

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2020 2021 FEI World Endurance Championship  
San Rossore, Italy  
May 22, 2021

*Approved by the US Equestrian Board of Directors Ad Hoc Group on August 5, 2020*

USEF utilized best efforts to keep the general process outlined in these selection procedures intact as much as possible, however, there has been unavoidable, necessary changes. Specifically, upcoming dates/deadline referenced in red within these selection procedures.

Along with the postponement of the timing of selection decision/announcement, other changes (showing in red) include:

- FEI: age eligibility parameters, entry deadlines, Minimum Eligibility Requirement timelines, and horse ownership deadlines.
- USEF: application due dates, qualifying periods, and/or ranking list timeframes.

~~CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW FOR AMENDMENTS DUE TO POSTPONEMENT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS (JUNE 23, 2020).~~

~~USEF will use its best efforts to keep the general process outlined in these selection procedures intact as much as possible, however, there will be unavoidable, necessary changes. Specifically, any upcoming dates/deadlines referenced within these selection procedures are hereby postponed. It is expected that the FEI will revise parameters listed in the FEI bullet below.~~

~~Along with the postponement of the timing of selection decisions / announcements, other changes are being reevaluated and will be communicated as soon as possible. These include any / all of the following:~~

- ~~• FEI: age eligibility parameters, entry deadlines, qualification timelines and requirements~~
- ~~• USEF: final team nomination deadline, long list deadlines application due dates, Short List timelines, ranking list timeframes, selection events and / or criteria~~

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*Approved by the US Equestrian Board of Directors Ad Hoc Group on August 5, 2020*

*Approved by the US Equestrian Board of Directors on April 29, 2019*

*Updated March 26, 2020 with FEI Minimum Horse Age Requirement*

*Disclaimer: These Selection 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.*

**I. Selection System**

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

**1. Nationality / Passport Requirements:** The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI Article 119 ([www.feg.org](http://www.feg.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2020 2021 FEI World Endurance Championship (“Event”). Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport which does not expire until after ~~March 7, 2020~~ **November 21, 2021**.

**2. Minimum International Federation (IF) Standards for Participation:**

**a.** Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on the 2020 2021 FEI World Endurance Championship Team must ~~have earned a Certificate of Capability between September 1, 2018 and June 17, 2020 (subject to change)~~ and meet the FEI Qualifying Requirements by ~~June 17, 2020~~ **March 23, 2021** (subject to change) to be eligible to compete in the Event.

**b.** The athlete must have been born before January 1, ~~2007~~ **2003** and meet the minimum weight requirement of 75kg which includes all riding equipment except for the bridle (FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article ~~815~~ **805.1**).

**c.** Horses must be at least nine (9) years of age ~~old or older per Article 827.1 of the~~ (FEI Rules for Endurance, Article 827.1) Events effective July 1, 2020. ~~A horse must be a minimum of eight (8) years of age. The age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth (FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article 815.2.4).~~

**d.** The athlete and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

**e.** The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event including but not limited to the [FEI Qualifying Requirements](#) (FEI Rules for Endurance).

**3. Other Requirements:**

**a.** The athlete must be a USEF member in good standing at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

**b.** ~~The horse must have a valid passport no later than June 10, 2020.~~ **The horse must have a valid passport no later than March 23, 2020.**

**c.** The owner must be an active member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the Event and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.

d. Application of Intent – Athletes wishing to be considered for the Event must complete an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate fee at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Applications are available on the USEF website no later than September 1, 2020. Applications submitted on or before ~~March 11, 2020~~ February 12, 2021 at 11:59pm, ET must be charged an application fee of \$50. Applications submitted online between ~~March 12, 2020 and March 26, 2020~~ February 13, 2021 and March 17, 2021 at 11:59pm, ET will be charged an application fee of \$150. No application will be accepted after ~~March 26, 2020~~ March 17, 2021 at 11:59pm, ET. 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](mailto:kbrett@usef.org)) until ~~March 26, 2020~~ March 17, 2021 at 11:59pm, ET. Athletes are only permitted to compete on horses named on his/her application of intent.

