



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**SELECTION PROCEDURE**  
**2019 US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Riders**  
for the  
**2019 US Saddle Seat Young Riders Invitational Test Events**

**Date: May**  
**Location: New Orleans**

**Date: July or October**  
**Location: West Coast**

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Saddle Seat World Cup Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by the National Breeds and Disciplines Council (NBDC) and approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

The purpose of the US Saddle Seat Young Riders Teams will be to develop future riders for the US Saddle Seat World Cup Team. These riders must be available to compete in international competition on behalf of United States during the off years of the International Saddle Seat World Cup Competition.

An International Test Event to be held in the United States is scheduled for 2019 (“Test Events”). Dates are still to be determined (up to two Teams may be selected).

**I. TEAM SELECTION AND INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION:**

**A. Team Selection:**

Six athletes will be selected for each section (3-gaited and 5-gaited) on each team. All six of these athletes will compete at the applicable Test Events. Riders may be substituted out for rail or pattern work at the discretion of the Coaches. The line up of riders will be determined by the Coaches at the Test Event and may change during the Test Event.

**II. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:**

- 1. Citizenship:** Each athlete must be a U.S. citizen at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the respective Test Event (“the Event”). The athlete must have a valid U.S. Passport that does not expire until six months after the Event.
- 2. Minimum International Federation standards for participation:**
  - a.** All athletes wishing to compete on the US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Riders Teams must:
    1. Be at least 12 years of age on January 1, 2019.
    2. Be under 22 years of age on January 1, 2019.
  - b.** All athletes over 17 wishing to compete on the 2019 US Saddle Seat Young Riders Team must possess current Amateur certification issued by USEF until the conclusion of the Event. (USEF Chapter 13, GR1307).

- c. Must not have competed in previous International Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup Competitions. Alternates from previous US Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup Teams may apply.

### 3. Other Requirements:

- a. The athlete must be a current competing USEF member in good standing.  
Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for 2019 US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Rider Team must submit the following documents to the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF), Attn: Erin DesNoyers, Director of National Affiliates, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or [edesnoyers@usef.org](mailto:edesnoyers@usef.org).
  - A completed application (Attachment A, online application available through your MYUSEF account);
  - One five-minute video submitted as YouTube link through the online application;
  - USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B)
  - USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment C);
  - Saddle Seat Team and Supporter Policies (Attachments D and E); and
  - Application fee of \$100.

Applications and supporting documents as described above must be submitted online on or prior to **November 30, 2018** with an application fee of \$100. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER NOVEMBER 30, 2018.**

- b. The athlete must certify, by signing the USEF 2019 US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Rider Team Application (Application A); that they have received and read the Selection Procedures for the 2019 US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Rider Team, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment C), the Saddle Seat Team and Supporter Policies (Attachments D and E) and that they understand those documents, and agree to be bound by them. Additionally, by signing the application the athlete acknowledges receipt of the Safe Sport Policy and agrees to be bound by it and the code which can be found at <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/safe-sport>.
- c. Athletes may only try out for one section; either 3 or 5-gaited each year.
- d. The athlete must attend at least one Event with the Team, if such is scheduled.
- e. The athlete must participate in at least one team practice during the development. Practice date(s) will be determined once team is selected.
- f. Athletes will be required to pay expenses for travel, hotel, and meals during their participation on the US Saddle Seat Young Rider Team.
  - i. For teams competing in the U.S., expenses are estimated to be a minimum of \$3,000.
- g. Athletes will be required to pay \$50 towards groom fees at each of the practices and the Events.
- h. Athletes who make the Team will be provided some team apparel, but will be responsible for purchasing the official ceremony apparel consisting of: team blazer, shirt and pants, unless sponsorship is obtained to cover these expenses.
- i. Athletes will be required to participate in fundraising activities for Team and Young Rider support throughout the year, if such activities are planned.
- j. Each athlete may be responsible for supplying two horses for use during a U.S. Event. The athlete may borrow horses to fulfill this requirement. If an athlete is unable to fulfill this requirement, a fee will be charged to help offset costs to get additional horses for the competition.
- k. Athletes may be required to participate in volunteer activities throughout the year, if such activities are planned.
- l. Athletes will be required to accept their position to participate on the Team within one week of notification.

