

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2024 Olympic Games – Paris, France**  
**Jumping**  
**Review Date: February 12, 2024**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:**

1.1.1 **Nationality/Passport Requirements** - The athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the FEI General Regulations, 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 119 (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2024 Olympic Games (“Event or Games”). Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire until after February 11, 2025.

1.1.2 **Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:** Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the United States. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

1.1.3 **Minimum International Federation (FEI) standards for participation:**

- 1.1.3.1 All athletes must comply with all current FEI Regulations, the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force including but not limited to, Rule 40 (*Participation in the Olympic Games*) Rule 41 (*Nationality of Competitors*) and Rule 43 (*World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions*). Only those athletes who comply with the conditions of participation established by the IOC, FEI Regulations and the Olympic Charter may participate in the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- 1.1.3.2 All athletes and horses wishing to compete on the 2024 Olympic Games U.S. Jumping Team (the “Team”) must achieve as an athlete/horse combination the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) at selected competitions that place from 1 January 2023 until (and including) 24 June 2024. See FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25<sup>th</sup> edition, Effective for the Paris Olympics, updates effective 11 October 2023], Article 632 for MER Requirements and selected competitions.
- 1.1.3.3 The athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2006 (18 years of age in the year of the Olympic Games) see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25<sup>th</sup> edition, Effective for the Paris Olympics, updates effective 11 October 2023], Article 606.1.2.
- 1.1.3.4 A horse must be born on or before December 31, 2015 (nine (9) years of age in the year of the Olympic Games) see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25<sup>th</sup> edition, Effective for the Paris Olympics, updates effective 11 October 2023], Article 606.2.1.
- 1.1.3.5 To be eligible for participation in the Event, athletes and horses must comply with all current FEI Rules and Regulations and be registered with the FEI.
- 1.1.3.6 Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the athlete, by 15 January 2024. Horses, with multinational ownership, must be registered with the FEI by 15 January 2024, under the name of nation for which the horse will compete during the Olympic Games (see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25<sup>th</sup> edition, Effective for the Paris Olympics, updates effective 11 October 2023], Article 606.2.2.1 and 606.2.2.2).

1.1.4 **Other requirements:**

- 1.1.4.1 The athlete must be an active Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.4.2 Athletes wishing to be considered for this Event under these Selection Procedures must successfully complete an online Application (**Attachment A**) with the appropriate application fee on their USEF Athlete Dashboard. Applications submitted online on or before **February 26, 2024** at 11:59 PM ET

will be charged seventy dollars (\$70.00) per application. Applications submitted online after **February 26, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET** and received by USEF on or before **March 4, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET** will be charged an application fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER March 4, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET.** More than one horse may be listed on the application. Please see \*Note in Section 1.3.1.

- 1.1.4.3 All horses listed on the application must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Event. Individual owners as listed in the FEI Passport of horse(s) named to Short List (see Section 1.3.1) must be Senior Active Members of USEF in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Event and execute the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (**Attachment B**). By executing the USEF Horse Participation Agreement, horse owner(s) certify that they have received, read, and understand the Selection Procedures for the Event; the [USEF Code of Conduct](#); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (**Attachment C**); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; [the Non-Discrimination Policy](#) (see Section 13 below); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.
- 1.1.4.4 Athletes must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline, unless the athlete requests an extension of the deadline due to an extraordinary circumstance. Any extension must be approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”).
- 1.1.4.5 Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- 1.1.4.6 Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- 1.1.4.7 By signing the Application, the Athlete certifies that they have received, read, and understand the Selection Procedures for the Team; the [USEF Code of Conduct](#); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (**Attachment C**); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) (see Section 13 below); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

## 1.2 Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions:

- 1.2.1 **Event names, dates and locations of events to be used as part of the selection process:** See 1.3.1 This information was previously communicated to potential Event applicants and published on USEF’s website on June 19, 2023 and can be found [here](#).
- 1.2.2 **Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1:** See 1.3.1 This information was previously communicated to potential Event applicants and published on USEF’s website on June 19, 2023 and can be found [here](#).

## 1.3 Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

- 1.3.1 **Short List Selection** – On or about April 12, 2024, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors (see Definitions on page 14), will recommend ten athletes and their horse(s)\* to the Short List, provided that the athlete and horse(s) have met the application requirements set forth in Section 1.1 above. Such list is subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

\*Note 1: There is no limit on the number of horses per athlete named to the Short List; however, all horses are subject to approval by the Chef d’Equipe in consultation with the Advisors. In evaluating horses to be named to the Short List, the Chef d’Equipe will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section 1.3.1.3. It is possible for an athlete to request to be considered with an additional

horse(s) after the application deadline. Athletes wishing to be considered with additional horses must indicate this request in writing to Lizzy Chesson, USEF Managing Director, Jumping Programs by no later than 11:59pm ET April 5, 2024. Exception: See Section 1.3.4.