e. Athletes who submitted an application of intent between May 3, 2019 and March 26, 2020 will not be required to submit a new application of intent.

f. Horse Loan-Participation Agreement: Owners of horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry must sign the Horse Loan-Participation Agreement (Attachment B). A horse owner(s)' failure to sign the Horse Loan-Participation Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the FEI Nominated Entry.

g. The athlete shall certify by signing the Application of Intent that he has received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Selection Procedures for the Event. The athlete and horse(s) owner must certify by signing the Application of Intent, that they have received, *read and understand* the Selection Procedures for the Team; the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport's Code](#); and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) (Attachment E) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

2. **Below are the event names, dates, and locations of all Selection Trials to be used as part of the selection process:** Qualifying competitions will include all CEI3\* competitions held in the U.S. and Canada between June 1, 2019 and June 17, 2020. The qualifying period shall begin on June 1, 2019 and end on March 23, 2021 (*subject to change*). A series of CEI3\* competitions held in the U.S. and Canada have been designated as USEF Qualifying Competitions. A list of these of competitions can be found on the USEF FEI website [here](#). Please note that the 2021 FEI Calendar will be published once approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020. Please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar as changes or updates may be posted at any time.

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

1. **Selection for FEI Nominated Entry List:** Athlete/horse combinations will be ranked according to official FEI results. On or about ~~June 17, 2020~~ March 23, 2021, athlete/horse combinations, based upon the procedures set forth herein, will receive a final ranking according to their two (2) best competitions.

Athletes ranked with more than two (2) horses must declare in writing to Kristen Brett ([kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org)), the two (2) horses that they wish to remain in consideration. A final date for the declaration will be posted once the FEI Nominated Entry deadline is published. The FEI Nominated Entry List will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than Midnight, Swiss Time on April 6, 2021.

By no later than ~~TBD~~ March 23, 2021 (*subject to change*), athletes not wishing to remain in consideration for the FEI Nominated Entry List must declare in writing to Kristen Brett ([kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org)).

By no later than ~~TBD~~ March 23, 2021 (*subject to change*), the Selectors Group, will recommend to the USEF Endurance Sport Committee, the ranking list of the top five (5) combinations and up to the maximum number of substitutes to be named to the FEI Nominated Entry

List, which is subject to the ~~and approved by~~ approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group, all athlete/horse combinations that have submitted an Application of Intent and who have not withdrawn from the application process, the ranking list of the top five (5) combinations and up to the maximum number of substitutes to be named to the FEI Nominated Entry List. A final date will be posted once the FEI Nominated Entry deadline is published. **The FEI Nominated Entry List will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than Midnight, Swiss Time on April 6, 2021.**

Five (5) athlete/horse combinations will be included in the official invitation to attend the Event based upon their position on the final ranking list. The number of athletes and horses allowed to travel to the Event is subject to the approval of the FEI and Organizing Committee as stated in the Definite Schedule for the Event. (FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Articles 817.2 and 818.14 **844.5.2**). If an athlete declines an invitation or requests removal from the FEI Nominated Entry List, the next highest ranked athlete/horse combination will be used to serve as members of the Team or as a substitute/replacement. Athletes with a second horse ranked in the top 10 can only use the second horse based upon its position on the ranking list. Athlete/horse combinations serving as members of the Team or as a substitute/replacement and attend the Event may only compete based upon their position on the final ranking list. Please see Section II for Last Date for Replacements.

