



*The USA Driving newsletter includes regular updates from the Driving Sport Committee and the USEF Combined Driving programs.*

## USEF Resources

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- [Combined Driving Page](#)
- [Athlete Pathway Programs](#): Emerging – Developing – Elite
- [Competition Calendar](#)
- [Competition Resources](#): dressage tests, results, FEI resources, and more
- [Licensed Official and Organizer Resources](#)
- [Championship Information](#)

## NEW Intermediate Singles Test 2 Published

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US Equestrian has published a NEW driven dressage test for Intermediate Singles to be driven in an 80 x 40 meter arena. Test 2 was written to provide a better progression of development from intermediate to novice advanced (equivalent to FEI 2\*) which was added at the beginning of this year. Arena diagrams are not yet available but will be published when complete.

Find the USEF Driven Dressage Tests in the [Competition Resources](#) tile at [USEF.org/CombinedDriving](https://usef.org/CombinedDriving).

LEARN MORE

## New Non-member Rule Affecting ALL Levels

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The US Equestrian Board of Directors approved a rule change going into effect on December 1, 2022, that will affect non-member exhibitors at ALL levels.

Competitors of all levels from Beginner to Open Advanced at USEF-licensed events must have a current USEF membership. Non-members are still allowed to compete

at ONE licensed event per year by purchasing a Show Pass (\$45) online. Show Pass fees apply to non-members of all levels and will be limited to one use per year.

[Learn more about USEF Show Pass.](#)

US Equestrian membership benefits include: access to licensed competitions, livestreams and on-demand viewing of events on USEF Network, a subscription to US Equestrian Magazine, Learning Center videos, annual awards, national championships, and [MemberPerk discounts.](#)

[See all US Equestrian Member Benefits](#)

## Standardbred Exhibition Class at Garden State CDE



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The organizing committee of the Garden State CDE went above and beyond this year to introduce combined driving to new equestrians. Months ahead of the event, John Layton, who is both part of the organizing committee and involved in the Standardbred racing industry, started dreaming up a way to open the doors for Standardbred drivers to attend the Garden State CDE. He was able to find seven individuals who wanted to try combined driving, and they reached out to the officials to make it happen.

USEF allows licensed events to offer an “exhibition class or demonstration” (GR 120) where an organizer can outline how a class will operate and be judged in the prize list. The results are just for fun and cannot count towards any official rankings or qualifications. The Garden State CDE offered a special exhibition class to drivers of off-the-track Standardbreds with a training level driven dressage test, a mini-marathon with just two simple obstacles, and cones. They were able to try out a CDE format for the first time with no pressure and easier courses designed by Richard Nicoll. As anyone would guess by their giant smiles – they had a blast!

It took a lot of planning to make this happen. Not only did the community need to recruit and rally to fill the class, but the officials also had to manage the schedule and guidelines to insure a safe experience for all. John played a big role in helping these drivers learn the outlined rules and prepare for each competition phase. Their carriages (or carts) looked a little different, their harnesses were not always

traditional, and some horses were confused why there were so many turns, but it was a safe day of competition and they had a great time. This is what being new to combined driving might look like.

If we want more people to try combined driving, then we need to find creative ways to introduce CDEs to other equestrians. Kudos to John and the Garden State CDE organizers and officials for making it happen for this group!

## USEF Combined Driving Annual Awards

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This year completes the first qualification period for the inaugural USEF Combined Driving Annual Awards, which recognize specific accomplishments in our sport at all levels. These awards are in addition to the [Horse of the Year](#) points that are accumulated as well as the [USEF National Championships](#) (Preliminary through Advanced divisions).

The Combined Driving Annual Awards recognize top average results for drivers in driven dressage, marathon, and cones as well as additional awards for top U25 drivers per division, most improved, and recognized volunteers. Once nominees are selected for the two remaining awards, prizes will be mailed to all first-place winners! (Winners, please check your mailing address on your USEF account.)

### Submit your results & nominations by December 15, 2022

Proud of your progress from last year to now? The Most Improved Award requires results submission, showing an improved average result from 2021 to 2022 with a specific horse(s) or pony(-ies). Go to your USEF Athlete Dashboard to submit results from at least two competitions from each year.

The Recognized Volunteer Award is awarded to a volunteer who has gone above and beyond to support an organizer and competitors at USEF competition(s). The nomination must be submitted with a short essay describing the contribution the volunteer has made to USEF Combined Driving competitions. The winner will have demonstrated dedication to supporting USEF combined driving events and sharing the joy of equestrian sport. Send Recognized Volunteer award nominations to Danielle Aamodt, Director of Driving, at [daamodt@usef.org](mailto:daamodt@usef.org).



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