



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2026 USEF EVENTING YOUNG RIDER CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**JUNE 26-28, 2026**

The following Selection Procedures are only applicable to USA Athletes. Please refer to your NF's policies and procedures if you are inquiring about participating in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships under a different nationality.

## **1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

### **1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for team and/or individual selection:**

- 1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:** The Athlete must be a national of the United States at the deadline for the Area Declaration until the conclusion of the 2026 USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships ("Championships").
- 1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**
- Athletes wishing to compete in the Championships must meet the FEI age requirements, per Art. 503 of the [FEI Eventing Rules](#):
    - Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIU253\*-S division must have been born on or between January 1, 2001, and December 31, 2010 (FEI ages 16-25).
    - Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIYJ2\*-S division must have been born on or between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2012 (FEI ages 14-21).
    - Athletes wishing to compete in the USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIJ1\*-Intro division must have been born on or between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2012 (FEI ages 14-18).
  - The Horse must meet all FEI eligibility requirements, including the minimum age to participate in the Championships, per Art. 503 of the [FEI Eventing Rules](#).
  - Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to compete in the Championships must have met the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) as stated in the [USEF Eventing Rules](#) and the [FEI Eventing Rules](#) for the relevant division prior to the end of the Qualifying Period.
  - Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to compete in the Championships must have earned the required Certificates of Capability as described below, at FEI licensed competitions between January 1, 2025, and June 16, 2026 ("Qualifying Period").
    - USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIU253\*-S: Athlete/Horse combinations must have earned a Certificate of Capability by achieving an MER at one CCI3\* level or higher FEI competition.
    - USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIYJ2\*-S: Athlete/Horse combinations must have earned a Certificate of Capability within the Qualifying Period by achieving an MER at one CCI2\* level or higher FEI competition.
    - USEF Eventing Young Rider Championships CCIJ1\*-Intro: Athlete/Horse combinations do not have an additional Certificate of Capability requirement.
  - 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 Championships.
  - To be eligible for participation in the Championship, Athletes and Horses must comply with all current [FEI Rules & Regulations](#).
  - Applicants domiciled outside of the continental United States must meet the Citizenship and Minimum International Federation Standards for Participation outlined in Section 1.1.

### 1.1.3. Other requirements:

- The Athlete and individual owners of horses must be Competing Members of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) and in good standing at the time of the USEF Definite Entry deadline and through the conclusion of the Championships.
- The Athlete must be a member in good standing of their United States Eventing Association (“USEA”) Area Young Rider Program at the time of the USEF Definite Entry deadline and through the conclusion of the Event.
- Horses must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing with USEF or recorded and in good standing with their National Federation at the time of FEI Definite Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship.
- Horses must have a valid FEI passport or National passport by the FEI Definite Entry.
- Athletes wishing to represent an Area at the Championships must submit a completed Area Declaration application online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) no later than **May 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET**.
- The Athlete must declare which Area they wish to compete for on the Area Declaration. After the Declaration deadline, Areas cannot be changed. By the end of the Qualifying Period, each Athlete/Horse combination must meet the USEF and FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) as well as the additional Certificate of Capability requirements for each Championship division they will compete in.
- The Athlete and parent/guardian, if applicable, must certify by submitting their Area Declaration, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by the Selection Procedures for the Championships, the [USEF Code of Conduct](#); the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#); the [Non-Discrimination Policy](#); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the end of the Championships will be required to undergo a background check in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the end of the Championships will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the [USEF Athlete Safety Policy](#).

**2. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the Championships:** The USEA will develop and recommend its respective Area Selection Procedures to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, or Executive Committee. The names of the Area Selectors and Selection Trials, if any, must be sent to USEF (Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing – [abraun@usef.org](mailto:abraun@usef.org)) and posted to the relevant Area website no later than **March 15, 2026**. The Area Selectors and/or Area Young Rider Coordinator, if applicable, will oversee the selection process. The Area Selection Procedures can be found [here](#).

- 2.1. Qualifying Period:** The Qualifying Period begins January 01, 2025, and ends June 16, 2026. All MERs listed in Section 1.1.2 must be achieved during this time.
- 2.2. USEF Nominated Entry (June 09, 2026):** By the USEF Nominated Entry deadline, each Area must submit to USEF a list of up to eighteen (18) applicant Athlete/Horse combinations that are eligible for each Championship division based on these Procedures and the Area’s Selection Procedures. Only Athletes that have submitted an Area Declaration are eligible for the USEF Nominated Entry.
- 2.3. USEF Definite Entry (June 16, 2026):** After submission of the USEF Nominated Entry but no later than the deadline for the USEF Definite Entries, each Area will submit to USEF their Definite Entry list for each Championship division based on these Procedures and the Area’s Selection Procedures. Each division at the Championships may have an Area Team consisting of three (3) to four (4)

Athlete/Horse combinations plus up to two (2) Traveling Reserve Athlete/Horse combinations, who may compete as Individuals. Only Athletes listed on the USEF Nominated Entry are eligible for the USEF Definite Entry. If Areas cannot submit a full Team, one (1) or two (2) Individual Athlete/Horse combinations may compete on behalf of an Area and form a Scramble Team, as detailed below.