## **2. Ranking List Calculation **Between June 1, 2019 and June 17, 2020:****

- a. Ranking is established by taking into account all the results of an athlete/horse combination from a CEI3\* competition held in the U.S. and Canada between June 1, 2019 and June 17, 2020 (*subject to change*).
- b. Qualifying points may be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.
- c. USEF will automatically track points for athlete/horse combinations earned at CEI3\* competitions held in the U.S. and Canada.
- d. Qualifying points are earned when an athlete/horse combination receives a final score/position/placing on the ranking list (i.e., first, second, third, fourth, etc.).
- e. Athlete/horse combinations will not receive a '0' on the ranking list or be penalized if eliminated due to a:
  - Withdrawal (WD)
  - Retirement (RET)
  - Disqualification (DSQ)
  - Finished Not Ranked (FNR)
  - Failed to Qualify (FTQ)
- f. The two (2) competitions with the highest points earned will be used to calculate an athlete/horse combination's final ranking.
- g. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more CEI3\* competitions held in the U.S. or Canada, all lowest points will be dropped.
- h. Athletes wishing to have more than one horse compete at a CEI3\* competition held in the U.S. or Canada, may have the horse competed by another athlete ("Proxy Rider"). Proxy Riders who have not applied for selection to the Championship are not eligible for selection. Athletes who have applied for selection for the Championship and compete as a Proxy Riders are not eligible for selection with any horse that is not listed on their application of intent.
- i. Athletes competing as Proxy Riders will be noted on the ranking list.
- j. Scale of points for the calculation of rankings:

Place	CEI3*
<b>1</b>	120
<b>2</b>	117
<b>3</b>	114
<b>4</b>	111
<b>5</b>	108
<b>6</b>	105
<b>7</b>	102
<b>8</b>	99
<b>9</b>	96
<b>10</b>	93
<b>...until</b>	3

In the case of a tie, athletes may be asked to submit additional information such as veterinary cards:

Athlete/horse combinations will be separated by their overall finishing time based upon their best highest ranked competition. If a tie remains thereafter, the athlete/horse combinations will be separated by presentation time based upon their best highest ranked competition.

*Please note that athletes are strongly encouraged to retain a copy of their horse's veterinary card following the successful completion of a designated CEI3\* USEF qualifying competition.*

*\*Scores obtained between June 18, 2020 and August 5, 2020 will not be used for purposes of the USEF Ranking List.*

### **1. Ranking List Calculation between August 5, 2020 and March 23, 2021**

- a. Ranking is established by taking into account all the results of an athlete/horse combination from a CEI3\* competition held in the U.S. and Canada between August 5, 2020 and March 23, 2021 (*subject to change*).
- b. Qualifying points will be combined with those previously earned by an athlete/horse combination between June 1, 2019 and June 17, 2020.
- c. Qualifying points may be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.
- d. USEF will automatically track points for athlete/horse combinations earned at CEI3\* competitions held in the U.S. and Canada.
- e. Qualifying points are earned when an athlete/horse combination receives a final score/position/placing on the ranking list (i.e., first, second, third, fourth, etc.).

- f. Athlete/horse combinations will not receive a '0' on the ranking list or be penalized if eliminated due to a:
- Withdrawal (WD)
  - Retirement (RET)
  - Disqualification (DSQ)
  - Finished Not Ranked (FNR)
  - Failed to Qualify (FTQ)
- a. The two (2) competitions with the highest points earned will be used to calculate an athlete/horse combination's final ranking.
- b. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more CEI3\* competitions held in the U.S. or Canada, all lowest points will be dropped.
- i. Athletes wishing to have more than one horse compete at a CEI3\* competition held in the U.S. or Canada, may have the horse competed by another athlete ("Proxy Rider"). Proxy Riders who have not applied for selection to the Championship are not eligible for selection. Athletes who have applied for selection for the Championship and compete as a Proxy Riders are not eligible for selection with any horse that is not listed on their application of intent.
- j. Athletes competing as Proxy Riders will be noted on the ranking list.
- k. Scale of points for the calculation of rankings:

Place	CEI3*
<b>1</b>	120
<b>2</b>	117
<b>3</b>	114
<b>4</b>	111
<b>5</b>	108
<b>6</b>	105
<b>7</b>	102
<b>8</b>	99
<b>9</b>	96
<b>10</b>	93
<b>...until</b>	3

A minimum of five Athletes must start the relevant CEI for an Athlete to earn 100% of the available ranking points for that Event. If the CEI has less than five Athletes competing, the competing Athletes shall be eligible only to earn 50% of the otherwise available ranking points.

