

Overall Bike: Hardtail (front shocks only) or Fully Suspended (FS Front and Rear Shocks).

Frame Material: Steel/Chromoly (Least expensive, good starter, heavy). Aluminum ("Best Deal", light weight, works great for what we do!). Carbon Fiber (Highest Quality, might need to rob a bank to pay for it, not necessary, smoothest ride, light weight).

Drivetrain: MTB's have evolved from 3 Chainrings (Gears) in the front to 1. The modern MTB will only have 1 Chainring in the front and will commonly be referred to as a 1x ("One By"). All the shifting is done from one shifter. This reduces weight as well as mechanical parts so it reduces maintenance and is usually quieter. Do you have to run a 1X??? Heck no! Many of us run 2x and we all grew up on 3x and were just fine! For beginners a 2 or 3x is acceptable. The faster and more competitive you get moving to a 1x setup is ideal.

Wheel Size: 27.5 or 29'er (recommended) wheels. You can run a wider tire if you like, but honestly the courses we train on and race on are not super technical and you will be fastest with a tire in the 2.2 - 2.4 range.

Tire Choice: Tubeless Tires (Recommended). They do cost a bit more money in the initial buying stage...but they are hands down the only way to go as you get more into this. Tubeless tires are just that...you remove the inner tube and instead run tire sealant (Stan's, Orange Seal, Serfas etc.) inside the tire. WHY? Without a tube you will reduce your chances of flats dramatically! No more flats from thorns, goat heads glass etc. You will also remove the chances from pinch flats riding over rocks, curbs etc. Also you can run a lower tire pressure which results in better traction, smoother ride and more control (safer and faster sounds great to me)! Imagine doing everything to get ready for a practice, you start riding with the team and 2 miles in....pffffffsssssst!! Yup, now you and a coach are sitting there on the side of the trail fixing a flat while everyone else rides. We know not everyone can afford to go out and buy a bike with tubeless tires...but we highly recommend it for your overall enjoyment. **Be aware you will need an appropriate TLR (Tubeless Ready) Rim as well. You cannot just go buy tubeless tires for old style rims. ***