

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.  
SELECTION PROCEDURE**

**2021  
Eventing Youth Team Challenge**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to a Team:**

- 1. Citizenship:** The athlete must be a Citizen of the United States pursuant to and in compliance with FEI General Regulations Article 119, which can be found on the FEI's website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org), at the time of area declaration, team selection(s), and until the conclusion of the final 2021 25 and Under Eventing Team Challenge ("the Events").
- 2. Minimum standards for participation CCIO1\***
  - a. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on a CCIO1\* Team must be qualified to compete per the USEF Eventing Rules.
  - b. Athletes wishing to compete in the Event must have been born on or between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2007.
  - c. A horse must be a minimum of five (5) years old (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) (see FEI Rules for Eventing, [25<sup>th</sup> Edition. Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020] (Article 503.4 of the FEI Eventing Rules).
- 3. Minimum standards for participation CCIO2\***
  - a. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on a CCIO2\* Team must be qualified to compete per the USEF Eventing Rules.
  - b. Athletes wishing to compete in the Event must have been born on or between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2007.
  - c. A horse must be a minimum of six (6) years old (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) (see FEI Rules for Eventing, [25<sup>th</sup> Edition. Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020] (Article 503.4 of the FEI Eventing Rules).
- 4. Minimum standards for participation CCIO3\***
  - a. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on a CCIO3\* Team must be qualified to compete per the USEF Eventing Rules.
  - b. Athletes wishing to compete in the Event must have been born on or between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2005.
  - c. A horse must be a minimum of six (6) years old (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) (see FEI Rules for Eventing, [25<sup>th</sup> Edition. Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020] (Article 503.4 of the FEI Eventing Rules).
- 5. Other Requirements:**
  - a. A horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI, recorded with the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") pursuant to USEF GR1102, and fully registered with the USEA at the time of team selection(s), and until the conclusion of the Events
  - b. Horses will be required to have a valid FEI Passport or National Passport at the time of selection.
  - c. The athlete must be registered and in good standing with the FEI, USEF, the United States Eventing Association ("USEA").
  - d. Athletes between the FEI ages 14-21 must be members of his/her Area Young Rider Program at the time of area declaration, team selection(s), and until the conclusion of the Events.
  - e. The owner of the horse must be a member in good standing of the USEF at the time of team selection(s), and until the conclusion of the Events.
  - f. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Events.
  - g. Area Declaration - Athletes wishing to represent an Area at the Events must submit an Application online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) through their USEF Account no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time on January 29, 2021 and will be charged \$50.00 per declaration. The Athlete's Area will automatically be determined by the Athlete's legal address, as recorded with the USEF, unless changed by the Athlete at the time of Area Declaration.
    - 1. NO AREA DECLARATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5:00 PM EDT ON January 29, 2021.**
  - h. The athlete, and parent if applicable, shall certify by signing the Events Area Declaration, that

1. he or she they has received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Selection Procedure for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B) and the Safe Sport Policy, which can be found at <http://safesport.usef.org>, and
2. understands those documents, and agrees to be bound by them. Every USEF adult member with a Competing Membership must complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Training.

## **B. Selection of athletes**

1. The USEA Area Selectors' ("Selectors"), in evaluating athlete/horse combinations to be named to the Team, as defined in Section II B(A) below and the Reserve List, as defined in Section IIB(a) below, will base their evaluations on the following factors ("Factors"):

1. The overall performance and soundness of the athlete/horse combination in competition 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;
2. The previous experience of the athlete/horse combination, preference may be given to athlete/horse combinations who have demonstrated ability to succeed in multiple eventing competitions;
3. Athlete's fitness; and
4. The athlete/horse combination's will to win and the suitability of the combination to win the Event(s) or contribute to a team placing at the Event(s).
5. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Event accreditation allocation and restrictions.

2. If all factors are equal between two athlete/horse combinations, the participation of the athlete in other Area Young Rider programs or activities, i.e., fundraising, securing of team sponsorship etc., may be considered, and posted on the Area website prior to January 10 of the competition year.

