



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2025 USEF EVENTING YOUNG RIDER CHAMPIONSHIPS
March 13, 2025 – v.1**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for participation in the Championships as an Individual:

- 1.1.1. Nationality requirements:** The Athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the [FEI General Regulations](#) (FEI Art. 119) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2025 USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships (“Event” or “Championships”).
- 1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**
- Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCI1* must have been born on or between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2011.
 - Athletes wishing to compete in USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCI2*-S must have been born on or between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2011.
 - Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCI3*-S must have been born on or between January 1, 2000, and December 31, 2009.
 - Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to compete in the Event must have met the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) as stated in the [USEF Eventing Rules](#) and the [FEI Eventing Rules](#) for the relevant division.
 - Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to compete in the Event must have earned the required Certificates of Capability as described below, at FEI licensed competitions between January 1, 2024, and May 25, 2025 (“Qualifying Period”)¹.
 - **USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCI3*-S:** Athlete/Horse combinations must have earned a Certificate of Capability by achieving a Minimum Eligibility Requirement at one CCI3* competition.
 - **USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCI2*-S:** Athlete/Horse combinations must have earned a Certificate of Capability within the Qualifying Period by achieving a Minimum Eligibility Requirement at one CCI2* competition.
 - A Horse must be a minimum of five (5) years old for the CCI1*, and a Horse must be a minimum of six (6) years old for the CCI3*-S and CCI2*-S per the [FEI Eventing Rules](#) Art. 503.4.
 - The Athlete and Horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI from the time of the Nominated Entries and through the conclusion of the Event.
 - The Horse must have a valid FEI or National Passport.
 - The Athlete and Horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.

¹ The start date of a competition is used to determine if a qualifying competition falls within the qualifying period. For example, if a competition starts on June 19, and the qualifying level is on June 20, the competition will be included in the qualifying period that ends on June 20.

- Applicants domiciled outside of the continental United States must meet the Citizenship and Minimum International Federation Standards for Participation outlined in Section 1.1.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- The Athlete and Owner of the Horse must be Junior or Senior Active Members in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) and United States Eventing Association (“USEA”) from the time of the application and through the conclusion of the Event.
- The Athlete must be a member in good standing of their Area Young Rider Program from the time of application and through the conclusion of the Event.
- Horses must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102, in good standing with USEF, and registered with USEA from the time of the Nominated Entry and through the conclusion of the Event.
- Athletes wishing to represent an Area at the Event must submit a completed application and payment for an Area Declaration online at www.usef.org no later than May 1, 2025, 11:59 p.m. ET. The application fee is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per application. The fee must be paid at the time of submission of the Area Declaration. NO APPLICATIONS OR PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 1, 2025.
- The Athlete must declare which Area they wish to compete for on the application. After the application deadline, Areas cannot be changed. By the end of the Qualifying Period, each Athlete/Horse combination must meet the USEF and FEI minimum eligibility requirements as well as the additional Certificate of Capability requirements for each level they will compete at.
- The Athlete and parent/guardian, if applicable, must certify by submitting their Area Declaration, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by the Selection Procedures for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct; the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification; the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy.
- Any Athlete age 18 or older at the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Any Athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background check in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy and USEF Background Check Policy.

1.2. Step-by-step description of the selection process of how athletes will be selected:

USEA will develop and recommend its respective Area Selection Procedures to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee for recommendation to and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, or Executive Committee. The names of the Area Selectors and Selection Trials, if any, must be sent to USEF (Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs – gstobbs@usef.org) and posted to the relevant Area website no later than March 15, 2025.

The Area Selectors and/or Area Young Rider Coordinator, if applicable, will oversee the selection process. The Area Selection Procedures can be found [here](#).

1.2.1. Qualifying Period

The Qualifying Period is January 1, 2024, through May 25, 2025. All Certificates of Capabilities listed in 1.1.2.5 must be achieved during this time period. Any Minimum Eligibility Requirements listed for the applicable levels in the FEI Eventing and the USEF rules must be achieved by the completion of the qualifying period.

1.2.2. Nominated Entry (June 2, 2025):

By no later than the Nominated Entry deadline, each Area must submit to USEF a list of up to eighteen (18) applicant Athlete/Horse combinations based on the Area's published selection procedures.

1.2.3. Definite Entry (June 23, 2025):

After submission of the Nominated Entries but no later than the closing date for the Definite Entries, each Area will submit to USEF their Definite Entries for the Event based on the Area's published selection procedures, consisting of three to four (4) applicant Athlete/Horse combinations plus up to two (2) Traveling Reserve Athlete/Horse combinations, who may compete as Individuals.

Only Athletes and Horses listed on the Nominated Entry are eligible for the Definite Entry.

If Areas are not able to submit a Team, one or two Individual Athlete/Horse combinations may compete on behalf of an Area, as detailed below.

1.2.4. Combining of Areas to Form Teams - If an Area is unable to field a Team of at least three (3) Athlete/Horse combinations, the Area may combine with another Area, which is also unable to field a Team. Once all Definite Entries have been submitted, USEF, in consultation with the USEA CEO, will determine how, if at all, Areas will be combined, no later than the first Chef d'Equipe meeting at the Event. Further changes, prior to the start of Dressage, may be made, pending approval of all affected parties.

1.2.5. Declaration of Starters (June 27) – Once at the Event, and after the Horse Inspection, each Area's Chef d'Equipe must declare the starting order of the Athlete/Horse combinations on the Team for each division, as well as the Individuals, to the USEF Director, Development Programs in writing, before 6:00 p.m., ET the day preceding the first competition.

