



**United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.**

**U.S. Athlete Selection Procedures**

**2026 Youth Olympic Games - Equestrian Jumping**

**Dakar, Senegal**

---

1<sup>st</sup> Edition – 1 April 2026

**Purpose of Procedures:** The United States will be represented by one athlete in the Equestrian – Jumping discipline at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games (“Games”). This individual will be a member of a four-person Team representing North America in the continent-based Championship. Each athlete will be assigned a borrowed horse by random draw. This horse will be assigned to the athlete for the duration of the equestrian events at the Games, including the Team Competition and the Individual Competition. This procedure describes the process and policies by which the United States representative to the North American Team at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games will be selected.

## **1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

### **1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination as the United States representative to the North American Team at the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, 31 October 2026 to 13 November 2026:**

- 1.1.1. **Citizenship:** The athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of application, selection and through the conclusion of the Games. The athlete must hold a valid United States passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- 1.1.2. **Minimum International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) standards for Participation:** Any competitor in the Youth Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).
- 1.1.3. **Minimum International Federation (“IF”) standards for participation:**
  - 1.1.3.1. The athlete must have been born between 14 November 2008 and 31 December 2011 (2026 FEI ages 15 to 17) in accordance with the Federation Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Youth Olympic Games [Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Eligibility Criteria].
  - 1.1.3.2. The athlete must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability in accordance with the FEI Qualification System in the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Youth Olympic Games [Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Eligibility Criteria].
  - 1.1.3.3. See Section 1.3.1. for additional detail on the requirements to earn a FEI Certificate of Capability.
  - 1.1.3.4. To be eligible for participation, the athlete must comply with all current FEI Regulations as well as Rules 40 & 41 of the International Olympic Charter and its Bylaws pertaining to the IOC Eligibility Code and Nationality.
  - 1.1.3.5. The athlete must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Games.

## 2026 Youth Olympic Games U.S. Selection Procedures – Equestrian Jumping

1.1.3.6. The athlete must comply with FEI Rules for the equestrian events at the Games.

### 1.1.4. **Other Requirements:**

1.1.4.1. The athlete must be a member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.4.2. Application: The athlete must complete and submit an [online application](#) (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee of \$70 on their USEF Athlete Dashboard no later than **5:00pm ET 15 May 2026**. No applications will be accepted after 15 May 2026.

1.1.4.3. The athlete and parent or legal guardian must certify by signing the application, that they have received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting the requirements of the Selection Procedures for the Event. In addition, the athlete and parent or legal guardian, must certify, by signing the Application, that they have received and read the [USEF Code of Conduct](#) (Attachment B), the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification](#) (Attachment C), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#) (Attachment D); the Non Discrimination Policy; and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) (Attachment E); USOPC Code of Conduct and [Grievances Procedures](#) (Attachment F); and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

1.1.4.4. The athlete may be required to be present for the entire duration of the Games (preliminarily 31 October 2026 to 13 November 2026).

1.1.4.5. The athlete must participate in the cultural and education program of the Games as requested.

1.1.4.6. The athlete must successfully complete all USOPC Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.

### 1.2. **Tryout Events:**

1.2.1. **Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process:** Not applicable, see the criteria in Section 1.3.6.1.

1.2.2. **Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1:** Not applicable.

### 1.3. **Comprehensive Description of the Selection Process (include maximum Team size):**

1.3.1. **1 April 2025 to 15 May 2026 – Period to Obtain an FEI Certificate of Capability:** Athletes must obtain a FEI Certificate of Capability between 1 April 2025 and 15 May 2026 in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Youth Olympic Games [Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games Eligibility Criteria]. To earn an

## 2026 Youth Olympic Games U.S. Selection Procedures – Equestrian Jumping

FEI Certificate of Capability, United States athletes must complete the first round of any of the following competitions, between 1 April 2025 and 15 May 2026, with a score of not more than eight (8) penalties:

- 2025 FEI North American Junior Championship
- CSI1\* Grand Prix Competition
- CSI2\* Grand Prix Competition
- CSIJ Grand Prix Competition
- CSII Grand Prix Competition
- CSIU25 Grand Prix Competition

1.3.2. **15 May 2026– USEF Application Deadline:** Athletes wishing to be considered must complete the USEF online Application by no later than the Application Deadline.

1.3.3. **1 May 2026 to 1 July 2026 – USOPC Online Games Registration Period:** Applicants, having met the criteria in Section 1.1., must complete USOPC Online Games Registration in full. Registration is required for Replacement Athletes in addition to the one selected United States representative to the North American Team.

1.3.4. **15 May 2026 – FEI Certificate of Capability Deadline:** No later than the FEI Certificate of Capability Deadline, the USEF will submit an FEI Certificate of Capability for each of the applicants, provided they have met the criteria in Section 1.1., to the FEI. Athletes who have not earned a Certificate of Capability will not be eligible for participation.