3. The names of the Area Selectors must be sent to USEF and posted to Area websites no later than January 10 of the competition year. The Selectors will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed by the USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designees and the USEF, and approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council or its designees, (see Attachment E for a list of USEF committees, their roles and list of members).

## **II. COMPETITION ENTRY**

### **A. Nominated Entry**

- a. Short Format: At the Definite Entry Date of each short format competition, Areas shall submit a list of athlete/horse combinations of up to 12 athletes and horses (the "Nominated Entry") to USEF. Athletes are selected based on above section 1.B.1.1.
- b. Long Format: At the Definite Entry Date of the long format competition, Areas shall submit a list of athlete/horse combinations of up to 12 athletes and horses (the "Nominated Entry") to USEF. Athletes are selected based on above section 1.B.1.1.

### **B. Definite Entry**

- a. Short Format:
  - i. *Areas may have up to two teams. Each team will be comprised of a minimum of three athletes and a maximum of four athletes.*
  - ii. Two days prior to the start of the Event, the Selectors will name up to the maximum number of athlete/horse combinations along with up to two additional reserve horses ( the "Reserve List") to be able to be entered under the Definite Schedule for the Event ("the Team"). The two additional horses must be qualified with one of the competing athletes from the nominated entries. ***The Area has the discretion to name the reserve athletes to either Area team.***
- b. Long Format:
  - i. *Areas may only have one team comprised of a minimum of three athletes and a maximum of four athletes.*

- ii. Two days prior to the start of the Event, the Selectors will name up to the maximum number of athlete/horse combinations along with up to two additional reserve horses to be able to be entered under the Definite Schedule for the Event (“the Team”). The two additional horses must be qualified with one of the competing athletes from the nominated entries.

#### C. Combining of Areas to Form Teams

- a. For Areas not able to field teams, the following options are available:
  - i. The Area may send one or two individual athlete/horse combinations.
  - ii. Areas only able to field individual athlete/horse combinations (i.e. they do not have enough athlete/horse combinations to make up a team) may be combined with athlete/horse combinations from other areas by USEF Eventing department staff *in consultation with the USEA CEO* at the time of definite entries in order to create a full team.
  - iii. Further changes may be made, pending approval of all effected parties, including all athletes on the team, at the first meeting of the Chefs d’Equipe.

#### D. Declaration of Starters

- a. Once at the Event venue, and after the Horse Inspection and cross-country course inspection, the Chef d’Equipe will declare the team of four athlete/horse combinations and the two individual athlete/horse combinations for the Event. If an Athlete has presented at the Horse Inspection more Horses than he is allowed to ride, the Chef d’Equipe must declare in writing the names of the Horses definitely starting.

### III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

A. An athlete/horse combination whose name is submitted on an Area’s Nominated Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:

1. Voluntary withdrawal. The athlete must advise the USEF (Christina Vaughn, Director Eventing Performance and Program Support – [cvaughn@usef.org](mailto:cvaughn@usef.org)) of their withdrawal in writing.
2. Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B).
3. *For the long format*, Injury or illness as determined by a Physician approved by the Area (“Area Physician”). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by the Area Physician, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
4. *For the long format*, Injury or illness of the horse as determined by a Veterinarian approved by the Area (“Area Veterinarian”). If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by an Area Veterinarian, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
5. Failure to adhere to all USOPC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA, and/or WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including, if applicable, participation in the out-of-competition testing as required by the FEI and/or WADA Rules.
6. Any removal other than voluntary withdrawal must have the recommendation of the USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designees and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
7. Violation of the Safe Sport Policy or U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Code.

In these procedures, the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section III Substitution of Athletes.

