

RACING REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. The race

The European Junior Cycling Tour Assen 2026 is a stage race of multiple days for cyclists in the following categories: Youth I-VII (*U9-U15*), Nieuwelingen (*U17 boys*), Nieuwelingen-girls (*U17 girls*). The European Junior Cycling Tour Assen, mentioned as “Jeugdtour” is raced on an individual basis. All participants must hold a valid license of their national federation or the UCI.

2. Regulations

All races belonging to the Jeugdour conform to and will be judged according to the regulations of the KNWU (Royal Dutch Cycling Union). These racing regulations are suplimental to the regulations issued by the KNWU, which can be found on the website of the KNWU.

In this version of the regulations, we use both the old category names ‘category 1 to nieuwelingen’ as well as the new, 2026 names: U9 to U17.

3. Entry, subscribing and participating

Entries of riders received by the secretary office are confirmed by letter or email with the comment that the entry fee should be transferred into the organization’s bank account. The entry is final when the entry fee has been received on the designated bank account. This is confirmed to the participant by the organization, and a bib number will be assigned. After this the rider will be added to the entry list.

4. Equipment

For the categories I to IV (*U9, U10, U11, U12 all plus U13 girls*) a water bottle is not allowed during the races.

According to the regulations of the KNWU, the organization of the Jeugdour provides the replacement of spare wheels in the older categories, from category V (*U13 boys and up*). This service is provided by the neutral service cars, or the manned equipment stands along the course. Therefore, it is strictly forbidden for anyone other than neutral service to provide riders with equipment to the riders, like a bicycle or wheel.

5. Gear settings

In all participating categories, gearing is restricted based on age. The maximum allowed gear settings are:

Category 1 (<i>U9 boys/U9/U10 girls</i>)	5.50 metres
Category 2 (<i>U10 boys/U11 girls</i>)	5.50 metres
Category 3 (<i>U11 boys/U12 girls</i>)	5.90 metres
Category 4 (<i>U12 boys/U13 girls</i>)	5.90 metres
Category 5 (<i>U13 boys/U14 girls</i>)	6.30 metres
Category 6 (<i>U14 boys/U15 girls</i>)	6.30 metres
Category 7 (<i>U15 boys</i>)	6.70 metres
Nieuwelingen (<i>U17 M/F</i>)	7.68 metres

From this year's edition, 2026, it's only allowed to block off the gears when you use mechanical shifting. If you use electronic shifting, you will have to use a cassette that is under or on the exact roll-out distance of your category when used in conjunction with the largest chain ring on your bike.

6. Following the race

To avoid traffic disturbances, following of the race convoy by team leaders should be avoided.

7. Points for other classifications other than Jeugdtour

During the Jeugdtour, no points or privileges can be acquired by whatever means for any classifications other than those included in the Jeugdtour.

8. Bib numbers

In accordance with the relevant section in the KNWU regulations, it is not allowed to decrease the size of the bib number by whatever means. Any infringement will be punished. Numbers are to be applied as indicated in the race program or as indicated by the race officials.

9. Starting times

Start times will be indicated in the road book and the website. The start lists will be published by the commissaires on the day prior to the relevant stage. The lists will be published on www.ejcta.nl.

At the individual time trial there will be consecutive starting times for the various categories. This is dependent on starting location and category. Participants need to be present at the start at least 15 minutes prior to their starting time.

10. Opening and prize ceremony

Both the official opening as well as all prize ceremonies as published in the road book of Jeugdtour are part of the race. This includes the prize ceremony on Friday. Participants need to be present. During all ceremonies the riders are required to wear the official kit of his/her club/team.

11. Chip/transponders

Each participant is obliged to place the provided chip/transponder in the proper position, on the fork as close to the axle of the front wheel as possible.

The participant is responsible for replacement, registration or repair in case of a defect (e.g. empty battery), loss or theft. This is at the participant's own expense.

When during the race a participant has received another bike and registration through chip/transponder is therefore not possible, visual or video finish recording will make up the results. No protest is possible.

When transponders are not returned in a timely way, after the last stage, a fine of 100 euros will be imposed.

