



NEWS



Competition Resources

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Jacob Arnold and Jazandro G.T. Earn USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Advanced Single Horses Honors at Katydid CD



Tryon, N.C. – Jacob Arnold (Paris, Ky.) and Jazandro G.T. finished a stellar weekend at Tryon International Equestrian Center (TIEC), topping the USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Advanced Single Horses with a final score of 139.10 across three phases. This is Arnold and Jazandro G.T.'s first national championship

title as a partnership. Leslie Berndl (Lexington, Ky.) and Impressive earned reserve national champion honors, finishing the weekend on a score of 157.55.

“First and foremost, I would like to thank Andy for his tremendous effort this week, as well as his owners, Cathy and Peter Thomas, my navigator, Colten Parker, and my grooms and staff - Noelle Price, Sonia Williams, Beth Dahlberg, and Taz Lester. My team and I are so pleased with Andy’s progress over the last couple months,” said Arnold. “This was only his third time competing as an FEI 3* Single Horse and it was exciting to have the best dressage score on Friday. It put us into a great position going into the marathon. Andy has learned quickly the pressure, effort, and skill it takes to be competitive at the top level. He really shined through in Saturday’s marathon, taking second by one point and holding the lead overall. The cones course on Sunday was proving to be difficult, very tight turns and challenging angles with a quick time allowed.”

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Applications Now Open for USEF Combined Driving Developing Program



Lexington, Ky. — US Equestrian is pleased to announce that applications for the USEF Combined Driving Developing Athlete Program and Developing Equine Program are now open. Applications are accepted twice annually, opening in May and November each year, and can be submitted through the [Athlete Dashboard](#) in your MyUSEF account.

The mission of the USEF Developing Athlete Program is to provide guidance and educational resources to cultivate selected athlete/equine combinations who display the potential to improve the national standard of the sport and eventually contribute to a U.S. Team score at Driving World Championships.

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Upcoming 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, NC.

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, SC.

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The Bid Applications for the **2027 USEF Combined Driving National Championships** are now open and available on the USEF website. Applications and Criteria for the championships can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Emerging & Development Clinic Information

Emerging Athlete Driving Clinics:

- May 29-31 at SUNY Morrisville in Morrisville, NY. Organized by Tricia Anselm (tricia.dognpony@gmail.com).
- June 5-7 at Avon Driving Park in Avon, NY. Organized by Bruce Jones (bruceunit@gmail.com).
- July 3-5 at High Hopes Farm in Honeoye Falls, NY. Organized by Sarah Reitz (highhopesfarm43@gmail.com).
- July 6-8 at the USET Foundation in Gladstone, NJ. Organized by John Layton (johnlcedriver@gmail.com).
- July 25-26 at Wood Hill Farm in Granville, OH. Organized by Parveti Wood (parveti@mac.com).
- September 4-6 at Falcon View Farm in Waymart, PA. Organized by Beth Ann Berwanger (bethannberwanger@yahoo.com).

The above list of Emerging Clinics is not associated with USEF until the agreements are signed.

Developing Athlete Training Sessions:

- June 12-14 at Charlotte's Creek Farm in Georgetown, KY
- July 31-August 2 at the USET Foundation Headquarters in Gladstone, NJ
- October 9-11 at Charlotte's Creek Farm in Georgetown, KY

Athletes can apply for the training sessions through their [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#).

FEI Updates

The application process for the **2027 FEI Calendar** for combined driving competitions is now open. Applications will be accepted now through **July 1, 2026**, and must be submitted online through the USEF Competition Dashboard at competitions.usef.org.

On **July 1, 2026**, the new article 973 of the FEI Driving Rules will go into effect regarding the implementation of cone lifters. For more information, read the FEI Driving Rules [here](#).

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](#).

[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](https://icda-driving.com).

USEF Updates & Resources

On **April 1st, 2026**, a rule change went into effect regarding FEI Foreign officials. This change can be viewed [here](#).

Competition Coach/Trainer Requirements for 2026

Please note 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, custody, of the horse.

US Equestrian Announces Updates to Combined Driving Pathway Program

The USEF Combined Driving Program operates across three tiers to support drivers at every stage of their journey: the **Emerging Program** hosts introductory clinics using approved curriculum to teach driving basics from beginner through Preliminary level; the **Developing Program** guides committed athlete/equine combinations at the Preliminary level and above toward long-term goals, with a mission to elevate

the national standard and contribute to U.S. Team scores at FEI and Para Driving World Championships; and the **Pre-Elite and Elite Athlete Program** provides grant support to competitive Novice Advanced and above athletes, with Elite status reserved for those meeting FEI-level results criteria or having achieved an individual podium finish at an FEI Driving or Para Driving World Championship.

The 2026 Athlete Pathway Program Lists can be found [here](#). Updates to the Pre-Elite and Elite Program Lists are made regularly.

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

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