



**United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.**  
**U.S. Athlete Selection Procedures**  
**2026 Youth Jumping Competition**  
**Aachen, Germany**

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1<sup>st</sup> Edition – 24 February 2026

**Purpose of Procedures:** The United States will be represented by two (2) athletes at the **2026 International Youth Jumping Competition 17 -23 August, 2026, Aachen (GER)** (“Event”). These procedures describe the process and policies by which the United States athletes will be selected to compete at the 2026 International Youth Jumping Competition.

## **1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

### **1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination as the United States representatives to the Event:**

- 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 Event.
- 1.1.2. **Minimum International Federation (“IF”) standards for participation:**
  - 1.1.2.1. The athlete must have been born between 1 January 2005 and 31 December 2010 (2026 FEI ages 16 to 21).
  - 1.1.2.2. A horse must be born on or before December 31, 2019 (seven (7) years of age in the year of the Event) see the FEI Jumping Rules [28th edition, 1 January 2026] Article 281.1.
  - 1.1.2.3. To be eligible for participation, the athlete must comply with all current FEI Regulations.
  - 1.1.2.4. The athlete must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event
  - 1.1.2.5. The athlete must comply with FEI Rules at the Event.
- 1.1.3. **Other Requirements:**
  - 1.1.3.1. The athlete must be a Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of FEI Definite Entries and through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.1.3.2. Horses listed on the application must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102, and in good standing with USEF from the time of application through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.1.3.3. Application: The athlete must complete and submit an online Application (see Attachment A for the online Application instructions) with the appropriate application fee at [www.usequestrian.org](http://www.usequestrian.org).
    - Phase I Application Deadline: Applications submitted no later than **1 June 2026** will be charged a fee of \$70.
    - Phase II Application Deadline: Applications submitted between **2 June 2026 and 29 June 2026** will be charged an application fee of \$300. No applications will be accepted after **5:00pm ET on 29 June 2026**.
  - 1.1.3.4. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete in the Event must have earned the required Certificates of Capability as described below, at USEF or FEI licensed competitions between **1 September 2025, and 29 June 2026**.
  - 1.1.3.5. By signing the Application, the Athlete and parent/guardian (if the athlete is under 18 years of age at the time of application) certifies that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures, [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](#).

- 1.1.3.6. Individual owners as listed in the FEI Passport of horse(s) named to the Event must be Senior Active Members of USEF in good standing at the time of FEI Definite Entries and through the conclusion of the Event. Owners must sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement. By executing the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement, horse owner(s) certify that that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures, [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](#).
- 1.1.3.7. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- 1.1.3.8. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
- 1.1.3.9. The athlete must be present for the entire duration of the Event (17 August 2026 to 23 August 2026).
- 1.1.3.10. The athlete must participate in the cultural and education program of the Event as required.

## 1.2. Comprehensive Description of the Selection Process:

- 1.2.1. **1 September 2025 to 29 June 2026 – Period to Obtain a Certificate of Capability:** Athlete/horse combinations must obtain a Certificate of Capability between 1 September 2025 and 29 June 2026. To earn a Certificate of Capability, athlete/horse combinations must complete at least two (2) courses set at 1.45m or higher with a score of four (4) faults or less.
- 1.2.2. **1 June 2026 – USEF Early Application Deadline**
- 1.2.3. **29 June 2026 – USEF Late Application Deadline:** Athletes wishing to be considered must complete the USEF online Application by no later than the Late Application Deadline. The Certificate of Capability may be obtained prior to applying.
- 1.2.4. **TBD 2026 – Athlete Selection and FEI Definite Entry Deadline:**
  - 1.2.4.1. **Athlete Selection:** By no later than the FEI Definite Entry Deadline, the two (2) highest ranked athletes on the Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List dated June 26, 2026 will be selected for the Event provided that the athlete/horse combinations have met the application requirements in Section I. The Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List is published weekly and available on [usef.org/jumping](http://usef.org/jumping). Athletes named as Replacement Athletes will be ranked at the time of Selection.
  - 1.2.4.2. **TBD 2026 – FEI Definite Entry Deadline:** No later than the FEI Definite Entry Deadline, USEF will submit the two (2) selected athlete/horse combinations to the Organizing Committee (“OC”).

