

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2018 FEI World Equestrian Games
Endurance
Tryon, NC; 10-23 September 2018

Approved by the US Equestrian Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on December 7, 2017

I. Selection Process

1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

- 1. Nationality:** The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI Article 119 (www.fei.org) at the time of application, observation, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games (“the Event”).
- 2. Minimum International Federation (IF) Standards for Participation:**
 - a. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games Endurance Team (“Team”) must have earned a Certificate of Capability at the CEI3* level or above between September 10, 2016 and May 21, 2018 to be eligible to compete in the Event.
 - b. The athlete must have been born before January 1, 2004 (FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 815.1).
 - c. A horse must be a minimum of eight (8) years of age. The age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth (2017 FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 815.2.4).
 - d. Athletes wishing to compete on the Team must meet the minimum weight requirement (75kg), including all riding equipment (FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 812).
 - e. The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI.
 - f. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
- 3. Other Requirements:**
 - a. The athlete must be an active member of USEF.
 - b. The athlete and owner must be a member of the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC).
 - c. The horse must have a valid FEI Passport prior to competing in its first CEI3* competition (FEI General Regulations, Article 137).
 - d. The owner must be an active member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of application, selection and through the conclusion of the Event and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.
 - e. Application – Athletes wishing to be considered for the Event must complete an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate fee at www.usef.org. Applications submitted online on or before February 21, 2018 will be charged an application fee of \$70. Applications submitted online after February 21, 2018 and received by USEF on or before February 28, 2018 will be charged an application fee of \$300. No applications will be accepted after February 28, 2018. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received. Additional horses may be added to an existing application of intent via email (kbrett@usef.org) until May 1, 2018.
 - f. Horse Loan Agreement: Owners of horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry (See Section IX) must sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B). A horse owner(s)’ failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the FEI Nominated Entry.
 - g. The athlete and horse owner(s) must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received and read the Selection Procedures for the Team; the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification (Attachment D); and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E) and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.
 - h. USEF is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected, or stolen correspondence either electronic, postal, commercially shipped, or voice activated. It is the athlete’s responsibility to ensure that the application and application fee have been received by the published deadline.

2. Observation Events:

1. **Below are the event names, dates, and locations of all Observation Events to be used as part of the selection process:** An athlete/horse combination wishing to be considered for the FEI Nominated Entry must successfully complete, or must have already successfully completed, at least one of the following Observation Events. The 2016-2018 Observation Events, as published to all potential 2018 applicants on October 31, 2016 (See Attachment F), include the following CEI2*/CEIYJ2* and CEI3*/CEIYJ3* competitions:

2016

Broxton Bridge	November 11-12
----------------	----------------

2017

Broxton Bridge	January 27-28
Twenty Mule Team	February 25
FITS	March 2-4
Lone Star Express	April 20-22
Biltmore Challenge	May 6
Mt. Adams	May 20
Ft. Howes	June 9-12
Broxton Bridge Plantation	November 10-12

2018

Broxton Bridge	January 26-28
Twenty Mule Team	February 23-25
FITS	February 28 – March 3
Fire Up Ridgecrest	April 21-22
Biltmore Challenge	May 3-6

Additional competitions may be identified as Observation Events should it become necessary and where practical. Notification will be given at least 30 days prior to the start of the Observation Event.

Immediately following the completion of an Observation Event, the Selector(s) in consultation with the member(s) of the Veterinary Advisory Group present at the Observation Event, may request a baseline exam for the horse.

CEI2*/CEIYJ2* and CEI3*/CEIYJ3* events held outside of the U.S. between January 1, 2017 and May 21, 2018 may be considered as an Observation Event but only with the approval of the Selectors and Chef d'Equipe. Any athlete wishing to use a CEI2*/CEIYJ2* or CEI3*/CEIYJ3* held outside of the U.S. as an Observation Event must make the request in writing to the USEF Director of Endurance no less than 60 days prior to the start of the competition.

As previously published, beginning March 20, 2017 and until further notice, results earned at the Dubai International Equestrian Club (DIEC) will not be considered by the USEF Endurance Selectors. However, results earned may meet the FEI eligibility requirements.

If an athlete has the opportunity to compete at the Event on a foreign-leased horse, preference will be given to a U.S. based horse; however, the leased horse and athlete must meet the minimum qualifications according to the FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 816. Furthermore, the horse must be made available for a fitness and soundness assessment with at least one member of the Veterinary Advisory Group, at least one Selector, the Chef d'Equipe, and/or the horse's treating veterinarian at the athlete's expense.

