



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

Early 2020 in review! January - March

The 2020 winter competition season was an incredible success this year with record number of entries at our USEF licensed competitions. USEF is extremely grateful to the Organizers and their teams that worked so hard to put on the events and to the drivers for supporting them. Drivers came to Florida from all over the country to train, attend clinics, compete, and enjoy the comradery of fellow drivers. The Grand Oaks Resort hosted their first FEI-recognized competition, along with brimming entries in the USEF Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate divisions. The Spring Fling CDE hosted the [USEF Preliminary National Championships](#) for the first time, where drivers achieved their goals of taking home a medal and National Championship prizes. Then, Live Oak International presented the [USEF Advanced National Championships](#) at their ever-impressive venue and crowned both new and returning Champions on the podium.

The [USEF Elite and Developing Programs](#) offered multiple clinics with Edouard Simonet, Olof Larsson, Jacob Arnold, and Taren "Taz" Lester where drivers strengthened their training foundation and improved their skills for competition.

COVID-19 Effects

Unfortunately, the USEF competition and clinic spring season ended abruptly with the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought the entire world to a halt. At least two USEF clinics were cancelled with an unknown startup date. The newly organized **Katydid CDE @ TIEC** event had to [cancel their spring dates](#) - with hopes of returning in the Fall. (stay tuned for new dates!)

U.S. Equestrian and the Driving Sport Committee immediately jumped into action to determine the potential issues that would impede World Championship selection and the overall progression of our sport. All Selection Procedures are under review and we are in close contact with the FEI on their plans as this crisis unfolds. The constant reviews will continue throughout the spring and summer, as it is necessary now more than ever to create a plan to get athletes, horses, competitions, and programs back 'in the box seat' as soon as possible. All should regularly visit the [USEF Driving webpage](#) and the [USEF COVID-19 webpage](#). The latter includes links to resources and advice from the USOPC and also links to important information from the FEI.

Driving Sport Committee update

The Driving Sport Committee (DSC) bids a fond farewell to Jill Ryder as she takes her leave from the Committee after many dedicated years of service. Thank you, Jill, for your continuous words of wisdom and abundant experience that has kept us headed in the right direction all this time! Jill will be missed on the DSC, but she will remain on the Carriage Pleasure Committee and will continue to devote her life to the work of Pleasure Driving, as she always has.

In similar news, the DSC welcomed a new member, Jan Hamilton, to the Committee! Jan exemplifies an enthusiasm for the sport in every aspect that she is involved in, whether as a competitor, a groom, or a Show Secretary. We are excited to have Jan on board as we take on many new ideas and projects.

Members of the Driving Sport Committee have been working hard to develop structure and rules for the following new initiatives with plans to hit the ground running later this year:

- *****NEW*** USEF Short Format driving competitions:** Developing modified rules and structure for 1-2 day competitions that are easy for Organizers to host and accessible for drivers to attend. The formats are flexible with the ability to choose any combination of driven dressage, a modified marathon (between 3-5 obstacles with less sections), and cones. Requirements for Organizers will be relaxed, including more options for hiring Officials, and athletes will be able to use these events to school their horses/ponies.
- *****NEW*** USEF Driven Dressage tests:** Work is close to concluding on the development of USEF driven dressage Tests for each division. The aim has been to make these Tests so skills are developed to be ready for the step up to the next division. Watch for release dates on the USEF driven dressage Tests later this year. In the meantime, the ADS has graciously agreed to allow USEF licensed competitions to continue utilize their driven dressage Tests, which benefits both Organizers and Athletes.
- **USEF Emerging Driver Program:** The Athlete Pathway Programs continue to grow with generous support from the USET Foundation and their Donors. The aim at the Emerging level is to offer support and structure for educational opportunities offered to new drivers.
- **Licensed Officials pathway:** Developing a pathway and education system for Combined Driving Licensed Officials with new requirements for Combined Driving Judges and Technical Delegates in process for approval.
- **2021 National Championship criteria:** Reviewing the feedback from member survey in the driving community to consider how to strengthen the National Championship criteria.

FEI Pony Measurements

Note from Sally Ike, Managing Director of Licensed Officials at US Equestrian:

Late last year, in response to concerns about the size of ponies at FEI competitions globally, the FEI made significant changes in how ponies were to be measured, i.e. at Measuring Stations which each National Federation would be required to set up and organize. USEF asked the FEI to consider the global impact (outside Europe) of these changes, citing how impractical and expensive it would be for the small number of ponies in the United States that compete in FEI competitions, and proposed that US ponies should be permitted to use USEF measurement cards as proof of measurement.

*The FEI has granted our request, and given USEF permission to **allow US ponies to compete with a USEF Measurement card in FEI competitions outside of Europe. This means that US ponies at CDIPs and CAI-Ps outside Europe may use either USEF or FEI proof of measurement at these competitions. Note: Ponies competing in Europe WILL be required to meet the measurement requirements of the new FEI Rules and drivers should contact Danielle Aamodt (daamodt@usef.org) early to start planning measurement in Europe.***

USEF's Competitions Department has informed organizers of this change... Recognizing that there could be US ponies entered at a CDIP and/or CAI-P who do not have a measurement card, we are fortunate that...it is likely in Driving that a Federation Driving official who is certified to measure will also be present and could measure a pony. Thank you for your attention to this important detail.

If you have any questions about measurement cards, please contact Melissa Lawson, USEF Measurement Specialist, at mlawson@usef.org.

US Equestrian Member Benefits

USEF members have access to several benefits including:

- *****NEW***** USEF knows that finding quality, affordable health coverage for individuals and your small businesses is important and challenging. That's why USEF has added new customized health coverage options for your individual and small business needs including medical, accident, critical illness, hospital, short and long term disability, dental, and vision. Please visit [USEF.org/insurance](#).
- 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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