1.3.5. **TBD, 2026– Athlete Selection and FEI Nominated Entry Deadline:**

1.3.5.1. **Athlete Selection:** By no later than the FEI Nominated Entry Deadline, the Selectors will use discretion to evaluate the applicants who have fulfilled all requirements in Section 1.1. in order to recommend one (1) athlete as United States Representative to the North American Team and up to four Replacement Athletes. Athletes named as Replacement Athletes will be ranked at the time of Selection.

The Selectors, in evaluating athletes for selection purposes, will take into account the following criteria:

- **Competition Results:** The athlete’s historical results in jumper competitions held between 2022 and 2026 at USEF or FEI sectioned events with emphasis on results in competitions held at 1.30 meters or higher, the competitiveness of the class, the variety of different horses with which the athlete has achieved the results and the ability of the athlete to maximize the potential of a borrowed horse. In addition, the athlete’s ability to meet the standards of the Games and ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties at the highest level of course difficulty, as well as the athlete’s record of having done so on a consistent basis, will be taking into account.

- **Athlete Health and Fitness:** The athlete’s health and fitness level, including the athlete’s ability to perform under pressure to his/her highest ability.
  - **Team Representation:** The athlete’s ability to contribute to a positive Team atmosphere and to serve as an ambassador for the United States and equestrian sport at the Games.
- 1.3.5.2. **FEI Nominated Entry Deadline:** By no later than the FEI Nominated Entry Deadline, the USEF appointed Selectors (see Section 2.3.1 below) will recommend the selected United States Representative to the North American Team and the selected Replacement Athletes to the FEI, subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The Committee listed above will approve and nominate the selected United States Representative to the North American Team to the USOPC. The FEI Nominated Entries will be accompanied by completed FEI Certificates of Capability for all Nominated athletes.
- 1.3.6. **25 September 2026– USOPC Sport Entry Deadline:** No later than the USOPC Sport Entry Deadline, the USEF will recommend the selected United States Representative to the North American Team to the USOPC, subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.
- 1.3.7. **TBD, 2026– FEI Final Entry Deadline:** No later than the FEI Final Entry Deadline, the USOPC will submit the selected United States Representative to the North American Team to the FEI and the IOC, subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.
- 1.3.8. **To Be Determined, 2026 - Last Date for Replacements:** The final deadline for athlete replacement will be four days prior to the first Horse Inspection at the Games, due to travel time.
- 1.3.9. **31 October 2026 to 13 November 2026 – Period of Games:** The Opening Ceremony for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games will occur on 31 October 2026. The Games will conclude with the Closing Ceremony on 13 November 2026.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

- 2.1. **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** The equestrian events at the Games consist of competition on borrowed horses and therefore an assessment of an athlete’s ability to maximize the performance of a horse he/she has not previously ridden is required.
- 2.2. **Discretionary criteria:** See Section 1.3.6. for the criteria used in discretionary selection.
- 2.3. **Committees/Groups responsible for making discretionary selections:**

- 2.3.1. **Selectors:** Three individuals will be appointed as Selectors to oversee the selection process and make discretionary selection recommendations for review by the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and approval by USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The Selectors will be appointed by the USEF Jumping Sport Committee. The Selectors must be senior, active members in good standing with the USEF, who are experienced and knowledgeable members of the Jumping community (see Attachment G for a list of the Selectors). The Selectors will include a minimum of one Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC.
- 2.3.2. **Committees:** The recommendations of the Selectors shall be reviewed by the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors (see Attachment G for a list of these Committees, their roles, and their Members).
- 2.3.3. **Conflict of Interest:** Any individual involved in the selection process, including the Selectors and members of the Committees referenced in Section 2.3.3., that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the Committee member must recuse him/herself from Committee discussions and voting. Further, the Committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the Committee in the nomination process. However, a Committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the Committee, provide such information to the Committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the Committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to the acceptance of athlete nomination by the USOPC, the USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees. An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the USEF may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF:
  - 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal: The athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF Jumping Director Development Programs.
  - 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff): In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Games. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physicians(s) and USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to

compete, the applicant will be removed from the selection process upon the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

- 3.1.3. Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
  - 3.1.4. Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in out of competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA Rules.
  - 3.1.5. Failure to comply with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
  - 3.1.6. Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified athlete for the Games, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors.
  - 3.1.7. An athlete who may be removed pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF Bylaws (Article 703), the USEF General Rules (Chapter 6, GR 605) and the USOPC Bylaws (Section 9).
  - 3.1.8. Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, parents, coaches and support staff) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.
- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USEF Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms and made available prior to the respective Games; The USOPC Grievance Procedures can be found at: : <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>
  - 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA, USEF and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**

- 4.1. **Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:** At the time of selection of the United States Representative to the North American Team, up to four athletes, having fulfilled all requirements in Section 1.1., will be selected as Replacement Athletes in ranked order according to Section 1.3.6.1.
  - 4.1.1. **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entries:** The USEF has the ability to substitute athletes selected as the United States Representative to the North American Team or as Replacement Athletes for the reasons set forth in Section 3.1. To fill openings for Replacement Athletes, if they occur, the Selectors will evaluate the remaining applicants according to the criteria in Section 1.3.6.1., provided that the applicants have fulfilled all criteria in Selection 1.1., to recommend a replacement, to be ranked below all previously selected Replacement Athletes. Any recommendation of replacement is subject to the recommendation of the USEF

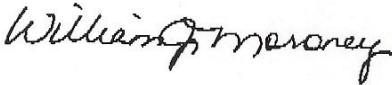

Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.

