

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 OLYMPIC GAMES – PARIS, FRANCE
EVENTING
NOVEMBER 13, 2023**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1.Nationality/Passport Requirements:

The Athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the [FEI General Regulations](#) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2024 Summer Olympic Games (the “Games”) Eventing competition (the “Event”).

The Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games (passports must be valid through February 11, 2025).

1.1.2.Minimum International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (“NOC”) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an Athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the [Olympic Charter](#) (Rule 41).

1.1.3.Minimum International Federation (“FEI”) standards for participation:

1.1.3.1. All Athletes and Horses wishing to compete on the 2024 Olympic Games U.S. Eventing Team (“Team”) must achieve the following minimum eligibility requirements (MERs) as a combination between January 1, 2023 and June 24, 2024 (“Qualifying Period”) to be eligible to compete in the Event (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#), Article 517, and the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), Article 626).

- (i) One (1) qualifying result at a CCI5*-L; or
- (ii) One (1) qualifying result in a CCI4*-L AND 1 qualifying result in a CCI4*-S
- (iii) Plus, one (1) qualifying result in a CCI4*-S, CCI4*-L or CCI5*-L to be obtained after January 01, 2024, and on or before June 24, 2024 (“Confirmation Result”).

The List of Selected Events in 2023 and 2024 where an MER may be achieved is published on the [FEI Website](#).

An FEI qualifying result is achieved by completing the above Competitions within the minimum parameters of an all-round performance, with: (i) Dressage test: Not less than fifty-five percent (55%). Dressage good marks (no more than forty-five (45) penalty points); (ii) Cross Country test: clear (0) round or 11 penalty points on Cross Country Obstacles, not more than 75 seconds over the optimum Cross Country phase

time. At CCI-L 5*, the maximum time by which the optimum time may be exceeded is 100 seconds; (iii) Jumping Test: Not more than sixteen (16) jumping penalties.

- 1.1.3.2.** All Athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions). Only those Athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code, and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, including the conditions of participation established by the IOC, plus the rules of the FEI, may participate in the 2024 Olympic Games.
- 1.1.3.3.** The Athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2006, making them a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age in the year of the 2024 Olympic Games (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#), Article 503.2).
- 1.1.3.4.** The Horse must meet all FEI eligibility requirements, including the minimum age to participate in the 2024 Olympic Games (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#), Article 503.4).
- 1.1.3.5.** The Athlete and Horse must be registered with the FEI.
- (i) Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have been registered with the FEI as property of Owners of the same nationality as the Athlete, by January 15, 2024 (see the [FEI General Regulations](#), Article 139).
 - (ii) Horses, with multinational ownership, must be registered with the FEI by January 15, 2024, under the name of the nation for which the Horse will compete during the Olympic Games (see the [FEI General Regulations](#), Article 139).
- 1.1.3.6.** To be eligible for participation in the Event, Athletes and Horses must comply with all current [FEI Rules & Regulations](#).

1.1.4. Other Requirements:

- 1.1.4.1.** The Athlete must be an active Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing from the time of the USOPC Final Entry through the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.4.2.** The Horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to [USEF General Rule 1102](#) and be in good standing from the time of the USOPC Final Entry through the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.4.3.** Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete an online Application (Attachment A) with the application fee through their [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#). Applications must complete a payment of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per application at the time of submission. **No applications will be accepted after February 23, 2024, at 11:59PM EST.**
- (i) Additional Horse(s) may be added as late additions to an Athlete’s application at any time until **April 22, 2024, at 11:59PM EST**. Following the close of applications on February 23, 2024, at 11:59PM EST, a late fee of three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350.00) will be charged per horse addition at the time of submission.
- 1.1.4.4.** The Athlete must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received, understand, and have read these Selection Procedures for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk,

Waiver, and Indemnification (Attachment D), and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E), and that they agree to be bound by them.

