



*The USA Driving newsletter will include regular updates from the Driving Sport Committee and the USEF Combined Driving programs.*

## 2021 Combined Driving in Review

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As we reflect on where we began, there are many successes to appreciate from this past year. The beginning of 2021 was still wrought with Covid uncertainties and competitions were not able to invite foreign officials, leaving our home team stretched very thin. Despite the challenges and thanks to dedicated supporters, the USEF competitions continued! We were able to offer a full calendar of eight CDEs as well as a short format event and six national championships.

Our Athlete Pathway Programs also offered full benefits this year, including some new initiatives. Elite athletes who earned criteria results that would rank within the top 15% internationally were offered training grants to put towards their educational development. And the Developing Athlete Program offered seven clinics as well as remote and educational support for its 25+ members.

The FEI Driving World Championships included some highlights this year. U.S. Para-Driver, Tracy Bowman, beat all the odds in Germany, [winning an individual gold medal](#) for her Grade and winning the marathon with her horse, Lars. Then a full team of pair drivers and individuals headed to the Netherlands to be met with [the largest championship in history](#) with very tough courses. Unfortunately, the selected Pony drivers were all faced with the difficult decision to withdraw from their Championships due to rising travel issues in the summer.

The end of the year has been consumed with rule change proposals coming through from the FEI, which will affect all levels to some degree, and finalizing programs and selection improvements for 2022. Read more about each of those below.

## 2022 Combined Driving

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The new year brings many changes, updates, and announcements!

## **USEF Resources:**

- [Competition calendar](#)
- [USEF Driven Dressage Tests](#)
- [2022 FEI Driving World Championship Selection information](#)
- [Organizer information](#)
- [2022 USEF National Championship information – to be announced January 2022](#)

## **Important! FEI & USEF Rule Changes**

Athletes, Officials, and Organizers are all encouraged to take a moment to review the 2022 rule changes from the FEI, as these rules are inspiring changes to the sport (especially the marathon format) that will be adopted at USEF events by January 2022.

Here are a few highlights to watch for:

- FEI: New qualification criteria for 2\* & 3\* FEI Athletes
  - USEF: The Advanced division will split into “Novice Advanced” (follow CAI2\*) & “Open Advanced” (follow CAI3\*)
- FEI/USEF: A helmet will be required for Athletes & Grooms in the CONES competition, in addition to Marathon
- FEI/USEF: Not required to use the same carriage in Dressage & Cones (be sure to read the stipulations for each!)
- FEI/USEF: New restrictions on equipment & communication devices in the competition training areas
- FEI/USEF: For safety reasons, no children under 14 years old may be on a carriage unless they are competing in a class
- FEI: All classes, except 4-in-hands through 2022, will use an 80m x 40m Dressage arena
  - USEF: Continue to offer tests in both 100m x 40m & 80m x 40m arenas as an option – refer to competition Prize Lists
- FEI/USEF: New Marathon format – removing the Transfer section & changing the in-harness inspections
  - Marathon begins with the in-harness inspection & Safety check (before Section A/Controlled warm-up)
  - A neutral “Halt” (5-10 min) before a 2-minute Warm-up with a practice obstacle
  - After Section B, a mandatory “Cool Down” area for 10-15 minutes – only Athletes/Grooms
- FEI: New requirements for Organizers/Events & Licensed Officials

Watch this video summary of the proposed USEF rule changes that will be adopted. These changes are coming quickly – please be proactive so you know what to expect when you get to a competition.



# 2022 USEF & FEI Rule Changes

Presented by Danielle Aamodt, Director of Driving

## Athlete Pathway Programs

Applications will be OPEN ONLINE on January 1st for the Developing Athlete Program (Application deadline of January 31, 2022). USEF members who have competed at three (3) CDEs in Preliminary or above in the last two years are eligible to apply. Go to your [Athlete Dashboard](#) & click on Online Applications to search for Driving applications in 2022.

The [2022 Developing Athlete Program for Combined Driving \(DAP\)](#) continues with many of the successful benefits offered this past year, including several clinics and remote educational support. [The current DAP member list can be found here.](#)

### Elite Athletes

U.S. Equestrian is pleased to announce the [Elite Athlete list for 2022](#). The following athletes have achieved or maintained competition results that stay within the top 15% of previous FEI Driving World Championship results:

- **Jacob Arnold** - Endorro, Mr Lindsey G, Pluto Revans, Kian, Kenji V – owned by Steve Wilson; & Dominic, Fleruamo's Stijn, Zohan, Eliot Van't Veldhoven – owned by Eleanor Parkes
- **Tracy Bowman** - Albrecht's Hoeve's Lars
- **Jennifer "Nifty" Hamilton** - Makari Design
- **Jennifer Keeler** - Amazing Grace
- **Jennifer Thompson** - Funnominial CG
- **Chester Weber** - Amadeus, Ideaal, Jake, Julius V, Reno, First Edition

Elite Athletes are offered annual grants to support their development and training of their own choice. Any athletes who can achieve the [2022 Elite Athlete criteria](#) throughout the year would also be added to the list and eligible for benefits.



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