

BAWC Race Survey

Women's Racing Survey Results					
Total People Responding	65			Color Key	1st
# of Suggestions	37				2nd
					3rd
#1 How did you first find out about road racing?			#2 Was it a woman who inspired you to try racing?		
		# checked	% of total		# checked % of total
NCNAA website		9	14%	Yes	20 32%
USA Cycling website		0	0%	No	43 68%
Family or friend		33	51%		
Magazine		0	0%		
Watch race		6	9%		
Bike shop		2	3%		
Cinderella		0	0%		
Clinic		3	5%		
Other		12	18%		
TOTAL		65			63
#3 What keeps you participating in bicycle races?			#4 What do you like most about the way the races are organized?		
		# checked	% of total		# checked % of total
Prize money		3	5%	When all the women s categories race together and are not picked separately	0 0%
Other		4	6%	When all the women s categories race together and are picked separately	16 25%
The chance to place well in the races		31	48%	When women s categories each race separately	54 83%
It s competitive/there are a lot of strong women in the sport		35	54%	When the women s category 4 races have mentors	20 31%
The comraderie/friendships I ve made		46	71%	The Women s Points Series	23 35%
The thrill of racing		50	77%	The friendly organizers	24 37%
Good exercise		51	78%	The start times	6 9%
				The fairness of race results	11 17%
				The number of races in my area	24 37%
				The length of the races	20 31%
				The courses	30 46%
				The prizes	4 6%
				Other	1 2%

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#5 What do you like least about the way the races are organized?				#6 If you were to quit racing, what would the reason be?			
		# checked	% of total			# checked	% of total
When all the women s categories race together and are not picked separately		44	68%	Injuries		27	42%
When the categories race together and are picked separately		27	42%	The racing got too hard for me once I cat-ed up a level		7	11%
When women s categories race separately		2	3%	The women s categories race together too much and aren t picked separately		20	31%
When the women s category 4 races have mentors		4	6%	The categories race together too much and are picked separately		10	15%
The Women s Points Series		1	2%	separately too much		1	2%
The organizers		1	2%	The women s category 4 race mentors		0	0%
The start times		15	23%	The Women s Points Series		0	0%
The fairness of race results		7	11%	The start times		5	8%
The races are too short		17	26%	The fairness of race results		1	2%
The races are too long		1	2%	The races are too short		5	8%
Not enough races in my area		18	28%	The races are too long		3	5%
The courses		4	6%	Not enough races in my area		13	20%
prizes		27	42%	The courses		2	3%
				Too much of a time commitment		31	48%
				I would not be competitive enough for the racing		19	29%
				prizes		6	9%
				the sport		4	6%
				The sport is too aggressive		7	11%
				The sport did not challenge me enough		0	0%
				it got boring		3	5%
				I m not part of a team		4	6%

Comments:

I would definitely like to see more mentoring for not only beginning racers, but for those that have been racing for a while. In the U.S we tend to start racing first and learn skills next. I will NOT race in a combined 3/4 race because the handling skills for the most part are terrible. Too much riding on the hoods and sketchy moves avoiding some obstacles (bots dots, man hole covers etc).

Women's race winner is as imp't as men's race winner-give her some respect! Don't patronize women w/dopey short flat courses (esp.older women!! Masters Natls suck!!) Some degree of prize parity w/men. Promotors must not treat women's races like some inferior version of the real sport. Long live guys like Leibold, with his Kern Cty SR. And as far as I'm concerned, Jim Rabdau (Women's Challenge race director) IS the best thing to ever happen to women's bike racing. God bless Jim Rabdau. And please, don't patronize the older (40+) women's categories. That is just dinosaur-minded donkey puck!! In ten years lots of 40+ women will be racing and they won't get treated like they're doo-doo. So start now, I say.

Comments:

The organizers need to get it together for registration. It shouldn't take 5 minutes per person to get a race number. I've been factoring an hour in for registration to take care of this, but there is no excuse for being this slow.