- 1.1.4.5.** Individual Owners as listed on the FEI Passport of the nominated Horse(s) named to the USOPC Final Entry and/or the FEI Nominated Entry must be a Senior Active Member of USEF in good standing from the time of USOPC Final Entry through the conclusion of the Event. Owners must sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B) prior to the USOPC Final Entry. An Owner's failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the USOPC Final Entry and/or the FEI Nominated Entry. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Agreement, that they have received, understand, and have read these Selection Procedures for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D), and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E), and that they agree to be bound by them.
- 1.1.4.6.** The Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline of March 10, 2024, unless the Athlete requests for an extension of this deadline due to an extraordinary circumstance. Any extension must be approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee ("USOPC").
- 1.1.4.7.** Any Athlete aged eighteen (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](#).
- 1.1.4.8.** Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

1.2. Selection Trials:

- 1.2.1. Event names, dates, and locations of all Selection Trials to be used as part of the selection process:** Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to be considered for the Team must complete, or must have already completed, at least one of the following Selection Trials. The 2023 and 2024 Selection Trials, as published to all potential 2024 Olympic Games applicants on March 07, 2023 (Attachment F) and updated in **BOLD** on publication of these procedures, include the following:

2023

Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event (USA)	CCI5*-L	APR 26-30
Badminton Horse Trials (GBR)	CCI5*-L	MAY 03-08
Tryon Spring International Horse Trials (USA)	CCI4*-L	MAY 10-14
MARS Bromont CCI Three-Day Event (CAN)	CCI4*-L	JUN 08-11
Bramham International Horse Trials (GBR)	CCI4*-L	JUN 08-11
Longines Luhmühlen Horse Trials (GER)	CCI5*-L	JUN 14-18
The Event at Rebecca Farm (USA)	CCI4*-L	JUL 19-23
Defender Burghley Horse Trials (GBR)	CCI5*-L	AUG 31-SEP 03
Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials (GBR)	CCI4*-L	SEP 14-17
Military Boekelo-Enschede (NED)	CCIO4*-NC-L	OCT 04-08
Morven Park International & Fall Horse Trials (USA)	CCI4*-L	OCT 12-15

Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill (USA)	CCI5*-L	OCT 18-22
Les 5 Etoiles de Pau (FRA)	CCI5*-L	OCT 26-29
Galway Downs International Three-Day Event (USA)	CCI4*-L	NOV 01-05
The Event at TerraNova (USA)	CCI4*-L	NOV 17-19

2024

Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event (USA)	CCI5*-L	APR 24-28
Badminton Horse Trials (GBR)	CCI5*-L	MAY 08-12
Tryon Spring International Horse Trials (USA)	CCI4*-L	MAY 08-12

Any Athlete wishing to use a European CCI4*-L as a Selection Trial must make the request in writing to Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Elite Program (gstobbs@usef.org) no less than 30 days prior to the start of the competition. Requests will be reviewed by the Eventing Selectors and forwarded to the USEF Eventing Department for determination. The Eventing Selectors and USEF Eventing Department will consider the timing of the request, number, and quality of entries at the requested event, the timing of the event in relation to the above-listed Selection Trials, in addition to other relevant information when considering the request. All applicant Athletes will be notified via email if any additional Selection Trials are added to the schedule. Notification will be given at least 30 days prior to the start of the approved Selection Trial.

Additional competitions may be identified as Selection Trials by the Chef d'Equipe, USEF staff, and/or Eventing Selectors should it become necessary. All applicant Athletes will be notified via email if any additional Selection Trials are added to the schedule. Notification will be given at least 30 days prior to the start of the approved Selection Trial.

1.2.2. Describe how Athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1: Athletes must qualify for the Selection Trials per the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#).

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games:

1.3.1. Selection of Team and Alternates for USOPC Final Entry (June 07, 2024) and the FEI Nominated Entry Deadline (June 24, 2024):

By no later than the closing date for the USOPC Final Entry, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors will recommend at least three (3) Athlete/Horse combinations to be named to the Team, a Traveling Reserve (see definitions) and up to the maximum number of Direct Alternate Horses and/or Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations (see definitions) permitted to be named to the USOPC Final Entry and FEI Nominated Entries. In making their recommendations, the Selectors may elicit feedback from the USEF Eventing Chef d'Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian, the Team Farrier, and/or the Team Equine Physiotherapist. The Selectors' recommendation will be reviewed by the USEF Eventing Sport Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The USOPC Final Entry will consist of the Team and Traveling Reserve, which will be submitted to the USOPC no later than June 07, 2024, unless removed for one of the reasons in Section 3 "Removal of Athletes or Horses."