The athletes recommended to the Short List will be selected according to the following procedure:

- 1.3.1.1 December 22, 2023 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping “Average Ranking List”: From the December 22, 2023 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping “Average Ranking List” (see [www.usef.org/jumping](http://www.usef.org/jumping)), the USEF Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will recommend the four (4) highest ranked athletes and their horses for inclusion on the Short List.

The Average Ranking List is published weekly on the U.S Jumping Ranking List program page at [www.usequestrian.org/jumping](http://www.usequestrian.org/jumping).

- 1.3.1.2 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking “Horse List”: From the April 5, 2024 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking “Horse List”, the USEF Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will recommend the three (3) highest ranked athletes and their horses who have not already been named to the Short List, for inclusion on the Short List.

The Horse List is published weekly on the U.S Jumping Ranking List program page at [www.usequestrian.org/jumping](http://www.usequestrian.org/jumping).

- 1.3.1.3 Discretionary Selection: The Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will use discretion to recommend three (3) athletes and their horse(s) who have not already been named to the Short List, for inclusion on the Short List. In evaluating athletes and horses for these three (3) positions, they will take into account the following criteria (in no priority order):

- Current ability of the athlete and horse to meet the standards of the Event.
- Overall performance of the athlete and horse with emphasis on:
  - 2023/2024 Nations Cup and Grand Prix Show Jumping competitions;
  - The ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties at the highest level of course difficulty, as well as a record of having done so on a consistent basis;
  - Previous international experience, including the demonstrated ability of the horse and/or athlete to succeed in FEI Grand Prix Show Jumping competitions within the past 2-3 years;
  - The ability to contribute to a medal winning team; and/or win an individual medal at the Event;
  - A record of successfully jumping over a variety of types of international level courses, and in particular over courses that included a water jump and tested for carefulness, scope, and rideability;
  - The ability to jump international level courses within the Time Allowed;
  - The ability to maintain peak form throughout multiple round events; and
  - A statistical record of consistently producing low-fault rounds with a minimum of high fault scores over difficult courses.
- The fitness and soundness of the horse.
- The fitness of the athlete to maximize the performance of the horse.

For further explanation of terms used above, see page 14 “Definitions.”

- 1.3.1.4 Short List Order: The athletes named to the Short List will NOT be ranked at the time they are named to the Short List. The list will be approved and listed in alphabetical order using the name of the athlete.

- 1.3.1.5 Communication with Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian: Athletes named to the Short List as described above, must be in direct communication with the Chef d'Equipe with regard to the preparation, fitness, and competition schedule of themselves and their horse(s). In addition, all horses named to the Short List may undergo a baseline exam with the Team Veterinarian and/or a member of the Veterinary Panel at any time between selection and departure for the Event. The Team Veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the Short List horse(s).

Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe and/or Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete and horse(s) from the selection process. (See Section 3).

- 1.3.2 **Selection of Substitutes for the Short List**– On or about April 12, 2024, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors (see Definitions on page 14), will recommend up to four (4) athletes and their horse(s)\* as Substitutes to Short List, provided that the athlete and horse(s) have met the application requirements set forth in Section 1.1 above. Such list is subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The athletes recommended to the Short List as Substitutes will be selected according to the following procedure:

- 1.3.2.1 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking "Horse List": From the April 5, 2024 Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking "Horse List", the USEF Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will recommend up to two (2) next highest ranked athletes and their horses who have not already been named to the Short List as Substitutes for the Short List.

The Horse List is published weekly on the U.S Jumping Ranking List program page at [www.usequestrian.org/jumping](http://www.usequestrian.org/jumping).

- 1.3.2.2 Discretionary Selection: The Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will use discretion to recommend up to two (2) athletes and their horse(s) who have not already been named to the Short List. In evaluating athletes and horses for the discretionary positions, they will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3.

- 1.3.2.3 Substitutes to the Short List Order: The athletes named as Substitutes to the Short List will NOT be ranked at the time they are named as Substitutes to the Short List. The list will be approved and listed in alphabetical order using the name of the athlete.

