



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

2021 National Championship Criteria Feedback

The Driving Sport Committee is in the process of redefining the criteria for the 2021 USEF National Championships. This will apply to the Preliminary, Intermediate, and Advanced divisions. Please participate in a survey by following [this link](#).

Competition Calendar Update

The Grand Oaks Resort (Weirsdale, Fla.) kicked off the 2020 USEF Combined Driving season from January 30 - February 2 with over 100 entries from the Training division through the FEI/Advanced division. Congratulations to all those involved!

The remaining 2020 USEF Combined Driving Calendar is below:

- **February 14-16** – Spring Fling CDE in Ocala, Fla. *Hosting the USEF Preliminary Combined Driving National Championships*
- **March 4-8** – Live Oak International CDE/CAI2*-3* in Ocala, Fla. *Hosting the USEF Advanced Combined Driving National Championships*
- **April 22-26** – New dates! Katydid CDE at TIEC - CAI1*2* in Tryon, N.C.
- **October 1-4** – Kentucky Classic at Hermitage Farm CDE/CAI1*-2* in Goshen, Ky.
- **October 9-11** – Garden State CDE in Allentown, NJ *Hosting the USEF Intermediate Combined Driving National Championships*

Stay tuned for additional fall dates at the Tryon International Equestrian Center.

USEF Clinics

The USEF Elite and Developing Athlete programs held two clinics in January, both hosted by the Grand Oaks Resort (Weirsdale, Fla.). Drivers and their horses/ponies took the opportunity to hone their skills before beginning the 2020 competition season.

Upcoming Clinics:

- **February 17-19** at the Florida Horse Park (following the Spring Fling CDE) Jacob Arnold and Taren "Taz" Lester will be teaching a training clinic where drivers can bring their training questions and problems to solve. Participants will learn about biting, long-lining, and how to choose routes for their marathon course.
- **February 24-26** at the Grand Oaks Resort Edouard Simonet returns to continue his work with Elite and Developing athletes, building accuracy and rein handling skills.
- **March 20-22** at the Grand Oaks Resort Edouard Simonet comes back to work with Elite and Developing athletes.
- Tentative dates May 22-24 with Olof Larsson - Location TBD

USEF members are welcome to audit the clinics, as long as their behavior supports a positive learning environment.

Proactive Coaching Guest Speaker

The USEF Developing Athlete Program welcomes USEF members to join us at the Grand Oaks Resort where motivational speaker Rob Miller from ProActive Coaching LLC will be presenting to our athletes.

Rob Miller will be presenting on the fundamentals of building your own team, as well as the core principles for a U.S. team.

Sunday, February 23 @ 3:00 pm
Grand Oaks Resort (Weirsdale, Fla.)

While admission is FREE, an **RSVP is requested**.

Please RSVP here:
<https://www.justsvp.me/usef-developing-athlete-program-guest-speaker-rob-miller>

2020 FEI World Championship Applications Open

The 2020 FEI Driving World Championship applications are open online. Athletes interested in applying for selection to the 2020 FEI Driving World Championships for either Single horses or Four-in-hands may apply online through their Athlete Dashboard.

Go to Online Applications on the Athlete Dashboard and select Driving to find the appropriate applications. Read and follow the instructions before submitting your application for selection.

Information on the selection processes can be found below:

- [2020 FEI Driving World Championships for Single horses](#)
- [2020 FEI Driving World Championships for Four-in-hand horses](#)

The **2020 FEI Para Driving World Championship Selection Procedures** will also be published soon!

Please contact Director of Driving, Danielle Aamodt, with questions:
daamodt@usef.org

USEF Annual Meeting Review

The Driving Sport Committee met at the 2020 USEF Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, Fla. on January 9, to discuss various driving sport programs and initiatives. The **meeting agenda** covered various topics to move the sport forward into 2020.

The Committee will be creating a position of **Driving Technical Advisor** as a part-time role to guide the USEF Pathway Programs and deliver support for athletes. An outline of the roles and responsibilities for this position will be published soon with instructions on how to submit a proposal.

Some new competition format ideas are in the works as well. The goal is to create smaller **competition products** that are simple for Organizers to manage and accessible for drivers to attend; for example, a 1-2 day competition with any combination of Dressage, Cones, and a modified Marathon. Besides the benefit of having more events locally, drivers could have access to additional recognition at all levels – for instance, special awards for drivers under the age of 25 (U25). USEF also recognizes the need to build a pathway for competitions to develop regional events into large-scale licensed competitions, if the possibility is there. These new products will roll out in a pilot program before the end of 2020.

Another new initiative that the Committee is taking on is building the foundation of the USEF Athlete Pathway Programs: the **Emerging Driver Program**. While this program will underpin the Developing and Elite Athlete Programs, it will function differently. The purpose of the USEF Emerging Driver Program is to provide structure for introductory and grassroots education for the driving discipline, but allow the clinics or educational events to be managed regionally. The program will offer benefits and support to facilities, clubs, or coaches who want to host an event. Watch for more information later this year!

The Driving Sport Committee is revitalized this year with the continued goal of increasing the driving discipline on a national level. It's an exciting time to be part of the USA Driving membership!

US Equestrian Member Benefits

USEF members have access to several benefits including:

- Access to apply for the [Developing and Elite Athlete Pathway Programs](#)
- Awards programs such as [Horse of the Year](#)
- Ability to access full search, standings, and [competition results](#)
- Full access to the [Learning Center](#) with educational videos and content featuring elite athletes, trainers, and industry experts, with new videos released frequently throughout the year
- Access to full [USEF Network](#) coverage with over 2,000 hours of live and on-demand content
- A fresh and updated US Equestrian magazine with digital stories that educate and celebrate, delivered quarterly to members
- Optional \$1,000,000 excess personal liability insurance for as low as \$18/year for Junior members
- **MemberPerks** Program including cost-saving discounts like:
 - 10% off purchases online and in-store at Dover Saddlery
 - Up to 40% off at Sherwin Williams
 - Up to 28% off John Deere Equipment
 - Buy 12 bags of feed, get one bag free from Triple Crown Nutrition
 - \$15 off your activation fee with US Rider...and many more
- Youth participation in US Equestrian [Lettering Program](#) and other opportunities
- Special member-only offers from [ShopUSEF](#)
- Exclusive discounts from our [Media and Education Partners](#)
- Member communications via press releases, US Equestrian Weekly, and more
- Access to U.S. Center for [SafeSport](#) training and compliance

For further details or questions, please contact:

Danielle Aamodt, Director of Driving, for combined driving questions at daamodt@usef.org or **Chuck Walker** with carriage pleasure driving questions at cwalker@usef.org and follow the [USA Driving Facebook page](#) for updates



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