In the case of a tie, athletes may be asked to submit additional information such as veterinary cards:

Athlete/horse combinations will be separated by their overall finishing time based upon their best highest ranked competition. If a tie remains thereafter, the athlete/horse combinations will be separated by presentation time based upon their best highest ranked competition.

*Please note that athletes are strongly encouraged to retain a copy of their horse's veterinary card following the successful completion of a designated CEI3\* USEF qualifying competition.*

- 4. FEI Nominated Entry List:** The FEI Nominated Entry List will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than Midnight, Swiss Time on **April 6, 2021**.

Nominated Entry athlete/horse combinations may be substituted with replacement athlete/horse combinations for any of the Reasons for Removal as listed in Section X. Any substitutions for veterinary reasons must be documented by the USEF Veterinary Advisory Group.

**II. Last Date for Replacements:** The Last Date for Replacements is the last date at which an athlete or horse can be substituted in the Team selected to travel to the Event based upon their position on the final ranking list. ~~The date will be based on when the U.S. horses fly to the Event, where they fly from and the availability of space on horse flights departing at a later date and the practicality of traveling a horse at a later date. The date will be decided by the USEF Director of Sport, in consultation with the international horse transport company, the Director of Endurance, Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor, 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, if funding is provided to athletes, horses will only be allowed to travel to the Event on horse flights as organized by the USEF Endurance Department and/or Organizing Committee for the Event.~~

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

**III. FEI Definite Entry:** The FEI Definite Entry will be done in accordance with the FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article ~~819.2.1~~ **844.3.1** and FEI General Regulations, Article **116.2.2(ii)**.

**After Acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries and up to one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection:** Replacements will be made according to the FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article ~~819.3.1~~ **846** and in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section IX.B.3.

**Declaration of Starters:** The Declaration of Starters will be done in accordance with FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article ~~819.2.1~~ **845**.

*To clarify, only those athletes and horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry List for the U.S. are allowed to compete at the Event.*

**IV. Provided below are the names of all committee/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and roles(s) of their members:** The USEF Endurance Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which shall be reviewed and approved by and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group (see Attachment F for the list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members).

**V. Other Consideration:**

**1. Equine Drug Testing:** All applicant 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 applicable discipline 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-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on May 3, 2019 (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 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 Veterinary 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.

## **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](http://www.fei.org).

- 2. Medical Request:** In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council at any time during the selection process for the purposes to determine 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 Group, USEF approved physician(s), and the USEF Endurance Sport Committee, with the approval of the

USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group. 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 approval by the USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group.

## VI. Selection

**A. Rationale for utilizing selection:** Selection is used to field the best team possible.

**B. Selection criteria and explain how it will be used:** See Section I.2.

**C. Selection Committee:**

1. Names of the Committees(s) or Individuals that will be responsible for selection per FEI and USOC requirements:

- USEF Endurance Selectors Group
- 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 National Governing Body (NGB) role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:** See Attachment F for the list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

**Selectors Group:** Three (3) individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council and approved by the USEF Board of Directors upon recommendation of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies of the USEF (Attachment H). The 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 16) but who is not an applicant for the Team (“Eligible Athlete Representative Selector”).

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors will also be 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 is 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 Committee:** Any member of the Selection Committee who has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the Selection Committee member must recuse him/herself from Committee discussions and voting. Further, the Committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the Committee in the nomination process. However, a Committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high-performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide such information to the Committee so long as information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the Committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

## VII. Removal of Athletes

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

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete or Owner must submit a written letter via email ([kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org)) 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 in order to meet FEI General Regulations, Article 117.2.
- Injury or illness as certified by the Veterinary Advisory Group and/or Team Veterinarian.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Violation of the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).
- Failure of an owner(s) to sign the USEF Horse ~~Loan~~ **Participation** Agreement (Attachment B).
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.
- Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), FEI, USEF and U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures including participation in out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, USEF, and USADA Rules.

