



US Athletes Jumping Abroad: Criteria and Protocols

Effective January 1, 2026

Updates to criteria in red

Athletes wishing to be considered for any CSI event outside of the U.S., including Canada and Mexico, must submit an online application to the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., (USEF) pursuant to Chapter 8, GR828 of the USEF Rulebook. Athletes must meet the minimum criteria to compete abroad. The USEF Waivers Working Group will oversee the process of reviewing Athlete criteria to compete abroad and Athlete waiver requests.

Senior Events

The Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List two months before the event and the Longines FEI Ranking List two months before the event will be utilized to identify an Athlete's ranking.

USA Jumping Minimum Criteria to Compete Abroad effective January 1, 2026		
Event Level	Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Central/South America	North America (USA, Mexico, Canada)
CSI5*s/CSIO5*s	Athletes must be ranked either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – 25th on the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List1 – 200 on the Longines FEI Ranking List	no requirement
CSI4*s/CSIO4*s	Athletes must be ranked either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – 40 on the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List1 – 400 on the Longines FEI Ranking List	no requirement
CSI3*s/CSIO3*s	Athletes must be ranked either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 – 75 on the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List1 – 600 on the Longines FEI Ranking List	no requirement
CSI2*s/CSIO2*s	Athletes must be ranked either: <ul style="list-style-type: none">On the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking ListOn the Longines FEI Ranking List	no requirement
CSI1*/CSIYH/ CSIAm	no requirement	no requirement

An Athlete who has participated in Show Jumping at the Olympic Games, World Equestrian Games, FEI World Championships, or Pan American Games meets the criteria.

Youth Events

Within the previous 12 months of the event's definite entry date, riders must have:

Event Level	Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Central/South America	North America (USA, Mexico, Canada)
CSIU25/CSIOU25/ CSIY Cat A/CSIOY	Competed in a jumper class at 1.45 meters or higher completing the course with 4 faults or less	no requirement
CSIY Cat B/ CSIJ Cat A/CSIOJ	Competed in a jumper class at 1.40 meters or higher completing the course with 4 faults or less	no requirement
CSIJ Cat B	Competed in a jumper class at 1.35 meters or higher completing the course with 4 faults or less	no requirement
CSIch/CSIOCh	Competed in a jumper class at 1.15 meters or higher completing the course with 4 faults or less	no requirement
CSIP/CSIOP	Competed in a jumper class at 1.10 meter or higher completing the course with 4 faults or less	no requirement

1. APPLICATION TO COMPETE IN FOREIGN COMPETITIONS

Athletes must apply to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and receive permission to compete abroad, and Athletes must also be current members in good standing with USEF.

A. Applications are found by:

- Sign-in to the Athlete's USEF Athlete Dashboard
- Select the 'FEI Entries' tile
- Search for the desired competitions (Exception: CSIOs or CSIs that are included in the Jumping Program, for which separate applications are distributed).

Note: Applications to compete abroad MUST be submitted to Athlete Services as soon as possible and received no later than two (2) working days prior to the start date of the event. Applications should be submitted to Athlete Services two months prior to the start date of the event in question in order for USEF to secure an invitation. There will be no guarantee an invitation can be secured for applications received within seven (7) days of the event.

B. Application Deadlines

Applications may be submitted up to the event's start date, however those that are received 14 days or less prior to the start date of the event are automatically charged an Urgency Fee.

2. ELIGIBILITY OF THE ATHLETE, OWNER, AND HORSE

A. Athlete:

- ✓ Must be a U.S. citizen and designated the U.S. as sport nationality with the FEI.
- ✓ Must be eligible to compete at its respective level under current FEI Jumping Rules.
- ✓ Must be an Active Member and in good standing of USEF at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition

- ✓ Must have a current FEI Rider Registration and be in good standing with the FEI at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.
- B. Owner:
 - ✓ Must be an active member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of application and through the conclusion of the completion and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.
- C. Horse:
 - ✓ Must be eligible to compete at its respective level under current FEI Jumping Rules
 - ✓ Must be registered with the FEI, have a valid FEI Passport, and in good standing with the FEI, USEF, and/or the owner's National Federation at the time of the application and through the conclusion of the event.