- 4.1.2. **After acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entries and prior to acceptance of athlete nominations by the USOPC:** The USEF has the ability to replace the selected United States Representative to the North American Team for the reasons set forth in Section 3.1. To fill openings, if they occur, the USEF will replace the selected United States Representative to the North American Team with the highest ranked Replacement Athlete, selected as per Section 1.3.6.1., provided that he/she has been accepted by the FEI in the FEI Nominated Entries. Any recommendation of replacement is subject to the recommendation of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.
- 4.1.3. **After acceptance of athlete nomination by the USOPC and prior to the FEI Final Entry Deadline:** The USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC the replacement of the United States Representative to the North American Team, as submitted on the USOPC Sport Entry, for the reasons set for in Section 3.2. Should a recommendation of a replacement be required, the USEF will recommend the highest ranked Replacement Athlete, selected as per Section 1.3.6.1., provided that he/she has been accepted by the FEI in the FEI Nominated Entries. Any recommendation of replacement is subject to the concurrence of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.
- 4.1.4. **After the FEI Final Entry Deadline and until the Last Date for Replacements:** The USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC the replacement of the one selected United States Representative to the North American Team, as submitted on the USOPC Sport Entry, for the reasons set for in Section 3.2. However, the reason for the replacement must be only because the athlete is unable to participate due to injury or other exceptional circumstances. Should a recommendation of a replacement be required, the USEF will recommend the highest ranked Replacement Athlete, selected as per Section 1.3.6.1., provided that he/she has been accepted by the FEI in the FEI Nominated Entries. Any recommendation of replacement is subject to the concurrence of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.

5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** The USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for at least six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Games.
6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Games and are included as attachments:
  - [Application](#)
  - [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
  - [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#)
  - [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#)
  - USOPC Code of Conduct and [Grievance Procedures](#)

In addition, athletes will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment H) and are requested to sign this document.
7. **PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:** The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted by the USEF in the following locations:
  - 7.1. **USEF Website:** [www.usequestrian.org](http://www.usequestrian.org). These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.
  - 7.2. **Other:** Not applicable.
8. **DATE OF NOMINATION**
  - 8.1. **FEI:** The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI on or before: midnight CET TBD, 2026
  - 8.2. **USOPC:** The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: TBD, 2026.
9. **MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION:** Not applicable.
10. **ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:** Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA, FEI, USEF, and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOPC Rules, as applicable.
11. **DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**
  - 11.1. The following Committees/Groups (see Attachment G for member names and titles) were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Jumping Sport Committee.
  - 11.2. All persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to the Selectors, the members of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees, , and the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics (Attachment I), Conflict of Interest Policy and Gifts & Entertainment (Attachment J) and USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment D) and that they understand them and agree to be bound by them.

- 12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at [www.usequestrian.org](http://www.usequestrian.org).
- 13. 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.
- 14. FUNDING DISCLAIMER:** Funds will not be available for the expenses related to the Event.
- 15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER:** These procedures are based on IOC and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to the 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 will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.
- 16. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN:** Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by the USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman,  
 Phone: 719-866-5000  
 Email: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)  
 Website: [www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds](http://www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds)
- 17. NGB SIGNATURES:** I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF 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 the USEF.

Position	Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		4/27/2026
USEF Managing Director, Jumping	Lizzy Chesson		4/29/2026

2026 Youth Olympic Games U.S. Selection Procedures – Equestrian Jumping

USOPC Athletes Advisory Council Representative <sup>1</sup>	Sydney Elliott		
---	----------------	--	--

Approved by the USOPC:

Approved by the USEF Jumping Sport Committee:

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors: April 27, 2026

Questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to:

Erin Keating, USEF Director, Jumping Development Programs

Mail: 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511

Phone: (859) 225-2036

Email: ekeating@usef.org

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 the NGB, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team. If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

## 2026 Youth Olympic Games U.S. Selection Procedures – Equestrian Jumping

### Referenced Attachments:

- [Application Instructions](#) (Attachment A)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#) (Attachment B)
- [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#) (Attachment C)
- [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) (Attachment D)
- [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) (Attachment E)
- [USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievances Procedures](#) (Attachment F)
- List of Selectors and Committee Members (Attachment G)
- USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment H)
- [USEF Code of Ethics](#) (Attachment I)
- [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#) (Attachment J)