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 IX, 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. After the acceptance of nomination by the FEI:

The USEF has jurisdiction over the Squad, Team or Individuals once the Nominated Entry List is submitted to the FEI. An athlete may be removed from the Squad, Team, and/or as an Individual at any time for the following reasons, as determined by the USEF in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete or owner must submit a written letter via email ([kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org)) 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) in order to meet FEI General Regulations, Article 117.2.
- Injury or illness as determined by the Veterinary Advisory Group and/or Team Veterinarian.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Violation of the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

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

## VIII. 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 ranked list of athlete and horses on the FEI Nominated Entry List for the U.S. 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. Prior to the acceptance of the Nominated Entry List by the FEI:** Once the Team for the Event has been announced and prior to the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry List, Team members and substitutes may be substituted with substitute athlete/horse combinations for any of the reason outlined in Section VII (Reasons for Removal) based upon their position on the final ranking list. Team members may only be substituted with substituted athlete/horse combinations for veterinary or medical reasons, or for breach of the USEF Code of Conduct or Safe Sport Policy, but in consultation with the Team Veterinarian (or a member of the Veterinary Advisory Group) and the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor, and at the recommendation of the Selectors Group and USEF Endurance Sport Committee with approval by the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group. Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have approval for the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by physician(s) approved by the USEF.
- 2. After acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry List and until the Last Date for Replacements:** After the Team and substitutes for the Event have been announced and prior to the last day for replacement, Team members may only be replaced with athlete/horse combinations for veterinary or medical reasons or for breach of the USEF Code of Conduct or Safe Sport Policy, or for failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement.

The Last Date for Replacement is the last date at which an athlete or horse can be substituted in to the Team or as an Individual to travel to the Event based upon their position on the final ranking list. ~~The date will be based on when the U.S. horses ship to the Event, where they ship from, and 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, USEF Director of Sport, Director of Endurance, Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor 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 horse flight as organized by the USEF Endurance Department and/or Organizing Committee for the Event. Substitutions may only be made in consultation with the Team Veterinarian (or a member(s) of the Veterinary Advisory Group), the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor and/or at the recommendation of the Selectors Group and USEF Endurance Sport Committee with approval by the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group.~~ Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) approved by USEF or 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.

- 3. After Last Date for Replacements and until one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection:** After the Last Date for Replacements and up until one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection, the athlete and/or horses may be removed for reasons set forth in Section VIII. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with a reserve

present at the Event. 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 for the Team, a substitution is vital. The latter substitution 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/Technical Advisor, with approval of the USEF Director of Sport, 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 reasons must be documented by the Team Veterinarian and/or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group.

4. **After the Declaration of Starters:** Will be done in accordance with FEI Endurance Rules, Article 846. At this point, the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor will declare the names of the athletes and of the horses allocated to the athletes definitely starting the Event.
5. **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 VIII. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with a reserve present at the Event. However, the reason for substitution must only be because either, the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case of substitution or the performance of the Team has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team, a substitution is vital. The latter substitution will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may 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/Technical Advisor, with approval of the USEF Sport Director, Endurance Team Leader, Selector(s), and/or Team Veterinarian or members of the Veterinary Advisory Group, present at the Event and in accordance with FEI Rules for Endurance Events, Article ~~819.3~~ 846 or for reasons set forth in Section VII. Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be documented by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Advisory Group. Any replacement for medical reasons must be document by a physician(s) physically 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 a substitution/replacement to the Team:**
  - a. **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry List:** See Section ~~IX.B.1~~ **VIII.B.1.**
  - b. **After the acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry List and until Last Date of Replacements:** See Section ~~IX.B.2~~ **VIII.B.2.**
  - c. **After Last Date for Replacements and until one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection:** See Section ~~IX.B.2~~ **VIII.B.3.**
  - d. **After the Declaration of Starters and up to two (2) hours before the scheduled start of the Event:** See Section ~~IX.B.4~~ **VIII.B.4.**