Applications for athletes who do not compete at an Observation Event will only be accepted if the athlete and nominated horse(s) meet the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team listed in Section I.1 and there are exceptional circumstances that the Selectors conclude justify the athlete/horse combination's non-attendance at an Observation Event.

Athletes are encouraged to compete at an Observation Event with the horse that is their first choice for the Event. Athletes wishing to have more than one horse compete at an Observation Event may have a horse(s) ridden by another athlete ("Proxy Rider"). All proxy riders must be qualified to enter a CEI2*/CEIYJ2* or CEI3*/CEIYJ3* competition, according to the FEI rules for Endurance Events, Article 816. Proxy Riders who have not submitted an application of intent are not eligible for selection.

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors may grant a waiver for all or part of the above requirements, excluding the application of intent, if it is in the perceived best interests of the results of the Team. A waiver request must be received in writing to the USEF Director of Endurance no later than May 1, 2018.

3. **Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athlete/horse combinations will go through the selection process to be become team nominees.**

1. **Submit an Application:** Athletes must complete an application as described in Section I.1.3e.
2. **FEI Qualifications:** Athletes and horses must meet FEI Qualifications by May 21, 2018 to be eligible for the Event. In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors may grant an extension to meet the FEI Qualification if it is in the perceived best interests of the results of the Team. A waiver request must be received in writing to the USEF Director of Endurance no later than May 1, 2018.

Beginning March 20, 2017 and until further notice, results earned at the Dubai International Equestrian Club (DIEC) will not be considered by the USEF Endurance Selectors. However, results earned may meet FEI eligibility requirements.

3. **Certificate of Capability:** See Section I.1.2a
4. **Observation Event:** See Section I.2.1
5. **Training List:** Based on the preliminary results found during the baseline exam, an athlete/horse combination may be named to the Training List. Combinations named on the Training List are required to demonstrate continued preparation, soundness, and ability. Horses may be required to attend one fitness and soundness assessment with at least one member of the Veterinary Advisory, at least one Selector, and/or the horse's treating veterinarian based on the preliminary results found during the baseline exam. The Veterinary Advisory Group and the horse's treating veterinarian must be in communication with each other regarding the soundness and preparation of the athlete's horse(s).

Once an athlete/horse combination has been named to the Training List, they will come under the guidance of the Chef d'Equipe through the conclusion of the Mandatory Training Event and/or the Event. In order to remain on the Training List, the athlete, trainer, and/or owner must discuss their training, competition, and coaching schedule with the Chef d'Equipe. The Chef d'Equipe will approve all training, competition, and coaching schedules and deviations must be communicated to and approved by the Chef d'Equipe. Failure to do so may result in removal from the Training List.

Any athlete/horse combination may be removed from the Training List for any of the following reasons but not limited to:

- Voluntary withdrawal by the athlete or owner via email to the USEF Director of Endurance.
- Level of cooperation between the athlete, owner, and Chef d'Equipe, Veterinary Advisory Group, and/or the Selectors.
- Injury or illness of the horse determined by the Veterinary Advisory Group.
- Injury or illness of the athlete as certified by a USEF approved physician or medical staff.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Violation of the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Failure to train or prepare the horse for the Event as approved by the Chef d'Equipe.
- Failure to comply with any request of the Veterinary Advisory Group.
- The presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker found during drug testing.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches, and/or crew/grooms) who may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability for a team completion.

Athlete/horse combinations named to the Training List may be required to participate in a Mandatory Training Event.

- 6. Mandatory Training Event(s):** The purpose of the Mandatory Training Event(s) is to identify those athlete/horse combinations to be named to the Team, as Individuals, the Traveling Reserve, and/or FEI Definite Entry. At present, it is envisioned that the Mandatory Training Session(s) will be held sometime after June 1, 2018 in the U.S.

By no later than May 1, 2018, all details regarding the Mandatory Training Event(s) will be posted on the USEF website (www.usef.org). Invitations to the Mandatory Training Event will be sent via email no later than June 1, 2018.

Athlete/horse combinations will take part in additional veterinary evaluations, and educational sessions. These educational sessions may include performance enhancing equitation lessons; strategic planning; fitness; sports psychology; media training; biomechanics; equine nutrition; and/or veterinary care.

