



Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill

Maryland, United States

OCTOBER 15 - 18, 2026

CCI5*



Disclaimer: This Playbook is a resource produced by the USEF Eventing Department. Please visit the event's [official website](#) for the most up to date information.



THIS PLAYBOOK IS PRODUCED BY THE USEF EVENTING DEPARTMENT.

USEF – United States Equestrian Federation

USET – United States Equestrian Team Foundation

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

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CCI5*-L: MARS MARYLAND 5 STAR AT FAIR HILL US EQUESTRIAN PLAYBOOK

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the Playbook is to give those that are attending the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill (USA) CCI5*-L an understanding of the event and the logistics that go with making the trip to Elkton, Maryland. As a CCI5*-L. Please note that the individual athletes competing will not receive funding, apparel, Team Staff support, or expense reimbursements.

As with any CCI5*-L, Maryland will have its challenges and differences from past and other 5* events. The emphasis must be on ensuring athletes, horses, and grooms can perform their very best. A performance environment should be maintained and always keep in mind that even as a non-Team competition, you are still representing the USA on home turf.

The competition venue is approximately 55.3 miles (60 minutes) southwest of Philadelphia, PA and approximately 59.3 miles (60 minutes) northeast of Baltimore, MD. This event does host additional levels including CCI3*-L. Please review the published [FEI Schedule](#) for the available divisions and their restrictions.

We are continually receiving updates and new information so their playbook can never cover all the details. The primary point of contact for the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill and their contact information can be found [here](#).

This playbook contains helpful information for attending this Event. Please also familiarize yourself with the [FEI Schedule](#) and remember to check in at the show office upon arrival for the most up-to-date information.

PLEASE READ THIS PLAYBOOK AS IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL PLANNING, CLIMATE, AND ACCOMMODATIONS.

Please contact Christina if you have any questions, observations, or suggestions as to how we can optimize the support of the athletes, grooms, and horses.

Good luck to all!

Christina Vaughn

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ENTRIES

An FEI Entry is required to compete at the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. Athletes must submit the FEI Entry in order to be entered into the FEI Entry System to compete as an individual at any FEI competition, whether in the U.S. or abroad. The FEI Entry process is managed by US Equestrian Athlete Services.

Entries directly with the competition will also need to be completed. See the FEI schedule for complete information.

PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION

VACCINATIONS

In accordance with the CDC and USOPC recommendations, we advise that all Athletes, grooms, and traveling USEF support staff consider getting the new COVID vaccine now available against new strains as well as the seasonal flu vaccine. These vaccines can be administered at the same time. This is NOT a USOPC or USEF requirement, but it is highly recommended to protect our athletes, grooms, and all Team members. Please note it takes approximately two (2) weeks to maximize immunity.

TRAVEL PLANS

EQUINE TRANSPORTATION

Flights: Dutta Horse Transport Inc. is the USEF-preferred vendor for horse flights within the continental United States.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: +1 (914) 276 3880
- Email: info@timdutta.com

Ground Transportation: Johnson Horse Transport is the USEF preferred vendor for ground shipping within the continental United States.

- [Website](#)
- Phone: (610) 488-7220
- Email: elizabeth@JohnsonHorseTransportation.com

Local shippers include:

- [A&L Horse Transport](#)
- [Nine Points Equine Transportation](#)

Hay/Bedding: Please refer to the [FEI Schedule](#) for hay/bedding available at the venue.

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HUMAN TRANSPORTATION

All athletes, grooms, and owners are responsible for booking their own travel itinerary. Below is a list of recommended airports to Elkton.

Philadelphia International Airport (PHL)

- 45.4 miles (approximately 48 minutes) from the competition venue.

Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI)

- 65.9 miles (approximately 65 minutes) from the competition venue.

HUMAN ACCOMMODATION

There are many local accommodation options. Below is a non-extensive list of nearby hotels. Recommendations from the event can also be found [here](#).

| Hotel | Website | Distance |
|---|----------------------------|----------|
| Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast Inn | Click here | 4.7 mi |
| Courtyard Newark-University | Click here | 6.0 mi |
| Hyatt Place Newark / Main Street | Click here | 6.8 mi |
| Holiday Inn Express & Suites Elkton – University Area, an IHG Hotel | Click here | 7.4 mi |
| SpringHill Suites Newark Downtown | Click here | 7.5 mi |
| Hampton Inn Elkton | Click here | 7.8 mi |
| Embassy Suites by Hilton Newark Wilmington South | Click here | 7.8 mi |

CAR SERVICE INFORMATION

Public Transport: The U.S. has very limited public transportation systems and therefore there is no public transport option to the competition venue. It is best advised to utilize rental vehicles.

Taxi: Taxis use meters calculated by distance and time.

Rental Vehicles: For automatic vehicles, it is recommended to book a rental car with a large rental agency.

