



2026 U.S. EQUESTRIAN COMBINED DRIVING YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CRITERIA

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on October 20, 2025

This national championship criteria is subject to review each year by the Driving Sport Committee and 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 Championship, but they will not be included in the National Championship placings (see DC 928.2.1.2 for participation requirements).

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

USEF Combined Driving Youth National Championships for Single Horses & Ponies (Held at Preliminary level). **There will not be separate awards between Horses and Ponies.*

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 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:

- 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 drug testing and enforcement of the USEF 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.

C. Athlete Age Specifications:

- 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.