12. Fraudulent use of chip/transponder

Each misuse of the chip/transponder, e.g. using the chip/transponder of a different participant, will result in execution of article N.12.11.006 of the KNWU regulations to all parties involved (owner, user and or other parties). These regulations state that, after hearing the parties involved, a penalty of €200 to €10.000 can be imposed in combination with a suspension of a month up to a year.

CHAPTER 2: RACES

During Jeugdtour the following races will be held: (A) individual time trial – (B) omloop (circuit race) – (E) criterium.

Supplement to the KNWU regulations

In race type A – individual time trial - all riders of all categories are allowed to wear any type of helmet (e.g. ordinary race helmets and special time trial helmets). The helmet must meet official safety standards and can be identified as such.

For **all race types (A to E)** all categories must use a conventional/traditional road racing bike: e.g. aerobars and disc wheels are not allowed. Both wheels need to have a minimum of 16 spokes. The maximal rim height of the wheels is 50mm including the braking surface. There is a time penalty for wheels with rim heights that are too high. Wheel rims higher than 60mm are not allowed.

In these race categories using the chip/transponder is obligatory.

In race **category A**, individual time trial, fixed material posts will be provided along the course.

In race **category B**, the race officials in cooperation with the police will determine the maximum distance a rider can drop behind the leaders. Riders taken out of the race because they are too far behind, will get the same finishing time as the last rider who finishes plus 5 additional minutes. In category B races, neutral service cars are provided.

In race **category E**, riders taken out of the race because they are too far behind, will receive the same finishing time as the last rider who finishes plus 3 additional minutes. During race category E there are material posts along the course.

Riders are considered to be out of the race when passed by the broom wagon. They must take off or cover the bib number and take into account normal traffic regulations. Nieuweligen (*U17*) will return to the start/finish on their own account. The broom wagon will always stay with the last rider in the categories I-VII (*U9-U15*).

Riders not starting in a specific stage will receive the finishing time of the last rider that finishes that stage plus an additional 10 minutes.

A rider receives the same finishing time as the group he/she was with if a mechanical defect acknowledged by the race officials occurred or he/she suffered from a crash within the last 3 kilometers. This is relevant for the race categories B and E. Exception is Monday, where the 3-km rule is extended to 5 kilometers. On Wednesday (VAM-berg) there is no 3-km rule.

In race **category A** (time trial) a restart is only possible if the commissaire's panel allows it.

If rider does not cross the finish line in the time trial (A), he or she will be awarded the time of the last rider plus 5 minutes.

In **race category E** (criterium): A rider who receives a free lap, will not be eligible for points in the green jersey (points) sprint in the following lap. This applies until 5 kilometers from the finish line. At that point the regulation for the last 3 km will be used for a fall or recognized defect.

In **all** stages the riders are required to finish with at least one hand on the handlebars. Not complying to this rule will result in the relegation of the rider. This applies to all categories.

Time bonus (General Classification)

In race categories B and E bonus seconds for the overall classification are awarded to riders placed 1 to 10. These are 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, respectively.

If the result is still tied or if there are no individual time trial stages the placings obtained in each stage, except team time trial stages, shall be added and, as a last resort, the place obtained in the last stage ridden shall be taken into consideration.

Overall classification

The overall classification is composed of the total of times of the race categories A, B and E minus time bonus seconds and plus penalty times. The overall classification is composed after the final stage of each day.

Points classification

In race category B (omloop) and E (criterium) a number of intermediate sprints will be announced. The first eight riders receive the following points, respectively: 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

By adding all the points gained during the race, the final points classification is made. This classification will be made and published daily.

In case of a tie in the classification for points, the following criteria shall be applied:

- Number of wins in intermediate sprints counting towards the points classification.
- General individual classification by time.

Special classification

Points for the special classification can be gained in the intermediate sprints in Stage 2 (Tuesday July 28 | Omloop van Lieveren) and Stage 3 (Wednesday July 29 | Omloop van de VAM-berg) and during Stage 4 (Thursday July 30 | Time Trial).

For race categories A and B, the first five finishing riders receive 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively.

With an equal number of points the number of wins in intermediate sprints counting for the special classification decides. In case of a tie, the general classification order decides.

