



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2023 Pan American Games – Santiago, Chile**  
**Eventing**

**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](#) [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023], Article 119, at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2023 Pan American Games (“the Event”).

The Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games (cannot expire prior to May 05, 2024).

**1.1.2 Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Pan American Sports Organization (Panam Sports) standards for participation:**

Any competitor in the Pan American 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 his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Panam Sports Constitution (Article 34.4-7).

**1.1.3 Minimum International Federation (FEI) Standards for Participation:**

1.1.3.1 All Athletes and Horses wishing to compete on the 2023 Pan American Games U.S. Eventing Team (“Team”) must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability between January 1, 2022, and September 24, 2023, by having achieved one qualifying result (MER) at a CCI3\*-L, CCI4\*-L or CCI5\*-L to be eligible to compete in the Event (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#), [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023], Article 517).

1.1.3.2 The Athlete must have been born before December 31, 2005, making them a minimum of 18 years of age in the year of the 2023 Pan American Games (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#) [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023], Article 503.2).

1.1.3.3 The Horse must have been born on or before December 31, 2016, to be a minimum of seven (7) years of age in the year of the 2023 Pan American Games (see the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#) [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023], Article 503.4).

1.1.3.4 The Athlete and Horse must be registered with the FEI.

1.1.3.5 To be eligible for participation in the Event, Athletes and Horses must comply with all current FEI Rules.

**1.1.4 Other Requirements:**

1.1.4.1 The Athlete must be an active Competing Member of USEF from the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Event.

- 1.1.4.2 The Horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to [USEF General Rule](#) 1102 and in good standing from the time of the FEI Nominated Entries 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 appropriate application fee within their [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#). Applications will be charged seventy dollars (\$70.00) per application at the time of submission. **No applications will be accepted after April 7, 2023, at 11:59 EST.**
- 1.1.4.4 Owners of the applicant Horse(s) must execute the USEF Horse Participation Agreement ([ATTACHMENT B](#)) by the Nominated Entry Deadline.
- 1.1.4.5 The Athlete must certify, by signing the Application ([ATTACHMENT A](#)), that they have received, understand, and have read the Athlete Selection Procedures for the Team, 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 understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.
- 1.1.4.6 Horse Owner(s) eligible to be accredited for the Event must be an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing at the time of the Event until the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.4.7 The Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by June 20, 2023.
- 1.1.4.8 The Groom must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by June 20, 2023.
- 1.1.4.9 Any Athlete aged 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](#).
- 1.1.4.10 Any Athlete aged 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 trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to be considered for the FEI Nominated Entry must complete, or must have already completed, at least one of the following Selection Trials. The 2022 and 2023 Selection Trials, as published to all potential 2023 Pan American Games applicants on June 23, 2022 ([ATTACHMENT G](#)) and updated in **BOLD** on publication of these procedures, include the following:

### **2022**

|  |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| The Event at Rebecca Farm (USA)                  | CCI3*-L, CCI4*-L | JUL 20-24      |
| Land Rover Burghley Horse Trials (GBR)           | CCI5*-L          | AUG 31- SEP 04 |
| Blenheim Palace International Horse Trials (GBR) | CCI4*-L          | SEP 14-18      |
| FEI Eventing World Championships (ITL)           | CCI4*-L          | SEP 14-18      |
| Morven Park International (USA)                  | CCI4*-L          | OCT 05-09      |

|  |                  |           |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Military Boekelo-Enschede Horse Trials (NED) | CCI4*-L          | OCT 06-09 |
| Maryland International (USA)                 | CCI3*-L, CCI5*-L | OCT 12-16 |
| Galway Downs International Event (USA)       | CCI3*-L, CCI4*-L | NOV 02-06 |
| Tryon International 3-Day Event (USA)        | CCI3*-L, CCI4*-L | NOV 09-13 |

**2023**

|  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Twin Rivers Spring International (USA)</b>        | <b>CCI3*-L</b>   | <b>APR 13-16</b> |
| Ocala International 3-Day Festival of Eventing (USA) | CCI3*-L          | APR 20-23        |
| Land Rover Kentucky 3-Day Event (USA)                | CCI5*-L          | APR 26-30        |
| Badminton Horse Trials (GBR)                         | CCI5*-L          | MAY 04-08        |
| Tryon Spring International Horse Trials (USA)        | CCI3*-L, CCI4*-L | MAY 10-14        |
| Bromont CCI 3-Day Event (CAN)                        | CCI3*-L, CCI4*-L | JUN 07-11        |
| <b>Bramham International Horse Trials (GBR)</b>      | <b>CCI4*-L</b>   | <b>JUN 08-11</b> |
| Longines Luhmuhlen Horse Trials (GER)                | CCI5*-L          | JUN 14-18        |
| The Event at Rebecca Farm (USA)                      | CCI3*-L, CCI4*-L | JUL 19-23        |

The 2023 Pan American Games will run at the CCI3\* level for the Cross-Country Test and at the CCI4\* level for the Dressage and Jumping Tests. With this consideration, an additional qualifying result (MER) is required at a CCI4\*-S or a USEF Advanced Horse Trial for Athlete/Horse combinations that have only completed a CCI3\*-L between January 1, 2022, and July 25, 2023.

