



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2026 FEI U25 EVENTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**v1 - 4.28.2026**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM:**

**1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for selection to the Championship Squad (“Squad”):**

**1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:**

The Athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the [FEI General Regulations](#) at the time of the application of intent, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2026 FEI U25 Eventing World Championship (“Championship”). The 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 International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**

1.1.2.1. The Athlete and Horse must meet minimum Federation Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) requirements for the Championship per Article 520 of the current [FEI Rules for Eventing](#).

1.1.2.2. In addition to the requirements in Article 520, all Athletes and Horses wishing to compete on the Championship Squad (“Squad”) must achieve a minimum eligibility requirement (MER) as a combination at one (1) CCI4\*-S between January 1, 2025, and FEI Nominated Entry Deadline of June 17, 2026 (“Qualifying Period”) to be eligible to compete in the Championship (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#), Article 517).

1.1.2.3. An FEI qualifying result is achieved by completing one CCI4\* during the Qualifying Period within the minimum parameters of an all-round performance, with:

- i. Dressage test: Not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%);
- ii. Cross Country test: A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country), not more than 75 seconds over the optimum Cross Country Test for the one, two, three and four star level competitions; and
- iii. Jumping Test: Not more than sixteen penalties at obstacles.

1.1.2.4. An Athlete may compete in the U25 category from the beginning of the calendar year in which the Athlete reaches the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which the Athlete reaches the age of twenty-five (25) (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#), Article 503.1.4).

- i. Athletes must have been born on or between January 1, 2001, and December 31, 2010.

1.1.2.5. The Athlete and Horse must comply with all current [FEI Rules & Regulations](#) for the Championship.

1.1.2.6. The Athlete and Horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of the FEI Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.2.7. Owner(s) as listed in the FEI Passport of U.S. horses must be in good standing with the FEI at the time of the FEI Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship.

**1.1.3. Other requirements:**

- 1.1.3.1. The Athlete must be a Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of the FEI Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship.
- 1.1.3.2. Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championship must complete the application through their [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#). Applications must be submitted online on or before the stated deadline, which will be published in a memo on the [USEF website](#). Athletes must list any and all Horses they wish to be considered for the Championship on their application by the stated deadline, and changes may be made to the application until the stated deadline. The Athlete must certify, by electronically signing the application, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Championship, the [USEF Code of Conduct](#), the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), the [USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- 1.1.3.3. Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older as of the conclusion of the Championship will be required to undergo a background check in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- 1.1.3.4. Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older as of the conclusion 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 SafeSport Policy](#)
- 1.1.3.5. Horses must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing at the time of the application, and through the conclusion of the Championship.
- 1.1.3.6. Horse Participation Consent Agreement: Individual Owner(s) of U.S. horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry must sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement prior to the FEI Nominated Entry deadline. If an Owner is under 18 years of age, then a parent or legal guardian must sign too. The failure of a U.S. Horse Owner, or parent/legal guardian if applicable, to timely sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the FEI Entry. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Consent Agreement, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Championship, [the USEF Code of Conduct](#), [the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), [the USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), [the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- 1.1.3.7. Individual Owner(s) of U.S. horses must be a Competing Member of USEF in good standing at the time of the application, and through the conclusion of the Championship.

## **2. STEP-BY-STEP DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP:**

### **2.1. Selection of Team, Individuals and Alternates:**

**2.1.1. FEI Nominated Entry Deadline (June 17):** By no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry, and based upon the procedures set forth herein, the USEF Eventing Selectors, in conjunction with the USEF Eventing High Performance Manager, will recommend up to the maximum Athlete/Horse combinations able to be nominated to the FEI Nominated Entry, for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Athlete/Horse combinations will be nominated for the Championship based on the following (in no priority order):

- The overall performance of the Athlete and/or Athlete/Horse combination within the last three (3) years, with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show

jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed.

- Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete's or Athlete/Horse combination's competition records (see definitions) and/or EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions) from the last three (3) years.
- Consistency and trend of performance of the Athlete's or Athlete/Horse combination's complete competition records (see definitions) with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed.
  - Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination's competition records (see definitions) and/or the EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions).
- Fitness (see definitions).
- The boldness and rideability of the Horse (see definitions).
- Soundness (see definitions).
- The potential of the Athlete and or Athlete/Horse combination to develop to the CCI5\*-L level and/or represent the U.S. on future Team(s).

