



2026 USEF Junior Jumper National Championships

The United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) Junior Jumper National Championships (the “Event”) will be offered as a Team Championship and an Individual Championship. The Team Championship will be based on a modified Nations Cup format and the Individual Championship will be a multi-round competition. Fence heights will be up to 1.45m.

I. **MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. Athletes wishing to participate in the Event must be U.S. citizens.
- B. The athlete must be a current USEF Junior Competing member in good standing (see GR128) from time of application and through the conclusion of Event.
- C. The athlete must be a current USHJA member (see JP100.1) in good standing from time of application and through conclusion of Event.
- D. The zone of each athlete is determined by the athlete's point state as recorded with USEF as of December 1, 2025 (See JP 100.5). An athlete may apply to the Federation for permission to change their point state no later than April 1, 2026 at 5:00pm ET.
- E. The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102 and be in good standing under USEF rules from time of application and through the conclusion of Event.
- F. The horse must be registered with USHJA (see JP100.2) in good standing at the time of application and through conclusion of Event.
- G. Horse owners must be Competing Members of USEF and USHJA (see GR 1110) and in good standing from the time of application and through the conclusion of the Event.
- H. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to participate in the USEF Junior Jumper National Championships must earn a Certificate of Capability by completing a course set at 1.40m or higher with a score of four (4) faults or less, at USEF or FEI licensed competitions between **September 1, 2025 and September 7, 2026**.
- I. Athletes wishing to be considered for the Event must complete and submit an application online at www.usef.org and pay the requisite application fee of twenty-five dollars per application by no later than August 31, 2026 at 5:00PM EST.
- J. The athlete and parent or legal guardian, if applicable, must certify by signing the application, or, if applicable, multiple applications, that they have received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Selection Procedures for the Event. In addition, the athlete and parent or legal guardian, if applicable, must certify, by signing the Application, that they have received and read the USEF Code of Conduct, the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.
- K. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USEF Background Check Policy.
- L. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy.

II. **ZONE INVITATIONS:**

- A. A maximum of five (5) eligible athlete/horse combinations from each zone will be selected for the Event based on the Junior Jumper National Championships Standings list by zone dated **September 22, 2026**:
 1. A team consists of at least three (3) athlete/horse combinations but not more than four (4)

athlete/horse combinations. These athlete/horse combinations will participate in the Team Championship and the Individual Championship.

2. The fifth athlete/horse combination will compete only as in the Individual Championship.
 - a. This athlete/horse combination is the fifth ranked athlete/horse combination in the Junior Jumper National Championships Standings list by zone dated [September 22, 2026](#).
 - b. This combination will serve as the team's Traveling Reserve athlete/horse combination should a member of the team be unable to participate.
- B. If there are less than three (3) athlete/horse combinations represented by a zone, USEF may combine the individual combinations with another zone to create a team (minimum three (3) athletes). USEF will make the final decision to combine athlete/horse combinations no later than the first Chef d'Equipe Meeting.
- C. Chefs d'Equipe: Each team will be represented by a Chef d'Equipe which will be selected by USEF. The USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees will review the recommendation and make a final decision.

III. INDIVIDUAL INVITATIONS:

The next twenty (20) highest ranked athlete/horse combinations, from the Junior Jumper National Championships National Standings List, who have not been selected to a zone team or as a Traveling Reserve will be invited to compete as Individuals.

IV. SELECTION:

- A. Athlete/horse combinations from each zone will be selected according to their ranking in the Junior Jumper National Championships standings list by zone. The standings list by zone are calculated in accordance with the following:
 1. [The best twelve \(12\) competitions \(two highest prize money classes per athlete/horse combination will be pointed per competition\)](#) will count for the Junior Jumper National Championships standings. See Section IV.B and IV.C for Classes to count.
 2. Points are based on money won (one dollar equals one point; see exception IV.B. 3).
 3. Athlete/horse combinations can acquire points/money in any zone by competing at any USEF licensed competition. See below for foreign competitions.
 4. Points can be earned at any USEF (except local level) or FEI licensed competitions. See Section IV.C below for points earned at foreign FEI and Equestrian Canada events.
 5. Standings list by zone for the Event can be found on the USEF website at www.usef.org/jumping.
 6. In the event of a tie in the standings, the tie will be decided by determining which athlete/horse combination has the next best result (highest prize money won in a class) held at 1.45m or above. If a tie remains after the 1.45m and above classes are exhausted, it will be followed by the next best result (highest prizemoney won in a class) held at 1.40m.
 7. If an athlete has more than one horse in the top five positions of their zone's Junior Jumper National Championships Standings, the athlete may choose which horse they will compete.
- B. The following classes count for the Junior Jumper National Championships standings:
 1. Junior Jumper Classes offering \$500 or more in prize money held at 1.40m or above. Junior Jumper classes must be run in accordance with JP 117.3.
 2. Open Jumper Classes offering \$500 or more in prize money held at 1.40m or above. Classes held at the Regional Standard do not count. Classes offering \$25,000 or more must be run in accordance with JP 150.
 3. Classes of more than \$25,000 will be capped at 25,000 points, thus pointed the same as a \$25,000 class.

