The 2026 Rwanda National Cycling Championships delivered new champions after a weekend of competition, but questions have emerged over whether the results will receive full recognition in the international cycling system (UCI).

The championships, held on June 27–28, saw riders compete for the national titles in road racing and time trials.

In the men's elite road race, **Samuel Niyonkuru** claimed the national title, while **Valentine Nzayisenga** won the women's elite road race title.

The event marked another important moment for the local cycling community, with riders battling for the honour of wearing the national champion jersey.

But shortly after the race, attention moved from the competition itself to an administrative question involving the UCI, cycling's global governing body.

The concern emerged after cycling data platform ProCyclingStats noted that the Rwanda National Championships did not appear on the official UCI calendar ahead of the event.

"Rules only work when they're applied consistently," ProCyclingStats wrote, questioning whether the absence of the event from the UCI calendar was simply an oversight or whether it could have consequences for UCI ranking points.

The issue is not whether the championship took place; it did.

The question is whether the necessary procedures were completed for the results to be officially recognized by the UCI and included in international rankings.

National championships carry significance beyond deciding domestic winners. When properly registered, they contribute points that influence a country's UCI ranking and can affect opportunities for riders and national teams.

If the results were not accepted for ranking purposes, Rwanda could miss out on valuable points despite the riders having competed and won on home soil.

Rwanda Dispatch contacted Jean Hubert Ishimwe, the FERWACY president, seeking clarification on the championship's UCI status, whether the required registration process was completed, and whether the riders' results will count toward international rankings. He had not responded at the time this article was published.

There has been no public confirmation from the UCI that Rwanda’s championship results have been rejected or cancelled.

For Samuel Niyonkuru, Valentine Nzayisenga and the other riders who competed, the achievement was earned on the road.

The remaining question is whether the systems behind the race will ensure that those achievements are recognized beyond Rwanda.