

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2025 FEI Para Driving World Championship for Singles
Date TBD
Lähden, Germany**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination and selection:

1.1.1. Citizenship: Applicant athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI General Regulations (23rd Edition, Article 119) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2025 FEI Para Driving World Championship for Singles (“Championship”).

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.2. Minimum Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) standards for participation:

1.1.2.1. All athletes must meet the FEI Criteria for the Championship before the closing date of applications on June 30, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT. FEI Criteria can be found [here](#).

1.1.2.2. The athlete must be at least fourteen (14) years of age, with age being determined by a birthdate within the same calendar year as the Event (FEI Driving Rules, Article 912). Athletes must also have a groom who is at least eighteen (18) years of age (FEI Driving Rules, Article 912.6.2).

1.1.2.3. Equines must be at least six (6) years of age from the beginning of the same calendar year as the Championship (FEI Driving Rules, Article 929).

1.1.2.4. The athlete and Equines must both be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of the application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

1.1.2.5. The athlete and Equines must comply with FEI Rules for the Championship as outlined in the FEI Driving Rules, Article 925.

Important: Please be reminded that if an athlete plans to compete in any European CAI competitions, they must adhere to the USEF Criteria to compete in Foreign Competitions. Information and applications can be found on www.usef.org.

1.1.3. Minimum United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) criteria and Other Requirements:

1.1.3.1 The athlete must be an Active Competing Member of USEF in good standing at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.3.2. The Equines must be recorded with USEF, pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing with USEF from the time of selection through the conclusion of the Championship, with an exception for Equines that have not competed in the U.S. during 2024 and that have owners who are not U.S. Citizens.

1.1.3.3. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USEF Background Check Policy.

1.1.3.4. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the end of the Championship will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy and the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.

1.1.3.5. Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championship must complete an online application via the “My USEF” portal and successfully remit payment of the appropriate application fee. Athletes will be charged fifty dollars (\$50.00) per Application. **NO APPLICATIONS OR PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 30, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT.** By signing the Application, the athlete, or legal guardian if the athlete is a minor, certifies that they have received, read, and understand the Selection Procedures for the Team; the Athlete Agreement (Attachment A); 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 12 below); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

1.1.3.6. Individual owners of applicant Equines listed on the Equine’s passport must be a Senior Active Member in good standing with USEF or a member in good standing with their NF with proof of said membership available in English and must sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B) by June 30th, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT. By signing the Horse Participation Agreement, the owner, 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 12 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. Selection Events:

1.2.1 Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

The selection period will begin on August 1, 2023 and will end on the close of applications on June 30, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT (the memorandum can be found [here](#)).

Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championship must have completed (without elimination, disqualification, or retirement) at least two (2) Selection Events **during the selection period identified above, with one completion no earlier than May 1, 2024 and no later than June 30, 2025. One of the two Selection Events may be a short-format competition. in the applicable USEF or FEI sanctioned class.** Selection Events include any USEF Intermediate, USEF Para Driving, FEI-CH-M-PEA, FEI-CAI2*, FEI-CPEAI2*, and any USEF/FEI sanctioned class above these levels. Competitions licensed by foreign National Federations held at the equivalent level of USEF Intermediate class or higher will be accepted as a Selection Event. One of the Selection Events must be achieved no earlier than January 1, 2025.

All Equines named to the Team (see Section 1.3.1 for definition) on the Nominated Entries must have completed **(without elimination, disqualification, or retirement) at least one (1) Selection Event no earlier than May 1, 2024 and no later than FEI-recognized FEI-CAI2*, FEI-CPEAI2*, or above between June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025.**

Selection Events include the following:

- USEF Intermediate, USEF Para Driving, or higher USEF level competition; and
- FEI sanctioned or foreign National Federation sanctioned event that is equivalent to or higher level than USEF Intermediate or USEF Para Driving level.

Athletes and horses are not required to compete in Selection Events as a combination.

The confirmed list of USEF competitions can be found at www.usef.org/search/competitions, and the confirmed list of FEI CPEAI competitions can be found at www.fei.org. Athletes that wish to apply for the Championship must also qualify per the FEI Criteria for the Championship, which can be found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/driving/main-events>, prior to June 30, 2025.

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

Athlete must meet the qualifications for FEI competition or above as outlined in the FEI Driving Rules Article 913.

1.3. Selection Process for the Championship

1.3.1. For Team and/or Individual Selection:

Prior to the FEI Nominated Entries deadline (DATE TBD), the USEF Driving Selectors ("Selectors") will rank the qualified athletes up to the maximum number of athletes permitted by FEI Rules, based on the factors outlined below.