- 1.3.3 **Observation Events for the Short List**: The athletes and their horses named to the Short List will compete at designated CSIO/CSI observation events. The Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will name athletes and horses for each designated observation event. The designated CSIO/CSI observation events will be published on [www.usef.org/jumping](http://www.usef.org/jumping) no later than April 1, 2024.

To remain eligible for selection for the Event, the athletes and horse(s) named to the Short List are required to participate at their assigned CSIO/CSI observation event(s), except as noted below.

Subject to the approval of the Chef d'Equipe and USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, an athlete and their horse(s) that is not able to compete at a CSIO/CSI designated observation event because of veterinary, medical, family emergencies or for logistical reasons, may request special consideration for selection by submitting a written request to Lizzy Chesson, USEF Jumping Managing Director. The Chef d'Equipe will consult the Advisors and will recommend to approve or disapprove

the request based on the circumstances, facts, and, in the case of illness or injury to horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by the USEF. In the event the Chef d'Equipe disapproves the applicant's request, the athlete and their horse(s) must compete in the designated CSIO/CSI observation event(s) or they may no longer be considered for selection.

- 1.3.4 **Additions to the Short List** – Prior to the submission of the FEI Nominated Entries (June 24, 2024) the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, may use discretion to recommend that up to one (1) additional horse may be named to the Short List with one of the athletes originally named to the Short List in April 2024 and/or up to one (1) athlete/horse combination not originally named to the Short List in April 2024 may be named to the Short List. The Chef d'Equipe and Advisors when evaluating such horses and/or athlete/horse combinations, will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3. Athletes and horses in consideration for Additions to the Short List must meet the application requirements in Section 1 except for the USEF application deadlines. These recommendations are subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- 1.3.5 **June 24, 2024: FEI Nominated Entries** –By no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entries for the Event, June 24, 2024, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Short List and as Substitutes to the Short List and recommend a minimum of four (4) athletes and their horse(s) and up to the maximum number of athletes and horses permitted according to the FEI Rules [twelve (12) athletes and (12) horses (which includes three (s) Ap Alternate Athletes and 3 Reserve horse combinations)] be named to the FEI Nominated Entries for the Event. The Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, when evaluating athletes and horses will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3 and the demonstrated ability of the athletes and horses at the designated CSIO/CSI observation events. This recommendation will be subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Such list will be submitted to the FEI as the FEI Nominated Entries by no later than June 24, 2024.
- 1.3.6 **July 7, 2024: USOPC Final Entries**– After submission of the FEI Nominated Entries, June 24, 2024, but by no later than the closing date for the USOPC Final Entries for the Event, July 7, 2024 at 6PM CEST, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will evaluate the athletes and horses submitted on the FEI Nominated Entries and will recommend four (4) athletes and four (4) horses for the USOPC Final Entries and/or FEI Definite Entries, as required, subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

These four (4) athletes and four (4) horses (unless a Replacement has been made see Section 4), will comprise the athletes and horses for the Team Competition and the Individual Competition. The Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will recommend up to three (3) athlete/horse combinations for the Team Competition and one (1) Ap Alternate Athlete and/or Reserve Horse. Following the Team Competition, the Chef d'Equipe will declare three (3) athlete/horse combinations for the Individual Competition and one (1) Ap Alternate Athlete and/or Reserve Horse. These athletes/horse combinations may or may not be the same for the Team and the Individual Competitions.

The Chef d'Equipe and Advisors, when evaluating athletes and horses for the USOPC Final Entries will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3, the demonstrated ability of the athletes and horses at the designated CSIO/CSI observation events, the potential to contribute to a Team Medal in the Paris environment, as well as the willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Paris Olympic Games / USOPC Accreditation allocations and

restrictions. Following the Team Competition, the Chef d'Equipe will evaluate the athletes and horses utilizing the criteria described above, as well as the athletes' and horses' current form in the Paris Olympic Games environment, and the perceived ability to perform and/or continue to perform in order to contribute to an Individual Medal.

- 1.3.7 **July 31, 2024: Declaration of Starters for the Team Competition** – The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25<sup>th</sup> edition, Effective for the Paris Olympics, updates effective 11 October 2023]. The three (3) athlete/horse combinations and one (1) Ap Alternate Athlete and/or Reserve Horse will be the same as originally approved at the time of the USOPC Final Entries unless a Replacement, as per a Pre-Competition Change, has been made (See Section 4 on Replacements/Substitutions).
- 1.3.8 **August 4, 2024: Declaration of Starters for the Individual Competition** – The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25<sup>th</sup> edition, Effective for the Paris Olympics, updates effective 11 October 2023] and will be comprised of three (3) athlete/horse combinations and one (1) Ap Alternate Athlete and/or Reserve Horse from the USOPC Final Entries unless a Replacement, as per a Pre-Competition Change, has been made (See Section 1.3.6 on USOPC Final Entries and Section 4 on Replacements/Substitutions).