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors may grant a waiver for all or part of the requirements if it is in the best interests of the perceived results of the Team. A waiver request must be received in writing to the USEF Director of Endurance no later than May 1, 2018. The Selectors, in evaluating athlete/horse combinations for the Mandatory Training Event(s), will base their evaluations on the factors found in Section I.3.8. In addition, priority may be given to combinations already named to the Training List.

Athlete/horse combinations named as the Team, Individuals, and/or Reserve will be required to attend the Final Mandatory Training Event held on TBD, located TBD. It is anticipated that the horses will depart the final Mandatory Training Event for the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games by September 10, 2018. By no later than August 1, 2018, athletes and owners will be notified concerning all details regarding the Final Mandatory Training Event(s).

- 7. FEI Nominated Entry:** Following the Mandatory Training Event(s) and by no later than July 13, 2018, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and the Team Veterinarian, and/or Veterinary Advisory Group, will recommend a Team of three (3) or a team of four (4) athlete/horse combinations and one travelling reserve combination, one (1) but no more than (2) Individuals, and/or alternates for a maximum of ~~twelve (12)~~ **ten (10)** combinations able to be selected for the FEI Nominated Entry to the USEF Endurance Sport Committee and with approval by the USEF Board of

Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group. The Selectors may name “direct reserve horse(s)” for an athlete named to the Team or as an Individual. A direct reserve horse would be an automatic replacement should the original horse on which an athlete was named had to be substituted. The combinations named to the FEI Nominated Entry will be the group named here unless a combination is removed for one of the reasons in Section III, “Removal of Athletes.”

All athlete/horse combinations named on the FEI Nominated Entry are required to demonstrate continued preparation, soundness, and ability. Horses may be required to attend an additional observation event(s) and/or fitness and soundness assessment(s) with at least one member of the Veterinary Advisory Group, at least one Selector, the Chef d’Equipe, and/or the horse’s treating veterinarian. The Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group and the horse’s treating veterinarian must be in communication with each other regarding the soundness and preparation of the athlete’s horse(s).

Please note that attending an observation event, Mandatory Training Event(s) and/or fitness and soundness assessment is not a guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be named to the FEI Definite Entry for the Event.

Immediately following the completion of any observation events and/or fitness and soundness assessments, the combinations approved as stated above will make up the FEI Nominated Entry which will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than Midnight, Swiss Time on July 13, 2018.

8. The Selectors, in evaluating athlete/horse combinations to be named to the Team, as Individuals and/or the alternates, will base their evaluations on the following factors (“Factors”):

1. The overall performance and soundness of the athlete, horse, and/or athlete/horse combination in those competitions considered as Mandatory Training Event(s); observation events; and/or fitness and soundness assessments with emphasis on soundness; current fitness; performance; boldness; manageability; and speed.
2. Level of cooperation between the athlete, owner, crew members, and Chef d’Equipe, Veterinary Advisory Group, and/or Selectors.
3. Previous experience of the athlete and/or horse at FEI events.
4. Continued preparation of the athlete and/or horse as approved by the Chef d’Equipe.
5. Athlete and Horse Fitness.
6. An athlete/horse combination who has demonstrated proven ability to succeed at CEI competitions.
7. The physical condition in which the Event will be held, including travel to the Event, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combination’s performance.
8. Potential to contribute to a team completion.
9. The athlete and owner’s willingness to support the stated target of completing a Team.
10. Each athlete may be allowed up to three (3) approved crewmembers/grooms to attend the Event. Evaluation of the crewmembers/grooms occurs during the Observation Events and/or Mandatory Training Events.
**Note: there will be a separate procedure for the approval of crewmembers/grooms. Individuals will be notified no later than August 17, 2018 if they are invited to attend the Event as a crewmember/groom.
11. Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, parents, coaches, and/or crew/grooms) who may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
12. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Event’s and/or USEF’s accreditation allocation and restrictions.

9. **Last Date for Replacements:** The Last Date for Replacements is the last date at which an athlete or horse can be substituted into the Team selected to travel to the Event. The date will be based on

constraints related to the shipping of horses and any “last date of arrival of horses” published within the approved FEI Schedule. The date will be decided by the USEF Director of Sport in consultation with the horse transport company, the Director of Endurance, Chef d’Equipe, and Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group. The date will be published to all athletes selected to the FEI Nominated Entry List as soon as it can be decided upon. To clarify, horses will only be allowed to travel to the Event on horse transports as organized or approved by the USEF Endurance Department and/or Organizing Committee for the Event.