Any Athlete wishing to use a European CCI3\*-L or CCI4\*-L as a Selection Trial must make the request in writing to Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Elite Program ([gstobbs@usef.org](mailto:gstobbs@usef.org)) no less than 30 days prior to the start of the competition.

Requests will be reviewed by the Eventing Selectors and then forwarded to the USEF Eventing Department for determination.

Additional competitions may be identified as Selection Trials should it become necessary. Recommendations will be made to the USEF Eventing Department and approved by the Eventing Selectors and the Eventing Managing Director. Notification will be given at least 30 days prior to the start of the Selection Trial.

#### 1.2.2. Describe how Athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1:

Athletes must qualify for the 2022 Selection Trials per the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#) [25<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2022]

Athletes must qualify for the 2023 Selection Trials per the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#) [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023].

#### 1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

**1.3.1. FEI Nominated Entry** (Date TBD, and will be distributed via email to the applicants in a timely manner when published) - **Selection of Team and Alternates**

The Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and the Team Veterinarian (and member(s) of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested by the Team Veterinarian), will recommend at least four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations to be named to the Team and up to the maximum number of Alternates able to be nominated on the FEI Nominated Entry for recommendation to 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). These combinations will make up the FEI Nominated Entry which will be forwarded to the FEI no later than DATE TBD.

The Selectors, in evaluating Athlete/Horse combinations to be named to the Team and as Alternates, will base their evaluations on the following factors ("Factors") in no priority order:

- i. The overall performance and soundness of the Athlete/Horse combination in those 2022 and 2023 competitions designated as Selection Trials within these Procedures, with emphasis on dressage scores, current fitness, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed. Performance may be evaluated using the combination's competition records or EquiRating's High Performance Metrics, including ELO and HPR Scores.
- ii. The previous international travel and competition 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.
- iii. Athlete's fitness.
- iv. The Athlete/Horse combination's will to win and the suitability of the combination to win an Individual Medal or contribute to a Team Medal at the Event.
- v. The willingness of the Athlete to work within the confines of the Event accreditation allocation and restrictions.

The Selectors may name "Direct Alternate Horse(s)" for an Athlete(s) named to the Team. A Direct Alternate Horse would be an automatic replacement should the original Horse on which an Athlete was named requires removal.

The Team named to the FEI Definite Entry will be the group named here unless they are removed for one of the reasons in Section 3 "Reasons for Removal."

Alternate List: In addition to recommending the FEI Nominated Entry, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and the Team Veterinarian (and members of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested by the Team Veterinarian), may recommend Athletes to serve as Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations for the FEI Nominated Entry, upon the recommendation of 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).

Chef d'Equipe Permissions: Once Athlete/Horse combinations have been named to the Team, they will come under the leadership of the Chef d'Equipe through the conclusion of the Event. The Athlete must discuss their training, competition, and coaching schedule with the Chef d'Equipe. The Chef d'Equipe will work with the Athlete to develop a training, competition, and coaching schedule and deviations must be communicated to and approved by the Chef d'Equipe.

**1.3.2 FEI Definite Entry** (Date TBD and will be distributed via email to the applicants when published by the FEI).

By no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entries for the Event, the current fitness, soundness, and ability of Athlete/Horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entry will be evaluated by the Selectors to determine if they are able to meet the standards for the Event, e.g., dressage scores, distance, size, and complexity of obstacles, and the required speed to avoid time penalties. At this time, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and the Team Veterinarian (and members of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) will nominate the four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations to the Team from the FEI Nominated Entry to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee), that will make a recommendation to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors), that will have final approval for entry into the Event.

In addition to nominating the Team, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and the Team Veterinarian (and members of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested), will also recommend to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee), that will make a recommendation to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors), that will have final approval of the Alternate Athlete/Horse combination(s) to serve as the Traveling Alternate(s).

Based upon the Selectors' evaluation and their nominations, the recommendation of 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 USEF will nominate to the USOPC and/or FEI as required the Team of four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations to be entered under the FEI Rules for the Event.

## 2. DISCRETIONAY SELECTION

2.1. **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** The option of discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible for the Event.

2.2. **Define the discretionary criteria to be used:**

2.2.1. The overall performance and soundness of the Athlete/Horse combination in those 2022 and 2023 competitions designated as Selection Trials within these Procedures, with emphasis on dressage scores, current fitness, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed.