The FEI Nominated Entry will consist of the Team, Traveling Reserve, Direct Alternate Horses, and Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations, which will be submitted to the FEI no later than June 24, 2024, unless removed for one of the reasons in Section 3 “Removal of Athletes or Horses.”

The Selection of Athletes, Horses, and Alternates will be based on the discretionary selection criteria outlined in Section 2. Alternates will be nominated in alphabetical order.

Chef d’Equipe Permissions: Once Athlete/Horse combinations have been named to the Team on the USOPC Final Entry and/or FEI Nominated Entry, they will come under the leadership of the Chef d’Equipe through the conclusion of the Event. The Athlete must develop and discuss their training, competition, and coaching schedule with the Chef d’Equipe. Deviations to the agreed upon plan must be communicated to and approved in advance by the Chef d’Equipe.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: Discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible for the Event.

2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used: The Selectors may elicit feedback from the USEF Eventing Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian, the Team Farrier, or the Team Equine Physiotherapist. The Selectors, who may elicit feedback from the USEF Eventing Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian, and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian, the USEF Eventing Sport Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors) in evaluating Athlete/Horse combinations and Alternates to be nominated to the Team, will base their evaluations on the following factors (“Factors”) in no priority order:

2.2.1. The overall performance of the Athlete/Horse combination in the 2023 and 2024 Selection Trials designated within these Procedures, with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed.

- (i) Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination’s competition records (see definitions) from the 2023 and 2024 Selection Trials designated within these Procedures.
- (ii) Performance may be evaluated using EquiRating’s High Performance Metrics (see definitions) from the 2023 and 2024 Selection Trials designated within these Procedures.

2.2.2. Consistency and trend of performance of the complete competition records (see definitions) within the Qualifying Period (see definitions) as designated within these Procedures, with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed.

- (i) Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination's competition records from events within the qualifying period.
- (ii) Performance may be evaluated using EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions) from events within the qualifying period.

2.2.3. Previous International Competition Experience (see definitions): The previous International Experience of the Athlete/Horse combination. Preference may be given to Athlete/Horse combinations who have demonstrated ability to succeed in multiple international Eventing competitions, per their complete competition records.

2.2.4. Horse Soundness (see definitions): Horses that are candidates for Selection for the Event may be examined at any time from application and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian (and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) upon the request of the Selectors or Chef d'Equipe and based on the availability of the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian.

2.2.5. Athlete's Fitness (see definitions).

2.3 Other Discretionary Criteria Used

2.3.1 Mandatory Veterinary Evaluations: Following the conclusion of the last approved Selection Trial (see Section 1.2.1) and prior to the USOPC Final Entry and/or FEI Nominated Entry, the Selectors may request for Horses that are candidates for Selection to the Event attend a Mandatory Veterinary Evaluation to undergo an examination by the Team Veterinarian, and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian. The Mandatory Veterinary Evaluation dates and locations will be communicated to the requested applicants via email and will be available on both the East and West Coast. Being requested to attend the Mandatory Veterinary Evaluations does not guarantee selection.

The Team Veterinarian and the Athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the Horse(s) named to the USOPC Final Entry and/or the FEI Nominated Entry.

All Horses entered on the FEI Nominated Entry will be re-examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian (and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) prior to traveling to the Event.

Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Team Evaluating Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete/Horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

Team Veterinarian Request: Athletes, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the previous 24 months' worth of veterinary records of Horses in consideration for selection. In addition, applicants, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for Horses in consideration for selection.

Athletes, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the Horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the Athlete, for Horses under consideration for selection.

Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process by recommendation from the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and Team Veterinarian.

Exceptions may be granted for emergency situations. The Team Veterinarian must be apprised of any emergency within 24 hours of the treatment.

2.3.2 Veterinary Treatment: Once a Horse(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry or USOPC Final Entry, all nominated Athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their selected Horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. Failure to adhere to this requirement and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of horse and/or athlete from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the Chef d'Equipe, and the USEF Eventing Sport Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.3.3 Medical Request: In the event of illness or injury, Athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by USEF at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the Athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the Athlete from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of USEF approved physician(s), and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the Athlete to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process pending approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors).