### **THREE-GAITED SECTION TRYOUTS**

The process for choosing the six applicants for the 3-gaited section is as follows:

Athletes shall submit completed applications and supporting documents/information to USEF for review by an appointed Selection Committee (see Section III, Selection Committee). The Selectors, in making the decision as to who will be selected, will consider the rider's abilities and likelihood of contributing to the success of the Team. Submissions must include:

1. An application which will include an addendum with the following:
  - a. Description of your experience riding a variety of different horses (horsemanship is an important ability considered so this needs to be detailed).
  - b. A list of your major wins and accomplishments at equestrian competitions. Please list by year starting with the most recent.
  - c. A list of any honors you have received related to equestrian sport. Starting with the most recent, please include any awards received through your national or state equestrian organization, local horse show association, or barn.
2. A YouTube link of the athlete performing rail and pattern work.
  - a. Proper attire: Riding habit must consist of jacket with collars and lapels of the same conservative color with matching jodhpurs, a collared shirt, tie, vest, and complimentary gloves, jodhpur boots, and derby or soft hat (protective headgear may be worn). Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown and may contain herringbone, pin stripes, and other combinations of colors that appear solid.
  - b. Railwork: Rider demonstrating performance at walk, trot, and canter.
  - c. Pattern work: Rider demonstrating performance of one or more patterns.
  - d. Multiple horses-It is important to demonstrate the rider's horsemanship skills so it may be beneficial to showcase the rider on different horses during the video.
  - e. No still shots-still shots are not helpful in determining rider ability so the video must contain videoed segments.

### **FIVE-GAITED SECTION TRYOUTS**

The process for choosing the six applicants for the 5-gaited section is as follows:

Athletes shall submit completed application and supporting documents/information to USEF for review by an appointed Selection Committee (see Section III, Selection Committee). The Selectors, in making the decision as to who will be selected, will consider the rider's abilities and likelihood of contributing to the success of the Team. Submissions must include:

1. An application which will include an addendum with the following:
  - a. Description of your experience riding a variety of different horses (horsemanship is important so this needs to be detailed).
  - b. A list of your major wins and accomplishments at equestrian competitions. Please list by year starting with the most recent.
  - c. A list of any honors you have received related to equestrian sport. Starting with the most recent, please include any awards received through your national or state equestrian organization, local horse show association, or barn.
2. A YouTube link of the athlete performing rail and pattern work.
  - a. Proper attire: Riding habit will consist of jacket with collars and lapels of the same conservative color with matching jodhpurs, a collared shirt, tie, vest, and complimentary gloves, jodhpur boots, and derby or soft hat (protective headgear may be worn). Conservative colors for informal riding habits include black, blue, grey, burgundy, green, beige, or brown and may contain herringbone, pin stripes, and other combinations of colors that appear solid.
  - b. Railwork: Rider demonstrating performance at walk, trot, slow-gait, rack, and canter.

- c. Pattern work: Rider demonstrating performance of one or more patterns. Slow-gait and rack are not required in your pattern demonstrations.
- d. Multiple horses-It is important to demonstrate the rider's horsemanship skills so it may be beneficial to showcase the rider on different horses during the video.
- e. No still shots-still shots are not helpful in determining rider ability so the video must contain videoed segments.

### **III. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

**A. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible.

**B. Discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used:**

1. See Section II

**C. Discretionary Selection Committee:**

**1. Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection:**

An appointed Selection Committee for each section made up of three (3) members and an alternate who will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. Members on the Selection Committee may not have instructed, coached, or tutored any applicants, acted as agent or consultant with regards to the purchase, sale or lease of a horse, with or without pay, commencing thirty (30) days prior to the application deadline and ending thirty (30) days following selection.

