



2025 USEF Pony Jumper National Championships Selection Procedures

Modifications in *blue italics*

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

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

The USEF Pony Jumper Championships (Championships) will be held in conjunction with the United States Pony Finals, Lexington, in Kentucky August 7-9, 2025. A Team Championship and an Individual Championship will be offered. The Team Championship will be a modified Nation's Cup format (two rounds on the same day). The Individual Championship will be a multi-round competition.

I. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Athletes wishing to represent a zone team in the USEF Pony Jumper Championships must be U.S. citizens.
- B. The athlete and individual owner(s) must be a current USEF Active member in good standing (see GR128) at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Event.
- C. The athlete must be a current USHJA member (see JP 100.1) at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Event.
- D. The zone of each athlete is determined by the athlete's point state as recorded with USEF as of December 1, 2024 (See JP 100.7). An athlete may apply to USEF for permission to change their point state.
- E. The pony must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR 1102, in good standing under USEF rules, and shown under the owner of record.
- F. The pony must be registered with USHJA (see JP 100.2), and the pony owner must be an active member of USHJA (see GR 1110) at the time of application and through the conclusion of the event.
- G. The pony must have a valid USEF measurement card (accordance with Subchapter HJ-7 Measurement) prior to entry in any class used for qualifying and at the time of application.
- H. Category Requirements:
 - a. *Small Pony Category: small ponies are not to exceed 12.2 hands, no junior over 12 years of age, as determined under GR103, may ride in the small pony category, fence heights .60-.65m, not to exceed .70m.*
 - b. *Medium Pony Category: medium ponies are not to exceed 13.2 hands, no junior over 14 years of age, as determined under GR103, may ride in the medium pony category, fence heights .70-.75m not to exceed .80m.*
 - c. *Large Pony Category: large ponies are not to exceed 14.2 hands, no junior over 16 years of age, as determined under GR103, may ride in the large pony category, fence heights .80-.85m not to exceed .90m.*
 - d. *1.05m Category: ponies not to exceed 14.2 hands, riders under the age of 18 years, as determined under GR103, may compete in the 1.05m category. Fence heights not to exceed 1.15m.*
- I. **Additional USPC Requirements:** Athletes must be current members in good standing of USPC with a minimum D3 rating and declare their intent to compete for USPC by March 10, 2025. Athletes must

be members of USEF and ponies must be recorded with USEF at the time of declaring their intent to compete for USPC. USPC declared athletes will no longer be eligible to compete for their home Zone for the 2025 USEF Pony Jumper Championships qualifying period.

- J. Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championships must complete and submit an application on-line at www.usef.org and pay the requisite application fee no later than *July 1, 2025, at 5:00PM EST*. The application fee is ten dollars (\$10.00), per application. By submitting this application, the athlete and parent or legal guardian certifies that they have read, understand, and agree to be bound by the Selection Procedures and the USEF Code of Conduct; the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification; the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy.

II. **SELECTION**

- A. Qualifying period – The qualifying period for the 2025 USEF Pony Jumper National Championships will be September 1, 2024 to *July 1, 2025*. The start date of a competition is used to determine if a qualifying class falls within a qualifying period. For example, if a competition starts on July 1, and the qualifying class is on July 2, the class will be included in a qualifying period that ends on July 1.
 - a. *To qualify for the 2025 USEF Pony Jumper National Championships athlete/pony combinations must have completed, without have being eliminated, retired, or withdrawn, a minimum of four (4) jumper classes, at their respective category's height or above, at two (2) different USEF or FEI licensed competitions within the qualifying period provided they meet the requirements outlined in Section I.*
- B. Verification of Results - It is the responsibility of the athlete to verify the accuracy of their results. USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported results. If any errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USEF office immediately. Errors must be reported no more than three (3) business days after the results are posted.

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

- A. Zone Teams
 - a. Teams will consist of a minimum of three (3) athlete/pony combinations but not more than four (4) athlete/pony combinations.
 - b. All members of the Zone Team will participate in the Team Championship and the Individual Championship.
 - c. *Teams will be formed by zone from the list of applied athlete/pony combinations regardless of height category. (For example, a team could consist of one small pony, two medium ponies, and one large pony or any combination thereof.)*
- B. Combined Zone Teams
 - a. Zones unable to field a team may send up to two (2) athlete/pony combinations.
 - i. USEF may combine Individual athlete/pony combinations into Combined Zone Teams.
 - ii. USEF will make the final decision on the method used to combine these athlete/pony combinations into teams either by combining them with other additional athlete/pony combinations or adding them to a Zone Team or Combined Zone Team which has fewer than four (4) athlete/pony combinations.
- C. Athletes are eligible to compete with only one (1) pony at the USEF Pony Jumper Championships.
- D. If an Athlete declines to represent a Zone, they are ineligible to compete in the USEF Pony Jumper Championships as an individual.

- E. Chefs d'Equipe: Each team will be represented by a Chef d'Equipe, who will be selected by USEF.
- F. Zone Selection. By no later than *July 28, 2025*, USEF will confirm the athlete/pony selections based on the list of eligible applicant athlete/pony combinations per zone.
- G. Substitutions
 - a. Pony substitution requests from an athlete will only be considered if submitted between July 28, 2025 and the entry deadline (TBD, 2025). If an athlete's first choice pony is not available, the athlete may request to be considered for selection on another pony. Ponies submitted for consideration must meet the minimum eligibility and qualifying criteria for the appropriate category, though not necessarily as a combination with the athlete.
 - i. The request must be in writing to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs; ekeating@usef.org
 - ii. Athlete/pony combinations must meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements outlined in Section I with exception to application deadlines.
 - iii. The request will be reviewed by the nonconflicted members of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and final approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. In making their recommendation, the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees will evaluate the past performance of the athlete and horse, including the ability to jump the size and difficulty of obstacles, the complexity of the course(s) and the required speed to avoid time penalties. The impact on other athletes already qualified / selected will also be considered.
- H. Extraordinary Requests – Extraordinary requests from an athlete to be considered for selection to the USEF Pony Jumper Championships will only be considered if submitted between *July 28, 2025 and the entry deadline (TBD, 2025)* and only when the list of eligible athlete/horse combinations on the zone's Final applied list has been exhausted.
 - a. The request must be in writing to Erin Keating, Director Jumping Development Programs; ekeating@usef.org.
 - b. Athlete/pony combinations must meet the Minimum Eligibility Requirements outlined in Section I with exception to application deadlines.
 - c. The request will be reviewed by the nonconflicted members of the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees and final approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. In making their recommendation, the USEF Jumping Sport Committee or its designees will evaluate the past performance of the athlete and horse, including the ability to jump the size and difficulty of obstacles, the complexity of the course(s) and the required speed to avoid time penalties. The impact on other athletes already qualified / selected will also be considered.

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

V. VETERINARY INSPECTION:

- A. There will be a veterinary inspection at the USEF Pony Jumper Championships.
- B. Time and location for the veterinary inspection will be included in the USEF Pony Jumper Championships prize list.
- C. Ponies failing the veterinary inspection will not be permitted to compete.

VI. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website www.usef.org. Athletes wishing to file a grievance a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the [Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate](#) and Grievance Form. For procedural

guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

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

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

Please click [here](#) to view Pony Jumper Zone Coordinator contact information

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

X. 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 | | |
| USEF Managing Director of Jumping | Lizzy Chesson | | |