



## Criteria To Compete in International Endurance Competitions

Updated July 2, 2024

Athletes wishing to be considered for any CEI event outside of the U.S., including Canada, and Mexico, must submit an [online application](#) (see below) to the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., (USEF) pursuant to Chapter 8, GR828 of the USEF Rulebook. Applications submitted 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee.

### Eligibility Requirements For Senior & Young Rider Athletes

In order to receive permission from the USEF to compete in foreign CEI events as a Senior or Young Rider athlete, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

#### **For the Athlete:**

1. Athlete must be a U.S. citizen and have designated the U.S. as sport nationality with the FEI.
2. Athlete must be a current Competing Member and in good standing of USEF at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.
3. Athlete must be current with Safe Sport training from when the entry is submitted through the end of the competition
4. Athlete must have a completed and current FEI registration and be in good standing with the FEI at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.
5. Athlete must meet the definition of a Senior or Young Rider as determined by the current FEI Endurance Rules.
6. Athlete must be eligible to compete at their respective level under the current FEI Endurance Rules.

#### **For the Owner(s):**

1. Must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.

#### **For the Horse:**

1. Horse must be eligible to compete at its respective level under current FEI rules.
2. Horse must meet the following age requirement in its respective level:
  - Must be at least 6 years old to compete in 1\* competitions;
  - Must be at least 7 years old to compete in 2\* competitions;
  - Must be at least 8 years old to compete in 3\* competitions;
  - Must be at least one year older than the minimum age requirement that applies to a CEI of the same star level as the CEIO (i.e., to participate in a CEIO2\*, the horse must be 8 years old).
3. Horse must have an FEI Passport and be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.
4. Horse must be Life Recorded with the USEF if owner(s) is a member of USEF and a U.S. citizen.

*Please note Athletes submitting an application to compete on a foreign horse:*

- *May be invoiced and required to submit payment for the FEI Horse Registration if it is not current.*
- *And are responsible for ensuring the horse is not competed during a Mandatory Out of Competition Period as determined by the current [FEI Endurance Rules](#).*

## **For the Trainer:**

1. Trainer must be at least 18 years old or older.
2. Trainer must be a Competing Member and in good standing of USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.
3. Trainer must have completed the FEI Registration and be in good standing with the FEI at the time of the application and until the conclusion of the competition.

Effective January 1, 2024, if the registered Trainer of a horse changes, the horse may not participate in any competition for a period of 14 days, starting from the date of notification of the change to the FEI.

## **To Be Considered, Athletes and Horses Must Meet The Following Minimum Criteria At The Time Of Application To Compete:**

### **CEI 1\* COMPETITIONS**

Athlete and horse, though not necessarily as a combination, must have successfully completed the Novice Qualifying as determined by the current [FEI Endurance Rules](#).

### **CEI 2\* COMPETITIONS**

Athletes and Horses, though not necessarily as a combination, may compete at the CEI2\* level if they are qualified as determined by the current [FEI Endurance Rules](#)

### **CEI 3\* COMPETITIONS**

Athletes and Horses may only compete at the CEI3\* level if they are qualified as a combination as determined by the current [FEI Endurance Rules](#). (Exception to qualification in combination: Athletes with Elite Status.)

### **CEIO EVENTS HELD ABROAD**

Athletes wishing to be considered for a CEIO competition held outside of the U.S., including Canada and Mexico, must submit an Application to Compete Abroad found in your Athlete Dashboard (see below) by two weeks prior to the deadline for entries. If more athletes have indicated a desire to compete at a CEIO than allowed per the [FEI Endurance Rules](#), entries will be submitted in the order of the athlete's ranking on the FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking List as of two weeks prior to the deadline for entries for the competition.

USEF may designate certain CEIO events as selection or observation events as part of selection processes for FEI Championships. Athletes in contention for these Championships may be given priority over other athletes.

### **INVITATIONS TO USEF OR AN ATHLETE**

Provided the USEF Minimum Criteria to Compete Abroad and/or requirements set forth in the invitation are met, athletes who receive personal invitations from Organizing Committees will have preference over other U.S. athletes. The definition of a "Personal Invitation" is one that is given by the Organizing Committee directly to USEF, a specific athlete, or to USEF on behalf of the athlete. Athletes who receive Personal Invitations must send a copy to Athlete Services ([feientries@usef.org](mailto:feientries@usef.org)) and submit the online application to Compete Abroad. The FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking List as of the date and invitation is received by USEF will be used as reference for requirements set forth by the Organizing Committee.

### **OVERSUBSCRIPTION AT CEI EVENTS**

Should an event have limitations on entries, Athletes wishing to be considered for the event must submit the Entry through their Athlete Dashboard (see below) by two weeks prior to the deadline for entries. Should there be more applications than invitations, an athlete's ranking on the FEI Endurance Riders World Ranking List will be used to determine the invitations. If there are invitations available following two weeks prior to the deadline for entries, the entries will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis to fill the remaining invitations. USEF may designate certain events as selection or observation events

as part of selection processes for FEI Championships. Athletes in contention for these Championships may be given priority over other athletes.

## Application to Compete in Foreign Competitions

### **Applications to compete outside of the U.S. are found by:**

1. Sign-in to your USEF Account [HERE](#).
2. At the top of the page click on Account.
3. Open the blue tile labeled 'Athlete Dashboard'.
4. Open FEI Entry and follow instructions.

### **Application Fees (Non-refundable):**

- \$75 application fee for each competition
- \$75 late fee: An athlete who submits an application 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee. The late fee may be applied even if an athlete provides payment for the prepaid annual application fee.
- \$750 prepaid annual application fee (optional): this fee is due when submitting the first application for the competition year. This fee applies to the first ten FEI competitions held outside of the U.S. Athletes competing in less than 10 competitions do not receive a refund, credit, or partial credit for the prepaid application fee.

### **Withdrawal from CEI events:**

Once an athlete has submitted an application to compete, should you need to withdraw the following steps are to be taken immediately:

REMINDER: USEF fees are non-refundable regardless if you compete or withdraw.

### **Withdrawing from a competition before an entry has been submitted on your behalf or before the Organizing Committee has confirmed an invitation:**

- Athlete is to email USEF Athlete Services ([feientries@usef.org](mailto:feientries@usef.org)) and include the reason for the withdrawal.

### **Withdrawing from a competition after an entry has been submitted on behalf of the athlete and/or after the Organizing Committee has confirmed your invitation:**

- Concurrently email USEF Athlete Services ([feientries@usef.org](mailto:feientries@usef.org)) and the Organizing Committee. The email is to state the reason for the withdrawal and an apology to the Organizing Committee for any inconvenience their withdrawal may have caused. The Organizing Committee's contact information can be found in the schedule for that particular competition.