

Lignières

CCI04*-NC-S

La Celle-Condé, France

SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2026

Untargeted
Nations Cup



Disclaimer: This Playbook is a resource produced by the USEF Eventing Department. Please visit the event's [FEI Schedule](#) for the most up to date information.

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US EQUESTRIAN TEAM



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UNTARGETED NATIONS CUP: LINGNIÈRES

US EQUESTRIAN TEAM PLAYBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Playbook is to give those who are attending Lignières (FRA) CCIO4*-NC-S an understanding of the logistical support that is available through USEF. As an Untargeted Nations Cup, please note that the Team will not receive funding, apparel, Team Staff support, or expense reimbursements.

As with any Nations Cup, Lignières will have its challenges and differences from other Events. The emphasis must be on ensuring our athletes, horses, and grooms can perform their very best. A performance environment must be maintained and always keep in mind that even if you are not on a U.S. Eventing Team, you are still representing the USA at these European competitions.

The competition venue is approximately 183 miles south of Paris and will be hosting additional levels and divisions. This is not a stand-alone Nations Cup and additional divisions will run alongside the CCIO4*-NC-S. Please review the published FEI Schedule for the available divisions and their restrictions.

We are continually receiving updates and new information so this playbook can never cover all the details. The primary point of contact is Christina Vaughn, and her contact information can be found below.

This playbook contains helpful information for attending this Event. Please also familiarize yourself with the FEI Schedule and remember to check in at the show office upon arrival for the most up-to-date information.

PLEASE READ THIS PLAYBOOK AS IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL PLANNING, CLIMATE, AND ACCOMMODATIONS.

Please contact Christina if you have any questions, observations, or suggestions as to how we can optimize the support of the athletes, grooms, and horses.

Good luck to all!

Christina Vaughn

Christina Vaughn

Director, Eventing Elite Programs

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APPLICATIONS

ENTRIES

In the [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#), athletes must complete both an Online Application and an FEI Entry.

Online Applications are required for selection to a Team. The Online Application section allows athletes to apply for selection to a CCIO at which the U.S. will field a Team. This process is managed by USEF Eventing. Additionally, as an untargeted Nations Cup, **the athlete will also need to submit an entry through the FEI Entry System.** If a Team is named for this event, USEF will pay for the Nations Cup Entry Fee.

An FEI Entry is required to compete as an Individual. Athletes must submit the FEI Entry in order to be entered into the FEI Entry System to compete as an individual at any FEI competition, whether in the U.S. or abroad. The FEI Entry process is managed by US Equestrian Athlete Services.

Entries must be paid as outlined in Section VII of the FEI Definite Schedule.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION TIMELINE

Applications Open: January 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. EST

Application Close and Team Selection: Event entries and applications will be monitored to determine if there is enough interest to field a U.S. Team. If you are interested in being considered for the Team, please get in touch with Christina Vaughn at cvaughn@usef.org or +1 (859) 225-6917 for the next steps.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

As an Untargeted Nations Cup, the Lignières Nations Cup team follows the [2026 Untargeted Team Opportunities Selection Procedures](#).

FUNDING

As an Untargeted Nations Cup, Athletes named to the Lignières Nations Cup U.S. Team will not receive funding.

USEF will cover the National Federation fee and FEI Entry fee for the Team.

PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS

U.S. citizens and non-E.U. nationals will need to complete the Entry/Exit System (EES) for all short-term stays in European countries. Registration and biometric data collection will be completed at a border control kiosk at the arrival airport. More information about EES can be found [here](#). It is the traveling individual's responsibility to check any visa requirements.

VACCINATIONS

In accordance with the CDC and USOPC recommendations, we advise that all Athletes, grooms, and traveling USEF support staff consider getting the new COVID vaccine now available against new strains as well as the seasonal flu vaccine. These vaccines can be administered at the same time. This is NOT a USOPC or USEF requirement, but it is highly recommended to protect our athletes, grooms, and all Team members. Please note it takes approximately two (2) weeks to maximize immunity.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

EQUINE TRANSPORTATION

It is the athlete's responsibility to organize their horse's travel to the Event. Christina Vaughn is available for assistance.

USA to FRA: Dutta Horse Transport Inc is the preferred USEF vendor for horse flights departing the continental United States.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: +1 (914) 276 3880
- Email: info@timdutta.com

Ground Transportation: Gelissen's Horse Transport is the preferred USEF vendor for ground transportation within France.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: +31 (0)46 437 35 74
- Email: info@horse-transport.nl

FRA to USA: Guido Klatte GmbH & Co.KG is the preferred USEF vendor for horse flights departing France.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: +49 (0) 44 72 / 94 00 70
- Email: guido@gklatte.de

Hay/Bedding: Please refer to the FEI Schedule for hay/bedding that is available at the venue.

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HUMAN TRANSPORTATION

All athletes, grooms, and owners are responsible for booking their own travel itinerary. Below is the recommended airport to La Celle-Condé.

Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) CDG has three terminals that operate both international and domestic flights. It is approximately 183 miles (4 hours) from the competition venue.

