



2021 USEF Endurance National Championships and North American Endurance Championships Qualifying Requirements **Senior and Young Rider**

*Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on 13th November 2020.
Updated 12th August 2021.*

The 2021 Championship (Championships) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on 13th November 2020, unless stated otherwise. This Championship qualifying criteria pertains to the following divisions:

- USEF Young Rider Endurance National Championship CEIYJ1*
- USEF Young Rider Endurance National Championship CEIYJ2*
- USEF Senior Endurance National Championship CEI1*
- USEF Senior Endurance National Championship CEI2*

Additionally, the USEF will host the 2021 North American Endurance Championships (NAEC), which is a team competition, similar to the FEI Nations Cup format. The NAEC will be open to teams from [USEF Zones](#), Canada, and Mexico as well as potentially other National Federations from [FEI Group IV](#).

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Qualifying Requirements, please contact Steven Morrissey, Director of Endurance (smorrissey@usef.org / 859.225.7686). These Championships will be conducted under USEF and FEI Rules except where outlined herein.

I. Application of Intent:

1. In order to be considered for these Championships, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than **October 31, 2021**. Applications are made available on the USEF website after February 1, 2021.
 - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 5, 2021 will be free of charge.
 - b. Applications received after May 5, 2021 but on or before **October 31, 2021** will be free of charge.
 - c. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received.
2. No applications will be accepted after **October 31, 2021** and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. To clarify, only those athletes who submit an application of intent are allowed to compete for National Championships awards and on a USEF Zone Team for the North American Endurance Championships.

II. Minimum Requirements:

1. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championships. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF and FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
3. Athletes and horses must be eligible to compete at their respective level under the [FEI Endurance Rules effective July 1, 2020](#) no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry of the event.

4. Horse Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation through the conclusion of the Championships and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.
5. It is the responsibility of the athletes and owners of horses to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#), [FEI Rules](#), [FEI CEI Qualifying Requirements](#), USEF Code of Conduct, and [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
6. USEF members 18-years-old and older, with a Competing Membership, are required to follow the USEF Safe Sport Policy, which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
7. As of January 1, 2020, athletes 18 years of age or older and selected by the USEF to compete on a 2021 USEF Zone Team for the NAEC, are required to comply with the updated USEF Background Check Policy. Athletes are strongly encouraged to review the [Background Check Policy Requirements](#) for more information.

III. **Qualifying System.**

Qualifying Period:

1. The qualifying period shall begin June 1, 2020 and end on **October 31, 2021**.
2. Please note that the qualifying period dates are tentative, awaiting confirmation of the venue and date of the 2021 event as well as decisions made regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The deadline for the qualifying period will be posted once the dates of the Championships are approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Qualifying Competitions:

1. Qualifying Competitions are considered any senior or young rider CEI1*, CEI2*, and CEI3* competitions as well as CEIO and FEI Championships both within and outside of the USA during the qualifying period.
2. The FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) (please note that the 2021 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020).

Score Calculation for the NAEC:

1. Ranking is established by taking into account all the results of an athlete, regardless of the horse they ride in competition, from a CEI1*/CEIYJ1*, CEI2*/CEIYJ2*, CEI3*/CEIYJ3*, FEI Championships, and CEIO competitions held within and outside of the U.S. beginning on June 1, 2020.
2. USEF will automatically track points earned.
3. Qualifying points may be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.
4. Qualifying points are earned when an athlete/horse combination receives a final score/position/placing (i.e., first, second, third, fourth, etc.).
5. Athlete/horse combinations will not receive a '0' on the ranking list or be placed on the ranking if eliminated due to a:
 - Withdrawal (WD)
 - Retirement (RET)
 - Disqualification (DSQ)
 - Finished Not Ranked (FNR)
 - Failed to Qualify (FTQ)
6. Points earned are calculated as follows:

Completion Points + Placement Points + Time Bonus Points = Ranking Score

- a. Completion Points: Points will be awarded to athletes who complete the competition entered and are based on the total distance competed as stated in the final results (i.e., 1 point = 1km). For example,
 - 160km competition = 160 points
 - 120km competition = 120 points
 - 103km competition = 103 points
 - 100km competition = 100 points

