



The USA Driving newsletter will include regular updates from the Driving Sport Committee and the USEF Combined Driving programs.

Athlete Pathway Programs: Emerging – Developing – Elite

US Equestrian is pleased to announce the 2021 revisions to the Athlete Pathway Programs for combined driving. The Driving Sport Committee completed a thorough review of the Elite Athlete and Developing Athlete Programs for combined driving, including a better understanding of the goals for each. The criteria for both programs have shifted based on a statistical analysis of FEI Driving World Championship results, and the Developing program encompasses a two-step progression while the Elite status is set at a higher goal.

Watch this thorough review of the Athlete Pathway Programs to better understand these changes:



The [full program outline](#) can be reviewed on the Combined Driving page of usef.org.

The Driving Sport Committee also hopes to launch the new **Emerging Program** this

year (this was delayed in 2020) to offer support for educational opportunities and introduce NEW drivers to the sport.

US Equestrian celebrates the athletes and horses or ponies who have competed on [USA Driving Teams](#) over the past 20 years. These athletes deserve recognition for their achievements in representing the U.S. at FEI Driving World Championships. This list will be updated annually to honor those teams and individuals and their successes.

Congratulations to the current [2021 Combined Driving Elite Athletes](#):

- Jacob Arnold, with Steve Wilson's *Endorro*, Mr Lindsey G, Tuzes
- Taylor Bradish, with Jennifer Matheson's *Katydid Duchess*
- Jennifer Keeler, with her own *Amazing Grace*
- James Miller, with his own *Agussto's Armoei*, Eldorus, Gentleman
- Jennifer Thompson, with her own *Funnominial CG*
- Chester Weber, with his own *Amadeus*, Boris W, First Edition, Julius V, Reno

The list of Combined Driving Developing Athletes is pending final review, and will be published [here](#) in the next few weeks.

Applications for the Developing Athlete Program are still being accepted online through **January 31, 2021**, and will re-open for consideration from June 1-30, 2021. Online applications can be found on a member's Athlete Dashboard. Contact Director of Driving, Danielle Aamodt, for more information: daamodt@usef.org.

2021 Combined Driving Competitions Are Underway!

Remember to submit your entries on time!

FEI drivers, remember to submit your FEI Entry via the USEF member portal in addition to submitting it to the competition secretary.

Participants must adhere to all [COVID protocols](#) and local requirements while attending USEF-licensed competitions.

- January 27 - 31
[Grand Oaks CDE & CAI 1*/2*](#) (Comp ID 338580)
Weirsdale, FL
- February 18 - 21
[Spring Fling CDE](#) (Comp ID 339242)
Ocala, FL **Entries closing soon!**
- March 4 - 7
[Grand Oaks March CDE](#) (Comp ID 340931)
Weirsdale, FL
- April 8 - 11
[Southern Pines CDE](#) (Comp ID 340574)
Raeford, NC

- April 21 - 25
[Katydid CDE at TIEC](#) pending CAI 2* (Comp ID 323394)
Tryon, NC
- May 27 - 30
[Kentucky Classic at Hillcroft Farm](#) pending CAI 2* (Comp ID 338765)
Paris, KY
- September 17 - 19
[Timberland CT + HDT](#) (Comp ID 340779)
Raeford, NC
- October 7 - 10
[Garden State CDE](#) (Comp ID 334828)
Allentown, NJ

The 2021 USEF Combined Driving National Championships are published [here](#).

Driven Dressage Tests

USEF Driven Dressage Test – Open Forum

Athletes, trainers, and coaches are invited to join an **open forum** to learn about and discuss the process that was used to write the USEF Driven Dressage tests for the USEF Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate divisions. The forum will be organized at the Spring Fling CDE – watch the schedule for details.

FEI Driven Dressage tests

A few weeks ago, the FEI announced new [FEI Driven Dressage Tests](#) for the Single Horse & Pony[†] classes, with tests for the Pairs & Fours to follow after this year. After January 31, 2021, the Single horses in FEI CAI 2* or CAI 3* classes must use the NEW applicable 2* or 3* test. This new requirement opened several uncertainties for U.S. events and athletes, especially regarding World Championship qualifications. The USEF has reached out to the FEI to clarify several questions and will communicate any news or updates as they are received.

[†]It was confirmed that Single Ponies can continue to use the (old) 3*A-B-C HP1 tests through September 20, 2021 - which is directly after the FEI Pony Driving World Championships.

Regarding how this affects National events, the Driving Sport Committee recommends that organizers continue to offer the (old) 3*B HP1 test for the Advanced divisions from January through March of 2021. Recommendations for the USEF/FEI events in April and May are pending the response from the FEI, but these events plan to coordinate their tests to best serve our Advanced athletes. Further review is needed to determine how to integrate these progressive FEI tests into the USEF Advanced division.

News for FEI Athletes

2021 FEI Rules

FEI athletes need to review the published [FEI rule revisions for 2021](#). While there were not many notable sport rule changes within driving, the [Veterinary Regulations](#) have added to Article 1004 that “clipping, shaving, and/or removing sensory hairs” will result in disqualification from the event (sanctions beginning July 1, 2021). FEI athletes must refrain from removing their horse/pony’s whiskers around the muzzle or eyes. This rule does not apply to National events or classes.

Update for FEI Pony Measurements

The FEI rules require that ponies obtain an FEI pony measurement in order to compete in FEI competitions. While the FEI has granted an allowance for FEI ponies competing at CAI events in the United States to use their USEF measurement cards, this allowance will not count towards U.S. ponies competing in Europe. Therefore, ponies aimed for selection to the FEI Pony Driving World Championships this year must obtain an FEI measurement prior to attending the World Championships.

It has been confirmed with the FEI veterinary department that they are working with the French national federation to establish a measuring session near the Pony Driving World Championship venue, where they will measure FEI ponies needing a measurement as well as ponies "in transition" (previously registered FEI ponies). The pony measurement session calendar is published [here](#) and will eventually include the approved session for the Pony Driving World Championship measurements. Director of Driving Danielle Aamodt will be in contact with applicants for the event to communicate the logistics when the time comes.

FEI Driving World Championships

Athletes will be reminded that applications are open online for the 2021 FEI Driving World Championships for Ponies as well as the World Championships for Pair horses. The applications for Ponies will close on **JULY 1, 2021** and applications for Pair horses will close on July 16, 2021.

USEF has contacted the FEI to inquire about their qualification criteria for both events, which will be [published](#) before the end of the month. Complete USEF selection procedures are underway and will go to the Board for approval at their next meeting. To learn more about selection, go [here](#).

Learn More About U.S. Equestrian Combined Driving Competitions, Programs and Pathways:



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