2.4 Name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for making selection recommendations, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

USEF Eventing Selectors
USEF Eventing Chef d'Equipe
USEF Eventing Veterinary Evaluating Panel
USEF Eventing Team Veterinarian
USEF Eventing Team Farrier
USEF Eventing Team Equine Physiotherapist
USEF Eventing Sport Committee (or Ad Hoc Group of the Eventing Sport Committee)
USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors
(See ATTACHMENT X for complete listing of members.)

2.4.1 Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee: All individuals involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any individual involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the individual's level of involvement (e.g., whether that individual must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that an individual who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by individuals involved in the selection of the Team, provide such information to the other individuals involved in the selection process so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the individual with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision (See the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#)). The individual must not otherwise influence other individuals involved in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an individual has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No individual shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the relevant USEF appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES AND/OR HORSES

3.1 NGB Jurisdiction:

Prior to the submission of the nomination to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees. An Athlete or Horse that is nominated to the Team, Traveling Reserve, or as an Alternate by the USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

3.1.1 Voluntary withdrawal. The Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.

- 3.1.2** Athlete injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 3.1.3** Failure to participate in Mandatory Training(s), Mandatory Veterinary Evaluation(s), and/or Mandatory Competition(s) as defined in these procedures.
- 3.1.4** Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
- 3.1.5** Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
- 3.1.6** Failure of the horse's owner to sign the Horse Participation Agreement (ATTACHMENT B) by the stated deadline.
- 3.1.7** Horse injury or illness as certified by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. If an Athlete or Owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the veterinarian approved by USEF, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the Horse may be removed.
- 3.1.8** Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, from the time of Selection through the conclusion of the Event.
- 3.1.9** Detection of a prohibited substance in the Horse (see below).
- 3.1.10** Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding Athletes and Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.11** Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these procedures.
- 3.1.12** Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian.
- 3.1.13** Failure to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to the Horse receiving veterinary treatment by any veterinarian who is not the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. Written permission is required upon selection as a Team or Alternate Horse.
- 3.1.14** Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- 3.1.15** Failure to comply with reasonable requests, as determined by the Director of FEI Sport and the Managing Director of Eventing, from the USEF Eventing Department regarding logistical information and deadlines.
- 3.1.16** Behavior of the Athlete and people associated with the Athlete (including, without limitation, accredited Owners, Coaches, and Grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive Team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a Team Medal.
- 3.1.17** Loss of form or failure to show readiness in or out of competition, as determined by the majority decision of the Selectors and with the approval of the Chef d'Equipe.

An Athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII, and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

3.2 USOPC Jurisdiction:

Once Athlete and Horse entries have been submitted by the USOPC to the Local Organizing Committee, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USEF Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found within the Delegation

Terms. See “Delegation Events” at <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution> for more information.

- 3.3** An Athlete may be removed as a Nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USEF Safe Sport Policy, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES AND/OR HORSES

4.1 Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) and/or Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1 Prior to Acceptance of the USOPC Final Entry (June 07, 2024):

Prior to the acceptance date of the USOPC Final Entry, Athlete/Horse combinations may be replaced in accordance with the process cited for any of the reasons outlined in Section 3 (Removal of Athletes or Horses). If an Athlete on the Team or nominated as an Alternate has been nominated with a Direct Alternate Horse, and the Horse on which they were initially nominated to the Team or as an Alternate must be replaced, that Horse will be replaced by the Direct Alternate Horse.

Any Horse replacements for veterinary reasons must also be approved by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian.

Any Athlete replacements for medical reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) approved by USEF.

4.1.2 After the submission of the USOPC Final Entry and prior to the submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee:

USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC to replace Athletes and/or Horses on the USOPC Final Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3 of these Procedures or in accordance of the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), Article 624.6.

During this period, Athlete/Horse combinations on the Team may be replaced with the Traveling Reserve; and the Traveling Reserve may be replaced with Athlete/Horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entry. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d’Equipe, with approval of the majority of Selectors, and in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games, and/or for reasons set forth in Section 3, and subject to approval by the USEF Chef de Mission and the USOPC Chef de Mission. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian, will evaluate the Athletes and Horses nominated to the Team, the Traveling Reserve, and the FEI Nominated Entry and may recommend that a replacement be made.

If there are Direct Alternate horses nominated for specific Athletes, those are automatically replaced should the Horse on which the Athlete is originally nominated become unavailable. The Chef d’Equipe and Selectors when evaluating Athletes and Horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.

Any Horse replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any Athlete replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue who is approved by the USEF or the USOPC.

- 4.1.3 After Acceptance of the Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee and until the Last Date of Replacements:** USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC to replace Athletes and/or Horses on the USOPC Final Entries for reasons set forth in Section 3 of these Procedures or in accordance of the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), Article 624.6.

During this period, Athlete/Horse combinations on the Team may be replaced with the Traveling Reserve; and the Traveling Reserve may be replaced with Athlete/Horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entry. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the majority of Selectors, and in accordance with the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), and/or for reasons set forth in Section 3, and subject to approval by the USEF Chef de Mission and the USOPC Chef de Mission. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian, will evaluate the Athletes and Horses nominated to the Team, the Traveling Reserve, and the FEI Nominated Entry and may recommend that a replacement be made.

If there are Direct Alternate horses named for specific Athletes, those are automatically replaced should the Horse on which the Athlete is originally named become unavailable. The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when evaluating Athletes and Horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.

Any Horse replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any Athlete replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue who is approved by the USEF or the USOPC.

- 4.1.4 After the First Horse Inspection and up to two (2) hours before the scheduled starting time of the Dressage Test ("Pre-Competition Change"):** Team Athlete/Horse combinations may only be substituted with the Traveling Reserve Athlete/Horse combination. Substitutions may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Eventing Team Leader, and U.S. Equestrian Chef de Mission, and in accordance with the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), or for reasons set forth in Section 3 and upon approval of the USOPC Chef de Mission.

Any Horse replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any Athlete replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue who is approved by the USEF or the USOPC.

4.1.5. After the Dressage Test and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Cross-Country Test: Team Athlete/Horse combinations may only be substituted at this time with the Travelling Alternate Athlete/Horse combination. Substitutions may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Eventing Team Leader, and US Equestrian Chef de Mission, and in accordance with the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), or for reasons set forth in Section 3 and upon approval by the USOPC Chef de Mission.

Any Horse replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any Athlete replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue who is approved by the USEF or the USOPC.

4.1.6. After the Cross-Country Test and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Team Jumping Test: Team Athlete/Horse combinations may only be substituted at this time with the Travelling Alternate Athlete/Horse combination. Substitutions may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Eventing Team Leader, and U.S. Equestrian Chef de Mission, and in accordance with the [FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games](#), or for reasons set forth in Section 3 and subject to approval by the USOPC Chef de Mission.

Any Horse replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any Athlete replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue who is approved by the USEF or the USOPC.

5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, and data from the selection process for six (6) months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Event.
6. **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2024 Olympic Games:
 - Application (Attachment A)
 - USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B)
 - USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
 - USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification (Attachment D)
 - Memo – Olympic Games Selection Trials for Eventing (Attachment F)
 - USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures (Attachment G)
7. **PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:** The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):
 - 7.1 The USEF Website: <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/eventing/content/2024-olympics>
These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

7.2 Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION: Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all Athletes, and submitted to the USOPC on or before: June 07, 2024.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

9.1 Mandatory Outing(s) - All Team and Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations may be required to demonstrate their continued preparation, soundness, and ability. By no later than May 1, 2024, all details regarding the Mandatory Outing(s) will be posted on the [USEF Website](#) and communicated via email to applicants.

9.2. Mandatory Training Session(s) - All Team and Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations may be required to participate in Mandatory Training except as explained below. By no later than May 1, 2024, relevant details of the Mandatory Training session(s) will be circulated to the Team and Alternates.