Once Athlete/Horse combinations have been named to the FEI Nominated Entry, they will come under the leadership of the Chef d'Equipe and must adhere to the agreed-upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, from the time of the FEI Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship. The Athlete must develop and discuss their training, competition, and coaching plans with the Chef d'Equipe.

**2.1.2. FEI Definite Entry Deadline (July 1):** By no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry, the USEF Selectors, in conjunction with the USEF Eventing High Performance Manager and/or USEF Eventing Development Coach, will recommend a Squad of six (6) Athlete/Horse combinations for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors, using the criteria detailed in Section 2.1.1.

The Squad will be comprised of the six (6) Athlete/Horse combinations named from the FEI Nominated Entry, except in instances of removal or replacement, see Section 5. From the six (6) Athlete/Horse combinations, four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations will compete for the Team and Individual medals, and two (2) Athlete/Horse combinations will compete only for the Individual medals. The Team makeup will be confirmed no later than the Declaration of Starters after the First Horse Inspection at the Championship by the Chef d'Equipe.

If there are more than six (6) Athlete/Horse combinations that meet all requirements of these procedures, Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations may be ranked at the recommendation of the USEF Eventing Selectors, in consultation with the USEF High Performance Manager, for approval to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors. The ranked order will be the order in which replacements are made.

### **3. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:**

**3.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary criteria is used to field the best Squad possible for the Championship, and to provide Athletes with the opportunity to gain international training and competition experience, achieve results at European Events, and develop as future team Athletes through immersion in a team environment.

**3.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used:** see Section 2.1.

### 3.3. Other Discretionary Criteria Used:

3.3.1. **Soundness** - Horses that are candidates for selection for the Championship may be examined at any time following the application deadline and through the conclusion of the Championship for soundness by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian, upon the request of the Selectors or Chef d'Equipe and based on the availability of the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete/Horse combination from the selection process, at the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian. See Section 5.

3.3.2. **Team Veterinarian Request:** Athletes, at their own expense, must make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the previous 24 months' worth of veterinary records of Horses in consideration for selection. In addition, Athletes, at their own expense, will be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for Horses in consideration for selection. Athletes, at their own expense, must complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the Horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the Athlete, for Horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process by recommendation from the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and Team Veterinarian.

3.3.3. **Veterinary Treatment** – From the time of the FEI Nominated Entry through the conclusion of the Championship, Athletes on the FEI Nominated Entry will be required to consult with the Team Veterinarian prior to Horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete and/or Horse from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian (refer to Section 4) and approval by the Chef d'Equipe. Exceptions may be granted for emergency situations. The Team Veterinarian must be apprised of any emergency within 24 hours of the treatment.

3.3.4. **Medical Request** - In the event of illness or injury, Athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a USEF-approved physician(s) any time during the selection process for the purpose 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 upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physician(s) and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF-approved physician(s) find the Athlete to be unfit to compete, the Athlete may be removed from the selection process with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

### 3.4. Name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Chef d'Equipe and High Performance Manager
- USEF Eventing High Performance Advisor
- USEF Eventing Team Veterinarian
- USEF Eventing Evaluating Veterinarian Panel
- USEF Team Farrier

- USEF Team Equine Physiotherapist
- USEF Team Human Physiotherapist
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors

*See the USEF website for a complete list of members.*

**3.5. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:**

All Athletes involved in the selection of the Championship Squad must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#).

Any person involved in the selection of the Championship Squad who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to the stated application deadline. Additionally, they may be required to recuse themselves from the review process and/or voting. Selectors are bound by the conflict of interest procedures and management restrictions imposed by the USEF Audit Committee.

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 Athlete has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No Athlete shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

**4. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES OR HORSES:**

At any time during the selection process, and through the conclusion of the Championship, USEF has jurisdiction over the Athlete/Horse combinations. An Athlete and/or a Horse that is named to the FEI Nominated Entry or Squad by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF.

