

The International Cycling Union (UCI) is reportedly considering changes to the Tour du Rwanda, aiming to make the race more appealing to European teams and easier to fit into the international cycling calendar.

Following the success of the 2025 UCI World Championships held in Kigali for the first time, the UCI is convinced that African cycling is riding a wave of momentum. The competition in Kigali drew more than a million spectators lining the streets and global media coverage that showcased Rwanda's famed "thousand hills," marking a historic milestone for the continent.

The governing body is now looking at ways to build on that success. One proposal is to shorten the Tour du Rwanda from eight to five stages, a move designed to reduce logistical strain and avoid clashes with major early-season races such as the UAE Tour, Volta ao Algarve, and Vuelta a Andalucía.

Organizers hope this adjustment will help capitalize on the enthusiasm generated by the Kigali Worlds and elevate the race's global profile.

Yet early reactions from top teams have been cautious. Some are reportedly wary of the logistical challenges of traveling to Africa in February, overlapping race schedules, and lingering security concerns.

The Amaury Sport Organization (ASO), which supported logistics and television coverage during the Kigali Worlds, is said to be reluctant to expand its role, potentially opening the door for other partners such as Belgian company Golazo, which has recently strengthened its presence in Africa with a new Kigali office.



The next Tour du Rwanda is scheduled to take place from 22 February to 1 March 2026. The 2025 edition was planned as an eight-stage event, including a prologue over several days, though the final stage was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Established in 1988, the Tour du Rwanda remains the only cycling event on the continent with UCI 2.1 status. Since 2009, it has steadily attracted sponsorship and professional teams, including WorldTour development squads. Behind the scenes, discussions are underway to have the race upgraded to UCI 2.Pro status.

With potential changes on the horizon, several questions remain. Will shortening the race makes it more competitive? How will local organizers meet the safety and

logistical standards expected by European teams? And can Rwanda sustain the global spotlight ignited by the 2025 Worlds?

The organizers of the tour in Kigali have yet to issue a statement. For now, cycling fans across the country and indeed the continent — will be watching closely, hopeful that the Tour du Rwanda continues its remarkable rise on the international stage.