



DRIVING

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Growth of the Developing Driver program with over 80 participants
- Consistency in coach program from Developing to Elite drivers
- 4th place Individually at the Four-in-Hand World Championships

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Consistent athlete pathway filled with competitive horse and driver talent across the 7 disciplines (Horse Teams, Horse Pairs, Horse Singles, Pony Teams, Pony Pairs, Pony Singles, Para Driving)
- Annual opportunities for multiple US athletes to compete in Europe, judged by foreign judges, experiencing different terrain and course designers, in head to head competition against the best in the world.
- Opportunity for Developing athletes to compete in Europe
- Veterinary, physical therapy and farrier care of horses in order to optimize performance.
- Education of developing athletes and providing a Pathway before and after the Developing Driver Program
- Implementation of new Chef d'Equipe shadow program to train individuals to serve in that capacity
- Implementation of new Affiliate agreement with the ADS in an effort to help grow the Driving sport at all levels

GOALS

- Individual and Team Medal 2018 World Equestrian Games
- Individual and Team medal at the 2018 Single World Championships
- Individual and Team medal at the 2019 Pair World Championships
- Individual and Team Medal 2020 Four-in- Hand Championships
- Increase number of driver/horse and driver/pony combinations at the Elite level
- Increase grant quantity and volume in order to meet costs of 7 disciplines training for and competing in a range of World Championships that are primarily in Europe
- Expand Young and Developing Horse programs
- Integrate Para Driving and grow opportunities. Launch Centers of Excellence for Para Driving
- Maximize benefit from WEG 2018 for all Driving disciplines
- Develop Organizers Forum

USEF DRIVING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Elite Athletes
Developing Athletes
Emerging Athletes

Not necessarily determined by division level



Elite Program - Run by USEF (funding from USEF/USET Foundation)

Goals

Provide training and funding for Elite Level Athletes/Horse Combinations for World Championship/WEG qualification and medals in the current Games cycle.

- Limited number of Athlete / Horse or Pony combinations that need management and finishing touches. Not about selecting the 'top' in the U.S. but about selecting those that are or about to be *internationally competitive* at World Championship and/or WEG Games level.
- Training sessions may be combined with developing Athletes depending on the number of Athletes currently in these programs.
- The Athletes that have the tools and attitude to win
- Identify Elite Level Athletes via Selectors with input from Coach and Chef d'Equipe. During training sessions the Coach, technical advisor and USEF Director of Driving will communicate with Selectors as to the progress of each Athlete. A written report will be produced after each session.
- Technical Advisor/Coach and USEF Director led – communication, competition planning, selection methodology, logistical planning.
- Training Grants of \$5,000.00 - \$20,000 for European travel per person per year (depending on single / pair / team), to be applied for with the Director of Driving. The Coach and Driving Sport Committee will approve who receives, and the level of, the grants. These grants will assist our drivers to travel to Europe in the off championship years to compete against the drivers they will compete against at the World Championship the following competition year. Grants set against medium and long term goals.

*Competing at an Advanced and/or FEI level does not imply "Elite Athlete status"; consistent success internationally does.

Selection/Identification

Selections will be made by the Selectors with advice from the Coach/Chef d'Equipe & Director of Driving.

Criteria will include:

- The Elite Athlete / Horse or Pony combination must be perceived to be competitive at the next Worlds and / or next Games. As a guide;
- Depth of horse power
- The Athlete's results at 2* and above
- Ability of the Athlete to produce peak performances in conditions similar to or at Games
- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors
- Agreement to Requirements of Program
- Willingness of Athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program, including facilitating effective communication between the Athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.