HUMAN ACCOMMODATION

There are many local accommodation options. Below is a non-extensive list of nearby hotels. It is the traveling individual's responsibility to book their accommodation.

Hotel	Website	Distance
Les Roulottes du Berry	Click here	0.8 mi
Le Manoir d'Estiveaux	Click here	12.0 mi
Château de Saint-Chartier Chambre d'Hotes	Click here	15.1 mi
Logis Hôtel les 3 Rois	Click here	16.3 mi
De La Cognette	Click here	16.3 mi

CAR SERVICE INFORMATION

Public Transport: There is public transport in Lignières however public transportation is not accessible to or from the competition venue.

Taxi: Taxis use meters calculated by distance and time.

Rental Vehicles: For automatic vehicles, it is recommended to book a rental car with a large rental agency.

USA EVENTING GUIDE TO TRAVELING OVERSEAS

To view the USA Eventing Guide to Traveling Overseas click [here](#).

ACCREDITATION

Please review the FEI Schedule for the most up-to-date information on available accreditations.

APPAREL

As an Untargeted Nations Cup, athletes, grooms, and owners will not receive horse or human apparel from USEF.

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TICKETS

Tickets will not be sold for spectators to attend the event.

VENUE

The equestrian venue is south of the center of Paris.

The venue address is **Domaine des Amourettes, Les Amourettes, 18160 La Celle-Condé, France**

STABLES

Stable boxes are 3m x 3m.

TACK ROOMS

Tack rooms are available on request. It is the athlete's responsibility to coordinate with the entry.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

The full schedule for the Lignières Horse Trials can be found [here](#).

TEAM STAFF

As an Untargeted Nations Cup, Eventing Team Staff are not available for the duration of the competition.

SAFE SPORT, CODE OF CONDUCT, & CLEAN SPORT

Similar to any USEF licensed Event, SafeSport, the USEF Code of Conduct and Clean Sport must be abided by at all times.

Click [here](#) for SafeSport Information

Click [here](#) for USEF Code of Conduct

Click [here](#) for Clean Sport Information

HORSE

Once a horse is named to a team all communication regarding treatments and medications is to be directed to the team veterinarian. No medications can be transported with the horses.

ATHLETE

Once an athlete is named to a Team it is important that any Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) are up to date and with the Athlete at all times. If there are any questions regarding medications

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please reach out to Steven Morrissey (smorrissey@usef.org) or Dr. Mark Hart (markvhart@gmail.com).

PRESS & MEDIA

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be a great advantage for athletes, but it can also be detrimental to the environment. Please familiarize yourself with the policies below.

The FEI Social Media policy can be found [here](#).

The USEF Social Media policy can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about the utilization of social media during the Nations Cup, please contact Sr. Director social media & Sport Communications, Carly Weilminster (cweilminster@usef.org).

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Name	Address	Phone
Center Medical Treatment De La Croix Duchet	Rue de la Croix Duchet, 18200 Saint-Amand-Montrond, France	+33 2 48 63 26 07
Hospital _ Center De La Tour Blanche	Av. Jean Bonnefont, 36100 Issoudun, France	+33 2 54 03 54 03
Private Hospital Guillaume De Varye - Elsan	210 Rte de Vouzeron, 18230 Saint-Doulchard, France	+33 2 48 68 84 84

French Emergency Services – 112

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In general, France is a safe country for its residents and visitors. However, security perception changes greatly by district. If you have any doubts or need to report an incident, you can rely on the Police.

Responsible care should be exercised when traveling throughout France. There is a normal level of crime in La Celle-Condé but it varies by district. Travelers should keep valuables out of sight and be aware of their surroundings. Avoid isolated areas when on foot, especially after dark. It is recommended to only use a trusted taxi or an app-based taxi service. Do not hail a taxi on the street.

Assailants usually target victims for their smartphones, wallets, or purses. If confronted by someone with a weapon, it is best not to resist.

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It is best to use ATMs inside banks instead of ATMs that are more accessible to passers-by and all banks advise customers to cover ATM keypads with their hands when entering codes. When making credit card transactions, travelers should expect the vendor to use a credit card reader in their presence.

There is a threat of low-level crime such as mugging and theft. Security is not a worry, but all should be aware and take realistic precautions.

Security is the responsibility of everybody. However, security concerns must not be allowed to prevent athletes from concentrating on preparing and competing their horses. Good security is the application of common sense.

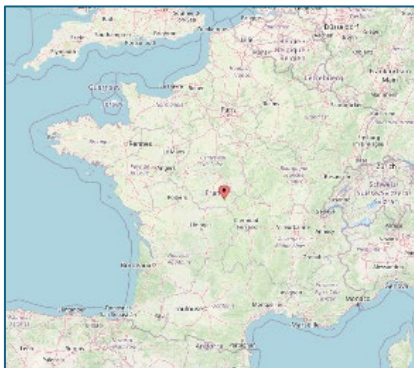
The key to good security is vigilance. Be aware of what is happening around you and always pay attention to anything that appears unusual or out of place. This includes people who appear nervous about their surroundings.