Performance may be evaluated using the combination's competition records or EquiRating's High Performance Metrics, including ELO and HPR Scores from those 2022 and 2023 competitions designated as Selection Trials within these Procedures.

Soundness: Horses that are candidates for Selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian and a member of the Veterinarian Advisory Panel and a Selector upon the request of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, or USEF Eventing Sport Committee. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Veterinarian Advisory Panel 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 Group approved by the Board of Directors).

Team Veterinarian Request: Applicants, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of veterinary records of Horses under 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 under consideration for selection.

Applicants, 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 the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Eventing Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors).

Veterinary Treatment: Once a Horse(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry, all selected 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 directive and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe, and the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian 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 Group approved by the Board of Directors).

2.2.2. The previous international travel and competition 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.

2.2.3. Athlete's Fitness:

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 Group 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 Group approved by the Board of Directors).

2.2.4. The Athlete/Horse combination's will to win and the suitability of the combination to win an Individual Medal or contribute to a Team Medal at the Event.

2.2.5. The willingness of the Athlete to work within the confines of the Event accreditation allocation and restrictions.

2.3. Name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for making selection recommendations, along with a complete list of the members' titles (see [ATTACHMENT X](#) for a complete listing of members):

- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Eventing Veterinary Panel
- USEF Eventing Team Veterinarian
- 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

**2.3.1. 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 committee member'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 committee 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. 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 USEF Selector appointment process.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES OR HORSES

- 3.1 Prior to the acceptance of the nomination by the USOPC, USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An Athlete or Horse that is nominated to the Team by the USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. 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) and/or 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 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 member of the Veterinary Advisory Panel. 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.
- 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 selection procedures.
- 3.1.12. Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Advisory Panel.
- 3.1.13. Failure to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian or a member of the Veterinary Advisory Panel prior to the Horse receiving veterinary treatment by any veterinarian who is not the Team Veterinarian or a member of the Veterinary Advisory Panel. 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 set deadlines from the USEF Eventing Department regarding logistical information. Deadlines will be communicated via email to the Athlete.
- 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 Once FEI Nominated Entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, 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 at: [www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents](http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents)

- 3.2.1. Voluntary withdrawal. An Athlete must submit a written to the USEF CEO
- 3.2.2. Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- 3.2.3. Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian.
- 3.2.4. Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
- 3.2.5. Violation of the USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- 3.3 An Athlete may be removed as a Nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, 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 SafeSport Policy, as applicable.

#### 4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES 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 FEI Nominated Entry:**

Once the Team for the Event has been announced and prior to the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry (Date TBD and will be distributed via email to the applicants) Athlete/Horse combinations may be replaced in accordance with the process cited for any of the reasons outlined in Section 3 (Reasons for Removal). If an Athlete on the Team has been named with a “Direct Alternate Horse” and the Horse on which they were initially named to the Team must be replaced, the Horse will be replaced by the Direct Alternate Horse.

Any replacements for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian (and member(s) of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested by the Team Veterinarian).

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

**4.1.2 Prior to acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries:**

After the Team and Alternates for the Event have been announced and prior to the closing date for the USOPC Final Entries, Team members may only be replaced with Alternate Athlete and/or Horse combinations for veterinary or medical reasons, or for breach of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#), [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), for failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement, or other exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Team for the event, but only with the approval of the Chef d'Equipe and with the recommendation of at least three (3) of the five (5) Selectors, and designated members of the Eventing Sport Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee), and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors), and the USOPC.

Any replacements for veterinary reasons must also be approved by the Team Veterinarian (and members of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested).

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

**4.1.3 After Acceptance of Nomination by the USOPC and until the Day of the First Horse Inspection:**

After acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the day of the First Horse Inspection or the Last Date of Replacements (unless an earlier date is specified in the Games' Definite Schedule) the USEF has the ability to recommend to the FEI to replace Athlete/Horse combinations on the FEI Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with majority approval of the Selectors, and in accordance with the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#) [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023] and/or for reasons set forth in Section 3 and subject to approval by the U.S. Equestrian 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 named to the Team, the Alternate List, and the FEI Definite Entry and may recommend that a replacement be made. The Chef d'Equipe and

Selectors when evaluating Athletes and Horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section 3.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Veterinary Advisory Panel.

Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by USEF.

4.1.4 **Declaration of Starters:** Will be done in accordance with Article 529 of the [FEI Rules for Eventing](#) [26<sup>th</sup> edition - effective January 01, 2023]. At this point the Chef d'Equipe will declare the starting order within the Team.