3. PERSONAL INVITATIONS

Provided the USEF Minimum Criteria to Compete Abroad is met, or a waiver (see Section 4, Waivers) has been granted, athletes who receive personal invitations from Organizing Committees will have preference over other U.S. athletes, except in the case of athletes on an official tour of USEF. The definition of a "Personal Invitation" is one that is given by the Organizing Committee to a specific athlete either received directly by the athlete or by USEF on behalf of the athlete. The invitation must be in writing and a copy should be sent to Athlete Services. Athletes who receive Personal Invitations must still submit an Application for International Competition.

4. WAIVERS

If an athlete does not meet the minimum criteria noted above, under extraordinary circumstances the Show Jumping Waivers Working Group may grant waivers to the above criteria (see below for CSIO5*s, CSI5*s, CSIO4*s and CSI4*s as well as Canada and Mexico). For such consideration, the athlete shall comply with USEF GR828 and provide the following information at the time his application is submitted:

- ✓ Document the extraordinary circumstances;
- ✓ Submit a detailed proven competitive record of the athlete/horse combination demonstrating ability to compete at the level required for the event applied for.

The Show Jumping Waivers Working Group, in evaluating waiver requests, will base their evaluations on the athlete's current ability to meet the standards of the event with emphasis on:

- A. The ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties;
- B. Previous international experience within the past 12 months;
- C. Other attributes, which include carefulness, scope, consistency and ability to perform.

In principle, athletes must show consistent performance at a given level before being given permission to participate at a higher level (e.g. consistent performance at the 2* level before being given permission at the 3* level).

However, if an athlete is given a waiver up to a certain fence height and qualifies for the Grand Prix, the athlete is permitted to compete in the Grand Prix unless otherwise noted in the waiver approval.

More scrutiny will be exercised by the Working Group for waiver requests for a CSIO5* and CSI5* when an athlete is ranked outside 1st – 500th on the Longines FEI Ranking List and/or 1st – 50th on the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List as published two months before the event in question.

More scrutiny will be exercised by the Working Group for waiver requests for a CSIO4* and CSI4* when an athlete is ranked outside 1st – 750th on the Longines FEI Ranking List and/or 1st – 75th on the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List as published two months before the event in question.

Waiver requests for Jumping may be submitted through your Athlete Dashboard under the 'Athlete Waiver Forms' tile. Waiver requests received less than 14 days before the event are subject to an urgency fee. Waiver requests received the week of the event cannot be guaranteed.

Exception: Athletes wishing to compete in Canadian and Mexican CSIs and CSIOs will not need a waiver. Note: Athletes must still submit an Application for International Competition even if they do not need a waiver.

Note: Athlete Services will not request invitations for a CSIO5*/ CSI5* and/or CSIO4*/CSI4* until a waiver has been granted by the Show Jumping Waivers Working Group.

5. OVERSUBSCRIBED EVENTS/LIMITED ENTRY EVENTS

Except as noted below, if there are more applications for a CSIO or CSI than invitations, an athlete's ranking on the Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List as published two months before the event in question will be used to determine the athletes who will be entered. For oversubscribed events, late applications (received less than two months from the event) will not be accepted unless a substitution is made in accordance with Section 5.A Substitutions. (See Section 1 for Application deadlines).

A. Substitutions for Oversubscribed Events

If an athlete withdraws, the next highest ranked athlete on the Rolex/USEF Ranking List two months from the event who applied will fill the vacant position.

6. WITHDRAWAL FROM CSI EVENTS

Athletes must notify USEF Athlete Services immediately via their Athlete Dashboard if they intend to withdraw from an event.

ATHLETE SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

FEI Applications, Invitations and Entries, National Permission, Results, Horse & Rider
Registration

feientries@usef.org