## 2. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 2.1 Prior to and after the FEI Definite Entry Deadline, USEF has jurisdiction over athletes and horses who might participate at the Event. An athlete and/or horse whose name is submitted on the FEI Definite Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF and in accordance with these procedures:
- 2.1.1 Voluntary withdrawal: The athlete, or the athlete’s parent or legal guardian if the athlete is a minor, must submit a written letter to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs at [ekeating@usef.org](mailto:ekeating@usef.org).
  - 2.1.2 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 he/she may be removed.
  - 2.1.3 Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
  - 2.1.4 Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
  - 2.1.5 Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by a veterinarian approved by USEF. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the USEF approved Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling, and the horse may be removed.
  - 2.1.6 Failure of the horse owner to sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement.
  - 2.1.7 Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
  - 2.1.8 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.
  - 2.1.9 Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in these selection procedures.
  - 2.1.10 Failure to comply with requests regarding Logistical information and deadlines.
  - 2.1.11 Behavior of the athlete or 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 (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a medal.
  - 2.1.12 An athlete who may be removed pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF Bylaws, Part VII.

### 3. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. **Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:** At the time of selection, up to four athletes, having fulfilled all requirements in Section 1.1., will be selected as Replacement Athletes in ranked order according to Section 1.2.6.
- 3.1.1 **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Entries:** USEF has the ability to substitute athletes selected to the Event or as Replacement Athletes for the reasons set forth in Section 2.1. Replacement Athletes may only be replaced by an athlete in order of the Youth Jumping Competition Ranking List dated 26 June 2026, provided that the applicants have fulfilled all criteria in Selection 1. 1.
  - 3.1.2 **After the FEI Definite Entry Deadline and until the Last Date for Substitutions (TBD, 2026):** USEF has the ability to recommend to the OC the replacement of a selected athlete and/or horse, as submitted on the FEI Definite Entry, for the reasons set forth in Section 2.1. 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 next highest ranked Replacement Athlete, selected as per Section 1.2.6.

4. **EXTRAORDINARY REQUESTS** – Extraordinary requests may be made by an athlete who seeks a waiver from one of the following requirements: application deadline, Certificate of Capability for the horse or

athlete, or registration/recording requirement. Such requests will only be considered if submitted by the athlete between June 29, 2026, and until last Date for Substitutions (TBD, 2026). The request must be in writing to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs; ekeating@usef.org.

4.1. Decisions are within the discretion of the Development Chef d'Equipe, Show Jumping Team Leader, and Chair of the Jumping Sport Committee, if available, Decisions to grant a request must be unanimous and will be communicated promptly. The past performance of the athlete and the horse -including the ability to jump the size and difficulty of obstacles, the complexity of the course(s), and the required speed to avoid time penalties - will be evaluated when considering the request.

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 Event.
6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Event and are included as attachments:
  - [Application](#)
  - [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
  - [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#)
  - Horse loan
7. **PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:** The 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 USEF Board of Directors, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, or the Executive Committee.
  - 7.2. **Other:** Not applicable.
8. **DATE OF ENTRIES**
  - 8.1. **FEI:** The FEI Entries will be submitted to the FEI on or before: midnight CET, **TBD**.
9. **ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:**
  - 9.1 **Human Anti-Doping:** Athletes must adhere to all IOC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.
  - 9.2 **Equine Anti-Doping:** All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
    - 9.2.1 **In-Competition.** All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on June 29, 2026 until the Event ends. 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.
      - 9.2.1.1.1 **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.

9.2.1.1.2 They will notify the Director of Sport Programs 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.

9.2.1.1.3 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.

9.2.1.1.4 The Chair of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or their designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.

9.3 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 June 29, 2026 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.

9.3.1.1.1 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 Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

9.3.1.1.2 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.

9.4 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.

9.5 USEF GR409.2 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 Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

10. **DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES:** The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Jumping Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee. See **Attachment D** for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members
11. **USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF’s website – [www.usef.org/about-us](http://www.usef.org/about-us). Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see Athlete Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form.
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 USEF and/or 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.

- 13. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN:** The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB:
- Telephone at (719)866-5000
  - Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
  - E-mail at [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)
  - [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

**14. 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 |           |      |
| USEF Managing Director, Jumping | Lizzy Chesson      |           |      |

Approved by the USEF Jumping Sport Committee:

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors:

Questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to:

Erin Keating Director, Jumping Development Programs  
 Mail: 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511  
 Phone: (859) 225-2036  
 Email: [ekeating@usef.org](mailto:ekeating@usef.org)