An athlete removed from the Area’s Nominated Entry pursuant to this provision may have the right to a hearing per the USEF’s Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605 or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

**B. An athlete may be removed at any time for violation of FEI and/or WADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the FEI.** Athletes must adhere to all IOC, USOPC, USEF, FEI, USADA, and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, and may be drug tested. Please see the USADA website [www.usada.org](http://www.usada.org) for more information or contact Steven Morrissey with any questions at: (859) 225.7686 or [smorrissey@usef.org](mailto:smorrissey@usef.org).

### IV. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES

**A. Following is the process by which the substitute pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** Each Area’s list of athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athletes for that 2021 25 and Under Eventing Team Challenge Selection Procedures

Area. Only athletes that completed an Area Declaration by the specified deadline in **January 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. eastern** may ride for that Area.

**B. Substitute athlete/horse combinations will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:**

- 1. Prior to the Definite Entries:** Prior to the Definite Entries, the Area has the discretion to substitute athlete/horse combinations for the reasons set forth in Section III.A.
  - a. Openings, if they occur, whether by voluntary withdrawal or removal, will be filled according to the Area's list of athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entry.
  - b. Any substitution for reasons set forth in Section III.A except by voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the USEF Managing Director of Eventing.
  
- 2. After the Definite Entries and until one (1) hour before the Horse Inspection:**

During this time period, Athlete/horse combinations named to the Team may only be substituted with Individual athlete/horse combinations and Individual athlete/horse combinations may only be substituted by Team members. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either the rider is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as the result of a veterinary problem, which may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by the recommendation of the Area Coach and Chef d'Equipe and may only be made in accordance with Article 509.2.2 of the FEI Eventing Rules [25th Edition, Effective 1st January 2020] or for reasons set forth in Section II. A and subject to approval by the USEF Managing Director of Eventing.
  
- 3. After the Declaration of Starters and prior to two hours before the first Athlete is scheduled to perform his Dressage Test on the day in which the Athlete in question has been drawn to take part (Article 530.2):**

After the declaration of starters, a change in the composition of a team or a change of which Horse and Athlete will ride must comply with the following:

  - a. The substitution must be made at least two hours before the first Athlete is scheduled to perform his Dressage Test on the day on which the Athlete in question has been drawn to take part.
  - b. The Technical Delegate, in consultation with the Ground Jury, must approve the substitution.

**C. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete/horse combination substitution determinations:**

Group or committee who determines a substitution prior to and after the Definite Entries: The Area Selectors in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, Team Coach, and/or USEF Managing Director of Eventing.

**V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** – USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the prize giving ceremony of the Event.

**VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** – The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and are included as attachments:

- Area Declaration (Attachment A)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B)

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

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to the USEA Area Selectors, members of the USEF Eventing Sport Committee and the USEF International Disciplines Council, USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies (Attachment F) and Safe Sport Policy.

**VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES** – The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date:

- USEF website: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF Board of Directors.
- Other: The Procedure and Application Packet will also be available by mail or email upon request.

**VIII. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS -**

Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA Rules, if applicable.



**IX. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES** – The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Eventing Sport Committee, USEF International Disciplines Council, and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment E for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**X. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES** – The USEF Bylaws and Rules can be found on the USEF’s website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging 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](mailto:epratt@usef.org). Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org), or visit [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org) for guidance as to the USOPC grievance processes.

**XI. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER** – These procedures are based on the FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in 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.

**XIII. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES**

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

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEA President or Chief Executive Officer	Rob Burk		1/5/2021
USEF President	Murray S. Kessler		12/17/2020

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Christina Vaughn, USEF Director, Eventing Performance and Program Support, USEF, 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY, 40511, Phone (859)225-6917, Email [cvaughn@usef.org](mailto:cvaughn@usef.org).

DEFINITIONS

**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.

**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.

**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 as a result of his training; whether he moves forward, slows down, turns, and jumps any obstacle with composure, obedience, and confidence in himself and the athlete.

**SPEED** – evidence that in the international record of the horse/athlete combination, and in the final trials for the Team, that the horse/athlete combination shows the ability to complete the Event distances at the speed demanded.