- 4.1. Voluntary withdrawal. The Athlete must submit a written notification to Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing ([abraun@usef.org](mailto:abraun@usef.org)).
- 4.2. Athlete injury or illness as certified by a USEF-approved physician (or medical staff). If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF-approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 4.3. Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
- 4.4. Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF SafeSport Policy](#).
- 4.5. Failure to complete a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- 4.6. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, from the time of the FEI Nominated Entry deadline through the conclusion of the Championship.
- 4.7. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these procedures.
- 4.8. Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Squad for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- 4.9. Failure to comply with reasonable requests, as determined by the Director of FEI Sport and Managing Director of Eventing, from the USEF Eventing Department regarding logistical information and deadlines.
- 4.10. Loss of form or failure to show readiness in or out of competition, as determined by the USEF Eventing Development Coach and/or High Performance Manager.
- 4.11. Behavior of the Athlete or people associated with the Athlete (including, without limitation, accredited Owners, Coaches, and Grooms) that may have a negative impact on creating a positive Team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the Team.

- 4.12. Failure to participate in veterinary exams or other requirements as defined in these procedures.
- 4.13. Failure to sign the [Horse Participation Consent Agreement](#) by the FEI Definite Entry Date.
- 4.14. Failure of the Horse Owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement.
- 4.15. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. If an Athlete and/or Owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling, and the Horse may be removed.
- 4.16. Failure to provide a report of all veterinary treatments administered, if requested by the Team Veterinarian.
- 4.17. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse.
- 4.18. 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 Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 4.19. Failure of the Horse Owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement.

An Athlete who is removed from the Championship pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USEF Bylaws Part VII.

## 5. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES OR HORSES:

### 5.1. Selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) & Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:

#### 5.1.1. Prior to submission of the Nominated Entries:

Replacement of Athlete/Horse combinations will be based on the list of Alternates and/or Direct Reserves as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee, or USEF Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors.

#### 5.1.2. After submission of the Nominated Entries but prior to submission of the Definite Entries:

Replacement of Athlete/Horse combinations will be based on the list of Alternates and/or Direct Reserves as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee, or USEF Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors. Replacement Athlete/Horse combinations must only come from those submitted on the Nominated Entries.

#### 5.1.3. After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries up to the deadline for substitutions:

After the Definite Entries are submitted to the FEI, and until the deadline for substitutions set by the FEI and the Organizing Committee, whichever is later, the Chef d'Equipe in consultation with the Athlete, Team Veterinarian, and Team Leader, may amend the Team. The Chef d'Equipe may replace a selected horse with the Direct Reserve, and the originally selected horse may remain eligible to be considered for substitution, as an Alternate. The Chef d'Equipe may also substitute an Alternate Athlete/Horse combination. Decisions will be made focusing on the fitness of both Athlete and Horse, and their potential to contribute to a team medal-winning performance. Changes must be approved by the USEF Chef d'Equipe.

## 6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, and data from the selection process, for six (6) months after the date of the conclusion of the Championship.

## 7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and/or Horse Owner, or the parent/guardian if application, as a condition of participation in the Championship:

- USEF Application, by the stated deadline, via the [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#)

- [USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement](#)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification](#)
- [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#)

**8. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:**

Athletes will be required to read and are requested to sign the USEF Athlete Agreement.

**9. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:**

The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF on the USEF Web site: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). These Selection Procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

**10. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION:**

Athlete/Horse combinations may be required to participate in Mandatory Training. By the time of selection, relevant details of the Mandatory Training session(s) will be circulated via email to the applicants.

**11. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:**

11.1. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USADA, and USEF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA and USEF Rules, as applicable.

11.2. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

11.2.1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

11.2.1.1. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel. They will notify the Director of FEI Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.

11.2.1.2. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.

11.2.1.3. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

11.2.2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from

the selection process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

11.2.2.1. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of FEI Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

11.2.2.2. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

11.2.3. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

11.2.4. USEF General Rule 409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## **12. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES:**

The following committee(s)/group(s) were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Eventing Development Coach
- USEF Eventing High Performance Manager
- USEF Eventing Athletes Working Group
- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF

*See the USEF website for a complete listing of members.*

## **13. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:**

USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in USEF Bylaws Part VII and in the Supplemental Procedures for Complaints and Grievances. See [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

## **14. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:**

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

## **15. FUNDING DISCLAIMER:**

Selection to the Championship Squad does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Championship. USEF competition funding will be memorialized within the Athlete Funding Agreement.

**16. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER:**

These procedures are based on [FEI Rules and Regulations](#) as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in FEI rules or regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection Events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

**17. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE:**

Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds for independent and confidential advice on a variety of sport related matters, including their rights, applicable rules, policies or processes, and questions related to resolving disputes and grievances. The Athlete Ombuds can also help Team USA athletes connect with legal, mental health, and other support resources. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing in the masters, recreational, or youth level) are welcome to visit the Athlete Ombuds website to review informational resources and should work directly with their NGB to understand additional resources and options available to them.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

Website: [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org)

Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy:

(A) In general.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

(B) Exception.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved.

