USA DRIVING

NEWS



Competition Resources

- USEF Competition Calendar
- Post-Competition Evaluations

Chester Weber Claims Individual Bronze for U.S. Driving Team at 2026 FEI Driving World Championship

Aachen, Germany – Chester Weber (Ocala, Fla.) drove his team of Amadeus, Despardo, Kadora, Julius V, and Nico Tuesje C to a bronze medal at the 2026 FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hands in Aachen, Germany. Weber ended on a combined score of 156.7 after his world championship record-breaking dressage test on opening day gave him a significant edge. Competition concluded on Sunday, August 23, with The Defender U.S. Driving Team ending their championship after a day of cones on a score of 354.91.

READ MORE



Defender U.S. Driving Team Concludes Competition at 2026 FEI Driving World Championship for Single Horses



Munich, Germany – The Defender U.S. Driving Team wrapped up a full weekend of competition on Sunday, September 6, at the 2026 FEI Driving World Championship for Single Horses, closing out the championship with the cones phase at München-Riem. The team finished 10th overall amongst a competitive field of horses and drivers from 18 countries.

READ MORE

USEF Combined Driving National Championships

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Ponies & Para Driving
September 15-20, 2026, at Tryon Fall CDE at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, N.C.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Pair Horses, Intermediate Horses, Preliminary Horses and Training Horses
November 5-8, 2026, at Stable View in Aiken, S.C.

Click here to view full date and location announcements.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Four-In-Hand Horses and 2026 USEF Combined Driving Youth National Championships
March 11-15, 2026, at Live Oak International in Ocala, Fla. Click here to view the full results.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Single Horses
April 22-26, 2026, at Katydid at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, N.C. Click here to view the full results.

Upcoming Development Program Information

Remaining 2026 Developing Training Sessions:

- **October 9-11** at Charlotte's Creek Farm in Georgetown, Ky.

Athletes can apply for the training sessions through their USEF Athlete Dashboard. Reminder: the application to participate in the Charlotte's Creek Training Session is open at this time. Further information regarding the Combined Driving Developing Program can be found here.

For additional information or questions, please contact Molly Andrews, Sport Operations Manager, at mandrews@usef.org.

FEI Updates

On **July 1, 2026**, the new article 973 of the FEI Driving Rules will go into effect regarding the implementation of cone lifters. As of July 2, 2026, the Board approved an emergency board resolution regarding this new rule. Due to the delayed production of the cone lifter material specified in Annex 7, the requirement for manufacturers to use this specific material has been removed. This emergency resolution will continue until the new identified material has undergo its participation

in the testing program in order to ensure consistent and appropriate testing conditions.

On **January 1, 2027**, the new article 928 of the FEI Driving Rules will go into effect regarding the requirement of protective headgear while riding on a carriage anywhere on the show grounds. For more information, read the FEI Driving Rules here.

Keep in mind the FEI rule changes for 2026, which can be found here.

VIEW ALL 2026 FEI RULE CHANGES

If you are interested in participating in FEI Young Horse Classes, please connect with the USEF FEI Horse Passport office at passports@usef.org to get your equine registered prior to the competition.

The International Carriage Drivers Association has been recognized by the FEI through a memo of understanding, for more information or to join, visit ICDA-driving.com.

USEF Updates & Resources

Please be aware that many rule changes were approved at the mid-year board meeting. These rules can be found more in depth here. Below is a highlight of some of the rules members should be aware of.

Rules effective starting December 1, 2026:

GR847.1 changes to the qualified medical personnel requirement.

DC901.1 removes small pony classes. Small ponies will enter regular pony classes. Removes VSE at the advanced levels.

DC905.3 specifies the use of video evidence by officials.

DC908.1 clarifies which events qualify athletes to compete in advanced divisions.

DC920.2 specifies when horse inspections are mandatory.

DC944.4 removes the requirement for on-site farriers during competition.

DC959.1 allows for the POJ to appoint the technical delegate as a cones judge at a short format event with less than 45 entries.

DC970.1 Requires all national championships to have a minimum of 3 judges. At competitions that are not national championships it allows the advanced divisions to only have a minimum of 2 judges.

DC974 requires a veterinarian to be present for all in-harness exams at the end of a marathon course for Short Format events.

Competition Coach/Trainer Requirements for 2026
Please note that as of **December 1, 2025**, coaches (in addition to trainers) must be listed on all USEF competition entry forms and submitted in the results returned by the competition organizer. As a reminder, membership requirements for coaches are the same as trainers, and show passes are not permitted for coaches. Coaches are those who have or share the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, or advertising a rider, driver, handler, or vaulter in equestrian skills. Coaches may or may not also be trainers. Trainers are those who have responsibility for the care, training, and custody of the horse.

US Equestrian App
Keeping track of your US Equestrian membership and horse ID cards has never been easier. The US Equestrian App allows you to access your membership details, save and flag horse ID cards and much more. Plus, with USEF MemberPerks and discounts at your fingertips, you can save with preferred retailers and brands. Download the app here.

SafeSport Updates
As part of our commitment to members and to their wellbeing, US Equestrian has partnered with the McLaughlin Young Group to offer members free confidential counseling services for mental health first aid. Learn more

Welfare Updates
When we implemented our expanded Unethical Treatment of Horses rule (GR838) last year, we empowered USEF and licensed officials to take action in cases of unethical treatment of horses, on show grounds and off. Read more

Interested in Becoming a Licensed Official?

Individuals can apply to become a licensed official for combined driving competitions and serve in different roles. Give back to the sport as a judge, technical delegate, or course designer. The requirements to become a national licensed official are located in the Licensed Officials Policies and Procedures, which includes updated expedited application options for current Athletes competing at the Advanced or CAI2* levels. Learn more about becoming a national or FEI combined driving official here.

Support Combined Driving

Interested in ways to support USEF Combined Driving or Para-Driving? You can find the link to donate to the USET Combined Driving and Para Driving here.

Connect with US Equestrian
Stay up to date with U.S. Driving by following USA Driving on Facebook and US Equestrian on Facebook, X, TikTok, YouTube, and Instagram. Use **#USADriving**.

US Equestrian Federation
4001 Wing Commander Way
Lexington, KY 40511
859-810-8733

View this email in your browser.
If you no longer want to receive emails from us, you can unsubscribe here.