Benefits/Support

- Access to Elite Program resources (Coach/Chef d'Equipe, Human/Horse/Pony SSM programs, USEF Staff)
- Financial support through Coaching/training grants and European grants
- Bi-annual review with Coach/Chef d'Equipe to analyze performance, deficiencies in personal program, sophisticated approach as to what is missing to get drivers to next step. Funding set against agreed Targets
- Detailed planning for Horse/Pony on a four-year cycle to target Horse/Pony to specific Games, championships and events.
- Logistical planning/resources
- Equine and Human SSM support

4047 IRON WORKS PARKWAY | LEXINGTON, KY 40511
PHONE 859 258 2472 | FAX 859 2316662 | USEF.ORG



Member, U.S. Olympic Committee



Targeted Events - goals

- 2017 Pony & Pair World Championships
- 2018 WEG Team and Individual Medals
- 2018 Single World Championships
- 2019 Pony & Pair World Championships
- 2020 Four-in-Hand & Single World Championships
- 2021 Pony & Pair World Championships
- 2022 WEG Team and Individual Medals
- 2022 Single World Championships
- Annual World Para Driving Championships

Requirements to Maintain Status

- Must set targets to encourage improved performance and results
- The Elite Program Members will be reviewed twice annually; those unable to show improved results will either be moved to the Developing program.
- Demonstrate involvement with Human SSM Program as available and appropriate.
- Encourage communication between support staff and USEF Driving support staff.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct
- Abide by USEF Code of Conduct

Developing Program – Run by USEF (Developing Driver Program)

Identification and support on the road to the Elite Program; Coach managed with support from Driving Sport Committee

Encourage Developing Athletes/Horses to remain with their own Coach and utilize the strengths of their own program if it is effective. Test their progress at Developing Drivers training sessions to challenge and inspire them to move up the pathway and provide opportunities where appropriate. Identify certain requirements to stay on the Developing Program.

Dressage, Marathon and Cones scores need to continue to improve in each level.

Goals

- Progression on to the Elite program
- International exposure
- Underpin sustainability of Medals in the Championships

Selection/Identification

Criteria will include:

- Communication skills
- Quality of the Athlete's Horse/Pony and their perceived ability to progress up the competition levels
- Technical skills
- Trainability
- Strategy & Planning
- Commitment
- Mindset



- Management
- Fitness (Athlete / Equine)
- Competition record
- Demonstrate Potential for Elite Program
- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors
- Agreement to Requirements of Program
- Willingness of Athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the Athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier & support staff) and the Program/Team support staff

Requirements to Maintain Status

- Must set targets to encourage improved performance and results
- The Developing Program Members will be reviewed twice annually, those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have a Horse/Pony capable of meeting the criteria, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
- Encourage communication between personal support staff and USEF Driving support staff.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct
- Abide by USEF Code of Conduct
- Athletes that have been on the program for a prolonged period with no improvements will be removed with due warning.

Emerging Athlete Program – Run by the ADS affiliate **UNDER DEVELOPMENT******

Items under discussion & to be determined

- Either a Developing driver with a new Equine, or a driver that has been identified by either someone in the DSC, or by another elite driver, Coach or Chef d'Equipe that is familiar with the requirements.
- If a new Athlete, must be competing at a minimum at the Training Level at CDEs.
- Offer bi-annual training sessions with Coaches to monitor progress and help set goals and targets
- Online and written education
- SSM Education and support as available
- Work with the ADS &/or Director of Driving, to build a training plan, which includes competitions at which the Athlete/Equine will be observe and evaluated.
- Demonstrate Potential for Developing Driver Program
- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested
- Agreement to Requirements of Program
- Willingness of Athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the Athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier & support staff) and the Program/Support staff.

Requirements to maintain status

- Must set targets to encourage improved performance and results
- The Athlete will be reviewed twice annually, those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have a Horse/Pony capable of meeting the criteria, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
- Encourage communication between support staff and USEF Driving support staff.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct
- Abide by USEF / ADS Affiliate Code of Conduct
- Demonstrate a commitment to Educating themselves in all areas regarding combined driving: improvement in all 3 phases, equine fitness and health management, harness / equipment care, etc.