**IX. Supporting Documents:** USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies for the Event.

**X. Required Documents:** The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and horse owners as a condition of nominate for the Event and are included as attachments:

- Application of Intent (Attachment A)
- Horse ~~Loan~~ **Participation** Agreement (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification (Attachment D)
- USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E)

Applicants 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 them and agree to be bound by them.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to Selectors Group; Team Veterinarian and members of the Veterinary Advisory Group if requested; Physicians; members of the USEF Endurance Sport Committee or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the 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).

**XI. Additional Documents:** Applicants are required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment H) and are requested to sign the document.

**XII. 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](http://www.usef.org)): These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USEF.
- Other: The Selection Procedures and Application Packet will be available on the USEF's website ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)) or via email upon request.

**XIII. Date of Nomination:** The FEI Nominated Entry List will be submitted to the FEI no later than midnight Swiss time on **April 6, 2021**. The FEI Definite Entry List will be submitted to the FEI no later than midnight Swiss time on TBD.

**XIV. Anti-Doping Requirements:** The athlete agrees to submit to drug testing by the FEI, WADA, and/or USADA or their designees at any time and understands that the use of methods or substances prohibited by the applicable anti-doping rules subject him/her to penalties including, but not limited to, disqualification and suspension. If it is determined that an athlete may have committed a doping violation, he agrees to submit to the results management authority and processes of the applicable organization, including arbitration under the USADA Protocol, or the results management authority of the FEI or WADA, if applicable.

**XV. Development of Selection Procedures:** The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Endurance Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment G for the list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

**XVI. USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures:** The Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can found on the USEF website ([www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)).

Athletes wishing to file a grievance 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](mailto:epratt@usef.org).

Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org), or visit [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org) for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process.

**XVII. 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 the 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 cancellation of the Selection Trials listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to the resubmission to the USEF.

**XVIII. 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: (719) 866-5000
- Toll Free Telephone: (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5353)
- [Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

**~~XIX~~XVIII. Disclaimer:** Please see Attachment D – USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification.

**XIX. Funding Disclaimer:** Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a Team.

**XX. NGB Signatures:** I certify that I have read, understand, and incorporated 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 S. Kessler		5/1/2019
USEF Director, Endurance	Kristen E. Brett		5/1/2019

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to the USEF Endurance Department: Phone (859) 225-6919 or Email: [kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org).

Approved by the Endurance Sport Committee on: March 14, 2019 and **July 2, 2020**

Approved by the International Disciplines Council on: April 9, 2019

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on: April 29, 2019 and **August 5, 2020**

## **DEFINITIONS**

**ENDURANCE ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE:** An athlete will be considered an Endurance Eligible Athlete Representative for the Selectors Group according to USEF Bylaw, Part IV, Bylaw 401.

**FOREIGN LEASED HORSE:** A horse which resides outside of the U.S. and in which there is a lease agreement between the owner (lessor) of the horse and the athlete or parent/guardian (lessee). The lease agreement must be submitted to USEF and the FEI and authenticated by the stamp and signature of USEF.

**PROXY RIDER:** An athlete who competes a horse for another athlete.

**REPLACEMENT / SUBSTITUTE:** Replacing or substituting an athlete/horse combination after the USEF has named the Squad or Individuals.

**U.S. BASED HORSE:** A horse whose nationality is that of USA or of a foreign National Federation and resides in the U.S. Documents such as a horse's Equine Infectious Anemia Report may be required to prove residency in the U.S.

**CEI:** International Endurance Competition

**CEN:** National Endurance Competition

**EVENT:** The ~~2020~~ 2021 FEI World Endurance Championship

**TEAM or SQUAD:** The ~~2020~~ 2021 U.S. Endurance Team