4.1.5 **After the Declaration of Starters and up to two (2) hours before the starting time of the Dressage Phase:**

Team members may only be replaced with the Travelling Alternate. However, the reason for a replacement must only be because either an Athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for replacement, or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a replacement is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur because of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the resources available at the time. Replacements 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 Rules for Eventing or for reasons set forth in Section 3.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any 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, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., 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 2023 Pan American Games:

Application ([ATTACHMENT A](#))

USEF Horse Participation Agreement ([ATTACHMENT B](#))

*Horse Owners must also sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement.*

USEF Code of Conduct ([ATTACHMENT C](#))

USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification ([ATTACHMENT D](#))

USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures (ATTACHMENT F)

## 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/pan-american-games>. *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: September 10, 2023.

## 9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

- 9.1 **Mandatory Outing(s)** - All Team and Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations will be required to demonstrate their continued preparation, soundness, and ability by competing at a Mandatory Outing(s), except as explained below. By no later than August 1, 2023, all details regarding the Mandatory Outing(s) will be posted on the [USEF Website](#) and distributed via email to applicants. At present, it is anticipated that the Mandatory Outing(s) will be a CCI3\*-S, an Advanced Horse Trial(s), or Advanced Combined Test (s) to be held sometime after August 1, 2023.
- 9.2 **Mandatory Training Session(s)** - All Team and Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations are required to participate in Mandatory Training except as explained below. By no later than August 1, 2023, relevant details of the Mandatory Training session(s) will be circulated to the Team and Alternates. At present, it is envisioned that a Mandatory Training Session(s) will be held sometime after September 1, 2023, in the United States.
- 9.3 An Athlete/Horse combination that is not able to participate in the Mandatory Outing(s) or Training Session(s) because of veterinary, medical, or family emergencies or for logistical reasons may request special consideration for selection by submitting a written request prior to or during the Mandatory Outing(s) or Training Session(s) to the Selectors who 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 members of the Veterinary Advisory Panel, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) or physician(s) approved by USEF.

In the event the Selectors disapprove the applicant's request, 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, IPC, Panam Sports, 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/High Performance 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/High Performance 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](http://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.

#### **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**

Selection 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, IPC, Panam Sports, 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, IPC, Panam Sports, 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 the 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

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding Athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between Athletes and USEF.


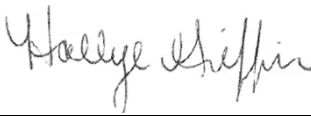
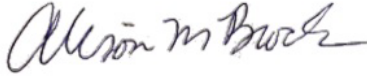
To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: +1 (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

**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 |   | 5/15/23 |
| Director of FEI Sport                            | Hallye Griffin     |  | 5/15/23 |
| USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative* | Allison Brock      |  | 5/15/23 |

*\*If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC 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 AAC 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](mailto:gstobbs@usef.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usef.org](http://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** – the Chef d'Equipe is appointed by the USEF 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 VRs by Team Veterinarians and other official team members.
- The declaration and the scratching of Athletes and Horses entered for the Competitions at CIOs, FEI Championships, FEI Regional, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and at CIs if appointed.
- The general management, fitness, and behavior of Athletes, especially those under the age of 18. In the case of Athletes under the age of 18, the Chef d'Equipe are responsible for the behavior of both their teams and individuals for the entire duration of the Event and are obliged to stay with their teams and individuals.
- Notifying the OC which Athletes and Horses have been selected to start in Team Competitions.

**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.

**EVENT** – The 2023 Pan American Games.

**EVENTING ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE** – An Athlete will be considered an Eventing Athlete Representative as defined by the USEF in Part IV-Athletes, Bylaw 401 of its Bylaws as eligible for membership on a “designated committee” if he/she has:



- i) Within the past ten (10) years, represented the United States in the Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by the FEI for which a competitive selection process was administered by the USEF  
and/or
- ii) Within the past twenty-four (24) months, demonstrated that they are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the NGB's national championship or a team selection competition for the events specified in paragraph (i) above.

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

**FEI DEFINITE ENTRY** - this is the date by which you must submit the final selection of Athletes and Horses that will participate in this Event.

**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 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 Horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE** - a competitive record over the past 2 - 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.

**LOSS OF FORM** - deterioration in performance, demonstrated inability to produce results at the level at which the combination was performing at the time at which they were selected.

**MER** – Minimum Eligibility Requirement.

**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 international 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 demanded.

**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 2023 Pan American Games U.S. Eventing Team.

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

**USEF** – United States Equestrian Federation, Inc.

**USEF EVENTING SELECTORS** - Five (5) individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF CEO the recommendation of the USEF Eventing Sport Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee). Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct ([ATTACHMENT C](#)) and the [USEF Code of Ethics](#) and [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policies](#) and the USEF Safe Sport Policy ([ATTACHMENT E](#)). These Selectors are members of the Eventing community who are knowledgeable and experienced in Eventing at the international level.

The Selectors will make recommendations to the Eventing Sport Committee (or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Eventing Sport Committee) based on consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian, and when appropriate, the Veterinary Advisory Panel.

**USOPC** – United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.