



Athlete Age Determination: FEI versus USEF

FEI events and U.S. national events use two different systems used to determine the age of an athlete for competition purposes. This means that a rider may be one age to compete in USEF events and a different age to compete in FEI events.

FEI Age

Where is FEI age used?

FEI events include CSIO Nations Cups, CSIOY/J/Ch Nations Cups, CSIs, North American Children's Championship (NACHC), North American Junior and Young Rider Championship (NAJYRC).

Other events like the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search, U25 National Championship and The Artisan Farms U25 Grand Prix Series are USEF events; however, they are run in accordance with FEI age rules.

What are the FEI age categories?

Child Riders: FEI ages 12 to 14

Junior Riders: FEI ages 14 to 18

Young Riders: FEI ages 16 to 21

U25 Riders: FEI ages 16 to 25

Refer to the FEI Jumping rules Annex XII for age descriptions and fence heights for Child, Junior, and Young Rider competitions.

How is FEI age determined?

FEI Age for is the age the athlete will turn during the calendar year of the event. Unlike USEF age, the month and day of birth do not matter. For example, an athlete born October 15, 2003 will turn 14 during 2017, so their FEI age is 14 for the entire 2017 calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2017, and eligible to compete as a Child Rider or a Junior Rider.

USEF Age

Where is USEF age used?

Events that use the USEF method include Children/Adult Jumper Championship, Junior Jumper Championship and Prix des States, and U.S. Pony Jumper Finals.

What are the USEF age categories?

Junior Riders: 17 years of age and under

Senior Riders: 18 years of age and over

Refer to the USEF rulebook for fence heights used for each competition and age category.

How is USEF age determined?

An athlete's USEF age is determined by the age they are on December 1st, when the USEF competition year begins. For example, an athlete born October 15, 2003 would be 13 on December 1, 2016, so their USEF age is 13 for the entire 2017 USEF competition year, December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017.