**2.4. Combining Areas to Form Scramble Teams:** If an Area is unable to field a Team of at least three (3) Athlete/Horse combinations, the Area may combine with another Area, which is also unable to field a Team. Once all USEF Definite Entries have been submitted, USEF will determine how, if at all, Areas will be combined, by no later than the Opening Ceremonies at the Championships. Further changes, prior to the start of Dressage, may be made pending approval of all affected parties.

**2.5. Declaration of Starters (June 22, 2026)** – Once at the Championships, and after the Horse Inspection, each Area’s Chef d’Equipe must declare the starting order of the Athlete/Horse combinations on the Team for each division, as well as the Individuals, to the USEF Director, Development Programs in writing, before 6:00 p.m., ET the day preceding the first competition.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETE OR HORSES**

Following submission of the USEF Nominated Entry, USEF has jurisdiction over Athlete/Horse combinations who are selected for the Championships. An Athlete or Horse that has been included in an Area’s USEF Nominated Entry or USEF Definite Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these Procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. The Athlete or Area Coordinator must submit a written letter to the USEF (Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing at [abraun@usef.org](mailto:abraun@usef.org)).
- Injury or illness as certified by a physician approved by USEF. 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.
- Failure to comply with an Area’s Selection Criteria.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Failure to complete a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Area Veterinarian and/or a vet approved by the Area. If an Athlete and/or Horse Owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Area Veterinarian and/or a vet approved by the Area, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling, and the Horse may be removed.
- Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- 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.
- Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 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. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES OR HORSES**

**4.1. The following is the process by which the substitute pool of Athlete/Horse combinations will be identified:** Each Area’s USEF Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of available substitute Athlete/Horse combinations.

**4.2. Substitute athlete/horse combinations will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following procedures:**

- 4.2.1. Prior to the USEF Definite Entry Deadline:** Openings, if they occur, whether by voluntary withdrawal or removal, will be filled according to the Area's list of Athlete/Horse combinations on the USEF Nominated Entry. Any substitution for reasons set forth in Section 3, except by voluntary withdrawal, will be at the recommendation of the Area Young Rider Coordinator, Area Coach, and/or Area Chef d'Equipe, and subject to USEF's approval.
- 4.2.2. After the Declaration of Starters:** After the Declaration of Starters, USEF can substitute Athlete/Horse combinations on the USEF Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3. During this time, Area Team members may only be substituted with the Area Traveling Reserve. Substitutions may only be made in accordance with Art. 530.2 of the [FEI Eventing Rules](#) for veterinary or medical reasons, subject to the recommendation of the Area Young Rider Coordinator, Area Coach, and/or Area Chef d'Equipe, and subject to USEF's approval. The substitution must be made at least two hours before the first Athlete is scheduled to perform their Dressage test on the day on which the Athlete in question has been drawn to compete.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must also be documented by an official Veterinarian and/or have the approval of the Veterinary Commission. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must also be documented by a physician.

The Technical Delegate, in consultation with the Ground Jury, must approve the substitution as well as the USEF Director, Eventing Development Programs.

**4.3. Group or committee that will be responsible for making Athlete/Horse combination substitution determinations:**

- 4.3.1. Group or committee that determines the substitution list:** The Area Selectors in consultation with the Area Young Rider Coordinator, Area Coach, and/or Area Chef d'Equipe.
- 4.3.2. Group or committee that determines a substitution prior to and after the USEF Definite Entry deadline:** The Area Selectors in consultation with the Area Young Rider Coordinator, Area Coach, and/or Area Chef d'Equipe.

**5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the conclusion of the Championships.

**6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete, or the parent/guardian if applicable, as a condition of nomination to the Event (include as attachments or provide links):

- [Area Declaration \(Application\)](#)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement](#)
- [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#)

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures, including but not limited to the USEA, USEA Area Selectors, USEA Area Veterinarians, members of, will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy, USEF Safe Sport Policy, and Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy.

## **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.

## **7. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

- 7.1. Human Anti-Doping:** Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and USADA rules, as applicable.
- 7.2. Equine Anti-Doping:** All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
- 7.2.1. 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.
- **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 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 7.2.2. 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.
- **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 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 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.
- 7.2.3.** 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.

- 7.2.4. USEF GR 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 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## **8. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEA Young Rider Coordinators Committee
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Selection Ground of the USEF Board of Directors)

### **8.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving an individual involved in the selection process:**

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

Any person involved in the selection of the Team or Individual positions who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to Definite Entry deadline. Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting.

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.

## **9. 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).

- 10. 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.

## **11. 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 USEF.

## **12. 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.

**13. 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.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney	<i>William J. Moroney</i>	01/26/2026
Director, FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin	<i>Hallye Griffin</i>	02/09/2026

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Amber Braun, Managing Director, Eventing.

Phone: +1 859-225-6970  
Email: [abraun@usef.org](mailto:abraun@usef.org)  
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