**2. List of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:**

Three-Gaited Selectors:

Selector 1: Mark Bodnar  
 Selector 2: Betsy Boone  
 Selector 3: Sandy Sessink  
 Alternate: Richard Wright

Five-Gaited Selectors:

Selector 1: Cary Bartz  
 Selector 2: Devon Garone  
 Selector 3: Josh Greer  
 Alternate: Anne Judd

Six individuals; three for each section, (the "Selectors") will be approved by the USEF Board of Directors; upon the recommendation of the USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee and the USEF National Council. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B), Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy of the USEF (Exhibits A, B, C), and Safe Sport Policy. The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also USEF Licensed Saddle Seat Equitation or Recognized Breed judges and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Saddle Seat Equitation.

**D. The names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members (see Attachment G):** The USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

**E. Other Considerations:**

1. **Medical Request:** In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF Board of Directors at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the event which is the subject of the selection. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the

removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physicians(s) and USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee, National Council, with the approval of 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 with the recommendation of the USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee, National Council, with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors.

## **V. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

### **A. USEF has jurisdiction over potential team members:**

An athlete who is selected to the Team may be removed from the Team for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of the USEF's Code of Conduct (Attachment B).
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, but only with the approval of the Coaches and with the unanimous approval of the Selectors.
- Failure to adhere to ISSEA and USEF policies and procedures.
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy.

An athlete removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605.

## **VI. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE**

### **A. Substitution/Replacement athlete will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:**

USEF has the ability to substitute athletes on the Team for the reasons set forth in Section V.

Openings, if they occur, whether by voluntary withdrawal or removal from the Team, may be filled according to the next rider chosen by the Selectors from the respective section. In this regard, the Individual athlete may be moved up to the Team. If such occurs, a new Individual athlete may be chosen from the next rider on the Selectors list or the Individual may remain as such.

Any substitution other than voluntary withdrawal must be unanimously recommended by the Coaches of the US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Riders Team and must have the approval of the Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors.

Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s).

### **B. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:**

#### **1. Group or committee who determine a substitution/replacement to the Team:**

- a. **Prior to travel to a Test Event:** Coaches of the US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Riders Team, in consultation with the USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee.
- b. **During a Test Event:** Coaches of the US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Riders Team.

**VII. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** - USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.

**VIII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** - The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants as a condition of nomination for the Event and are included as attachments:

- Application (Attachment A is an example of the online application)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment C)
- Saddle Seat Team and Supporter Policies (Attachments D and E)
- Safe Sport Policy (Attachment F)
- Committee Listing (Attachment G)

Applicants will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and the USEF Safe Sport Policy and that they understand these documents and agree to be bound by them. In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to the Selectors, USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee, National Council, and the USEF Board of Directors, will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies (Attachment B).

Reference is made to the attached USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies for a full and accurate statement of the requirements of that policy. In particular, however, no individual may participate in a particular phase of the selection process if, after full disclosure, the individual is found by the applicable committee to have a disqualifying conflict of interest in the particular phase of the selection process in question per the attached USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy.

**IX. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES** - The Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations:

- USEF website: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF Board of Directors.
- Other: The Procedure and Application Packet will also be available by mail upon request.

**X. MANDATORY TRAINING** – One mandatory training session for the Team will be held on dates to be determined after selection of the Team. A second training session may be scheduled depending on the needs of the team. The athlete must commit to be available for practice when submitting application. Any absence from practice must be for extraordinary circumstance only and approved by the USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee. Otherwise, an absence will constitute voluntary withdraw from the team.

**XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES** - The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee, USEF National Council, USEF Board of Directors. (See Attachment G for a list of the individuals on these committees).

**XII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES** - The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**XIII. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN** - Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: Kacie Wallace by:

- Telephone at (719)866-5000
- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [Kacie.wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

**XIV. SELECTION DISCLAIMER** - 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.

**XV. FUNDING DISCLAIMER** - Selection to the 2019 US Saddle Seat Equitation Young Riders Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to support team participation in an Event.

**XVI. DISCLAIMER** - See Attachment C – USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification.

Approved by the USEF Saddle Seat World Cup Committee on Tuesday, September 4, 2018.

Approved by the USEF National Council on Monday, September 17, 2018.

Approved by the USEF Ad Hoc Selection Group on September 24, 2018.

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Erin DesNoyers, Director, National Affiliates, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or edesnoyers@usef.org.