



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential 2026 FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses Applicants

Date: December 13, 2024

From: Anna Brooks Thomas, Director of Driving

Copy: Steven Morrissey, Managing Director of Sport Logistics & Non-Olympic Disciplines
Hallye Griffin, Director of FEI Sport

Re: Anticipated Selection Methods for the 2026 FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses

This preliminary information is provided to assist you with your competition planning and is subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Driving Sport Committee and is subject to final approval by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee. Therefore, it is subject to change upon the approval of the final Selection Procedures by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee.

The 2026 FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses (Championship) is scheduled to take place from August 10 – 23, 2026 in Aachen, Germany.

Selection Methodology: Please be advised that the proposed Selection Period for the 2026 U.S. Driving Four-in-Hand Horses Team (Team) selection process will begin on January 1, 2025, and is anticipated to end June 30, 2026 (Selection Period).

The Athlete, Horse owner, and Horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Championship, including but not limited to, the FEI Qualifying Requirements found on the [FEI Website](#).

It is anticipated that USEF will select Athletes for the Team based on Selection Events during the Selection Period that are defined as any FEI recognized CAI3*-H4 or above. No USEF Open Advanced CDE, Combined Tests, or Short Format competitions will be accepted as Selection Events. Athletes must successfully complete two Selection Events to achieve qualifying (i.e. competitions without elimination, disqualification, or retirement, etc.).



Competition requirements for Horses named to the Team on the Nominated Entries will be detailed in the full Selection Procedures for the Championship.

2026 U.S. Driving Four-in-Hand Team Composition: Per the FEI Rules Article 922, the Team will consist of two or three Athletes with a max of five horses per Athlete.

USEF Safe Sport Policy: It is the responsibility of the Athletes and owners of Horses to ensure that they know and comprehend the USEF Rules, FEI Rules, FEI Qualifying Requirements, USEF Code of Conduct, and USEF Safe Sport Policy.

USEF Background Check Policy Requirements: As of January 1, 2020, athletes 18 years of age or older selected by USEF to compete on the 2026 U.S. Driving Four-in-Hand Team, or as an individual, 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.

Equine Anti-Doping: Please note that all Horses registered with the FEI or USEF shall be subject to in-competition testing. The FEI's philosophy is that horses must be "clean" at the time of competition. If seeking advice from a veterinarian, ensure they are a registered FEI veterinarian, and is fully conversant with the FEI Veterinary Rules and the Prohibited Substance List.

Human Anti-Doping: Please be aware 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 FEI web page that covers all changes to the anti-doping rules. Those taking a prohibited substance for therapeutic reasons have the ability to apply for a therapeutic use exemption (TUE). These athletes can contact Christy Hawkins at cbhawkins@usef.org for information and assistance in submitting a TUE application.

Funding: The availability of funding is subject to confirmation of the 2026 Driving budget.

Questions and Feedback: If you have any questions or feedback on the full Selection Procedures prior to their approval of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Brooks Thomas, at abthomas@usef.org.