1.3.1.1. Following the close of applications, the Selectors, in consultation with the Driving Team Veterinarian, will recommend the Team selection of up to three (3) Athlete/Equine combinations. The Selectors will also recommend up to the maximum number of alternate athletes (including any athletes competing as individuals at the Championship) permitted by FEI Rules, based on the factors outlined below ("Team"). In recommended the Team, Selectors will strive to name a team composed of at least one (1) Athlete from Grade I and shall not include more than two (2) Athletes from any on Grade. Should the Selectors choose to send two Athletes, they must be entered as a Team. Any remaining athletes will be ranked as alternates to the Team ("Alternates") based on the prospect that the alternate will contribute to a winning Team score for their expertise in a particular phase, in case of necessary substitution. The USEF Driving Sport Committee ("DSC") will review the Selectors' recommendation prior to sending their recommendation to the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or an Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors for approval. The Team recommended by the Selectors, in consultation with the Driving Team Veterinarian, to the Driving Sport Committee, recommended by the Driving Sport Committee, and approved by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors, will be selected based on the following criteria (in no priority order):

1.3.2.1 Evaluations by an FEI Veterinarian regarding Equines' current fitness, soundness, and ability to compete.

1.3.2.2. The athlete's and/or Equine's competitive results from Selection Events within the Selection Period. Preference will be given to athletes with successful head-to-head competition results between athletes as determined by the Selectors.

1.3.2.3. The athlete's performance and results at Selection Events, in no particular order: scores in the Dressage, penalties obtained in Marathon, accuracy and speed in the Cones.

1.3.2.4. Previous international experience (over a five-year period), with emphasis on the athlete's and/or Equine's ability to perform consistently under pressure; on results gained at a World Championship and CAIO level; and potential that the combination will contribute to a winning Team score for their expertise in a particular phase. For example, if a combination consistently attains superior scores in a particular competition phase,

they may be selected to help achieve a winning Team score, regardless of any individual ranking.

1.3.2.5. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

1.3.2.6. Willingness of athlete to be transparent with USEF Team Veterinarian(s), Chef d'Equipe, and Team Leader.

1.3.2.7. If not selecting for a Team, athletes will be selected based on their final results, regardless of expertise in a particular phase.

1.3.3. FEI Definite Entries **(DATE TBD)**: By no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entries, USEF may enter a maximum of three (3) athletes with a maximum of one (1) Equine per Para Driving athlete on the FEI Definite entry list. This list will be composed of the Team with any ranked alternates substituted due to removals as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors prior to the Nominated Entry. Any additional individual entries permitted will be selected in order from the remaining list of ranked alternates.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1. Rationale for Utilizing Discretionary Selection (if any): Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Championship; Applicants willingly submit themselves to this subjective process.

2.2. Discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used: See section 1.3.2.1 and 1.3.3.1.

2.2.1. Additional Discretionary Criteria:

2.2.1.1 Soundness: At the athlete's expense, an FEI treating veterinarian must examine any Equines that are candidates for the FEI Definite Entry or Substitutes for soundness, as requested by USEF.

2.2.1.2. The examining veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation once named to the FEI Nominated Entries.

2.2.1.3. Equines found to be unsound by the FEI Veterinarian may be eliminated from the Selection Process.

2.2.1.4. In making their decision, the Selectors will consult with the Team Veterinarian and, if applicable, an FEI Veterinarian on the current fitness, soundness, and ability of Athlete/Equine combinations to determine if they are perceived to be able to meet the standards for the Championship (i.e. dressage scores, distance, size and complexity of the obstacles, and required speed to avoid time penalties).

2.2.2. Team Veterinarian Request: Upon request from the Team Veterinarian and at their own expense, Athletes shall make up to 24 months' worth of veterinary records available for Equines under consideration for selection. At their own expense, athletes shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for the Equines in question. If necessary, at their own expense, athletes shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consulting with the Equines' treating veterinarian, if requested. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Equine and/or athlete from the selection process by the Selectors, upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, the Driving Sport Committee, and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.2.3. Veterinary Treatment: Once an Equine is named to the FEI Nominated Entries, all selected athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their named Equines being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directive of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of Equines and/or athlete from the selection process by the Selectors, by recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, the Driving Sport Committee, and with the approval of USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.2.4. Medical Request: In the event of illness or injury, athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the athlete's ability to compete at the Championship. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the athlete from the selection process by the Selectors, upon recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s), the Driving Sport Committee, and with the 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 athlete unfit to compete, the athlete will be removed from the selection process at the recommendation of the Driving Sport Committee and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.3. Complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity: See www.usef.org for a list of USEF Committee members & their roles.

- USEF Driving Selectors
- USEF Driving Team Veterinarian
- USEF Driving Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors

2.3.1. 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 and Audit Committee 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 relevant USEF appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. From the time of Application until the completion of the Championship, the USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An Athlete or Equines that is nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO or the Director of Driving.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF CEO. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by 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 Equine's owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B).
- 3.1.6. Injury or illness of the Equine as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an Athlete and/or Equines owner refuses to have the Equines examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the Equines may be removed.
- 3.1.7. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Team Leader, Chef d'Equipe, and the Team Veterinarian.
- 3.1.8. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Equines (see below).
- 3.1.9. 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 Equines, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.10. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.

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.

4. SUBSTITUTION / REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & EQUINES

4.1. Substitution/Replacement athletes and Equines will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method: