



MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential 2026 World Championship Jumping Applicants
FROM: Lizzy Chesson, Managing Director Jumping
DATE: July 21, 2025
RE: Planned Selection Methodology and Eligibility Requirements

Dear U.S. Jumping Athletes and Owners –

Please see the below details outlining the anticipated selection methods for the 2026 World Championships (“World Championship”) to be held in Aachen, Germany August 17-23, 2026. This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and is subject to change. This information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee and is subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee and therefore subject to change upon the approval of the final Selection Procedures by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee.

I. Short List Selection: It is proposed that ten (10) athletes (riders) and their horses will be selected for the World Championship U.S. Show Jumping Short List in April 2026 according to the following methods:

A. Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List:

1. Rolex/USEF Show Jumping “Average Athlete Ranking List” – The Average Athlete Ranking List is a ranking list of the athlete’s average Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking List points (includes the points previously earned) from the lists dated August 1, 2025 list through December 19, 2025. It is proposed that the four (4) highest ranked athletes from the Average Ranking List will be named to the Short List in December 2025. The Average Athlete Ranking List will be published weekly on www.usequestrian.org/jumping.
2. Rolex/USEF Show Jumping Ranking “Horse List” – The Horse List is the ranking list of the horse/athlete combinations’ points. It is planned that the Horse List, dated April 3, 2026, will be used to select at least three (3) athletes who are ranked highest on the Horse List and who have not already been named to the Short List. The Horse List is published weekly and can be found [HERE](#).

B. World Cup Finals - Fort Worth, Texas, April 9-12: It is planned that the highest placed U.S. athlete in the Final Overall Standings for the 2026 World Cup Final not already selected to the Short List (provided the athlete has finished in the top 10 of the Final Overall Standings) will be named to the Short List. If the highest placed U.S. athlete not already selected to the Short List has not finished in the top 10 of the Final Overall Standings, the spot will revert to Discretionary Selection (see below).

C. Discretionary Selection: It is proposed that the Chef d’Equipe in consultation with the Advisors will have the discretion to recommend up to two (2) athletes to the Short List and possibly up to three (3) athletes if the World Cup Finals spot is not filled as described above. The Chef d’Equipe may utilize their discretionary selection positions for the Short List at any time but by no later than once the Short List is finalized in April 2026.

Planned Selection Methodology for the 2026 World Championships

The Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Advisors, will evaluate the athlete/s and their horse and it is proposed that they take into account the following criteria:

- A. Current ability of the athlete and horse to meet the standards of the World Championship;
- B. Overall performance of the athlete and horse with emphasis on:
 - a) 2025/2026 Nations Cup and Grand Prix Show Jumping competitions;
 - b) The ability to compete without incurring jumping and/or time penalties at the highest level of course difficulty, as well as a record of having done so on a consistent basis;
 - c) Previous international experience, including the demonstrated ability of the horse and/or athlete to succeed in either FEI Grand Prix Show Jumping competitions within the past 2-3 years;
 - d) The ability to contribute to a medal winning team medal; and/or win an individual medal at the World Championship;
 - e) A record of successfully jumping over a variety of types of international level courses, and in particular over courses that included a water jump and tested for carefulness, scope, and rideability;
 - f) The ability to jump international level courses within the Time Allowed;
 - g) The ability to maintain peak form throughout multiple round events; and
 - h) A statistical record of consistently producing low-fault rounds with a minimum of high fault scores over difficult courses.
- C. The fitness and soundness of the horse; and
- D. The fitness of the athlete to maximize the performance of the horse.

The above criteria may be clarified further in the approved Selection Procedures. The Short List will not be named in ranked order and will be published in alphabetical order by athlete's last name.

Selected Horses: Athletes will be selected to the Short List along with their horse or horse(s). For example, an athlete selected to the Short List based on the Horse List may be considered for selection with an additional applicant horse(s). Additional horses are subject to recommendation to the Short List by the Chef d'Equipe and Advisors.

Team Selection: It is anticipated that the Short Listed athletes and horses will compete in CSIO5*/CSI5* events from May 2026 – July 2026 and that the Chef d'Equipe in consultation with the Advisors will recommend the Team of **five athletes and five horses and one of which will be the Traveling Reserve** based on similar criteria outlined in the Discretionary Selection above.

Eligibility for Selection:

Athletes: Athletes must be 18 years of age or older in the year of the World Championships. Athletes must be registered with the FEI and Competing members of USEF in good standing at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the World Championship. Athletes must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI requirements at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the World Championship.

Horses: Horse must be 9 years of age or older in the year of the World Championships. Horses must be recorded with USEF and registered with the FEI in good standing at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the World Championship.

FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER): Athletes and horses wishing to compete at the 2026 World Championships must earn an MER at selected competitions between January 1, 2025, and the closing date of the

Planned Selection Methodology for the 2026 World Championships

FEI Nominated Entries. Click [HERE](#) for the FEI qualification criteria requirements. ***Please note athletes and horses are not required to qualify as a combination.*** Please be sure to read them carefully and early as some of the requirements require 3 scores. The list of qualifying events can be found on the [FEI's website](#). Please note that the list of events is continually updated.

Complete details of the selection method will be published as part of the USEF approved Selection Procedure for Jumping for the 2026 World Championships which are expected to be published no later than November 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 908.256.4248 or email lhesson@usef.org with any questions.



LIZZY CLESSON

Managing Director Jumping

t 908 997 3007 m 908 256 4248

e lhesson@usef.org

usequestrian.org