alternate race loop from the original plan. Updates on race conditions will be provided on the IMBCS Facebook page and the Yahoo Groups page as soon as they are made available. Promoters reserve the right to alter start times, combine groups, adjust the course length, reschedule, and cancel events.

In the case of extreme conditions due to weather or other circumstances that prevent the ongoing scoring of the event or create a racing environment that is deemed dangerous for participants, the race may be called off as of a certain time. We will calculate the final results in one of two ways (as determined by the race official and race director):

1) The race is considered over at the point it was called off, and the results will be as of the last completed lap.

-OR-

2) The riders can finish their current lap after the race is called off, and the results will be as of that lap. In the case that the race is stopped and restarted, we will use the combined results of both parts of the race.

## NEW REFUND POLICY

- IMBCS race directors will not allow refunds for: Did Not Finish, or No-Shows
- IMBCS race directors will be able to use the [USA Cycling Event Ancillary Insurance Policy](#) to refund all online pre-registrations entry fees due to inclement weather if the event is canceled, and the race directors will not lose the entry fee money as the Ancillary Insurance pays the race director the entry fees as well. This is a ***new win-win situation*** for racers and promoters as nobody loses money! Because of this, please use the [USA Cycling online registration system](#) with no fear of losing your entry fee money.

## Additional IMBCS Race Rules

- Helmets and shirts must be worn at all times while on a bike for the IMBCS races. This includes your warm up, cool down, and riding in the parking lots around the events.
- You will ***not be allowed*** to use personal listening devices, ear buds, etc. during any IMBCS race. Failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
- Litter will not be tolerated. ***Leave No Trace*** and do not drop your trash onto the trail (GU wrappers, Gel packs, Egg McMuffin wrappers, banana peels, etc...). Failure to comply will lead to a disqualification.
- Unsportsmanlike behavior, foul riding, use of profanity, or flagrant discourtesy directed at participants, spectators, race organizers, or officials will result in disqualification.

- A racer must ride the entire course. Cheating and cutting any section of the course is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification. If for some reason you miss a turn or go off the marked course, you must re-enter the course exactly where you left the course. No exceptions.
- A participant that is riding his or her bicycle will have the right-of-way over a participant who has dismounted their bike, and is pushing his or her bicycle during a race. Lapped participants, and those being overtaken by approaching riders, must yield the trail (the fastest part of the trail that is) when asked of by another rider. It is the responsibility of any approaching racer to make your presence known, and to announce your intention to pass by saying “Track”, “Rider up” or “On your left/right” to pass safely.
- In the event two riders during a race are vying for position, the lead rider does not have to yield to the challenging rider. However, the rider must hold their line, and is not allowed to interfere with another rider's progress.
- If you have to pull out of the race as a DNF (Did Not Finish), you must report it to the race timer/USA Cycling Official so that you can be given credit in the standings for the race. If you do DNF, do not cross the finish line in case chip timing is being used to score the race. Simply walk up to the timer/USA Cycling Official and report your decision to pull out of the race.
- You must make any, and all bike repairs during the race only by yourself. You are not allowed to accept assistance, or tools from any other racers. In addition, you are not allowed to accept parts from anyone else's bike. Examples: tubes, CO2 cartridges, chain tool, extra chain links/master link, allen wrenches, mutli-tool, wheel(s). You are responsible for your own tools, spares, and repairs during any race.
- Your bike must be in good working condition for a mountain bike racing event, and it must be free of hazardous attachments (such as kickstands, mirrors, unplugged handle bar ends, and so on).
- You must ride the **same** bike you start with throughout the entire race.
- Feed or hand ups to a racer from a support person may occur on any part of the course, but must be clear of the start/finish line area with the following stipulations:
  1. All those handing up to the racers must stand to the right side of the course.
  2. Running alongside a racer to hand up a bottle or food is prohibited.
  3. A hand up to a racer must not interfere with another competitor.
- Each race director should include a properly marked “Feed Zone” that is accessible by racers to get their supplies without disrupting the flow of other racers.
- All protests must be reported to a race director, or USA Cycling Official immediately following the race up to 15 minutes after the complete results are posted for the protest to be considered valid. All results become final as of the presentation of awards. **IMBCS** reserves the right to make later adjustments to the results and standings due to registration or timing issues that were not able to be resolved prior to the awards.
- Upgrading to the next advanced category is done on the honor system. If you are significantly outpacing the competition in your class, and finishing in the **top 3 overall** for your entire category - you will be encouraged to upgrade using the USA Cycling rules.
- You are not allowed to sell merchandise or display promotional products without the consent, and permission from the race director, and or IMBCS. This is to protect the IMBCS and individual event's sponsors and partners.



• Pets must be kept on a leash, and remain under supervision at all times during the IMBCS race events. All pets should be kept at a safe distance from the racing course. Some individual race event venues may not allow pets. Please check the individual race details at [IMBCS.org](http://IMBCS.org) for any animal restrictions at the venue before bringing along your pet.