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

- 2.1 **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.
- 2.2 **Discretionary criteria and how it will be used:** See Section 1.3.1.3 and 1.3.2.2 as well as below.
- 2.3 **Other discretionary criteria used:**
- 2.3.1 **Soundness and Fitness** - Horses that are candidates for selection may be examined at any time during the selection process through the conclusion of the Event by the Team Veterinarian or a member of the Veterinary Panel. Horses found to be unsound and/or unfit by the Team Veterinarian or a member of the Veterinary Panel may be eliminated from the Selection Process but only with the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- All horses named to the Short List may undergo a baseline exam with the Team Veterinarian and/or a member of the Veterinary Panel at any time between selection and departure for the Event. The Team Veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the Short List horse(s).
- 2.3.2 **Team Veterinarian Request** – Athletes, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of complete veterinary records of horses considered for selection. In addition, athletes, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses under consideration for selection. Athletes, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe, upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.
- 2.3.3 **Veterinary Treatment** - Once the athletes are named to the Short List, athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their selected horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. In addition, all veterinary treatments must be recorded and made available to the Team Veterinarian if requested.

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and USEF Jumping Sport Committee Members or its designees, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

**2.3.4 Medical Request** - In the event of illness or injury, athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s) and USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process pending the review of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

**2.4 Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles (See Attachment D for the complete list).**

USEF Jumping Chef d'Equipe  
USEF Jumping Advisors  
USEF Jumping Team Veterinarian  
USEF Jumping Veterinary Panel  
USEF Jumping Sport Committee  
USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc

**2.4.1 Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:**

All individuals involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any individual involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process. Additionally, the individual may be required to recuse themselves from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department, [generalcounsel@usef.org](mailto:generalcounsel@usef.org), and Audit Committee, [auditcommittee@usef.org](mailto:auditcommittee@usef.org), shall review the conflict and determine the individual's level of involvement (e.g., whether that individual must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that an individual who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by individuals involved in the selection of the Team, provide such information to the other individuals involved in the selection process so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the individual with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision (See the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#)). The individual must not otherwise influence other individuals involved in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an individual has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No individual shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USEF selection appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

**3.1. Prior to submission of the nomination by the USOPC to the Local Organizing Committee, USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees:** An athlete or horse may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF:

- 3.1.1 Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF Jumping Managing Director.
- 3.1.2 Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 3.1.3 Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- 3.1.4 Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
- 3.1.5 Failure of the horse owner to sign the Horse Participation Agreement.
- 3.1.6 Injury or illness as certified by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an athlete or owner refuses to have the horse examined by the veterinarian approved by USEF, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 3.1.7 Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, guidance and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- 3.1.8 Failure to participate in the designated CSI/CSIO Observation Events.
- 3.1.9 Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse (see below).
- 3.1.10 Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding athletes and horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.11 Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.12 Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Panel.
- 3.1.13 Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Advisors.
- 3.1.14 Failure to comply with requests regarding Logistical information and deadlines.
- 3.1.15 Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.

An Athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the [USEF's Bylaws](#), Part VII, and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

**3.2 After acceptance of nomination by the USOPC:** Once Athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USEF Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>.

An athlete may be removed from the Team at any time for the following reasons:

- 3.2.1 Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written to the USEF Jumping Managing Director.
- 3.2.2 Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- 3.2.3 Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian.
- 3.2.4 Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
- 3.2.5 Violation of the [USOPC Code of Conduct](#) and [Grievance Procedures](#).

3.3 An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USEF Safe Sport Policy, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES AND HORSES**

**4.1 Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) and horses(s) should a vacancy occur:**

4.1.1 Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entries: To fill openings, if they occur once the Short List for the Event has been named and prior to the submission of the FEI Nominated Entries, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Short List as well as Substitutes to the Short List, and may recommend that a substitution be made. In addition, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, has the discretion to substitute athletes and/or horses between designated CSIO/CSI events or from the list of Substitutes to the Short List. The Chef d'Equipe and Advisors when evaluating athletes and horses will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3.

Any substitution other than voluntary withdrawal must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, if available within a practical timeframe.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and, when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF.

