



2026 USEF Pony Jumper National Championships Selection Procedures

Modifications in *blue italics*

(Selection Procedures for US Athletes; see Prize List for class specifications)

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Jumping Department will oversee the selection process, which will be reviewed and approved by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The USEF Pony Jumper Championships (Championships) will be held in conjunction with the United States Pony Finals, in Lexington, Kentucky August 5-8, 2026. A Team Championship and an Individual Championship will be offered. The Team Championship will be a modified Nation's Cup format (two rounds on the same day). The Individual Championship will be a multi-round cumulative competition.

I. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Athletes wishing to represent a zone team in the USEF Pony Jumper Championships must be U.S. citizens. The zone of each athlete is determined by the athlete's point state as recorded with USEF as of December 1, 2025 (See JP 100.7). [An athlete may apply to USEF for permission to change their point state no later than April 1, 2026, at 5:00pm ET.](#)
- B. The athlete and individual owner(s) of horses selected to participate in the Championships must be a current USEF Competing member in good standing (see GR128) at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships.
- C. The athlete must be a current USHJA member (see JP 100.1) in good standing at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships.
- D. The pony must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR 1102, in good standing under USEF rules, and shown under the owner of record at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships.
- E. The pony must be registered with USHJA (see JP 100.2), and the pony owner must be an active member of USHJA (see GR 1110) in good standing at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships.
- F. The pony must have a valid USEF measurement card (accordance with Subchapter HJ-7 Measurement) prior to entry in any class used for qualifying and at the time of application.
- G. Category Restrictions:
 - a. **Small Pony Category:** Fence Heights: .60-.65m, not to exceed .70m
 - i. Small ponies must not exceed 12.2 hands
 - ii. No junior over 12 years of age, as determined under GR103, may ride in the small pony category
 - b. **Medium Pony Category:** Fence Heights: .70-.75m not to exceed .80m
 - i. Ponies must not exceed 13.2 hands
 - ii. No junior over 14 years of age, as determined under GR103, may ride in the medium pony category
 - c. **Large Pony Category:** Fence Heights: .80-.85m not to exceed .90m
 - i. Ponies must not exceed 14.2 hands
 - ii. No junior over 16 years of age, as determined under GR103, may ride in the large pony category

- d. **1.05m Category:** Fence Heights not to exceed 1.15m
 - i. Ponies must not exceed 14.2 hands
 - ii. Riders under the age of 18 years, as determined under GR103, may compete in the 1.05m category
- H. **Additional USPC Team Requirements:** Athletes wishing to be considered for the USPC Team(s) must be current members in good standing of USPC with a minimum D3 rating and declare their intent to compete for USPC by (TBD, 2026). USPC declared athletes will no longer be eligible to compete for their Zone for the 2026 USEF Pony Jumper Championships qualifying period.
- I. Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championships must complete and submit an application on-line at www.usef.org and pay the requisite application fee no later than [June 15, 2026, at 5:00PM EST](#). The application fee is twenty-five (\$25.00), per application. By submitting this application, the athlete, athlete's parent or legal guardian, and owner certify that they have read, understand, and agree to be bound by the Selection Procedures and the USEF Code of Conduct; the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification; the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy.
- J. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy and USEF Background Check Policy.
- K. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy and the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.

II. **SELECTION**

- A. **Qualifying period** – The qualifying period for the Championships will be [September 1, 2025 to June 15, 2026](#) (Qualifying Period). The start date of a competition is used to determine if a qualifying class falls within a qualifying period. For example, if a competition starts on June 15, and the qualifying class is on June 16, the class will be included in a qualifying period that ends on June 15.
- B. **Qualifying Competitions:** To qualify for the Championships, athlete/pony combinations must have completed, without have being eliminated, retired, or withdrawn, a minimum of four (4) total jumper classes, at their respective category's height or above, at no fewer than two (2) different USEF or FEI licensed competitions within the Qualifying Period provided they meet the requirements outlined in Section I. Outreach classes/competitions not to count. However, classes held at 2026 Outreach Festivals will count.
- C. **Verification of Results** - It is the responsibility of the athlete to verify the accuracy of their results. USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported results. If any errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USEF office immediately. Errors must be reported no more than three (3) business days after the results are posted on the USEF website.

III. **INVITATIONS** – Athlete/pony combinations will be invited to participate in the Championships provided they meet the minimum eligibility requirements and qualifying criteria.

