UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
SELECTION PROCEDURES
2027 FEI PAEC CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE AMERICAS – OCALA, FLORIDA
JANUARY 25-28, 2027
U.S. EVENTING SQUAD

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Championship Squad ("Squad"):

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

- Athlete must be a national of the United States at the deadline for the application of intent through to the end of the 2027 FEI PAEC Championship of the Americas – Ocala, Florida ("Championship").

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:

- All Athletes and Horses wishing to compete on the Squad must achieve the following minimum eligibility requirements (MERs) as a combination between January 1, 2026, and FEI Nominated Entry Deadline December 15, 2026 ("Qualifying Period") to be eligible to compete in the Championship (see the FEI Rules for Eventing, Article 517). Combinations must achieve their MER result at:
  - One (1) qualifying result at a CCI2*-S in the Qualifying Period
  - Additionally, for U.S. applicants, one (1) qualifying result must be obtained at a CCI2*-L and CCI3*-S between June 1, 2025 and December 15, 2026.
- An FEI qualifying result is achieved by completing the above Competitions within the minimum parameters of an all-round performance, with: (i) Dressage test: Not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%), Dressage (no more than forty-five (45) penalty points); (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. At CCI5*-L, the maximum time by which the optimum time may be exceeded is 100 seconds; (iii) Jumping Test: Not more than sixteen penalties at obstacles.
- The Athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2008 making them a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age in the year of the Championships (see the FEI Rules for Eventing, Article 503.2).
- The Horse must meet all FEI eligibility requirements, including the minimum age to participate in the Championship (see the FEI Rules for Eventing, Article 503.4).
- The Athlete and Horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of FEI Nominated Entry, and until the conclusion of the Championship.
- To be eligible for participation in the Championship, Athletes and Horses must comply with all current FEI Rules & Regulations.
- Individual horse owners must be in good standing with the FEI at the time of FEI Nominated Entry, and until the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- The Athlete and any individual horse owner of U.S. horses must be a Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") in good standing at

the time of FEI Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship.

- 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 Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Championship.
- Horses must have a valid FEI passport by the deadline for the Application.
- **Application** – Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championship must complete the online application with the application fee through their USEF Athlete Dashboard. Applications must be submitted online on or before 11:59 PM ET, December 1, 2026, along with the non-refundable fee in the amount of seventy-five dollars ($75.00) per application. Athletes must list any and all horses they wish to be considered for the Team on their Application by the stated deadline. Each Athlete must certify, by 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.
- Horse Participation Consent Agreement: Individual owners of U.S. horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry must sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement (Attachment F) 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 Nominated 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 Event, 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.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the end of the Championship 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 Championship 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 CHAMPIONSHIP:

2.1. Selection of Team and Alternates

2.1.1. FEI Nominated Entry Deadline (December 15, 2026): By no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors will recommend up to the maximum number of athletes and their horses permitted to be named to the FEI Nominated Entry. In making their recommendations, the Selectors may elicit feedback from the USEF Eventing High Performance Manager, High Performance Advisor and the Development Program Advisor, and the Team Veterinarian, and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian (if requested by the Team Veterinarian. The Selectors' recommendation will be subject to approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc

Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. In making their recommendation, the Selectors will consider the following factors in no particular order:

- The overall performance of the Athlete/Horse combination in their previous 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.
- Consistency and trend of performance of the complete Competition Records (see definitions) within the Qualifying Period, with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, Boldness, Rideability, and Speed.
- The previous International Competition Experience (see definitions) of the Athlete/Horse combination. Preference may be given to Athlete/Horse combinations who have demonstrated ability to succeed in multiple international Eventing competitions, per their complete Competition Records.
- Soundness (see definitions).
- Fitness (see definitions).

Chef d'Equipe Permissions: Once Athlete/Horse combinations have been named to the FEI Nominated Entry, they will come under the leadership of the Chef d'Equipe through the conclusion of the Championship. The Athlete must develop and discuss their training, competition, and coaching schedule with the Chef d'Equipe. Deviations from the agreed-upon plan must be communicated to and approved in advance by the Chef d'Equipe.

2.1.2. **FEI Definite Entries**: Prior to the FEI Definite Entry Deadline for the Championship, the Selectors will recommend a Squad of five athlete/horse combinations for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, using the criteria detailed in Section 2.2.1 above. The Squad will be comprised of the five athlete/horse combinations named from the Nominated Entries, except in instances of removal or replacement, see Section 5. From the five Athlete/Horse combinations, four Athlete/Horse combinations will compete for the Team and Individual medals and one Athlete/Horse combination 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, in consultation with the Team Veterinarian.