Comments:

I think that it is ok. right now. We're treated pretty good. One thing though I remember one time I raced as a junior women with the junior men and they did not count me as a separate category. That was wrong, regardless, even if there is only one girl racer you need to encourage her by giving her the same praise as the junior men winners.

Comments:

I got into cycling through my collegiate cycling team, as have many other women. Please stop making the cat 3's race against pro's; it's very discouraging. I would race more often if the 3's had their own races.

With all this growth in women's fields, how come the prize list is stagnant?

Comments:

Women's crits need to be more than 30-35 minutes. I decided not to attend a race because it would require lengthy travel and an overnight stay for a 30 minute crit, which the officials could shorten further if they wanted to.

Comments:

More women's races for specific categories, especially for master's and cat 4s. Kern County Women's Stage Race is a great example. (Cat 4s really need their own races for experience and encouragement. I think it's really discouraging to combine cat 4s with more experienced categories.)

Seperate 3 races

Comments:

Consistency with categories. It seems we never know what category will be offered, combined or individual fields, exactly which masters age groups, etc.

Comments:

Just getting more women into the sport, so that the categories are larger is the best part. I am 51, so I especially like it when there are more older women racing, but I'm pretty happy with it the way it is. More Master's races would be good.

Comments:

Work to get younger women early on, more college racers. It seems most of the women are close to 30 and older. I don't notice any junior category for younger girls.

Comments:

I realize that women's categories are often lumped together due to a low number of women racing, but, frankly, as a brand new cat4 racer, I'm quite intimidated to ride with 3s, let alone 1s and 2s. Even when numbers are low, it seems it'd be good to have categories race separately, as it seems that more women may come out, over time, as they hear that categories are racing separately.

Same respect for women racing as for men! (separate starts by categories, prices, following support cars, larger field limit so you don't have to pre-register 2month ago - just this year a lot of girls had to turn away from some races because field was full)

Comments:

I've seen women's fields grow tremendously since I started racing in 1999; the more women-only clinics to help new racers learn to train and race safely and get faster, the better. Brooke's efforts are what we need more of!

Comments:

In general, I think women are very lucky to have so many opportunities to race in this area. As a 50+ rider, I would like to see more masters women categories offered.

Bring back women's Cat 5. Mixing absolute beginners and more experienced cat 4 riders makes for a very dangerous and un-enjoyable race. Also fields have gotten huge and sketchy. Beginners need a less intimidating field to work on basic skills and gain confidence before they get thrown into the mix. h

Overall NCNCA & the promoters do a great job my only suggestions are: 1. try to keep the womens prize money more in line with the mens 2. if women race together post overall and category results at the race & on the website

Comments:

Encourage older women (wives of master men racers) to race by having more 40+ races or at least picking the categories separately. Prize money is not necessary or could be a token amount. Beginning older women (I am 53) have a hard time keeping up with 20 year old cat 4 racers.

If sponsorship (i.e. token prize money) for 40+ women races, contact Team Spine.

Comments:

Woman (and men) need to pass a "test" before they can race. This can be in the form of training classes, etc. Too many crashes because of stupid mistakes from inexperience. Women (or men) should be pulled from a race if inappropriate tactics, etc are witnessed. Especially in crits

Comments:

It appears that most of the road races are bunched up in late winter (February) through spring (May) when the weather is unpredictable, cold, and down right unpleasant. I don't race during those times because I have asthma and the start time made it impossible for me to start racing when it is so cold in the morning. Add some races in the summer (early start time is okay then because it is warmer). Also, I got really sick of all of the licenses I had to buy (USCF, NCNCAA, NORBA), and it was too expensive all for a few races a year. I hate to be a nag, but I now race in triathlon where I don't need any license, I get excellent food after the race, great courses, and the races are spread out throughout the spring, summer and fall. Maybe bicycle race promoters should have a look at triathlon and wonder why that sport is growing so much.