- Make a copy of your passport and travel documents and leave the original in a safe place.
- Always travel in groups.
- Do not overtly wear expensive jewelry.
- Keep your phone hidden.
- Do not carry excessive amounts of cash or credit cards if you do not need them.
- If you are in a vehicle in standstill traffic with the windows rolled down, keep phones and other possessions low and away from windows and be mindful of people walking through the traffic.
- Do not approach unattended bags, cases, or packages – report them.
- Do not accept packages from anyone, the contents of which are unclear.
- Do not advertise where members of Team USA are staying.
- If you are out in the evening and you become aware of increased police activity, leave the area immediately.
- If you see an incident involving the police, do not get involved. Do not play the good Samaritan.
- Avoid wearing Team USA kits outside protected areas.

TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE FRENCH POLICE – 11

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ABOUT LA CELLE-CONDÉ



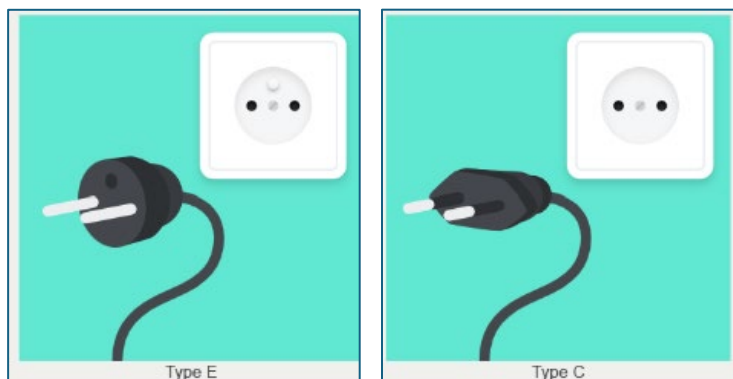
La Celle-Condé is a small commune that is located approximately 183 miles (3.5 hours) south of Paris. It has a population of 191 as of 2022. More information about La Celle-Condé can be found [here](#).

LANGUAGE

French is the official language and most widely spoken language in France, which 88% of the population speak. English is the second language spoken which a little under 25% of the of the population speak.

ELECTRICAL

Power in France operates on a 230-volt current and a 50 hertz frequency. Electricity will be supplied through a Type C (rounded two-prong) or Type E (rounded two-prong with earthing pin).



TELEPHONES, WI-FI, AND INTERNET ACCESS

Cellphone reception is typically good. Most of the country is covered with 5G systems. Contact your phone provider for more information on Sim Cards and International Data Plans.

WEATHER

Average weather for September

- High Temperature: 69°F
- Low Temperature: 54°F
- Rainfall: 0.11"

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- Humidity: 76%

Suggested Clothing: September is one of the drier months of the year for France however it can be mildly cool and breezy.

FOOD & LOCAL RESTAURANTS

While tap water is considered safe to drink in France, it is best practice to utilize bottled water instead. Stay away from raw foods and un-bottled drinks, unless in a reputable restaurant as a precaution.

French cuisine has a long tradition and has contributed to many different cuisines around the world. Dishes are created from local high-quality fresh ingredients and are often considered to be lighter meals.

Some popular dishes include:

- Beef Bourguignon
- Ratatouille
- French Onion Soup
- Streak-frites
- Crêpes
- Escargot
- Quiche

There are many local restaurant options. Below is a non-extensive list of nearby restaurants.

Restaurant	Address	Distance
L'âne toqué	Les Amourettes, 18160 La Celle-Condé, France	0.5 mi
Brasserie Café du Commerce	1 Pl. Roger Salengro, 18160 Lignières, France	1.8 mi
La fontaine des amis	47 Grande Rue, 18160 Lignières, France	1.8 mi
Marchet François	1 Pl. Roger Salengro, 18160 Lignières, France	1.8 mi
AUBERGE DU CHATEAU	73 Rue Aristide Briand, 18160 Lignières, France	2.1 mi

LOCAL BUSINESS HOURS

Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Banks tend to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. Monday through Fridays. Some banks are open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Shopping centers tend to be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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GETTING AROUND THE TOWN

The advised and safest method of travel is by taxi or car arranged by a hotel.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

The Euro (EUR) is the official currency of France. The symbol for the Euro is €. Most currency exchange services are available in the City or Paris or Versailles such as Palm exchange, Lea Change, or Currency Exchange STS.

Currency slang includes but is not limited to:

- Euro(s) – “Balle(s)”

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards are widely accepted. Use of debit cards is widespread, although some stores may impose a minimum per debit card purchase, and service charges may apply.

Money can be exchanged at the airport, exchange houses or banks.

TIPPING

Restaurants: Tipping is optional and not expected as the bill will include a 15% service charge.

Transport: Tipping taxi drivers is not required although it is considered polite to round up to the nearest euro.

Hotels: Tipping at hotels is optional

TRAVELERS CHECKS

Traveler's checks are not commonly used in France.