In race category B (omloop) the intermediate sprint(s) will be announced. Points will be distributed among the first 5 riders, 5-4-3-2-1 points respectively.

In stage 4 (time trial) for category 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (*U9-U14, excluding U14 boys*) the first five riders with the best overall time at the finish will receive 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively.

In stage 4 (time trial) for categories 6 and up (*from U14 boys and up*) the first five riders with the best time up De Muur climb (measured from start to the top) will get 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively AND the five riders with the best overall finish time get 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 points respectively.

In case of a tie in the special classification, the following criteria shall be applied:

- Number of wins in intermediate sprints counting towards the special classification.
- General individual classification by time.

Girls' classification

This classification is for all girls in the youth categories I-VI (*U9-U15*). The highest placed girl in the overall classification per category is the winner.

CHAPTER 4 : PROCEDURES AND PENALTIES

1. Decreasing the size of the bib number will be punished with a 45 second penalty time. Damage done to the bib number must be reimbursed.
2. If the behavior of any license holder is inappropriate in any way as decided by the jury, the organization is entitled to ban the license holder from participation in the Jeugdjour.

3. If the gear settings of a rider participating in a stage do not correspond with the settings as required in these regulations, the rider will receive the finishing time of the final rider plus an additional penalty of 45 seconds.
4. If the organization provides spare wheels/equipment in a race, receiving wheels/equipment from any other source is punishable by a 1-minute time penalty.
5. If a participant removes both hands from the handlebars during the race, he or she will be relegated.
The same penalty can be imposed if a rider leans with both arms on the handlebars instead of properly holding the handlebars with both hands.
6. Feeding is not allowed outside of the designated areas and will be punished with a 15 second penalty time.
7. If a rider is not on time to an awards ceremony, he or she will receive a 15 second time penalty.
8. Shifters need to conform to the UCI regulations.
9. Sock height needs to conform to the UCI regulations.
10. Wheel rims can be up to 50mm high, including braking surface. A 30 second time penalty per stage can be given for wheels higher than 50 mm. A rider is not allowed to start with wheel rims higher than 60mm.

CHAPTER 5: PRIZE SCHEME – HONORARY PRIZES AND PREMIUMS

Honorary daily prizes, per stage

Daily prizes all categories First three ranked riders
See schedule for podium ceremonies in program.

To be entitled to the following honorary prizes and final prizes, the riders must have participated in **all** stages of the Jeugdtoer. These prizes will be awarded after the final stage of each category. All recipients are expected during Friday's podium ceremony.

Honorary daily prizes, final

Overall classification

Final prizes for categories I-VII (<i>U9-U15</i>)	The first ten riders in the final overall classification
Final prizes other categories	Three final prizes

Girls classification

In the categories I-VI (*U9-U15*) prizes are available for girls participating in each category. In each category three final prizes are available. The final winner will also receive a pink jersey.

Points and special classification

Categories I-VII (<i>U9-U15</i>)	three final prizes
Other categories	three final prizes

Premiums

The following final premiums scheme applies to final classifications nieuwelingen (*U17 boys*) and nieuwelingen-girls (*U17 girls*):

General classification

1	70	6	25	11	20	16	1
							0

2	60	7	25	12	15	17	1
							0
3	50	8	25	13	15	18	1
							0
4	35	9	20	14	15	19	1
							0
5	25	10	20	15	15	20	1
							0
Points classification							
1	40	2	20	3	15		
Special classification							
1	40	2	20	3	15		

All prices mentioned above are shown in euros.

Prizes are no longer provided in cash. The prizes are transferred by bank account. Participants are responsible for providing the correct account number at the information center. No details = no prize money.

FINAL REGULATIONS

In cases not described by these racing regulations the jury and Jeugdtoer Commission will deliberate and come to a final decision. The KNWU version of the regulations are leading. The organization doesn't accept any liability for accidents and/or damage to participants or third parties, before, during and after the event.

This is a translation of the Dutch regulations. In case of discrepancy, the Dutch language version is leading.

We expect sporting behavior from every participant as well as supervisors like parents and coaches during this week. Follow the information and instructions from the organization as well as the judges. Intimidation and improper behavior have no place in our sport.

EMERGENCIES

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