9.3. Waiver Requests - An Athlete/Horse combination that is not able to participate in the Mandatory Outing(s), Veterinary Evaluation(s) or Training Session(s), as applicable, because of veterinary, medical, or family emergencies or for logistical reasons may request special consideration for selection by submitting a written request prior to the Mandatory Outing(s), Veterinary Evaluation(s) or Training Session(s), as applicable, to the USEF Eventing Department. The Selectors, in conjunction with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Staff, will approve or disapprove the request based on the circumstances, facts, and, in the case of illness or injury to Athlete or Horse, documentation by a member of the Team Veterinarian (and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) or physician(s) approved by USEF. In the event the applicant's request is not approved, the Athlete/Horse combination must participate in the Mandatory Outing(s) or Training Session(s), or they will no longer be considered for selection.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

10.1. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

10.2. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

10.2.1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke USEF General Rule 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

- (i) **Positive Finding.** At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
- (ii) They will notify the Director of FEI Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.

- (iii) Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
- (iv) The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.

10.2.2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

- (i) Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of FEI Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.
- (ii) In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the Selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
- (iii) These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
- (iv) USEF General Rule 409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Athletes Working Group
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors)

See **ATTACHMENT X** for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USEF Bylaws are available [here](#). Contact information for the USOPC Athlete Ombuds can be found below.

13. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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.

14. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Nomination to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event.

15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

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

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

16. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds for independent and confidential advice on a variety of sport related matters, including their rights, applicable rules, policies or processes, and questions related to resolving disputes and grievances. The Athlete Ombuds can also help Team USA athletes connect with legal counsel or mental health resources if needed. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing domestically at the masters or youth level, recreational athletes, foreign athletes) are welcome to visit the Athlete Ombuds website to review informational resources and should work directly with their NGB to understand additional resources and options available to them.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: usathlete.org

Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy

(A) In general.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

(B) Exception.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved.

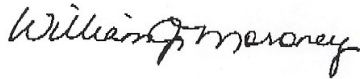
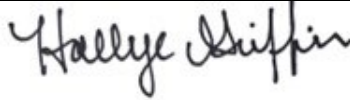
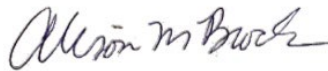
(C) Judicial and administrative proceedings.—(i) In general.—The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds . (ii) Work product.—Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds—(I) shall be confidential; and (II) shall not be—(aa) subject to discovery, subpoena, or

any other means of legal compulsion; or (bb) admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding. (D) Applicability.—The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to—(i) applicable federally mandated reporting requirements; (ii) a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds;(iii) a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or (iv) a congressional subpoena.

Anti-retaliation Statement

No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF or the USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

17. 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		
Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		
USOPC Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Allison Brock		

**If the USOPC TEAM USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate TEAM USA Athletes' Commission Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the TEAM USA Athletes' Commission Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.*

**Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.*

**If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC TEAM USA Athletes' Commission Representative, the USEF must designate an Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.*

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Elite Program.

PHONE: +1 (859) 225-6929

EMAIL: gstobbs@usef.org

WEBSITE: www.usef.org

DEFINITIONS:

BOLDNESS – Whether the Athlete/Horse combination moves forward with confidence, aggression, and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the Athlete/Horse must answer to successfully negotiate the test, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, jumping into water, etc.), whether the Athlete/Horse combination answer the question with the same positive attitude.

CCI - Concours Complet d'Equitation.

CHEF D'EQUIPE – Appointed by the USEF CEO to oversee the following for the duration of the Event:

- The general management and fitness of the Horses entered for the Event and the observance of the FEI Veterinary Regulations by Team Veterinarians and other official team members.
- The general management, fitness, and behavior of Athletes.

COMPETITION RECORDS – Records of past competitions may be sourced from the USEF, USEA, FEI or other applicable governing bodies to review an Athlete/Horse combination's scores in the dressage, show jumping and cross-country phases.

DIRECT ALTERNATE HORSE – A horse that is nominated as an automatic replacement for an Athlete on the Team, should their first horse become unavailable.

