HARD MTB FINALS RECAP: VERMETTE AND NEWKIRK LEAD A DAY OF STANDOUT PERFORMANCES

Newkirk Sweeps All Three Women's Stages as Vermette Takes the Men's Title by Three Points

BOISE, IDAHO – Asa Vermette and Anna Newkirk won the 2026 HARD MTB League Finals on October 24 in Boise, Idaho. Riders battled across slalom, rhythm, downhill and technical climbing. Newkirk swept all three scoring stages, Vermette took two men's stage wins, and Max Clark emerged as one of the day's standout performers with a Tech Rhythm win and a second-place overall finish.



Newkirk Sweeps the Women's Competition

Anna Newkirk dominated the women's competition, sweeping Raw Slalom, Tech Rhythm and Downhill to claim the overall title with a perfect 3-point score. She capped off her day by winning the women's e-bike climb classification.

HARD MTB uses a golf-style scoring system, with riders earning points based on their finishing position in each of the three stages. The lowest combined score wins, with ties broken by combined time. Kailey Skelton, a three-time U.S. Downhill National Champion, finished second overall with 7 points after a strong performance across all three stages. Australian standout Maddie Lloyd rounded out the podium with 11 points, adding another top result to a growing list of national titles and international wins.

Vermette and Clark Trade Stage Wins

The men's competition saw the lead change hands throughout the day, with the final runs often deciding each stage by fractions of a second. In Tech Rhythm, Max Clark edged Asa Vermette by just 0.07 seconds, with Mitch Ropelato only 0.01 seconds behind Vermette. The overall title came down to the final runs, with Vermette last to drop and delivering when it mattered to secure the win.



The Climb Adds Another Dimension

The technical climb tested traction, balance and momentum across three designated sections of increasing difficulty. Riders earned points by cleaning each section: one point for the easiest, two for the intermediate and three for the hardest, for a maximum of six points. E-bike and regular mountain bike riders competed in separate divisions, with ties broken by completion time. Climb points did not count toward the overall standings, but riders were required to complete the climb to be ranked.

Max Clark won the men's e-bike division with the maximum 6 points, recording a time of 25.09 seconds. On a regular mountain bike, Asa Vermette became the first rider to clean the entire uphill course, finishing in 40.10 seconds.

Anna Newkirk won the women's e-bike division with 3 points in 38.56 seconds, while Sophie Allen led the women's regular mountain bike division with 1 point in 1:01.00.

Each of the four climb divisions awarded $2,000 to its winner, recognizing the top performers across men's and women's e-bike and mountain bike categories.

Watch the Broadcast and Finals Recap

HARD MTB League brought the Finals to viewers with a live broadcast, capturing the action across the course as riders battled for the overall titles. The highlight video revisits many of the day's standout performances and close battles, from the razor-thin margin in Tech Rhythm to the decisive slalom and downhill runs.

Watch the full broadcast replay and the Finals highlight video to relive the racing and see how the 2026 HARD MTB League Finals unfolded.

2026 HARD MTB League Finals Results

Pro Men

Place	Rider	Raw Slalom	Tech Rhythm	Downhill	Total Points	Combined Time
1	Asa Vermette	1	2	1	4	1:40.046
2	Max Clark	3	1	3	7	1:40.917
3	Nik Nestoroff	2	4	4	10	1:42.008
4	Jakob Jewett	4	5	2	11	1:41.868
5	Mitch Ropelato	6	3	10	19	2:31.627
6	Cody Kelley	10	6	5	21	1:45.138
7	Connor Casler	9	8	6	23	1:45.897
8	Eddie Reynolds	7	9	9	25	1:48.111
9	Alex Blanar	8	10	8	26	1:48.854
DNF	Kyle Strait	5	7	7	19	1:44.315

Kyle Strait did not complete the technical climb and received a DNF.

Pro Women

Place	Rider	Raw Slalom	Tech Rhythm	Downhill	Total Points	Combined Time
1	Anna Newkirk	1	1	1	3	1:56.109
2	Kailey Skelton	2	3	2	7	2:01.948
3	Maddie Lloyd	6	2	3	11	2:03.530
4	Jordy Scott	5	4	4	13	2:04.807
5	Taylor Ostgaard	4	8	5	17	2:07.566
6	Bex Baraona	3	9	7	19	2:09.235
7	Chloe Taylor	7	7	6	20	2:09.348
8	Alyana van Horn	9	6	8	23	2:12.137
9	Sophie Allen	10	5	10	25	2:12.719
10	Ffion Pickstock	8	11	9	28	2:13.174
11	Olivia Silva	12	10	11	33	2:47.623
12	Mayumi Wakefield	11	12	12	35	2:17.424

Technical Climb Winners

Division	Winner	Points	Time	Prize
Men’s E-bike	Max Clark	6	0:25.09	$2,000
Men’s Regular MTB	Asa Vermette	6	0:40.10	$2,000
Women’s E-bike	Anna Newkirk	3	0:38.56	$2,000
Women’s Regular MTB	Sophie Allen	1	1:01.00	$2,000

Asa Vermette was the first rider to clean the entire uphill course on a regular, non-motorized mountain bike.

HARD MTB League challenges riders to demonstrate versatility across distinct mountain bike disciplines, rewarding not only outright speed but also the control and adaptability required to excel across the course.

About Hard MTB League: Hard MTB League is the ultimate test of complete mountain biking ability. Founded by professional rider and filmmaker Braydon Bringhurst in 2023, Hard MTB fills a void in the sport by crowning riders who can do it all: climb, descend, jump, and navigate technical terrain at the highest level. While traditional competitions force specialization into strict disciplines, Hard MTB League celebrates versatility, pushing modern trail bikes and their riders to the absolute limit in a spectator-friendly format where fans witness every moment of the action. The league debuted as a Pro Invitational in 2024, showcasing elite athletes alongside community events that welcome riders of all abilities. Hard MTB League is the next

evolution of competition, where the most complete all-around rider shows what mountain biking is truly capable of.

For more information about the 2026 Hard MTB League Finals, visit our Press Room at www.hardmtbleague.com/pressroom and follow @hardmtbleague on social media.

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