4.1.2 After submission of FEI Nominated Entries and prior to acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries: After submission of the FEI Nominated Entries, any openings on the FEI Nominated Entries cannot be filled as per FEI Olympic Regulations 25<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 607 *FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements*.

However, if there is an opening at a designated CSIO/CSI events, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, has the discretion to substitute athletes and/or horses between designated CSIO/CSI events or from the list of Substitutes to the Short List or utilize an athlete and/or horse that was not originally named to the Short List. The Chef d'Equipe and Advisors when evaluating athletes and horses will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3 as well as the availability of athletes and horses to compete at the designated CSIO/CSI events.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and, when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF.

4.1.3 After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee and until the Last Date for Replacements (See Definitions on page 14): FEI Olympic Regulations 25<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 609 *Pre Competition Change* applies. After acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the Last Date for Replacements, athletes and/or horses on the USOPC Final Entries may be replaced for reasons set forth in Section 3.2 and/or because either the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for replacement or the performance of the athlete/horse combination has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team Competition a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary issue which may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. During this time period, athletes and horses on the USOPC Final Entries may only be replaced with athletes and/or horses on the FEI Nominated Entries. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef

d'Equipe and the Show Jumping Team Leader in accordance with the 2024 FEI Olympic Regulations and/or for reasons set forth in Section 3.2 and subject to approval of the U.S. Equestrian Chef de Mission.

To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the USOPC Final Entries and the FEI Nominated Entries and may recommend that a replacement be made. The Chef d'Equipe, when evaluating athletes and horses, will take into account the criteria outlined in Section 1.3.1.3 the demonstrated ability of the athletes and horses at the designated CSIO/CSI observation events and preparatory events, the potential to contribute to a Team medal performance in the Paris Olympic Games environment, as well as the willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Paris Games Accreditation allocations and restrictions.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and, when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF.

- 4.1.4 After the Last Date for Replacements and until two (2) hours before the scheduled starting time of the First Team Competition: FEI Olympic Regulations 25<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 609 *Pre Competition Change* applies. During this time period, athletes and horses nominated for the Team Competition may only be replaced with the Ap Alternate Athlete/Reserve Horse. The reason for the replacement must only be because either, the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for replacement, or the performance of the athlete/horse combination has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a replacement is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Show Jumping Team Leader, U.S. Equestrian Chef de Mission, and in accordance with 2024 FEI Olympic Regulations and/or for reasons set forth in Section 3.2.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.

- 4.1.5 After the First Team Competition and until two (2) hours before the start of the Team Final: FEI Olympic Regulations 25<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 609 Substitution applies. During this time period, athletes and horses nominated for the First Team Competition may only be substituted with the Ap Alternate Athlete/Reserve Horse for the Team Final. Substitutions may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Show Jumping Team Leader, U.S. Equestrian Chef de Mission, and in accordance with 2024 FEI Olympic Regulations.
- 4.1.6 After the Team Final and until two (2) hours before the start of the First Individual Competition: FEI Olympic Regulations 25<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 609 *Pre Competition Change* applies. Refer to USOPC Final Entries in Section 1.3.6 regarding the declaration of the athletes and horses for the First Individual Competition.

5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.
6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games Team:
- Application (Attachment A)
  - [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
  - USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement (Attachment C)

- [USOPC Code of Conduct](#) and [Grievance Procedures](#)
  - Horse Owners also sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B)
7. **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:** Athletes will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment E) and are requested to sign this document.
8. **PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:** The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):
- 8.1. USEF Web site: [www.usef.org/jumping](http://www.usef.org/jumping).  
These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.
- 8.2. Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.
9. **DATE OF NOMINATION:** Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all Athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: July 7, 2024 at 6PM CEST.
10. **MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION:** Notice of location, schedule and duration of final preparation will be communicated to Short Listed Athletes on or about May 1, 2024.
11. **ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:**
- A. **Human Anti-Doping:** Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.
- B. **Equine Anti-Doping:** All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
1. **In-Competition.** All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on April 12, 2024 until the Event ends. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
- a. **Positive Finding.** At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
- b. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
- c. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
- d. The Chair of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or their designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
2. **Out-of-Competition.** Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on April 12, 2024 following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
- a. **Positive Finding.** At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General

Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

- b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the Selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
  3. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
  4. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).
12. **DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES:** The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Jumping Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee. See **Attachment D** for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.
  13. **USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** The USEF Bylaws can be found [here](#). Contact information for the USOPC Athlete Ombuds can be found below in Section 17.
  14. **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the [Non-Discrimination Policy](#).
  15. **FUNDING DISCLAIMER:** Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event.
  16. **INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER:** These procedures are based on IOC and/or FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

