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Apr 7, 2023 - Sports

Pro cycling league hosts inaugural race in Miami Beach this weekend



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The Miami Nights cycling team will compete Saturday. Photo: Courtesy of the National Cycling League

What's happening: 10 teams will compete in races in four cities — next Atlanta, then Denver and finally Washington, D.C. in September — for more than \$1 million in prize money.

Why it matters: The new league is testing out a co-ed format designed to value and pay women and men equally.

How it works: "Rather than the traditional 'first one to cross the finish line wins' approach, our scoring system is based on points, so each lap counts, and everyone can score," the NCL [website](#) explains.

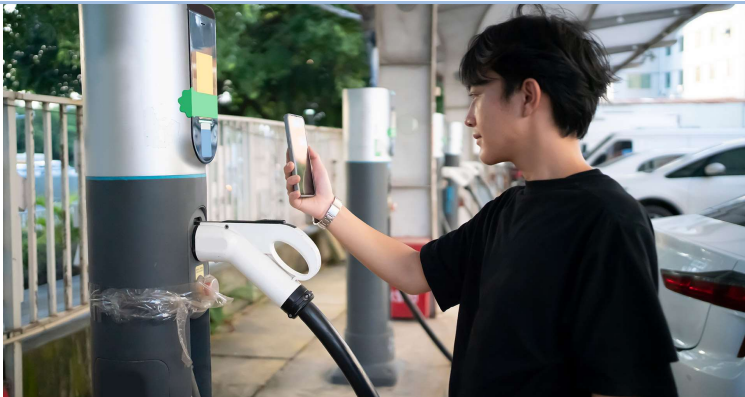
- Riders will lap around Ocean Drive, 13th Street, Washington Avenue and Eighth Street.
- Women will race first, and men follow. All of their points are combined to make up the team's points for the day.
- All NCL athletes are paid salaries in addition to their winnings at races.

What they're saying: Paris Wallace, founder and CEO of the league, told Axios, "I think 50 riders going 30 to 40 miles an hour, inches apart from each other, doing a sprint finish every three minutes and subbing riders in and out, is going to be an incredibly lively and exciting experience."

If you go: Spectating is free — a fan area opens at noon with a kids' race, BMX stunts and more — but [VIP seating](#) is available for \$215 per ticket.



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- The pro race begins at 3:45pm and will take about two hours.

Of note: Wallace said that he moved to Coconut Grove from Boston during the COVID pandemic and found an amazing cycling community here.

- "Any given day you can go out to Key Biscayne at 6:30am and there'll be 1,000 people there ... catching up about chisme and having just a fantastic time out there."



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