See Section IV for the method in which substitution/replacement athletes and horses should be selected, should a vacancy occur.

Additionally, no later than the date to travel to the Event, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, Team Veterinarian, and/or Veterinary Advisory Group may recommend not to submit to the FEI Definite Entry a Team of three (3) but no more than four (4) athlete/horse combinations, one (1) but no more than (2) individuals, the travelling reserve, and alternates for a maximum of twelve (12) combinations, including but without limitation, suitability for the Event, lack of fitness, soundness, and continued preparation, subject to review by the USEF Endurance Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group.

10. **FEI Definite Entry:** The FEI Definite Entry will be done in accordance with the FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 819.2.1.
 11. **After Acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries and up to one hour before the First Horse Inspection:** Replacements will be made in according to the FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 819.3.1 and in accordance with the criteria outlines in Section IV.B.3.
 12. **Declaration of Starters:** The Declaration of Starters will be done in accordance with FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 819.2.1.
 13. **After the Declaration of Starters:** Replacements will be done in accordance with FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 819.3.2 and in accordance with the criteria outlines in Section IV.B.4.
4. **Provided below are the names of all committee/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members:** The Endurance Selectors and USEF Endurance Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which shall be reviewed by the USEF International Disciplines Council and approved by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group (see Attachment G for the list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members).
5. **Other Considerations:**
1. **Equine Drug Testing:** All horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

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-competition, 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. In such instance, the positive

finding 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 a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised of at least one member of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Advisory Group selected for the event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-or-competition at any time throughout the observation and selection period, which is defined as commencing on TBD (the date the applications open) 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.

Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and 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. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Advisory Group 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.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Also see the section on Veterinary Treatment (Section I.5.4), a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

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 a competition 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 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

2. **Soundness:** Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process for soundness by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group in consultation with the horse’s treating veterinarian, and/or a Selector upon request of the Selectors, Chef d’Equipe, or USEF Endurance Sport Committee. Athletes may have their own veterinarian present at their own expense. In addition, all horses selected to the Team will be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group prior to traveling to the Event. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d’Equipe, and USEF Endurance Sport Committee and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
3. **Team Veterinarian/Veterinary Advisory Group Request:** Athletes, at their own expense, must make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group, 24 months’ worth of complete veterinary records of horses considered for selection.

In addition, athletes, at their own expense, are responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group for horses under consideration for selection. Athletes, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian, if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group, and the USEF Endurance Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.

4. **Veterinary Treatment:** From the time a horse competes at an Observation Event and through the completion of the Event, athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group, prior to obtaining treatment by any person other than the Team Veterinarian or a member of the Veterinary Advisory Group. This permission must be obtained in writing. All USEF veterinary logbooks must be kept up-to-date and made available to the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group upon request.

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Endurance Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Selectors, Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group, Chef d'Equipe, and the USEF Endurance Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

5. **Medical Request:** In the event of illness or injury, athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by physicians(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the athlete from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Selectors and USEF approved physician(s) and with the approval of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the athlete to be unfit to compete, the athlete will be removed from the selection process with the recommendation of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

- A. **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible.
- B. **Discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used:** See Section I.3.
- C. **Discretionary Selection Committee:**
 1. Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection:
 - USEF Endurance Selectors
 - USEF Endurance Chef d'Equipe
 - USEF Endurance Team Veterinarian
 - USEF Endurance Veterinary Advisory Group
 - USEF Endurance Sport Committee
 - USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group

2. **Complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their NGB role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:** See Attachment G for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

Selectors: Three (3) individuals (the “Selectors”) were appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon the recommendation of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee and approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C); USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies of the USEF (Attachment H); and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E). These Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Endurance Community and are knowledgeable and experienced in Endurance at the international level, and include one Endurance Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOC (See Definitions on page 14) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the “Eligible Athlete Representative Selector”).

The Selectors will make recommendations to the USEF Endurance Sport Committee based on consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group.

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors were also named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete representation on the panel of the Selectors.