17. **ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE:** Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds for independent and confidential advice on a variety of sport related matters, including their rights, applicable rules, policies or processes, and questions related to resolving disputes and grievances. The Athlete Ombuds can also help Team USA athletes connect with legal counsel or mental health resources if needed. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing domestically at the masters or youth level, recreational athletes, foreign athletes) are welcome to visit the Athlete Ombuds website to review informational resources and should work directly with their NGB to understand additional resources and options available to them.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

Website: [www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds](http://www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds)

**Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy:**

(A) In general. The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

(B) Exception. The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved.

(C) Judicial and administrative proceedings.

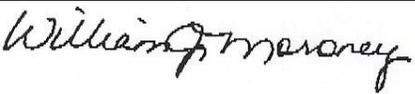
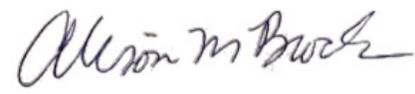
(i) In general. The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds .

(ii) Work product. Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds (I) shall be confidential; and (II) shall not be—(aa) subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or (bb) admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(D) Applicability. The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to (i) applicable federally mandated reporting requirements; (ii) a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds;(iii) a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or (iv) a congressional subpoena.

Anti-retaliation Statement: No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF or the USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

**18. USEF SIGNATURES: I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		2/12/2024
USEF Jumping Managing Director	Lizzy Chesson		2/12/2024
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Allison Brock		2/12/2024

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USEF, she may submit those reasons in writing to her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the USEF must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Lizzy Chesson, USEF Managing Director of Jumping, United States Equestrian Federation, 1040 Potterville Road, Gladstone, NJ 07934, Phone (908) 977-3007, Email: [lchesson@usef.org](mailto:lchesson@usef.org).

## **DEFINITIONS**

**Event** – is defined as the Jumping Competitions for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

**Consistently** – The ability of the horse and athlete to produce low-scoring rounds over a high percentage of the time and in a variety of conditions and venues.

**Carefulness** – The ability of the horse and athlete to consistently avoid jumping penalties over a wide variety of obstacles, in particular those constructed to fall down easily.

**Scope** – The ability of the horse and athlete to successfully negotiate high and wide oxers from both long and short distances.

**Rideability** – The ability of the horse and athlete to negotiate a variety of complicated distance problems on course, as would typically be encountered at the highest international level.

**International Experience** – A competitive record over the past 2 or 3 years indicating that the horse and/or athlete have successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, while demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure on a consistent basis.

**Last Date For Replacements** – The Last Date for Replacements is the last date and time at which an athlete or horse, selected to travel to the Event can be subject to Pre-Competition Substitution with an athlete or horse not previously selected to travel to the event. For the avoidance of doubt, only four (4) horses can travel to the Event. The Last Date for Replacements will be based on upon timeframes in which Paris 2024 outline for the horse arrival/substitutions which will be confirmed by Paris 2024 and likely be determined by what is logistically possible for changes in the hours before the First Horse Inspection. The Last Date for Replacements will be decided by the US Equestrian Chef d 'Mission in consultation with the Jumping Team Leader, Chef d'Equipe, and Team Veterinarian. The date will be published to all athletes selected to the FEI Nominated Entries as soon as it can be decided upon.

**Succeed in FEI Jumping Competitions** – The ability of the athlete/horse combination to consistently produce low scoring rounds in CSIO's and CSI's Competitions.

**Substitute**– Substituting an athlete and/or horse prior to submission of the USOPC Final Entries.

**Replacement** – Replacing an athlete and/or horse after submission of the USOPC Final Entries.

**An Alternate Athlete** – An athlete that will be accredited to be on venue as a reserve athlete.

**Advisors** – Three (3) individuals (the “Advisors”) will be appointed by the USEF CEO upon the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee. The Advisors are subject to the [USEF Code of Conduct](#) and [Code of Ethics](#) and [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#) and [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) and [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#). The Advisors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Show Jumping community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Show Jumping at the international level.

The Advisors will serve in an advisory capacity to the Chef d'Equipe and the Chef d'Equipe will make recommendations to the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees based on his consultation with the Advisors, the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel.

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Advisors may also be named. A Replacement Advisor will take the place of an Advisor who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 33.3% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of Advisors.