## 2017 IMBCS Entry Fees

While IMBCS entry fees have not gone up in a number of years - insurance fees, permits, number plates, portable-potties, t-shirts, awards/medals/prizes, chip timing, rentals, food/snacks for volunteers, and other expenses have all gone up. In the interest of keeping race directors and their supporting organizations that host the IMBCS events viable, solvent, and financially sound, each race director has the right to set their entry fee schedule to meet their cost structure as they see fit. IMBCS suggested registration fee is outlined in the following chart.

CATEGORY	SUGGESTED ENTRY FEE**
Trail Run	\$20
Marathon Category	\$33
Category I (Expert)	\$33
COMP	\$28
Category II (Sport)	\$28
Category III (Novice)	\$23
JUNIOR*	\$15
Kids Race	\$0

\*All JUNIOR racers age 18 and under will receive free entry to IMBCS events in 2017 due to our [GoFundMe Campaign](#) sponsors who generously donated so that our youth could race for free entry. Annual USA Cycling License (\$35) or a One Day License at each event (\$10) will still be needed.

\*\*A USAC license (annual or one day) is required for all 2017 events as all of our races will all be USAC sanctioned races. CAT I racers must hold an annual USAC license to participate. All other category racers will be able to purchase a One Day USAC license (\$10) at each event or online or purchase an Annual License online at USAC or at one of our events (forms will be available). A CAT I racer who maybe has taken some time off from racing and wishes to try a race will be able to buy a \$25 one day license for their first race back. If they choose to race in more events, they will have to get an annual license and the \$25 one day fee will be applied towards the Annual Adult License Fee.

**Day of Race Registration Entry Fee Price Additional Surcharge:** If any, it will be set by each individual race director. (Typically one encounters a \$5 - \$10 increase in day of race registration entry fees.)

**IMBCS Charge to have your Series Points Tracked:** \$0

**USAC Annual License Required?** Yes for CAT I, everyone else – no, it is not required. You can, however, purchase an Annual License (\$70 Adults/\$35 JUNIORS) or purchase a one day license for each event (\$10)\*\* The annual license is good for mountain bike races, cyclocross races, road races, and track races. If you feel you will be racing in 7 or more bike races throughout the 2017 season – why not just go online at [USACycling.org](http://USACycling.org) and purchase your annual license?

## IMBCS CATEGORY I Overall Cash Payout Gender Equal Schedule

Number of CAT I Racers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place
9 or fewer total racers	\$50	\$30	\$20		
10 – 14 total racers	\$75	\$50	\$40		
15 – 19 total racers	\$85	\$60	\$40	\$30	\$20
20 or more total racers	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$40	\$30

Top Men and Women all receive the same amount based on the numbers above. The total number of CAT I racers will be based on the Men and Women combined.

Race Directors are allowed to pay more than this guaranteed payout schedule if they so desire based on their budget and turnout, but this is the new standard as approved by the IMBCS Advisory Board, and the 2015 Race Directors. It continues the historic tradition of paying back 100% of entry fees, yet is now current to make it equal for both men and women.

### INDIVIDUAL EVENT AWARDS

Traditionally, recognition is given at the awards ceremony with medals or some sort of unique award that goes 3 deep for each age class in each category. This is up to each race director to determine how they want to handle those age class awards.

### SERIES AWARDS

Some of the IMBCS series winners from 2016 will receive free entry into six 2017 races with the use of the punch card won for a set amount of entry fees. The 2017 season winners will once again receive similar prizes and awards based on our 2017 capital fund raising, and sponsor donations. First Place Series Winners will receive a top award with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place riders receiving lesser awards.

Most state series charge an annual fee to have your points tracked and to help finance the end of the year season series awards. In addition – many state series charge a \$2 per racer charge at each individual race event that goes towards the financing of season awards. IMBCS/IBRA will charge a \$1 surcharge per entry fee in 2017 to be used to support Youth and Women's Racing in Iowa, training of USA Cycling Officials, and to help administer the now unified Iowa Bicycle Racing and scheduling.

Thank you for understanding and supporting the changes made for the 2017 seasons. **IMBCS Season 15** promises to be one of community, competition, and building to the future to include new venues, new race directors, new participants, new associations, and new sponsorships. We thank [iTuo Lights](#), [Oskar Blues Brewery](#), [LWCoaching.com](#), [Hammer Nutrition](#), Pingora Outdoors, Bodywork Solutions, REI for our State Championship, and our [GoFundMe Campaign](#) sponsors for their support in 2017.

**Race Venue Clean Up:** IMBCS would like to encourage all racers to participate in race event venue clean up before leaving the race site. While the final times and awards are being figured out by the race director/promoter, or after the awards have been presented – please join other participants to quickly help clean up the course. Venue clean up is most often left up to the volunteers who have just wrapped up hosting a day long race event. If participants chip in with post event clean up, this will help impact the land managers' propensity for additional events, and mountain bike access. Trash on the trail impacts all users' experiences.

**IMBA Membership:** IMBCS encourages our racers to consider joining [IMBA](#). The link is right on our home page [HERE](#).

**Local Trail Advocacy Group:** IMBCS also encourages you to join your local trail advocacy group to help with their membership drive, provide donations, and support the building and maintaining of our trails in Iowa. Please consider joining one of our trail organizations here in Iowa or making a donation ([CITA](#), [LAMBDA](#), [FORC](#), [CFAST](#), [ICORR](#), [THOR](#)).