



2027 US EQUESTRIAN COMBINED DRIVING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS CRITERIA

Approved by the USEF Executive Committee on March 23, 2026

This national championship criteria are subject to review each year by the Driving Sport Committee and subject to approval by the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") Board of Directors or Executive Committee. Athletes and horses/ponies that do not meet the required criteria may still enter a class running at the USEF National Championships, but they will not be included in the National Championship placings (Refer to DC 928.2.1.2 for participation). For Advanced level National Championships, Athletes may enter in either the USEF Advanced Class or corresponding FEI 3* class to participate in the Championship.

The criteria in this document will apply to the below list of USEF Combined Driving National Championship division offerings. There will be no additional offerings than those listed below:

USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Single Ponies (Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced)*

USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Pair Ponies (Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced)*

USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Four in Hand Ponies (Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced)*

USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Single Horses (Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced)

USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Pair Horses (Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced)

USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Four in Hand Horses (Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Advanced)

USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Para Driving (Horse and Pony will be awarded as one combined division)

USEF Combined Driving National Championship for Youth (Horse and Pony will be awarded as one combined division)**

**There will be separate awards for VSE but not for Small Ponies. Small Ponies will be included in the awards for the Regular Pony divisions.*

***Held at Preliminary level.*

Criteria required for participation

A. Membership and Horse Recording Requirements:

- i. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens.
- ii. Athletes and horse/pony Owners must be Active Competing Members in good standing with USEF at all times during the Championship.
- iii. Athletes must be of eligible age as defined in Subchapter DC-4 of the USEF Combined Driving rules.
- iv. Horses/ponies must have a current annual or life recording in good standing with USEF at all times during the Championship.
- v. Horses/ponies must be of eligible age as defined in Subchapter DC-6 of the USEF Combined Driving rules.

B. Qualifying Specifications for Open National Championships (not applicable to Youth):

- i. Athletes must complete two or more USEF or FEI competitions at the same level or more advanced of the Championship they enter, within the three years preceding the first day of the Championship.
- ii. Athletes may participate in Championships at the same or more advanced division within the same calendar year. Athletes may not enter different level divisions during the same Championship competition license.



C. Qualifying Specifications for the Youth National Championship:

- i. Athletes must complete two or more USEF or FEI competitions at the Preliminary level or higher within the three years preceding the first day of the Championship. Exhibition classes run under USEF rules at USEF licensed competitions at the Preliminary level or higher will count towards these qualifications. Exhibition classes at USEF licensed competitions are subject to USEF equine drug testing and enforcement of the USEF equine anti-doping rules.
- ii. Athletes may participate in more advanced division Championships within the same calendar year. Athletes are prohibited from entering different level divisions at the same Championship.

D. Athlete Age Specifications for the Youth National Championship:

- i. Athletes must not have reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year per GR128.
- ii. Athletes must have reached their 10th birthday for ponies and their 12th birthday for horses as of the current competition year per DC907.

For further information, please contact USEF Managing Director of Non-Olympic Disciplines, Steven Morrissey, at smorrissey@usef.org.