

## **2024 Saddle Seat World Cup Selections Memorandum**

### **Fees associated with Trials**

- \$200 non-refundable Application Fee due at the time of application.

### **Attire for Trials**

Attire: Clothes should be clean, neat, and in good condition (meaning no holes, rips, or cutoffs). Participants must be dressed in attire befitting an individual representing the U.S. while on the competition grounds.

Competition Attire: Consistent with EQ116, attire should consist of the following: Riding habit including jacket with collars and lapels of the same conservative color with matching jodhpurs, a collared shirt, tie, vest, and complimentary gloves, jodhpur boots, and derby or soft hat (protective headgear may be worn). Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown and may contain herringbone, pin stripes, and other combinations of colors that appear solid.

### **Selection Trials Format**

**DRAW:** All competitors must attend the Draw. The draw will be conducted by lottery style to select the horses at random, order of go for individual pattern work, and the patterns to be performed for both the 3-Gaited and 5-Gaited portions of the competition.

1. **Pattern Selection:** To begin the Draw, a competition official will select a pattern at random for each division and group session, for a total of 4 patterns drawn (2 for 3-Gaited competitors and 2 for 5-Gaited competitors).
2. **3-Gaited Horse Selection:** In order of assigned back number, each 3-Gaited competitor will select at random a horse from the provided horses. The selected horse will be used by the competitor for the first phase of the competition. This horse must be ridden by the same individual during both the rail and pattern portion of the competition.
3. **3-Gaited Group Selection and Order of Go:** Following the selection of the horse, the competitor will draw at random their assigned Group (A or B) and order of go for the pattern work.

*This process will be repeated for the second session and will continue until all members participating in the 3-Gaited Saddle Seat Equitation Trials have selected horses, Groups, and Orders of Go for both sections. If a competitor draws the same horse for session 2, they must return the name of the horse, and draw again. No competitor may ride the same horse for both sessions of the trials.*

4. **5-Gaited Horse Selection:** In order of assigned back number, each 5-Gaited competitor will select at random a horse from the provided horses. The selected horse will be used by the competitor for the first phase of the competition. This horse must be ridden by the same individual during both the rail and pattern portion of the competition.
5. **5-Gaited Group Selection and Order of Go:** Following the selection of the horse, the competitor will draw at random their assigned Group (A or B) and order of go for the pattern work.

*This process will be repeated for the second session and will continue until all members of the participating 5-Gaited Saddle Seat Equitation Teams have selected horses, Groups, and Orders of Go. If a competitor draws the same horse for session 2, they must return the name of the horse, and draw again. No competitor may ride the same horse for both sessions of the trials.*

6. Following the conclusion of the Draw, athletes will be provided competition packets. The packets will include back numbers, horse description lists, schedules, order of go, and patterns.

## **CLASS CONDUCT**

1. Athletes will compete on two horses (dependent upon horse availability) during the riding portion of the selection trials. During the rail work phase, athletes will work at the walk, trot, and canter (5-Gaited will include the slow gait and rack depending on horse availability) both directions of the ring. The USEF staff liaison will divide athletes into groups of sizes deemed manageable with regard to the horses being used for the selection trials.
2. Patterns will be executed individually by each athlete on two different horses (dependent upon horse availability). Copies of the patterns approved by USEF will be distributed to the athletes at the Draw. The order of go for the patterns shall be determined by the Draw.
3. Coaching is prohibited while athletes are in the main arena and/or are being evaluated by the judging panel. This rule will be strictly enforced. Violations of this rule may result in the elimination of an athlete and/or the expulsion of the person doing the coaching from the arena. The decision of the USEF Steward, in consultation with the USEF Staff liaison and/or the judges officiating, shall be final.
4. Competitors will be allowed up to two five-minute time outs for breakage of equipment or a cast shoe during the selection trials. If in the second time out a replacement cannot be satisfactorily achieved, an emergency alternate horse may be substituted by the host. At the conclusion of the allotted time, the athlete must proceed on either the same horse or the emergency alternate.
5. An athlete who withdraws from any portion will receive a score of zero for that phase of the selection trials but may continue in the next phase in which they are entered.
6. Per GR841, horses must be serviceably sound, meaning they must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. A judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the rider or other exhibitors. At the judge's or veterinarians' discretion, a horse may be replaced, and the alternate horse listed for the 3-gaited and/or 5-gaited teams will be used.

## **SCORING**

1. RAIL: Rail work will be evaluated using a numerical system based on a perfect score total of 100 from each judge.
2. PATTERN: Each pattern will be divided into segments, which will carry score values, as determined by the panel of judges and USEF staff liaison. Each pattern will have a total possible score of 100 points from each judge, resulting from the combined total of the segment scores.
3. ORDINAL CONVERSION: The numerical scores given by each judge at the conclusion of each phase will be converted to an ordinal; with each judge's highest numerical score converting to a '1', the next highest a '2', etc.

4. Numerical scores for each ride of every contestant will be announced at the conclusion of the ride except for the final rail scores. These scores will only be made public following the announcement of the Team at the Awards Ceremony.
5. The grand total score for each athlete shall be a combination of the ordinals awarded by all judges from all rail work and patterns. Those athletes who hold the six lowest cumulative ordinal scores will be named as members of the Team and will represent the United States at the Event. Athletes will be required to accept their position to participate on the Team within one week of the completion of the trials. If an athlete declines to accept their position, the vacancy will be filled by the athlete who holds the next lowest cumulative ordinal score.
6. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the athlete with the lower combined rail ordinal scores from all judges. If the above method is not sufficient to break the tie, the lower combined total ordinal scores for the rail work and pattern segments from the tie-breaking judge will be used. The tie-breaking judge will be announced prior to the start of the first phase.
7. The scoring system to be used will be explained in depth to each judge before the start of the selection trials.

### **JUDGING**

1. The athletes will be judged 25%-25%-25%-25% for each phase of competition, with the rail counting for 50% and individual pattern work to count for the remaining 50%.
2. Athletes will be scored by a panel of three judges. Judges will be selected from the current USEF Licensed Officials list. If a judge is unable to begin or complete the scoring of the entirety of the selection trials, USEF reserves the right to amend the number of judges or utilize substitutes.
3. Judges will use the standards from Subchapter EQ-3, Saddle Seat Equitation, in the USEF Rule Book as their guideline for evaluating each athlete. Judges may only call for tests 1-13 (EQ120 1-16).
4. Judges will analyze each athlete's form, as well as their horsemanship abilities, while keeping foremost in mind the unusual demands of the trials. The format for the trials, which requires competitors to ride horses with which they have little or no familiarity, is specifically designed to parallel the premise of the Event conditions. Further, the format is designed to give judges the opportunity to evaluate each athlete's ability to respond to these unusual demands.
5. No rider may compete on a horse which they have owned, trained, or shown within six months of the start date of the selection trial.

### **AWARDS**

No ribbons will be awarded to competitors in the selection trials. The selection trials will conclude with the announcement of the Team shortly after scores have been tabulated and verified. Certificates of Participation will be presented to each trial's finalist. The list of athletes selected to represent the 3 and 5 gaited teams are subject to approval by the USEF Board.

### **TEAM MEETING**

A team meeting is mandatory for all riders and parents immediately following the awards ceremony.