- b. Placements Points: Points will be awarded to athletes who complete the competition within the Top Ten of all finishers.
- The combination who is first place of all finishers: 100 points
 - The combination who is second place of all finishers: 90 points
 - The combination who is third place of all finishers: 80 points
 - The combination who is fourth place of all finishers: 70 points
 - The combination who is fifth place of all finishers: 60 points
 - The combination who is sixth place of all finishers: 50 points
 - The combination who is seventh place of all finishers: 40 points
 - The combination who is eighth place of all finishers: 30 points
 - The combination who is ninth place of all finishers: 20 points
 - The combination who is tenth place of all finishers: 10 points
 - Combinations finishing after tenth place will receive no Placement Points.
- c. Time Bonus Points are earned by athletes who complete the competition:
- The first placed combination shall receive 100 points
 - Combinations within 15 minutes of the Winning Time = 100 points
 - Over 15 minutes and within 30 minutes = 90 points
 - Over 30 minutes and within 45 minutes = 80 points
 - Over 45 minutes and within 60 minutes = 70 points
 - Over 60 minutes and within 75minutes = 60 points
 - Over 75 minutes and within 90 minutes = 50 points
 - Over 90 minutes and within 105 minutes = 40 points
 - Over 105 minutes and within 120 minutes = 30 points
 - Over 120 minutes and within 180 minutes = 20 points
 - In excess of 180 minutes = Zero (0) points

IV. **Additional Rules and Requirements.**

All [USEF Rules](#), [FEI Endurance Rules](#), [FEI General Regulations](#), and [FEI Veterinary Rules](#) must be followed when competing in a CEI event and these Championships.

Clean Sport

1. **Equine Anti-Doping:** Please be reminded that all horses registered with the FEI or USEF shall be subject to in-competition testing. FEI's philosophy is that horses must be "clean" at the time of competition. If seeking advice from a veterinarian, ensure he/she is a registered FEI veterinarian and is fully conversant with the FEI Veterinary Rules and the Prohibited Substance List.
2. **Human Anti-Doping:** Please be reminded that when you are competing under FEI rules, you (the human athlete) are subject to random, in-competition and out of competition drug testing. It is your responsibility to know if you are taking any medications on the FEI Prohibited Substance List. It is strongly recommended that you regularly visit the United States Anti-Doping Agency's (USADA) website, which contains a range of information on testing, regulations, and athlete rights. You should also regularly check the USADA web page that covers all changes to the anti-doping rules.

General:

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and Qualifying Requirements, USEF Code of Conduct, and [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) and [FEI Rules](#).
2. Athletes, horse owners and trainers will be required abide by the USEF Code of Conduct with entry to the Championships.
3. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).

4. USEF is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected, or stolen correspondence either electronic, postal, commercially shipped, or voice activated. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that all application, application fees, and qualifying competition scores have been received by published deadlines.

V. Invitations to the Championships.

National Championships:

1. All athletes that have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see "Application") and have qualified by the method outlined above (see "Qualifying System").
2. Athletes and horses must be eligible to compete at their respective level under the [FEI Endurance Rules effective July 1, 2020](#) no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule) of the event.

Invitation to compete on a USEF Zone Team for the North American Endurance Championships:

1. All athletes that have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see "Application") and have qualified by the method outlined above (see "Qualifying System") will be ranked according to results earned at CEIs during the qualifying period.
2. The Top 15 athletes from the Zone who accept the invitation are eligible to compete on a Zone Team. If an athlete declines an invitation, the next highest ranked athlete will be used to serve as a member of a Zone Team or as a substitute/replacement.
3. Following the end of the qualifying period but no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule), USEF will name the maximum number of combinations permitted to compete on a Zone Team based upon the athletes' ranking and per the division entered at the Championships.
4. The Zone of each athlete is determined by where the athlete is domiciled as recorded in the USEF database at the time the membership application is received, regardless of multiple temporary residences. Documentation (such as a Driver's License) may be requested to verify the domiciled address. A minor's or a dependent's domicile follows that of the parent or guardian who has lawful custody of the minor (unless the minor is emancipated from their parent/guardian and is self-supporting). Once a membership application has been submitted, a change in zone can only occur if the athlete's domicile changes. The athlete must notify the USEF Endurance Department in writing of the change in domicile, which will then be reviewed. Requests for reviewing a change in an athlete's domiciled address will be accepted no later than 14 days prior to the end of the qualifying period. USEF will issue a decision on the change in Zone within a reasonable time of the submission of the request. No requests for changes in Zone will be accepted after this date.

