



Dear Applicants:

Thank you for your interest in representing and riding for the United States at the 2024 International Saddle Seat World Cup Competition. The Event is the official International Saddle Seat Equitation Competition supported by the Equestrian Governing bodies of all participating countries. It will take place in South Africa, December, of 2024 with the exact dates to be determined.

The World Cup is a bi-annual competition that originated in the early 1980's with an information exchange of Saddle Seat riders in the United States and South Africa. Originally a Three-Gaited Saddle Seat Equitation showcase, competition has expanded to include a Five-Gaited section as well. US Equestrian serves as the National governing body for equestrian sport and has exclusive rights to appoint the United States Saddle Seat Team.

Please read thoroughly through the Selection Procedures document prior to initiating the application process. There are several requirements and commitments that must be met in order for an Athlete to remain on the team once selected.

The selection trials will be held at William Woods University in Fulton, Missouri on December 1-3, 2023. Applicants will be expected to be in attendance for the draw, reception, and riders meeting on December 1, with the potential for riding to occur on both Saturday, December 2, and Sunday, December 3rd.

All applications must be submitted online and can be found through your USEF member dashboard account. Below are step by step instructions for how to access the online application:

1. Go to https://www.usef.org/_AUAIFrames/Login/Default.aspx and log in using the ID and password you use to renew your membership.
2. Scroll down and click on the icon Athlete Dashboard.
3. Click on the icon for Online Applications.
4. Choose "Saddle Seat" in the drop-down box.
5. Select either the Three- or Five-Gaited application.
6. Answer all application questions, upload your video, read, and sign all required documents.

Below you will find the application requirements to be considered for selection to participate in the 2024 US Saddle Seat World Cup Team Selection Trials.





When submitting your online application, you must provide:

1. Application
2. Video sent as a YouTube link.
3. USEF Code of Conduct
4. USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification
5. Saddle Seat Team and Supporter Policies
6. Application fee of \$200

Applications must be completed on or before **September 1, 2023 at 11:59PM eastern time.** We cannot make any exceptions to this deadline as each application packet must be available to the Selectors for review shortly after the deadline.

This wonderful event is a prestigious competition comprised of the top Saddle Seat Equitation Athletes in our sport. We look forward to reviewing your application. You will receive notice from USEF as to whether you have been selected to participate in the World Cup Team Selection Trials no later than October 6, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily McSweeney at emcsweeney@usef.org or 859-225-6977.

Sincerely,



EMILY MCSWEENEY

Assistant Director, National Breeds & Non-FEI Disciplines

t 859 225 6977

e emcsweeney@usef.org

usequestrian.org

(Tips for Application/Trials below)

4001 WING COMMANDER WAY | LEXINGTON, KY 40511
PHONE 859 810 USEF | FAX 859 721 1151 | USEF.ORG





TIPS/INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Application and Video

- Proper attire for your video: Riding habit will consist of jacket with collars and lapels of the same conservative color with matching jodhpurs, a collared shirt, tie, vest, and complimentary gloves, jodhpur boots, and derby or soft hat (protective headgear may be worn). Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown and may contain herringbone, pin stripes, and other combinations of colors that appear solid. Day coats are acceptable for the video.
- Rail work: The rail work should show correct form along with good horsemanship. The rider demonstrates performance at walk, trot, and canter. For those trying out for the 5-gaited section, you are required to demonstrate riding at the slow-gait and rack in rail work.
- Pattern work: The rider should demonstrate performance of one or more patterns. For those trying out for the 5-gaited section, slow-gait and rack are required in your pattern demonstrations.
- The workouts in competition are complex, with circles, straight lines on and off the rail, pivots, and lead and diagonal changes. Please show this in your video.
- Pay very close attention to your transitions.
- A “professional” quality video does not influence ranking – just show your skills!
- Footage can be from competitions or at home.
- No still shots should be included in the footage. The video should consist entirely of riding footage.
- Make sure you and your horse are turned out as if you are going to a horse show if you are not submitting a video from the show. Make sure your pattern is on a Finals or Championship level of equitation (not just a circle).
- **The total video should be no longer than five minutes.**
- Under the question about major wins, please only include career highlights of major wins. DO NOT copy and paste results from your entire career.
- Tip: An important aspect of being on the World Cup Team is horsemanship so it may be a good idea to showcase your abilities by demonstrating riding on multiple horses for your video.
- Please make sure your application is in order, complete, and submitted online several days prior to the deadline.





Reminder

The most important thing to bring to the trials is your smile and a good attitude! You have already proven yourself as an exceptional rider just by being invited to the trials. Keep in mind you will be competing against other extremely skilled riders who have also dedicated themselves to the sport. The goal of the judges is to determine which riders have the most show-ring presence with polished equitation skills and adaptable horsemanship on unfamiliar horses. The horses you will be competing on are all donated for use at this event. Each horse, like their riders, has their own strengths and weaknesses but all have been equitated in preparation for this event. It is your job as the rider to discover your horse's talents and display them to the best of your ability. Keep in mind the judges are carefully considering how you handle a difficult ride and a positive response to problems is vital to your score. Please be appreciative of your horses, grooms and the staff as everyone has been working hard to make this event possible.

