USA DRIVING

NEWS



Competition Resources

- USEF Competition Calendar
- Post-Competition Evaluations

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships Updates

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Pair Horses, Intermediate Horses, Preliminary Horses and Training Horses
November 5-8, 2026, at Stable View in Aiken, S.C.
Read More

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Four-In-Hand Horses and 2026 USEF Combined Driving Youth National Championships
March 11-15, 2026, at Live Oak International in Ocala, Fla.
Click here to view the full results.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Single Horses
April 22-26, 2026, at Katydid at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, N.C.
Click here to view the full results.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Ponies & Para Driving
September 15-20, 2026, at Tryon Fall CDE at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, N.C.
Click here to view the full results.

2027 USEF Combined Driving National Championships Announced

2027 USEF Para Driving National Championship
January 27-31, 2027, at TerraNova Equestrian Center in Myakka City, Fla.

2027 USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Advanced Four-in-Hand Horses, Advanced Pair Horses, and Advanced Ponies
March 9-14, 2027, at Live Oak International in Ocala, Fla.

2027 USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Youth, Intermediate Ponies, Preliminary Ponies and Training Ponies
October 1-3, 2027, at Horse Park of New Jersey in Allentown, N.J.

2027 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Single Horses, Intermediate Horses, Preliminary Horses and Training Horses
November 5-8, 2027 at Stable View in Aiken, S.C.

2027 USEF Combined Driving Developing Athlete Program Applications

The applications for the 2027 Combined Driving Developing Program will open **November 1, 2026**, and close on **November 30, 2026**.

The program is designed to support the continued development of athletes and equines through educational and training opportunities within the discipline of Combined Driving.

Applications will be open for new athlete and equine applicants, as well as renewals for **ALL** current program members. All athletes and equines wishing to participate in the 2027 Developing Program must apply or renew during the application period to be considered by the Developing Athlete Program Working Group. **Applications must be submitted through the USEF Athlete Dashboard between November 1 and November 30, 2026**.

For additional information or questions, please contact Molly Andrews, Sport Operations Manager, at mandrews@usef.org.

2027 Driving Training Sessions

US Equestrian is pleased to announce its upcoming Spring 2027 Combined Driving Developing Training Sessions, designed to provide continued education and development opportunities for listed Developing Athletes. Remaining spots will become available to athletes outside of the program after the application deadline.

Applications for the Spring Training Sessions will be available December 5, 2026, through your USEF Athlete Dashboard. The upcoming Spring Training Sessions will be held at the following locations and dates:

- **January 8-10, 2027:** The Grand Oaks Resort (Weirsdale, Fla.)
- **January 22-24, 2027:** Florida Horse Park (Ocala, Fla.)
- **May 28-30, 2027:** Charlotte's Creek Farm (Georgetown, Ky.)

Athletes can apply for the training sessions through their USEF Athlete Dashboard.

For additional information or questions, please contact Molly Andrews, Sport Operations Manager, at mandrews@usef.org.

FEI Updates

On **July 1, 2026**, the new article 973 of the FEI Driving Rules was due to go into effect regarding the implementation of cone lifters. As of July 2, 2026, the Board approved an emergency board resolution regarding this new rule. Due to the delayed production of the cone lifter material specified in Annex 7, the requirement for manufacturers to use this specific material has been removed. This emergency resolution will continue until the new identified material has undergo its participation in the testing program in order to ensure consistent and appropriate testing conditions.

On **January 1, 2027**, the new article 928 of the FEI Driving Rules will go into effect regarding the requirement of protective headgear while riding on a carriage anywhere on the show grounds. For more information, read the FEI Driving Rules here.

Keep in mind the FEI rule changes for 2026, which can be found here.

VIEW ALL 2026 FEI RULE CHANGES

If you are interested in participating in FEI Young Horse Classes, please connect with the USEF FEI Horse Passport office at passports@usef.org to get your equine registered prior to the competition.

The International Carriage Drivers Association has been recognized by the FEI through a memo of understanding, for more information or to join, visit ICDA-driving.com.

Celebration of Life for Hardy Zantke

USEF appreciates all the time and effort Hardy has contributed to the United States Driving Community. A celebration of life will be held for Hardy on **November 21st 2026, in Torrance, California**.

If you would like event details to attend, please reach out to Jutta at Jzantke@aol.com.

USEF Updates & Resources

Please be aware that many rule changes were approved at the mid-year board meeting. These rules can be found more in depth here. Below is a highlight of some of the rules members should be aware of.

Rules effective starting December 1, 2026:

GR847.1 changes to the qualified medical personnel requirement.

DC901.1 removes small pony classes. Small ponies will enter regular pony classes. Removes VSE at the advanced levels.

DC905.3 specifies the use of video evidence by officials.

DC908.1 clarifies which events qualify athletes to compete in advanced divisions.

DC920.2 specifies when horse inspections are mandatory.

DC944.4 removes the requirement for on-site farriers during competition.

DC959.1 allows for the POJ to appoint the technical delegate as a cones judge at a short format event with less than 45 entries.

DC970.1 Requires all national championships to have a minimum of 3 judges. At competitions that are not national championships it allows the advanced divisions to only have a minimum of 2 judges.

DC974 requires a veterinarian to be present for all in-harness exams at the end of a marathon course for Short Format events.

Competition Coach/Trainer Requirements for 2026
Please note that as of **December 1, 2025**, coaches (in addition to trainers) must be listed on all USEF competition entry forms and submitted in the results returned by the competition organizer. As a reminder, membership requirements for coaches are the same as trainers, and show passes are not permitted for coaches. Coaches are those who have or share the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, or advertising a rider, driver, handler, or vaulter in equestrian skills. Coaches may or may not also be trainers. Trainers are those who have responsibility for the care, training, and custody of the horse.

US Equestrian App
Keeping track of your US Equestrian membership and horse ID cards has never been easier. The US Equestrian App allows you to access your membership details, save and flag horse ID cards and much more. Plus, with USEF MemberPerks and discounts at your fingertips, you can save with preferred retailers and brands. Download the app here.

SafeSport Updates
As part of our commitment to members and to their wellbeing, US Equestrian has partnered with the McLaughlin Young Group to offer members free confidential counseling services for mental health first aid. Read more

Welfare Updates
When we implemented our expanded Unethical Treatment of Horses rule (GR838) last year, we empowered USEF and licensed officials to take action in cases of unethical treatment of horses, on show grounds and off. Read more

Interested in Becoming a Licensed Official?

Individuals can apply to become a licensed official for combined driving competitions and serve in different roles. Give back to the sport as a judge, technical delegate, or course designer. The requirements to become a national licensed official are located in the Licensed Officials Policies and Procedures, which includes updated expedited application options for current Athletes competing at the Advanced or CAI2* levels.

Learn more about becoming a national or FEI combined driving official here.

Support Combined Driving

Interested in ways to support USEF Combined Driving or Para-Driving? You can find the link to donate to the USET Combined Driving and Para Driving here.

Connect with US Equestrian
Stay up to date with U.S. Driving by following USA Driving on Facebook and US Equestrian on Facebook, X, TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. Use **#USADriving**.

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