



MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential 2026 Youth Jumping Competition Applicants
FROM: Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs
DATE: January 8, 2026
RE: Planned Selection Methodology and Eligibility Requirements

Dear U.S. Youth Jumping Athletes –

Please see the below details outlining the anticipated selection methods for the 2026 Youth Jumping Competition (“Event”) to be held in Aachen, Germany August 17-23, 2026. This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and is subject to change. This information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee and is subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee and therefore subject to change upon the approval of the final Selection Procedures by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee.

I. Selection: The invitation is for two (2) U.S. athletes and it is proposed that these two (2) athletes and their horses will be selected for the 2026 Youth Jumping Competition according to the following method:

A. Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List:

1. The Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List is a ranking list of the athletes’ points earned in the following classes held at 1.45m and above at FEI and USEF licensed competitions: Junior Jumper, Young Rider, Amateur Jumper, Open Jumper, U25, as well as Jumper classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money held at the National Standard or above. The two highest prize money classes per competition will count towards the ranking. Money won is aged out over the calendar year according to the following percentages outlined in the Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List Guidelines. It is proposed that the two (2) highest ranked athletes from the Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List dated June 26, 2026 will be named to the FEI Definite Entry. The Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List will be published weekly on www.usequestrian.org/jumping.

Certificate of Capability: Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete in the Event must have earned the required Certificates of Capability as described below, at USEF or FEI licensed competitions between 1 September 2025, and 29 June 2026. To earn a Certificate of Capability, athlete/horse combinations must complete at least two (2) courses set at 1.45m or higher with a score of four (4) faults or less.

Eligibility for Selection:

Athletes: Athletes must have been born between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2010 (2026 FEI ages 16 to 21). Athletes must be registered with the FEI and Competing members of USEF in good standing at the time of application, selection, and through the conclusion of the Event. Athletes must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI requirements at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the Event.

Planned Selection Methodology for the 2026 Youth Jumping Competition

Horses: Horse must be 7 years of age or older in the year of the Event. Horses must be recorded with USEF and registered with the FEI in good standing at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the Event.

Application: The athlete must complete and submit an online application in accordance with the following deadlines:

Phase I Application Deadline: application must be submitted no later than 1 June 2026 will be charged a fee of \$70.

Phase II Application Deadline: application must be submitted between 2 June 2026 and 29 June 2026 and will be charged an application fee of \$300.

No applications will be accepted after 5:00pm ET on 29 June 2026.

Complete details of the selection method will be published as part of the USEF approved Selection Procedure for the 2026 Youth Jumping Competition which are expected to be published no later than March 1, 2026.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 859.225.2036 or email ekeating@usef.org with any questions.