



Dear U.S. Youth Athletes and Young Rider Coordinators,

I hope this email finds everyone well and gearing up for the 2021 competition year. The challenging times of 2020 gave us the opportunity to pivot the Eventing North American Youth Championships to a new series that will open the door for more youth athletes to compete in team competitions across the country. I encourage all U.S. athletes between the ages of 14 to 25 to participate in the inaugural 2021 USEF Eventing Youth Team Challenge.

Why is the Youth Team Challenge such a key next step for U.S. Eventing? It fills a critical void in providing a vital stepping stone on the Eventing Pathway, ultimately paving the way to the Elite level of the sport. The U.S. does not currently have the opportunity to compete in FEI Pony, Junior and Young Rider Championships like in Europe, so we must continue to seek new ways to give our youth athletes more opportunities to compete in a team. The Youth Team Challenge will give athletes up to the age of 25 the opportunity to gain this valuable team experience. This is an exciting new initiative in further strengthening the Eventing Pathway, which aims to develop athletes to one day represent the U.S. on the world stage.

The Youth Team Challenge is modeled after the FEI Eventing Nations Cup series with multiple short format competitions during the season leading up to a long format final in the autumn on both the East and West coasts. Each USEA Area will select their team for each competition, and athletes may participate in one competition or multiple competitions throughout the season. If you are currently qualified to compete at the CCI1*, CCI2* or CCI3* levels, you are qualified to compete in the Youth Team Challenge series.

Gaining team experience was integral in my ability to put forward the best performances to secure medals when it mattered most. We invite U.S. youth athletes to participate in the inaugural USEF Eventing Youth Team Challenge season and become a part of creating sustainable success on the world stage for the U.S. Every Olympic gold medalist has a story of their very first team competition. Will you join us?

Please mark your calendars for an informational webinar on Monday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. EST to learn more about the Youth Team Challenge and how you can get involved. [Click HERE to register](#). Please submit any questions about the Youth Team Challenge to cvaughn@usef.org in advance so we can be sure to answer them during the webinar.





Sincerely,

Leslie Law
USEF Emerging and Development Coach
2004 Athens Olympic Games Individual Gold Medalist

Note: All athletes interested in competing in the Youth Team Challenge must complete their Area Declaration by January 29, 2021 at 5 p.m. EST. The Area Declaration form is found in an athlete's [MyUSEF](#) account under the [Athlete Dashboard](#).