- C. Money won/points earned at foreign FEI and Equestrian Canada (EC) competitions will be awarded as follows:
 - 1. Money from foreign FEI competitions will automatically be counted towards the athlete/horse combination's standings if the class(es) meet or exceed the requirements of IV.B and are held within the Qualifying Period (see IV.D).
 - 2. Money from national Equestrian Canada competitions may also count towards the horse/athlete combination's standings if the class(es) meet or exceed the requirements of III.B and are held within the Qualifying Period (see IV.D). Athletes are responsible for submitting a copy of the prize list (indicating which class is to be counted and fence height) and official complete show results that include prize money won to USEF, attention Erin Keating, within ten business days of the last date of the competition for the money to count towards the combination's respective standings.
 - 3. Foreign FEI or EC competition money won will be converted into US dollars at the exchange rate of the date the money was won.
- D. Qualifying period: The Qualifying Period for the Event begins [September 1, 2025, and ends August 31, 2026 \("Qualifying Period"\)](#). The start date of a competition is used to determine if a qualifying class falls within a Qualifying Period. For example, if a competition starts on August 31st, and the qualifying class is on September 2nd, the class will be included in a Qualifying Period that ends on August 31st.
- E. Verification of Standings: It is the responsibility of the athlete to verify the accuracy of the Junior Jumper National Championship Standings posted on the USEF website. USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported results. If any errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USEF office immediately. Errors must be reported no more than three (3) business days after the standings are posted.

V. SUBSTITUTIONS:

- A. Team and Traveling Reserve - In the event an eligible athlete/horse combination is unable to compete due to illness and/or injury to an athlete or horse, voluntary withdrawal, or other unforeseen circumstances, the next highest ranked eligible athlete/horse combination in the zone (see below for athletes with more than one horse on the Standings list) may move into the Team or Traveling Reserve vacancy.
- B. Individual Invitations – In the event an eligible athlete/horse combination declines the invitation, or is unable to compete, the next highest ranked eligible athlete/horse combination from the Junior Jumper National Championships Standings List may move into the vacancy.
- C. All substitutions will be in accordance with the following time periods:
 - 1. Up to one hour prior to the soundness inspection, should an athlete/horse combination on the team be unable to participate, the Traveling Reserve athlete/horse combination may be moved into the team. The next highest ranked athlete/horse combination in the zone's Junior Jumper National Championships Standings dated [September 22, 2026](#) may then move into the Traveling Reserve position.
 - 2. After the soundness inspection and up to one hour before the start of the First Competition, should an athlete/horse combination on the team be unable to participate, the Traveling Reserve athlete/horse combination may move into the team.
- D. If an athlete has applied with more than one horse and their chosen horse is unable to compete, the athlete will be able to substitute an additional applicant horse if it is ranked within a team position. The above time periods are still applicable.

VI. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Extraordinary Requests – Extraordinary requests to be exempt from any requirements of these procedures will only be considered if submitted by an Athlete between August 31, 2026 and the Entry Deadline (TBD) and only when the list of eligible athlete/horse combinations on the Junior Jumper National Championships standings list by zone has been exhausted.
 - a. The request must be in writing to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs; ekeating@usef.org.
 - b. Athlete/horse combinations must meet the requirements outline in Section I. with exception to Application deadlines and Certificate of Capability requirements.
 - c. The request will be reviewed by the nonconflicted members of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will review the recommendation and make a final decision. In making their recommendation, the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees will evaluate the past performance of the athlete and horse, including the ability to jump the size and difficulty of obstacles, the complexity of the course(s) and the required speed to avoid time penalties.

VII. EQUINE DRUG TESTING: Horses competing in the Event are subject to all USEF Equine Drug and Medication rules.

VIII. SOUNDNESS:

- A. There will be a soundness inspection (jog) at the Event, conducted by the official horse show veterinarian and steward.
- B. Time and location for the soundness inspection will be included in the Event prize list.
- C. Horses found to be unsound will have the opportunity for a reinspection which will be conducted 30 minutes prior to the start of the first competition.
- D. Horses failing the soundness reinspection will not be permitted to compete.

IX. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: Horse Passports are not required. Horses are required to have health documents and vaccinations as required by the applicable states.

X.

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

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

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures, including but not limited to members of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee, USEF Board of Directors, and USEF Executive Committee, will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy and USEF Safe Sport Policy.

X. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- A. Prior to and after the entry deadline (TBD, 2026) USEF has jurisdiction over athlete/horse combinations who might participate at the Event: An athlete/horse combination whose name is included on the final standings list by zone and/or submitted on the Event Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures.

1. Voluntary withdrawal. The athlete must advise USEF (Erin Keating, Director of Jumping, Development Programs – ekeating@usef.org) of their withdrawal in writing.
2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
3. Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
4. Violation of the USEF Safe Sport Policy and/or U.S. Center for SafeSport Code.
5. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
6. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
7. Failure to adhere to all USEF Equine Drug and Medication rules.
8. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1. of these selection procedures

In these procedures, the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section V. SUBSTITUTIONS.

An athlete removed from the Zone's Final Ranking and/or USEF Junior Jumper National Championships entry pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Article 703.

XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Jumping Sport Committee, USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors

XII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in USEF Bylaws Part VII and in the Supplemental Procedures for Complaints and Grievances. See www.usef.org.

XIII. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

XI. QUESTIONS: Contact Erin Keating, USEF Director of Jumping, Development Programs at ekeating@usef.org or (859) 225-2036. Please click [here](#) to view USEF Junior Jumper National Championships Zone Coordinator contact information.

XII. USEF SIGNATURES

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

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
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USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		
USEF Managing Director of Jumping	Elizabeth Connell		