2. REMOVAL OF ATHLETE AND HORSES

2.1. Following submission of the Nominated Entry to USEF, USEF has jurisdiction over Athlete/Horse combinations who might participate at the Event. An Athlete/Horse combination whose name is included on an Area's Nominated Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF (Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs at gstobbs@usef.org).

- Injury or illness as certified by a physician approved by USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF-approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling, and they may be removed.
- Failure to comply with an Area's Selection Criteria.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Area Veterinarian and/or a vet approved by the Area. If an Athlete and/or Horse Owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Area Veterinarian and/or a vet approved by the Area, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling, and the Horse may be removed.
- Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding athletes and horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.

In these procedures, the removal of an Athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an Athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section 3. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & HORSES.

An Athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII.

- 2.2. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or Individual or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of WADA, IF, USEF, USADA, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and USEF Safe Sport Policy, as applicable.

3. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES AND HORSES

- 3.1. **The following is the process by which the substitute pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** Each Area's Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute Athlete/Horse combinations.
- 3.2. **Substitute athlete/horse combinations will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following procedures:**
 - 3.2.1. **Prior to the Definite Entries:** Openings, if they occur, whether by voluntary withdrawal or removal, will be filled according to the Area's list of Athlete/Horse combinations on the Nominated Entry. Any substitution for reasons set forth in Section 2, except by voluntary withdrawal, will be at the recommendation of the USEA or its designee, the Area Coach, Area Young Rider Coordinator, and Chef d'Equipe, and subject to USEF's approval.
 - 3.2.2. **After the Declaration of Starters:** After the Declaration of Starters, USEF has the ability to substitute Athlete/Horse combinations on the Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section 2. During this time period, Team members may only be substituted with the Traveling Reserve. Substitutions may only be made in accordance with Article 530.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules [26th Edition, Effective 1st January 2025] for veterinary or medical reasons, subject to the recommendation of the USEA or its designee, Area Coach, Area Young Rider

Coordinator and Chef d'Equipe physically present at the Event, subject to the approval of USEF.

- The substitution must be made at least two hours before the first Athlete is scheduled to perform their Dressage test on the day on which the Athlete in question has been drawn to compete.
- Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must also be documented by an official Veterinarian and/or have the approval of the Veterinary Commission.
- Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must also be documented by a physician.
- The Technical Delegate, in consultation with the Ground Jury, must approve the substitution as well as the USEF Director, Eventing Development Programs.

3.2.3. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete/horse combination substitution determinations:

- Group or committee that determines the substitution list: The Selectors in consultation with the USEA or its designee, the Area Coach, Area Young Rider Coordinator, and Chef d'Equipe.
- Group or committee that determines a substitution prior to and after the Definite Entries: The Selectors in consultation with USEA or its designee, the Area Coach, Area Young Rider Coordinator, and Chef d'Equipe.

4. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents and data from the selection process for six months past the final day of the Event.

5. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants as a condition of nomination to the Event:

- Application
- USEF Code of Conduct
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement
- USEF Safe Sport Policy

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures, including but not limited to the USEA, USEA Area Selectors, USEA Area Veterinarians, members of, will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy, USEF Safe Sport Policy, and Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy.

6. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USEF-approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

- 6.1. USEF Web site: www.usef.org - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF Board of Directors, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

- 6.2. USEA Web site: www.useventing.org - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- 6.3. Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

7. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USADA, and USEF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA and USEF rules, as applicable.
- B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
 - 1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
 - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
 - b. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process.
 - c. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
 - d. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
 - 2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
 - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF

Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the Selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

3. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

4. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEA Young Rider Coordinators Committee, USEA CEO, USEF Eventing Performance Working Group, USEF Eventing Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors.

Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving an individual involved in the selection process:

All individuals involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any individual involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process. Additionally, the individual may be required to recuse themselves from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the individual's level of involvement (e.g., whether that individual must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that an individual who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by individuals involved in the selection of the Team, provide such information to the other individuals involved in the selection process so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the individual with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision (See the USEF Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy). The individual must not otherwise influence other individuals involved in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an individual has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No individual shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the relevant USEF appointment process.

9. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

10. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

11. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.


If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the FEI.

12. QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs at USEF, 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY, 40511, Phone (859)225-6929, Email gstobbs@usef.org.

13. USEF SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		1/25/2025
USEA CEO	Rob Burk		

DEFINITIONS

BOLDNESS – Whether the Athlete/Horse combination moves forward with confidence, aggression, and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the Athlete/Horse must answer to successfully negotiate the test, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, jumping into water, etc.), whether the Athlete/Horse combination answer the question with the same positive attitude.

CCI - Concours Complet d'Equitation.

FITNESS – Whether the athlete or horse competed at a high level more frequently than is consistent with delivering a peak performance at the event for which selection is being made. Whether the athlete or horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

LOSS OF FORM - Deterioration in performance and/or demonstrated inability to produce results at the level at which the combination was performing at the time at which they were selected.

QUALIFYING PERIOD – Period in which an achieved MER counts towards a qualifying result for the Games.

RIDEABILITY – Whether the Horse exhibits in all three tests - dressage, cross-country, and show jumping - that it responds readily to the aids (directions) of the Athlete because of its training; whether it moves forward, slows down, turns, and jumps any obstacle with composure, obedience, and confidence in itself and the Athlete.

SPEED - Evidence that in the FEI record of the Athlete/Horse combination, and in the final trials for the Team, the Athlete/Horse combination shows the ability to complete the Event distances at the speed specifications for that level in accordance with the FEI Rules for Eventing.

SOUNDNESS - A condition in which a Horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.

WILL TO WIN – Athlete's desire and ability to produce a medal achieving result.