150 men have results, only 6 results for women

Comments:

I think the prize list for the Pro/1/2 women should be more closely aligned with the men's list. It is not the fault of the racers that there are less women in the sport than men. And the women that do participate train just as hard and are just as committed to the sport. It should be an equal priority that they have lead out motorbikes and follow vehicles for both men and women. Lower category women do not understand the concept of team racing. They won't bridge, they'll jump and drag the peleton to the break (i.e. negative racing). I think the mentoring group with Shawn Mehaffey is great and these concepts need to be continually reinforced beyond his mentors. Often the 1/2 race distances are shorter than the ability of the riders, perhaps due to time constraints but it is still somewhat insulting, especially in the district RR for the older age groups. If I was a cat 3/4/5 racer I would want more races with just my category as opposed to running everyone together.

I also hate it when they lump the masters women with the lower category racers. These are two very different skill sets and should not be run together. If anything the 35+ should race with the cat3s.

Comments:

I was just racing at the Sea Otter Race. At the end of the race they awarded MEN'S categories awards while making the women wait. My race started at 9:50 and was over in approx 2hrs. I had to wait around for a long time for awards to be given out. When the sport men were called for their awards, I naturally figured the women would be next. But who ever was handing out awards started on the beginning men. And then to give all the men their awards before the women?? What's that about? Finally I got in the car and drove home. I can't wait around for that long.

Comments:

Hvae more mentoring programs for women...not just juniors, too!

Comments:

Due to size of fields this year, separating Cats is more important. Especially without the Cat 5 field. There is a big variety of skill & fitness level in the Cat 4 now so grouping the 3/4 together is not a good idea.

Consider mandatory upgrades for sandbaggers!

Comments:

more road races. and start times around 10 am because when one must drive 3 hrs to get to races 8 am starts are difficult!

Comments:

I think that there is a huge discrepancy between the fastest and slowest Cat 4 riders. Either some girls should upgrade to Cat 3 (and those races are much smaller anyway) and/or there should be a Cat 5 with true beginners.

Have a women's cat. 5 again.

Comments:

I would like to see a Cat 4 Seniors division for the Women riders, rather than just an open Masters Division. I know many older women who are racing or want to race...but know that they can't be competitive with the younger riders. Perhaps a seniors Cat 4 division for women over 35 or 40.

Comments:

I would like to see some Spring/Winter camps in Nor Cal for Elite women racers.

Comments:

require clinics and mentored races before a person races or upgrades

Comments:

More mentoring by the experienced women... advice and teaching other riders tactics, especially the value of team tactics. A replay of the races critical moves gives another dimension to racing apart from fitness. Adds excitement and challenge to the developing rider.

Comments:

Have a beginner women race 5 category again.

Separate the women's categories by age and levels like the men do. Have a masters 35+ with 4's and 5's and then one with 1,2,3's. Have 45+ too like the men do. Its too hard being in your 40's and racing with the 18-20 year old strong girls.

Comments:

To have more development or beginner teams.

Comments:

How about a survey for juniors!

Maybe they would like to tell you what they think of their racing. They are the future for bike racing more so then the women. Just an opinion...

There needs to be somewhat of a division of categories like there is for men. The jump from a cat 4 to 3 can be pretty intimidating. Cat 3's have to sink or swim right from the start...pretty tough when many of us are working professionals and can't train like a cat 1,2,pro! Put more clinics on. Overall things are improving in womens cycling and it's great to see that happening. Thanks for asking.

>Some road race options other than totally hilly or completely flat.

>How ridiculous is it to drive 3 hours for a race that pays \$5 to third place? Have some type of sliding scale if organizers are afraid to give away too much money without knowing numbers.

>Stop racing all the categories together and giving separate results! When

>a break of 1,2s goes up the road, the 3s and 4s just sit in (at the front because they're told to stay up front to not get dropped) and completely

>get in the way of the other 1,2s trying to race. This happens in the

>1,2,3 races with separate 3 finishes as well. I leave these races so

>frustrated that I don't know why I go back to them - other than to keep up my fitness.