VI. USEF ZONE TEAMS:

U.S. athletes are strongly encouraged to review the 2021 North American Endurance Championships Format (found here) for competing in the NAEC.

Each Zone may enter up to three (3) Senior and three (3) Young Rider teams of three (3) to five (5) athlete/horse combinations. Invitations to compete on a Team will be based upon the athlete's ranking on the USEF Zone Ranking Lists no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule). The Top 15 athletes from the Zone who accept the invitation are eligible to compete on a Zone Team. If an athlete declines to compete, replacement/substitution of the vacant team position will be offered to the next listed qualified athlete from the ranking lists for that Zone.

Following the end of the qualifying period but no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule), USEF will name the maximum number of athlete/horse combinations permitted to compete on a Zone Team based upon the athletes' ranking on the USEF Zone Ranking Lists.

If a Zone is unable to field a team of three (3) to five (5) athlete/horse combinations, the Zone may apply to USEF to combine with another Zone, which is also unable to field a team. USEF will make the final decision to combine Zones no later than the first Chef d'Equipe meeting at the NAEC.

One Team Chef d'Equipe will be recommended from each Zone by the USEF Endurance Sport Committee in consultation with the Recognized Endurance Affiliate (if applicable) by TBD. One Zone Team Veterinarian will be recommended from each Zone via the USEF Sport Committee by the Zone Chef d'Equipe no later than TBD.

Each Zone Team may include an Assistant Chef d'Equipe and Assistant Team Veterinarian. The Zone Team Veterinarians and Zone Assistant Team Veterinarians must have an FEI Permitted Veterinarian card no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule).

The U.S. Zone Team Chefs d'Equipe must declare to the USEF Endurance Department all Team Staff (i.e., Assistant Chefs d'Equipe, Assistant Team Veterinarians, Farriers, and Human or Equine Physios) no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule).

Every member of a U.S. Zone Team Staff, including the Assistant Chef d'Equipe and Assistant Team Veterinarian, shall successfully complete a criminal background check and Safe Sport training as required by the [Safe Sport Policy](#) prior to arrival to the NAEC.

VII. Competition information:

1. The date and location of the Championships will be announced on the USEF website no later than April 30, 2021.
2. Horses will be examined for soundness during the First Horse Inspection. Please refer to the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#) on Horse Inspection Procedures.
3. Championship Format for the NAEC is available on the [USEF website](#) by 16th November 2020.
4. A Zone's Final Ranking and/or ranked list of athletes will comprise the pool of replacement / substitute athletes for that Zone based upon the FEI Definite Entry date for the NAEC.
5. After the acceptance of the Definite Entries and up to one (1) hour before the First Horse Inspection: Replacements / Substitutions for the National Championships and NAEC will be made according to the FEI Endurance Rules.
6. The Declaration of Starters for the NAEC will be done in accordance with the FEI Endurance Rules.
7. After the Declaration of Starters for the NAEC and up to two (2) hours before the scheduled start of the competition: Replacements / Substitutions for the National Championships and NAEC will be made according to the FEI Endurance Rules.

National Championships Awards:

1. National Champions & Reserve National Champions: Awarded to the two highest placed US competitors in the CEI1*, CEIYJ1*, CEI2*, and CEIYJ2*.
2. Individual placings will be awarded to the top 12 U.S. competitors in the overall order of finish in the CEI1*, CEIYJ1*, CEI2*, and CEIYJ2*.

NAEC Awards:

1. Team Awards will be given to the top three teams in the overall order of finish in the CEI1*, CEI2*, CEIYJ1*, and CEIYJ2*.
2. Individual Placings will be awarded to the top 12 combinations in the overall order of finish in CEI1*, CEI2*, CEIYJ1*, and CEIYJ2*.

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