(C) Judicial and administrative proceedings.—

(i) In general.—The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

(ii) Work product.—Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds—

(I) shall be confidential; and

(II) shall not be—

(a) subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or

(b) admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(D) Applicability.—The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to—

(i) applicable federally mandated reporting requirements;

(ii) a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds;

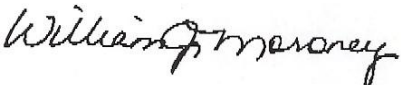
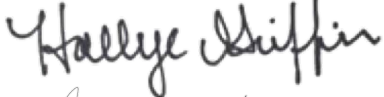
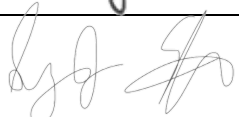
(iii) a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or

(iv) a congressional subpoena.

**Anti-retaliation Statement:** No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

**18. USEF SIGNATURES:**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		4/27/2026
Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		4/28/2026
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Sydney Elliott		4/28/2026

If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USEF, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, USEF must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing: +1 (859) 225-6970 or [abraun@usef.org](mailto:abraun@usef.org)

## DEFINITIONS:

**ALTERNATE** – a Horse or Athlete/Horse combination that has been named as a potential replacement should there be a removal or withdrawal of a Championship Athlete and/or Horse.

**BOLDNESS** – whether the Athlete/Horse combination moves forward with confidence, aggression, and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the Athlete/Horse must answer to successfully negotiate the test, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, jumping into water, etc.), whether the Athlete/Horse combination answers the question with the same positive attitude.

**COMPETITION RECORDS** – records of past competitions may be sourced from the USEF, USEA, FEI or other applicable governing bodies to review an Athlete/Horse combination's scores in the dressage, show jumping and cross-country phases.

### **EQUIRATINGS HIGH PERFORMANCE METRICS –**

#### ELO Score

Eventing is a complex sport, and it can be difficult to rank horses in order of their overall *quality* and *consistency* using a single metric. The EquiRatings Elo does exactly this. It is a ranking algorithm that is affected *every time* a horse starts the cross-country phase of an event (withdrawals *prior* do not affect the metric). In terms of a single metric for predicting finishing position, this is the best in class. The Elo rewards horses that beat highly rated opponents, thus accounting for the quality of a competition.

#### EquiRatings Expected Values

To assess the expected performance of a Horse in each individual phase of an Eventing competition, the EquiRatings Expected Values are the most effective values. They measure expected performance in dressage, show jumping, cross-country jumping reliability and cross-country speed. These are complex formulae that account for recent trends, the difficulties of past conditions and the likely impact that these have on future performance.

#### HPR Score

The HPR score accounts for course difficulty, scoring conditions and the quality of opposition for a single performance.

#### Power Average

The power average is the average of the *three best* finishing scores for a given horse or rider over a given dataset. A horse could therefore have a season power average at four and five-star levels.

#### Two Phase Average

The two-phase average is the average of all dressage *and* show jumping penalties for a horse or rider over a given dataset. The two-phase average excludes cross-country penalties as these can skew the statistics if a rider is opting to compete at a slower pace.

#### Zone Analysis

Zone Analysis is a simple way to organize *finishing scores* into various scoring zones. This helps to give a visual representation as to whether a horse/rider/nation tends to score in excellent/good/average ranges, or whether they have poor outcomes or even non-completions.

**FITNESS** – whether the Horse or Athlete competed at a high level more frequently than is consistent with delivering a peak performance at the event for which selection is being made. Whether the horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

**LOSS OF FORM** - deterioration in performance, demonstrated inability to produce results at the level at which the combination was performing at the time at which they were selected.

**RIDEABILITY** – whether the Horse exhibits in all three tests - dressage, cross-country, and show jumping - that it responds readily to the aids (directions) of the Athlete because of its training; whether it moves forward, slows down, turns, and jumps any obstacle with composure, obedience, and confidence in itself and the Athlete.

**SPEED** - evidence that in the international record of the Athlete/Horse combination, and in the final trials for the Championship, the Athlete/Horse combination shows the ability to complete the Event distances at the speed specifications for that level in accordance with the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#).

**SOUNDNESS** – a condition in which a Horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.