- A. **Zone Teams**
 - a. Teams will consist of a minimum of three (3) to four (4) athlete/pony combinations
 - b. All members of the Zone Team will participate in the Team Championship and the Individual Championship.
 - c. Teams will be formed by zone from the list of eligible athlete/pony combinations.
- B. **Combined Zone Teams**
 - a. Zones unable to field a team may send up to two (2) athlete/pony combinations.
 - i. USEF may combine Individual athlete/pony combinations into Combined Zone

- Teams.
 - ii. USEF will make the final decision on the method used to combine these athlete/pony combinations into teams either by combining them with other additional athlete/pony combinations or adding them to a Zone Team or Combined Zone Team which has fewer than four (4) athlete/pony combinations.
- C. Athletes are eligible to compete with only one (1) pony in each category at the Championships.
- D. If an Athlete declines to represent a Zone, they are ineligible to compete in the Championships as an individual.
- E. Chefs d'Equipe: Each team will be represented by a Chef d'Equipe, who will be selected by USEF.
- F. Zone Selection. By no later than *July 15, 2026*, USEF will confirm the athlete/pony selections based on the list of eligible applicant athlete/pony combinations per Zone.
- G. Substitutions
 - a. Pony substitution requests may be submitted between June 15, 2026 and the entry deadline (July 15, 2026). If an athlete's first choice pony is not available, the athlete may request to be considered for selection on another pony. Ponies submitted for consideration must meet the minimum eligibility and qualifying criteria for the appropriate category, though not necessarily as a combination with the athlete.
 - i. The request must be in writing to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs; ekeating@usef.org
 - ii. Athlete/pony combinations must meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements outlined in Section I with exception to application deadlines.
 - iii. The request will be reviewed by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The request will be evaluated based on the past performance of the athlete and horse, including the ability to jump the size and difficulty of obstacles, the complexity of the course(s) and the required speed to avoid time penalties. The impact on other athletes already qualified/selected will also be considered.
- H. Extraordinary Requests – Extraordinary requests from an athlete to be considered for selection to the USEF Pony Jumper Championships will only be considered if submitted between June 15, 2026 *and the entry deadline (July 15, 2026)* and only when the list of eligible athlete/horse combinations on the zone's Final applied list has been exhausted.
 - a. The request must be in writing to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs; ekeating@usef.org.
 - b. Athlete/pony combinations must meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements outlined in Section I with exception to application deadlines.
 - c. The request will be reviewed by the nonconflicted members of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and final approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. In making their recommendation, the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees will evaluate the past performance of the athlete and horse, including the ability to jump the size and difficulty of obstacles, the complexity of the course(s) and the required speed to avoid time penalties. The impact on other athletes already qualified / selected will also be considered.

VI. EQUINE DRUG TESTING: Ponies competing in the USEF Pony Jumper Championships are subject to all USEF Drug and Medication rules.

V. VETERINARY INSPECTION:

- A. There will be a veterinary inspection at the USEF Pony Jumper Championships.
- B. Time and location for the veterinary inspection will be included in the USEF Pony Jumper Championships prize list.

C. Ponies failing the veterinary inspection will not be permitted to compete.

VI. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS – USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six (6) months past the final day of the Championships.

VII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – The following are required to be properly executed by applicants, and their parents or legal guardians:

- Application
- USEF Code of Conduct
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification

Applicants will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and the Safe Sport Policy and that they understand these and agree to be bound by them.

VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES – The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date: USEF website: www.usef.org - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USEF.

IX. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES – The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Jumper Sport Committee, and USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment B for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

X. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES – USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in USEF Bylaws Part VII and in the Supplemental Procedures for Complaints and Grievances. See www.usef.org.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE – USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

XII. DISCLAIMER: These procedures are based on USEF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in USEF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

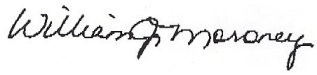

XIII. QUESTIONS: Contact Erin Keating, USEF Director of Jumping Development Programs at ekeating@usef.org or (859) 225-2036

Please click here to view Pony Jumper Zone Coordinator contact information

USPC: Gillian Stover, United States Pony Clubs, Inc.
4041 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511
Email: activitiescoordinator@ponyclub.org
Phone: (859)559-0650

1. **USEF SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		10/20/2025
USEF Managing Director of Jumping	Lizzy Chesson		10.25.2025