Ad Hoc Selection Group: The Ad Hoc Selection Group has been or will be approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

3. **Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the Selection Group:** Any member of the Selection Group who has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the Selection Group member must recuse him/herself from Group discussions and voting. Further, the member should not otherwise influence other members of the Group in the nomination process. However, a member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or discipline director, may, if requested by the Selection Group, provide such information to the Group so long as information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

A. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Nominated or Definite Entries for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete or Owner must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO and Endurance Department.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). 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.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Violation of the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).
- Failure of an owner to sign the Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by a majority of the Veterinary Advisory Group. If an athlete and/or horse owner(s) refuses to have the horse examined by the Veterinary Advisory Group, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d’Equipe and Selectors.
- Detection of a prohibited or forbidden substance in the horse.

- Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA Rules.
- Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Advisory Group.
- Failure to obtain written permission from one of the members of the Veterinary Advisory Group prior to the horse receiving veterinary treatment by any veterinarian not on the Veterinary Advisory Group.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, parents, coaches, or crew/grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability for a team completion.
- Failure to meet Fitness requirement.

In these procedures, the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which he would be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section IV, Substitution/Replacement of Athlete and/or Horse.

An athlete removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing under the USEF's Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605 or USOC Bylaw, Section 9.

B. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Definite Entries, Squad and/or Team at any time for the following reasons, as determined by the USEF in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Veterinary Advisory Group and/or Team Veterinarian.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

C. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Nominated Entry, FEI Definite Entry, Squad, or Team at any time for violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures (See III. A. and B. above).

IV. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES AND HORSES

A. Following is the process by which the substitution/replacement pool of athletes and horses will be identified:

The list of athletes and horses on the FEI Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute/replacement athletes and horses.

B. Substitution/Replacement athlete(s) will be selected, should a vacancy occur according to the following method:

1. **After the acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry and until the Last Date for Replacements (Section I.3.9):** Once the Team or Individuals for the Event have been announced, after the acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry and until the Last Date for Replacements, USEF has the ability to replace athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entry for reasons set forth in Section IV. An athlete may be replaced if determined not fit to compete by a licensed medical provider, including but not limited to the event of illness or injury, at the level for which athlete was selected. During this time period, athlete/horse combinations on the Team may be replaced with a Reserve athlete/horse combination or a horse on the FEI Nominated Entry; and the Reserve may be replaced with athletes and horses on the FEI Nominated Entry. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Team, the Reserve, and the FEI Nominated Entries and may recommend that a replacement be made. The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when

evaluating athletes and horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.3.8. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, which shall be reviewed by the Selectors and USEF Endurance Sport Committee, with approval by the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group in accordance with FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article 819. Any substitution for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Veterinary Advisory Group. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF.

2. **Last Date for Replacements:** The Last Date for Replacement is the last date at which an athlete or horse can be substituted into the Team selected to travel to the Event. The date will be based on when the horses arrive to the final Mandatory Training Session, where they ship from, the number of athlete/horses taking part in final training prior to departing to the Event, the availability of space on horse transports at a later date, and the practicality of traveling a horse at a later date. The date will be decided by the horse transport company, Director of Endurance, Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group. The date will be published to all athletes selected to the FEI Nominated Entry List as soon as it can be decided upon. To clarify, replacements will only be allowed to travel to the Event on the horse transports as organized by the USEF Endurance Department and/or Organizing Committee for the Event.
3. **After Last Date for Replacements and until one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection:** During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with the Reserve. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either, the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Endurance Team Leader, Selector(s), and/or Team Veterinarian or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group present at the Event. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue approved by the FEI. Any replacement for veterinary reason must be documented by the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group.
4. **After the Declaration of Starters and up to two (2) hours before the scheduled start time of the Competition:** During this time period, USEF has the ability to request permission from the Ground Jury to replace athletes and/or horses on the Team for reasons set forth in Section IV. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with the Reserve. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because, the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness, or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution, or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Endurance Team Leader, Chef de Mission, and/or Selector(s), present at the Event and in accordance with FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 819.3 or for reasons set forth in Section III.B. Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be documented by the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group upon recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe present at the Event. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by physician(s) present at the Event approved by the FEI.

- C. **Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:**
1. **Group or committee who determines the substitution/replacement pool:** USEF Endurance Selectors; USEF Endurance Veterinary Advisory Group; USEF Endurance Sport Committee; USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group (Attachment G).
 2. **Group or committee who determines a substitution/replacement to the Team:**
 - a. **After acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry and until the Last Date for Replacements:** See Section IV.B.1.
 - b. **Last Date of Replacements:** See Section IV.B.2.