USA EVENTING GUIDE TO TRAVELING OVERSEAS

To view the USA Eventing Guide to Traveling Overseas click [here](#).

ACCREDITATION

Please review the [FEI Schedule](#) for the most up to date information on available accreditations.

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APPAREL

USEF does not provide human or horse apparel for CC15* events.

HOSPITALITY

USEF will tentatively host an a U.S. Eventing Owners Hospitality initiative. More information will be announced closer to the event.

Additional Hospitality offered for the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill can be found [here](#) and is outlined below.

TICKETS & PARKING

All spectators must purchase tickets. Tickets are sold by multi-day or for the individual days. Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

PARKING

More information on parking including directions can be found [here](#).

RESERVED SEATING

For **General Admission**, seating in the North Aintree Grandstand is available on a first-come basis and is not covered.

VIP Admission includes reserved seating.

VENUE

The MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill is located in Elkton, Maryland. The venue will have the usual first-aid stations, a mixed zone where interviews can be held, a sports information desk, medical facilities, doping control facilities and Wi-Fi access.

There are many shopping opportunities including a vendor village and food and beverage options located throughout the venue.

The venue address is **4600 Telegraph Road 21921 Elkton, Maryland United States of America**

Entering the Venue: Parking information can be found [here](#).

STABLES

Stables are 3m x 4m temporary stables on grass provided by FEI Stabling. 3m x 3m permanent stables available adjacent to temporary stabling.

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TACK ROOMS

Tack rooms are available upon request when completing the stabling form. It is the Athlete's responsibility to coordinate with their entry.

MAP

Venue maps can be found [here](#).

COMPETITION SCHEDULES

The full schedule for the MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill can be found [here](#).

TEAM STAFF

Eventing Team Staff may be available for Pathway Program members. These individuals will be contacted directly with more information.

SAFE SPORT, CODE OF CONDUCT, & CLEAN SPORT

Similar to any USEF licensed Event, SafeSport, the USEF Code of Conduct and Clean Sport must be abided by at all times.

Click [here](#) for SafeSport Information

Click [here](#) for USEF Code of Conduct

Click [here](#) for Clean Sport Information

PRESS & MEDIA

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media can be a great advantage for athletes, but it can also be detrimental to the environment. Please familiarize yourself with the policies below.:

The FEI Social Media policy can be found [here](#).

The USEF Social Media policy can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about the utilization of social media during the Event, please contact Sr. Director Social Media & Sport Communications, Carly Weilminster (cweilminster@usef.org).

HOSPITALS & EMERGENCY SERVICES

| Name | Address | Phone |
|------|---------|-------|
|------|---------|-------|

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| | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Inspira Medical Center Mannington | 310 Salem Woodstown Rd, Salem, NJ 08079 | +1 856 935 1000 |
| Main Line HealthCare Neurology - Riddle Hospital | Health Center 2, Suite, 1088 W Baltimore Pike #2104, Media, PA 19063 | +1 484 227 0130 |
| Christiana Care Health System | 700 W Lea Blvd #209, Wilmington, DE 19802 | +1 302 762 5656 |
| UM Upper Chesapeake Medical Center Bel Air | 500 Upper Chesapeake Dr, Bel Air, MD 21014 | +1 443 643 1000 |

American Emergency Services – 911

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

In general, Elkton, MD is a safe area for its residents and visitors. However, security perception changes greatly by district. If you have any doubts or need to report an incident, you can rely on the Police who are constantly patrolling the streets.

Responsible care should be exercised when traveling throughout Elkton. There is a normal level of crime, but it varies by district. In the higher-income areas frequented by tourists, petty theft is the most common concern. Travelers should keep valuables out of sight and be aware of their surroundings. Avoid isolated areas when on foot, especially after dark. It is recommended to only use a trusted taxi or an app-based taxi service. Do not hail a taxi on the street.

Assailants usually target victims for their smartphones, wallets, or purses. If confronted by someone with a weapon, it is best not to resist.

It is best to use ATMs inside banks instead of ATMs that are more accessible to passers-by and all banks advise customers to cover ATM keypads with their hands when entering codes. When making credit card transactions, travelers should expect the vendor to use a credit card reader in their presence.

Security is the responsibility of everybody. However, security concerns must not be allowed to prevent Athletes from concentrating on preparing and competing their horses. Good security is the application of common sense.

The key to good security is vigilance. Be aware of what is happening around you and always pay attention to anything that appears unusual or out of place. This includes people who appear nervous about their surroundings.

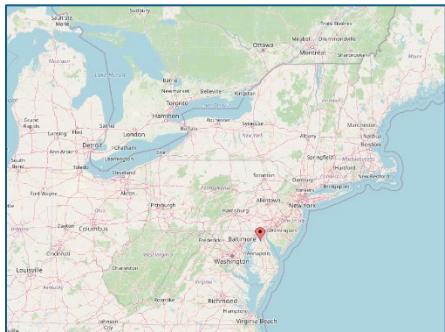
- Make a copy of your passport or real ID and travel documents and leave the original in a safe place.
- Always travel in groups.
- Do not overtly wear expensive jewelry.

