

# USEA and USEF Pathway for Developing Young Horses

US Equestrian and the US Eventing Association are committed to providing the opportunities to produce event horses from the start of their young careers through representing our country in Championships. The following information outlines opportunities available between the organizations to highlight and assist owners, breeders and athletes.



## U.S. Eventing Association

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### Young Event Horse mission

The USEA Young Event Horse (YEH) program was designed to identify young horses ages four and five, that possess the talent and disposition to, with proper training, excel at the 4-star and 5-star levels of eventing. Qualifying competitions include a dressage test and jumping/galloping test, whereas Championships also include a conformation test.

For more information visit the [YEH webpage](#).

### Young Event Horse Championships

Offered on each the east and west coast.

### Tracking & Promotions

The USEA continuously tracks all YEH graduate horses and highlights their success at the upper levels throughout their lifespan, across various media channels. YEH horses also receive special promotions when they participate in five-star and U.S. Team events.

### Grant Opportunities

The Holekamp/Turner Grant provides a YEH Championship competitor with the opportunity to represent the United States at the FEI Eventing World Breeding Championships in the 7-year-old CCIYH3\*-L Championship at Mondial du Lion in Le Lion d'Angers,

France each year. A large cash grant is awarded with the purpose of paving a clear pathway for U.S. team horses to progress in the sport of eventing. For more information, visit this [page](#).

### Recognition

The USEA is now recognizing the nation's leading [6-year-olds on a Preliminary leaderboard](#), and leading [7-year-olds on an intermediate leaderboard](#). Additionally, the USEA maintains a [YEH leaderboard](#) for YEH-4 and YEH-5 horses each year.

### Young Event Horse Symposium

The USEA Young Event

Horse (YEH) Symposium is hosted annually to educate attendees on the proper training and evaluation of young eventing prospects. The symposium features a morning session, which focuses on evaluating conformation and jumping and galloping technique, then an educational masterclass led by top eventing professionals in the evening. For more information, including annual registration, visit this [page](#).

## U.S. Equestrian

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### USEA/USEF Developing Horse Championships

- Six-year olds at CCI2\*-S
- Seven-year olds at CCI3\*-S level and receiving the Jonathan R. Burton Trophy
- Currently on an annual bid process, see the [USEF Website](#) for specific location details

### Developing Horse Series

#### Principles

- USEF Six-, Seven-, Eight-, and Nine-Year Old Developing Horse Series is to identify horses with the perceived ability to eventually contribute to the Elite Program and achieve podium scores within three quadrennials.
- The Series is based on Team Championship

preparation and success.

- The Series is overseen by the Director, Eventing Development Programs, Gemma Stobbs

#### Outline

- Six-Year-Olds will use their two lowest scores from December to June- all CCI1\* and CCI2\*s and then July to November- all CCI2\*s.
- Seven-Year-Olds will use their two lowest scores will be from December to June- all CCI2\*s and CCI3\*s, and then July to November- all CCI3\*s.
- Eight and Nine-Year-Olds will use their two lowest recorded finishing score at a CCI4\*- S, CCI4\*-L or CCI5\*-L event from January 1-December 31.
- All CCIs within the respective timelines and applicable levels will be

included in the standings. It will be encouraged for competitions to run separate YH divisions.

#### Recognition

- Athletes, horses and owners will be recognized following the last FEI competition of the season.
- Owners will receive a pin in recognition of their horse's achievements. With the hopes that they will be able to have a collection as the horse progresses up the levels.

### Future Pathway

Owners wishing to seek guidance on the future of their eventing star are encouraged to review our Pathway Programs for guidance on the future of their horse. USEF looks forward to additional opportunities for horses aimed at representing

### Sponsor Opportunities

Seeking sponsor for securing the future of U.S. developing horses. Please reach out to USEF Managing Director, Eventing Amber Braun at [abraun@usef.org](mailto:abraun@usef.org) for more information.

### Funding Opportunities

Direct Funding begins at the Pre-Elite level of the USEF Eventing Pathway Program. Information on Funding and Grants can be found in the USEF Athletes Guide to Funding.

### Other

We welcome feedback on developing opportunities for these futures horses, owners, breeders and athletes. Please contact Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs at [gstobbs@usef.org](mailto:gstobbs@usef.org) or 859-225-6929.