



2026 APPENDIX 2 SUMMARY TABLE

Refer to the [USEF Eventing Rules](#) for the complete qualification rules

Definition: Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER)

Maximum Penalty Points	Dressage	XC (at obstacles)	XC (time penalties)	Jumping (at obstacles)
National Horse Trials	45	0 (unless specified otherwise)	30	16
FEI 1*/2*/3*/4*	45	0*	30	16
FEI 5*	45	0*	40	16

*For FEI Competitions, where there is more than one FEI MER required, one MER may include 20 Cross-Country Jump Penalties. Activating a maximum of one frangible device or having a maximum of one missed flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country.

NOTE: All MERs obtained in previous years will be counted according to the rules in place at that time.

QUALIFYING DEADLINES

- Qualifications must have been achieved at least 10 days prior to Cross-Country day at the competition if the MER is achieved at a Horse Trial or CCI-S or at least 24 days if the MER is achieved at a CCI-L.
- At least one MER must be achieved in the 12-month period prior to the competition.

An MER pertains to both USEF and FEI Requirements in the table below.

FEI requirements must be achieved as a combination, unless otherwise stated.

	FEI ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI1*	Uncategorized		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Modified or higher
CCI1*	A-B-C-D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no requirements for Categorized athletes at a CCI1*

	FEI ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI2*-S	Uncategorized		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Preliminary or higher
CCI2*-S	A-B-C-D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no requirements for Categorized athletes at a CCI2*-S



	FEI ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI2*-L	Uncategorized		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Preliminary or higher and; • 1 Preliminary or higher with no more than 20 Jumping Penalties at obstacles on Cross Country.
CCI2*-L	A-B-C-D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Preliminary or higher and; • 1 Preliminary or higher with no more than 20 Jumping Penalties at obstacles on Cross Country.

	FEI ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI3*-S	Uncategorized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI2*S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Preliminary or higher and; • 1 Preliminary or higher with no more than 20 Jumping Penalties at obstacles on Cross Country and; • 1 Intermediate or higher
CCI3*-S	A-B-C-D		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Preliminary or higher and; • 1 Preliminary or higher with no more than 20 Jumping Penalties at obstacles on Cross Country.

	FEI ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI3*-L	Uncategorized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (1 CCI2*-L or 1 CCI3*-S) and; • 2 CCI3*-S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Intermediate or higher
CCI3*-L	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI2*-L or 1 CCI3*-S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Intermediate or higher
CCI3*-L	A-B-C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI2*-L or 1 CCI3*-S (horse only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Intermediate or higher

	ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI4*-S	Uncategorized and C-D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 CCI3*S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Intermediate or higher
CCI4*-S	A-B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI3*S (horse only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Intermediate or higher (MER)



	ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI4*-L	Uncategorized and C-D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2 CCI3*-L and 1 CCI4*-S) <i>Or</i>; • (1 CCI3*-L and 2 CCI4*-S) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Advanced or higher
CCI4*-L	A-B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI3*-L (horse only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI4*-S or higher with no more than 20 Jumping Penalties at obstacles on Cross Country.

	FEI ATHLETE CATEGORY	FEI REQUIREMENTS	USEF REQUIREMENTS
CCI5-L*	Uncategorized and C-D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 CCI4*-L and; • 3 CCI4* S 	The competitor and horse must have met the minimum eligibility requirements of the FEI
CCI5-L*	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI4*-L and; • 3 CCI4*S 	The competitor and horse must have met the minimum eligibility requirements of the FEI
CCI5-L*	A - with a Horse which has not achieved an MER at a CCI5*-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 CCI4*-L 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Advanced or higher
CCI5-L*	A - with a Horse which has achieved an MER at a CCI5*-L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 CCI4*-S 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Advanced or higher

Note, Horses who have not completed the Cross Country test of an **FEI Competition** for a period of **13 consecutive months** or more will have to complete an event at a lower level before entering a CCI4*-S/L or CCI5*-L event per [FEI Article 518.3](#). The additional requirements are as follows:

- Horses having obtained a MER at CCI4*-S or CCI3*-S/L:
 - to enter a CCI4*-S: must complete the Cross-Country test of a CCI3*-S/L
- Horses having obtained a MER at CCI4*-L:
 - to enter a CCI4*-L or CCI5*-L: must complete the Cross-Country test of a CCI4*-S
- Horses having obtained a MER at CCI5*-L:
 - to enter a CCI5*-L: must complete the Cross-Country test of a CCI4*-S/L

If you have questions about what you need to complete, please contact Alison Lloyd at alloyd@usef.org.