



2024 USEF Eventing Emerging Athlete Program

Objective: Athlete-focused talent identification, development, and talent confirmation program for athletes 25 and under.

Target: Aim to provide fundamental skills necessary for future team athletes and athletes focused on reaching Elite status.

Review/Term:

Annual selection with an annual review for Program membership retention.

A maximum of four years in the Program is permitted as the expectation is that athletes will progress to the Development Program by age 25 or within four years. Athletes that have been in the Program for four years, and are not above the age of 25, but have progressed to the next CCI level may stay in the program for additional years if the Pathway Working Group determines it is warranted. (E.g., an athlete that was competing at the CCI3*-L level when initially named to the Program and has progressed to the CCI4* level may stay in the program for additional years). These athletes must complete an application to remain in consideration for the program.

Application:

Applications will be located in the Athlete Dashboard of your USEF online account. Please note that all USEF programs are subject to funding. The 2024 Budget has not been confirmed.

Log into your USEF Member Account → Athlete Dashboard → Online Applications → Eventing → Year: 2024

Eligibility and Application Requirements:

- Athlete must be 25 years old or younger according to the FEI (born on or after January 1, 1999).
- Applicant must have achieved an MER at a CCI3*-L within the past 2 years.
 - a) Dressage Test: not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%).
 - b) Cross Country Test
 - A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible device will maintain the MER result on Cross Country).
 - Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for, two, three and four star level competitions and 100 seconds in the case of five star level competitions.
 - c) Jumping Test: Not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.
- Applicants may be 'talent spotted' if they do not meet the criteria but still **must** submit an application to be considered.
- Athlete must be a USEF Active Member.
- If athletes have been a member of the Emerging Program for the preceding two years, the requirement for attending an assessment will be waived, if they have submitted an application.
- Athletes that have been in the USEF Eventing Emerging Program for four years but have progressed to the next CCI level.





The application deadline is Thursday, August 31, 2023. No late applications will be accepted! Only those who have applied will be considered. By submitting an application, the athlete is acknowledging that in order to be considered for the Program they must attend the assessment in September 2023 as well as training sessions in mid-to late January in Ocala or California.

Program:

Selected athletes will participate in an assessment session with Emerging and Development Coach, Leslie Law. These dates will be September 11-12 in Pennsylvania and September 18-19 in Florida. A session for central/west coast-based athletes will be determined after applications are reviewed to determine the best location. Athletes invited to the assessments will be monitored during the remainder of their fall season as applicable. A final selection of athletes for the 2024 Emerging Program will be made no later than the end of November. The athletes for the 2024 Emerging Program will participate in a multi-day training session during the month of January. Subsequent follow-up training sessions with Leslie will occur throughout the year. Athletes will have access to the Program benefits listed below and be in consideration for the European Development Tour.

The following factors may be used to make recommendations:

- Athlete/horse combination meets FEI Regulations to compete in the respective competitions.
- The overall performance of the athlete/horse combination in 2022/2023 competitions with emphasis on dressage scores, cross country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, and rideability.
- Soundness of the athlete and horse
- Potential of athlete and or athlete/horse combination to develop to the CCI5* level and/or represent the U.S. on future teams
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including but not limited to, accredited owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the athlete.

Program Benefits:

- Opportunity to participate in USEF Training Sessions/clinics/coaching sessions.
- Access to USEF Human and Equine Sports Science Medicine Education Programs and resources when available, appropriate, and as funding allows.
- Assistance in transition to the next level (training, strategic planning, setting competition and training targets, data analysis, etc.).
- Included on USEF Eventing Emerging Athlete Program published on www.usef.org.

