



INBOUND TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES WAIVER Eligibility Criteria

The waiver requirements have been amended effective September 21, 2021.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, inbound travel to the United States has been significantly restricted, making it very difficult for internationally based athletes to compete in the United States in Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) competitions. Through its work with Homeland Security, the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) has been able to obtain a travel waiver from this travel restriction for foreign individuals traveling to the United States to participate in FEI events.

General Information

- The waiver program is designed to support Athletes who are targeting participation in World level competitions in Olympic and Paralympic / non-Olympic and Paralympic disciplines.
- Waivers may also be granted for an Athlete's essential support personnel, IF/NF Officials and Executives, Event Staff, etc.
- Individuals arriving from a country not impacted by the proclamation do not require a waiver. Countries impacted by the proclamation include People's Republic of China (excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau), the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, and Brazil. Individuals are encouraged to contact their nearest U.S. Embassy to confirm whether a waiver is necessary for their traveling needs.
- A waiver does not exempt individuals from standard entry requirements, including visa, passport, and other necessary documents. Individuals from countries impacted are required to visit the information on the U.S. Embassy website where they are departing from and follow the instructions. Most embassies require the traveler to contact them for specific travel instructions.
- There is a \$350 processing fee for each waiver request. Payments can be made with a credit card by calling 859-225-6950 once your request has been confirmed. This fee is waived for licensed officials officiating at FEI events in the USA.
- Requests can be sent Karen Adams at kcadams@usef.org or by calling 859-225-2046.

Waiver Application Eligibility

- **FEI Licensed Officials & Essential Personnel**
 - Applications must be supported or submitted by the Organizer of the FEI Event(s) the Official is supporting
 - Organizers of FEI Events may request waivers for essential personnel. For example technical personnel that are not classed as FEI Officials.
- **Non-U.S. Athletes**
 - The Athlete / Horse combination must be qualified and intending to / will compete at the following levels at a specified event or events
 - Dressage, Eventing, Para Dressage and Endurance - FEI Events rated 3* or above
 - Vaulting and Driving - FEI Events rated 1* or above
 - Jumping - Athletes must have a minimum of 1 horse with recent 3* or above results within 6 months of application, that they will compete in FEI 3* or above at specified



competitions in the US during the period of stay OR the athlete must be ranked in the top 100 of the current Jumping Longines FEI Ranking List

- National Federations may apply for waivers for Jumping athletes specifically to compete in a CSIO4* or 5*
 - National Federations may apply for Chefs d'Equipe and key National Team staff to support Nations Cups
- **Non-U.S. Athlete Essential Support Personnel**
 - Applications for Athlete's essential support personnel must be submitted by the athlete with a cover letter or email explaining the exact role of the "support staff"
 - Support staff applications must be appropriate and justifiable in relation to the number of horses the athlete will be competing and relevant to preparing and competing horses in FEI competitions.
 - The Federation may contact the athlete's NF for confirmation of the information provided on the application
 - Applications from independent professionals not supported by an athlete will not be accepted
- **U.S. Athlete Essential Support Personnel**
 - U.S. Athletes returning from competing in FEI competitions abroad may apply for waivers for their employed staff to return to the U.S. and are responsible for ensuring their staff have the necessary Visa
 - U.S. Athletes who meet the following criteria may apply for waivers for essential support personnel to travel to the U.S. in order to support the Athlete's competition efforts
 - Athletes listed on any USEF High Performance Program
 - Athletes that have applied for FEI Championships, Games or Finals
 - Athletes currently competing or intending to compete at the following levels at a specified event or events
 - ✓ Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Para Dressage and Endurance - FEI Events rated 3* or above
 - ✓ Vaulting and Driving - FEI Events rated 1* or above.
 - Applications for Athlete's essential support personnel must be submitted by the athlete with a cover letter or email explaining the exact role of the "support staff"
 - In exceptional and justifiable circumstances, applications for personnel not meeting the above may be accepted in the sole discretion of US Equestrian Federation.
 - Support staff applications must be appropriate and justifiable in relation to the number of horses the athlete will be competing
 - Applications from independent professionals not supported by an athlete will not be accepted