EQUIRATINGS HIGH PERFORMANCE METRICS –

ELO Score

Eventing is a complex sport, and it can be difficult to rank horses in order of their overall *quality* and *consistency* using a single metric. The EquiRatings Elo does exactly this. It is a ranking algorithm that is affected *every time* a horse starts the cross-country phase of an event (withdrawals *prior* do not affect the metric). In terms of a single metric for predicting finishing position, this is the best in class. The Elo rewards horses that beat highly rated opponents, thus accounting for the quality of a competition.

EquiRatings Expected Values

To assess the expected performance of a Horse in each individual phase of an Eventing competition, the EquiRatings Expected Values are the most effective values. They measure expected performance in dressage, show jumping, cross-country jumping reliability and cross-country speed. These are complex formulae that account for recent trends, the difficulties of past conditions and the likely impact that these have on future performance.

HPR Score

The HPR score accounts for course difficulty, scoring conditions and the quality of opposition for a single performance.

Power Average

The power average is the average of the *three best* finishing scores for a given horse or rider over a given dataset. A horse could therefore have a season power average at four and five-star levels.

Two Phase Average

The two-phase average is the average of all dressage *and* show jumping penalties for a horse or rider over a given dataset. The two-phase average excludes cross-country penalties as these can skew the statistics if a rider is opting to compete at a slower pace.

Zone Analysis

Zone Analysis is a simple way to organize *finishing scores* into various scoring zones. This helps to give a visual representation as to whether a horse/rider/nation tends to score in excellent/good/average ranges, or whether they have poor outcomes or even non-completions.

EVENT – The 2024 Olympic Games.

FEI – Federation Equestre Internationale, the International Federation for Equestrian Sport.

FEI NOMINATED ENTRY - This is the date by which you must submit a long list of Athletes and Horses that might participate in this Event.

FITNESS – Whether the athlete or horse competed at a high level more frequently than is consistent with delivering a peak performance at the event for which selection is being made. Whether the athlete or horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION EXPERIENCE - A competitive record over the past 3 years that indicates that the Athlete/Horse combination has successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure consistently.

LAST DATE OF REPLACEMENTS – The Last Date for Replacements is the last date and time at which an athlete or horse, selected to travel to the Event can be subject to Pre-Competition Substitution with an athlete or horse not previously selected to travel to the Event. For the avoidance of doubt, only four horses can travel to the Event. The Date for Replacements will be based upon timeframes in which Paris 2024 outline for the horse arrival / substitutions which will be confirmed by Paris 2024 and likely be determined what is logistically possible for changes in the hours before the First Horse Inspection. The Late Date for Replacement will be decided by the USEF Director of FEI Sport in consultation with Team Leader of Eventing, Chef d'Equipe, and Team Veterinarian. The date will be published to all Athletes selected to the FEI Nominated Entry List as soon as it can be decided upon.

LOSS OF FORM - Deterioration in performance and/or demonstrated inability to produce results at the level at which the combination was performing at the time at which they were selected.

QUALIFYING PERIOD – Period in which an achieved MER counts towards a qualifying result for the Games.

REPLACEMENT – Replacing an Athlete/Horse combination after the USEF has named the Team.

RIDEABILITY – Whether the Horse exhibits in all three tests - dressage, cross-country, and show jumping - that it responds readily to the aids (directions) of the Athlete because of its training; whether it moves

forward, slows down, turns, and jumps any obstacle with composure, obedience, and confidence in itself and the Athlete.

SPEED - Evidence that in the FEI record of the Athlete/Horse combination, and in the final trials for the Team, the Athlete/Horse combination shows the ability to complete the Event distances at the speed specifications for that level in accordance with the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#).

SOUNDNESS - A condition in which a Horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.

TEAM – The 2024 Olympic Games U.S. Eventing Team.

TRAVELING RESERVE – Athlete/Horse combination or Horse that travels with the Team to the Event as the available replacement should the need arise.

USEA – United States Eventing Association

USEF – United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. Governing body of USA Equestrian sport.

USEF EVENTING SELECTORS - individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF CEO with recommendation from the USEF Eventing Sport Committee. The Selectors are members of the Eventing community who are knowledgeable and experienced in Eventing at the international level.

USOPC – United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

USOPC FINAL ENTRY - This is the date by which you must submit the final selection of Athletes and Horses that will participate in this Event.