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- Keep your phone hidden.
- Do not carry excessive amounts of cash or credit cards if you do not need them.
- If you are in a vehicle in standstill traffic with the windows rolled down, keep phones and other possessions low and away from windows and be mindful of people walking through the traffic.
- Do not approach unattended bags, cases or packages – report them.
- Do not accept packages from anyone, the contents of which are unclear.
- Do not advertise where you are staying.
- If you are out in the evening and you become aware of increased police activity, leave the area immediately.
- If you see an incident involving the police, do not get involved. Do not play the good Samaritan.

TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR AMERICAN POLICE – 911

ABOUT ELKTON



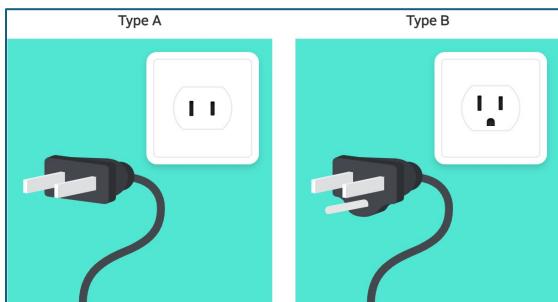
Elkton, Maryland is located on the East Coast of the U.S. and is a town of 15,776 people in Cecil County. It is approximately 20 miles southwest of Wilmington, Delaware and 57.2 miles northeast of Baltimore. More information about Cecil County can be found [here](#).

LANGUAGE

English is the most widely spoken language in Elkton, Maryland.

ELECTRICAL

Power in America operates on a 110-120 volt current and a 60 hertz frequency. Electricity will be supplied through a Type A (flat two-prong), or Type B (flat two-prong with one round prong).



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TELEPHONES, WI-FI, AND INTERNET ACCESS

Cellphone reception in Elkton, MD is typically good. Most of the country is covered with 5G systems. Contact your phone provider for more information on Sim Cards and International Date Plans.

WEATHER

Average weather for October

- High Temperature: 65°F
- Low Temperature: 52°F
- Rainfall: 3.18"
- Humidity: 75%

Suggested Clothing: October is considered mid-autumn in the United States, and it is not uncommon for cold mornings and moderate rainfall. It is recommended to bring layers as the mornings can be chilly and the afternoons warm. At least one waterproof jacket is also recommended.

FOOD & LOCAL RESTAURANTS

American cuisine is heavily influenced by both Europeans and Latin American. Similar to most areas of the U.S., Elkton and surrounding areas has a wide variety of different cuisines available. Many of the traditional dishes are a mixture of native and non-native ingredients complemented with mostly seafood.

Some popular dishes include:

- Crab cakes
- Rockfish
- Pit beef
- Cream of crab soup
- Oysters
- Chicken Maryland

There are many local restaurant options and below is a non-extensive list.

| Restaurant | Address | Distance |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Casa Mezcal | 1005 Elk Mills Rd, Elkton, MD 21921 | 5.6 mi |
| Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant | 147 E Main St, Newark, DR 19711 | 6.6 mi |
| Taverna Newark | 121 E Main St, Newark, DE 19711 | 6.7 mi |
| Blue Crab Grill | 322 Suburban Dr, Newark, DE 19711 | 6.9 mi |

LOCAL BUSINESS HOURS

Office hours are Monday through Friday from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Banks tend to be open between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shopping centers tend to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Depending on the shop, the hours may vary. It is not uncommon for a store to open later and close earlier on select days of the week such as Sunday.

GETTING AROUND THE CITY

There are apps that can be utilized in the city of Elkton to request a vehicle such as Uber, and Lyft to name a few.

The advised and safest method of travel is by taxi or car arranged by a hotel, restaurant, or USEF.

CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

The United States Dollar (USD) is the official currency of the United States. The symbol for the USD is \$. There are many different currency exchange services available near Elkton such as Wells Fargo and Bank of America.

Currency slang includes but is not limited to:

- Dollar(s) – Buck(s)
- A thousand dollars (\$1,000) – a grand

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards are widely accepted. Use of debit cards is widespread, although many stores impose a minimum per debit card purchase, and service charges may apply.

Money can be exchanged at the airport, exchange houses or banks.

TIPPING

Restaurants: Tipping is customary at sit-down restaurants in the U.S. at a 15% - 20% rate.

Transport: Tipping taxi drivers is a standard practice in the U.S. A common tip is 15% to 20%.

Hotels: It's up to you whether you tip cleaning staff or room service and again it depends on the overall quality of service.

TRAVELERS CHECKS

Very few places will accept traveler's checks in America. It is best to use an ATM card at the many ATM locations available in Elkton in the absence of cash.