- c. **After the Last Date for Replacements and until one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection:** See Section IV.B.3
- d. **After the First Horse Inspection and up to two (2) hours before the scheduled start of the Competition:** See Section IV.B.4

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six (6) months after the date of the Closing Ceremonies for the Event.

VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: The following documents are required to be properly executed by athletes and horse owners as a condition of nomination for the Event and are included as attachments:

- Application of Intent (Attachment A)
- Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification (Attachment D)

Athletes and horse owners will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and USEF Safe Sport Policy and that they understand the documents.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to Selectors; Team Veterinarian; members of the Veterinary Advisory Group; Physicians; members of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee; USEF International Disciplines Council; and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies (Attachment H) and USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

VII. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS: Athletes are required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment I) and are required to sign the document.

VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES: The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date when known:

- USEF Website (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.
- Other: The Selection Procedures and Application Packet will be available via mail or email upon request.

IX. DATE OF NOMINATION: The FEI Nominated Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than midnight Swiss time on July 13, 2018. The FEI Definite Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than midnight Swiss time on July 13, 2018.

X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF, and USADA protocols, policies, and procedures. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, and/or USADA Rules, if applicable.

XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES: The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Endurance Sport Committee; USEF International Disciplines Council; and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group. See Attachment G for the list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

XII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES: The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website (www.usef.org).

XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER: These procedures are based on USEF and/or FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in USEF and/or 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 selection procedures 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 cancelation of the observation event(s) listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USEF.


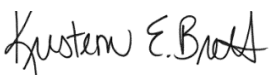
XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN: Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman , Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719)866-5000
- Toll-free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at kacie.wallance@usoc.org
- www.athleteombudsman.org

XV. DISCLAIMER: Please see Attachment D - USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification.

XVI. FUNDING DISCLAIMER: Selection to the Team does not guarantee funds will be available to send a team or individuals. If the Federation provides funds for any portion of an athlete/horse combination named to the Team and a horse is sold after being named to the FEI Nominated Entry, including but not without limitation, prior to and/or at the Event, the owner of the horse hereby agrees to reimburse the Federation expenses.

XVII. NGB SIGNATURES: I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Equestrian Federation.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF President	Murray Kessler		12/07/2017
USEF Endurance Director	Kristen E. Brett		12/07/2017

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to the USEF Endurance Department, United States Equestrian Federation, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511, Phone (859)225-6919, Email: kbrett@usef.org.

Approved by the USEF Endurance Sport Committee on: August 16, 2017 & October 17, 2017

Approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council on: December 5, 2017

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selections Group on: December 7, 2017

DEFINITIONS

BOLDNESS – Whether the athlete/horse combination moves forward with confidence and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the athlete/horse must answer to successfully negotiate the course, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, etc.), whether the athlete/horse combination answer the questions with the same positive attitude.

ENDURANCE ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE - An athlete will be considered an Endurance Eligible Athlete Representative if they meet the following criteria as defined by the USEF in Part IV-Athletes, Bylaw 401 of its Bylaws and the United States Olympic Committee in Article XCII.17.7, B3 of its Bylaws as eligible for membership on a “designated committee:”

1. is a USEF Active Senior Member and within the ten (10) years preceding the election or appointment must have represented the United States in a World Championship recognized by the FEI for which a competitive selection process was administered by the Federation.

and/or

2. within the past twenty-four (24) months, demonstrated that he/she is actively engaged in athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the NGB’s national championships or a team selection for the events specified in paragraph above.

FITNESS – whether the horse and/or athlete 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 horse and/or athlete demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE - a competitive record over the past two-three years that indicates that the athlete/horse combination has successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure consistently

PROXY RIDER - An athlete who competes a horse for another athlete.

MANAGEABILITY – On course, the horse responds to the aids (directions) of the athlete as a result of his training. In the vet gate, the horse demonstrates composure, obedience, and confidence in himself and his handler.

SPEED - Evidence in the FEI record of the athlete/horse combination and through the Observation Events which demonstrates the ability to compete at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games - Endurance at the distance and Certificate of Capability speed demanded.

SUBSTITUTE / REPLACEMENT – Replacing an athlete/horse combination after the FI Definite Entries have been submitted.