2.1.3. **Mandatory Training Session(s)** - Athlete/Horse combinations listed on the Nominated entry may be required to participate in Mandatory Training. By no later than December 1, 2026, relevant details of the Mandatory Training Session(s) will be circulated to the applicants. Any waiver requests by a combination to be exempt from a Mandatory Training Session must be submitted in writing and be approved by the Chef d' Equipe and Managing Director, Eventing. Documentation may be required from a Veterinarian or Physician.

3. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

3.1 **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** The option of discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible that meets the objectives of Eventing Pathway.

3.2 **Define the discretionary criteria to be used:** For discretionary selection used please see the following sections:

- 2.1.1– FEI Nominated Entry
- 2.1.2– FEI Definite Entry
- 2.1.3 – Waiver Requests

3.3. Other Discretionary Criteria:

a. **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. Horses found to be unsound may result in the removal of the Athlete and/or Horse from the selection process, at the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian. See Section 5.

b. **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. See Section 5.

c. **Veterinary Treatment** – From the time of the Nominated Entry through the conclusion of the Championship, Athletes on the 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. See Section 5. The Team Veterinarian must be apprised of any emergency within 24 hours of the treatment.

d. **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 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. See Section 5.

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

- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Chef d'Equipe
- USEF High Performance Advisor
- USEF Development Program Advisor.
- USEF Eventing Veterinary Evaluating Panel
- USEF Eventing Team Veterinarian
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors

See Attachment X for a complete listing of committee members.

3.5 Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee(s) listed above:

All committee members must comply with the USEF's Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy including completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee. Any committee members who has an actual, possible, 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 and/or recuse oneself 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 members' ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee members must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that a Selector who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the committee members, provide such information to the committee members so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other committee members 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 a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or the USEF Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member 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 USEF selection committee appointment process.

4. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES/HORSES

At any time during the selection process through the conclusion of the Championship, USEF has jurisdiction over Athletes and Horses. An Athlete or Horse that is nominated to the Squad and/or Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO or Chef de Mission.
- Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. 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.
- Failure to participate in veterinary exams or other requirements as defined in these procedures.
- Failure to participate in a Mandatory Training Session (see Section 2.1.3).
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Behavior of the Athlete and people associated with the Athlete (including, without limitation, accredited Owners, Coaches, and Grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive Team environment that will affect the ability to win a Team medal.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Team for the Championship, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- Failure of the Horse Owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement.

- Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. If an Athlete and/or Horse 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.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe and/or Team Veterinarian.
- Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see Section 10 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 these selection procedures.
- Failure to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to the Horse receiving veterinary treatment by any veterinarian who is not the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. Written permission is required upon selection as a Squad or Alternate Horse.
- Failure to comply with reasonable requests, as determined by the Director of FEI Sport and the Managing Director of Eventing, from the USEF Eventing Department regarding logistical information and deadlines.
- Loss Of Form or failure to show readiness in or out of competition, as determined by the majority decision of the Selectors and with the approval of the Chef d'Equipe.

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.

5. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & 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 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 de Mission.

6. 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 Championship.

7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

- Application Memo (Attachment A)
- USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification (Attachment D)
- USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E)

8. 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. These Selection Procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

9. DATE OF NOMINATION

The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than **December 15, 2026.**

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Athletes Working Group
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors)

See Attachment X for a complete listing of committee members.

12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website www.usef.org. Athletes wishing to file a grievance, a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

13. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Championship.

14. 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 Trials listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

15. 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 counsel or mental health resources if needed. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing domestically at the masters or youth level, recreational athletes, foreign athletes) 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
Website: usathlete.org

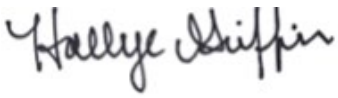
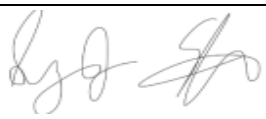
Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy:

(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—
(aa) subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or (bb) 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.

16. USEF SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into these 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		10/26/2026
Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		10/26/2026
Team USA Athlete Representative	Sydney Elliott		10/26/2026

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

PHONE: +1 (859) 225-6970
EMAIL: abraun@usef.org
WEBSITE: www.usef.org

DEFINITIONS:

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 answer 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.

FITNESS – Whether the athlete or horse 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 athlete or horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION EXPERIENCE - A competitive record over the past 3 years that indicates that the Athlete/Horse combination has successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure consistently.

LOSS OF FORM - Deterioration in performance and/or 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 FEI record of the Athlete/Horse combination, and in the final trials for the Team, the Athlete/Horse combination shows the ability to complete the Championship 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.