

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2025 FEI Driving World Championship for Combined Ponies**  
**Single Ponies**  
**DATE TBD**  
**Le Pin au Haras, FRA**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination and selection:

1.1.1. Citizenship: Applicant athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI General Regulations (23rd Edition, Article 119) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2025 FEI Driving World Championship for Combined Ponies (“the Championship”).

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.2. Minimum Fédération Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) standards for participation:

1.1.2.1. All athletes must meet the FEI Criteria for the Championship, therefore earning an FEI Certificate of Capability from the National Federation before the closing date of applications on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT. FEI Criteria can be found at <http://www.fei.org/fei/events/championships/driving>.

1.1.2.2. The athlete must be at least fourteen (14) years of age, with age being determined by a birthdate within the same calendar year as the Championship (FEI Driving Rules, Article 912). Athletes must also have a groom who is at least eighteen (18) years of age (FEI Driving Rules, Article 912.6.2).

1.1.2.3. Ponies must be at least six (6) years of age from the beginning of the same calendar year as the Championship (FEI Driving Rules, Article 929).

1.1.2.4. The athlete and pony must both be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of the application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.2.5. The athlete and pony must comply with FEI Rules for the Championship. Important: Please note that FEI qualifications can only be obtained at CAI 3\* & above (per Article 914.2). Please be reminded that if an athlete plans to compete in any European CAI competitions, they must adhere to the USEF Criteria to compete in Foreign Competitions. Information and applications can be found on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

1.1.3. Minimum United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) criteria and Other Requirements:

1.1.3.1 The athlete must be an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing at the time of application through the conclusion of the Championship.

1.1.3.2. The pony must be recorded with USEF, pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing with USEF from the time of selection through the conclusion of the Championship, with an exception for ponies that have not competed in the U.S. during 2024 and that have owners who are not U.S. Citizens.

1.1.3.3. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USEF Background Check Policy.

1.1.3.4. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the end of the Championship will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy and the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.

1.1.3.5. Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championship must complete an online application via the "My USEF" portal with the appropriate application fee. Athletes will be charged fifty dollars (\$50.00) per Application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 30, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT.** All ponies the athlete wishes to be considered for selection must be named to the application prior to the deadline listed above.

1.1.3.6. Individual owners of applicant ponies listed on the pony's passport must be a Senior Active Member in good standing with USEF or a member in good standing with their NF with proof of said membership available in English and must sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B) by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT. By signing the Horse Participation Agreement, the owner, certifies that they have received, read, and understand the Selection Procedures for the Team; the [USEF Code of Conduct](#); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment C); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#) the [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) (see Section 12 below); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

1.1.3.7. By signing the Application, the athlete, or legal guardian if the athlete is a minor, certifies that they have received, read, and understand the Selection Procedures for the Team; the Athlete Agreement (Attachment A); the [USEF Code of Conduct](#); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment C); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#) the [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) (see Section 12 below); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

## 1.2. Selection Events:

1.2.1 Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

The selection period will begin on January 1, 2024 and will end on the close of applications on June 30, 2025 at 11:59PM EDT (“Selection Period”).

Athlete/pony combinations wishing to be considered for the Championship must have completed (without elimination, disqualification, or retirement) at least two (2) Selection Events in the applicable FEI sanctioned class. Selection Events include any FEI CAI 3\* or above level. Athlete/pony combinations must achieve a minimum score of 65 or less in the Dressage test in both Selection Events. One of the qualifying results, as defined above, must be achieved no earlier than January 1, 2025.

The confirmed list of CAI competitions can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org). Athletes that wish to apply for the Championship must also qualify per the FEI Criteria for the Championship, which can be found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/driving/main-events-by-june-30>, 2025.

Important: Please note that FEI qualifications can only be obtained at CAI 3\* & above (per Article 914.2). Please be reminded that if an athlete plans to compete in any European CAI competitions, they must adhere to the USEF Criteria to compete in Foreign Competitions. Information and applications can be found on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

Athletes must meet the qualifications for CAI 3\* competition or above as outlined in the FEI Driving Rules Article 913.

### 1.3. Selection Process for the Championship

1.3.1. For Team and/or Individual Selection:

Prior to the FEI Nominated Entries (**DATE TBD**), the Selectors will rank the qualified athlete/pony combinations up to the maximum number of athlete/pony combinations permitted by FEI Rules, based on the factors outlined below.

1.3.1.1. Following the close of applications, the Selectors will recommend the selection of up to two (2) athlete/pony combinations, and/or up to the maximum number of individual athlete/pony combinations permitted by FEI Rules, based on the factors outlined below (“Team”). Any individuals will be ranked as alternates to the Team (“Alternates”) based on the prospect that the Alternate will contribute to a winning Team score for their expertise in a particular phase, in case of necessary substitution and/or individuals. Applicant athletes with more than one qualified pony will be ranked by combination, and therefore, Applicant

Athletes may be ranked multiple times. The USEF Driving Sport Committee (“DSC”) will review the Selectors’ recommendation prior to sending their recommendation on to the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or an Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors (“EC, BOD, or Ad Hoc”) for approval.

1.3.2. Selection will be based on the following in no priority order:

1.3.2.1 Evaluations by an FEI Veterinarian regarding ponies’ current fitness, soundness & ability to compete.

1.3.2.2. The athlete’s and/or ponies’ competitive results from Selection Events within the Selection Period. Preference will be given to athlete/pony combinations with successful head-to-head competition results between athletes as determined by the Selectors.

1.3.2.3. The performance and results at Selection Events, in no particular order: scores in the Dressage, penalties obtained in Marathon, accuracy and speed in the Cones. Previous international experience (over a five-year period), regarding the athlete’s/ponies’ ability to perform consistently under pressure. Greater emphasis will be placed on results gained at a World Championship and CAIO level. Prospect that the combination will contribute to a winning Team score for their expertise in a particular phase, if applicable. For example, if a combination consistently attains superior scores in a particular competition phase, they may be selected to help achieve a winning Team score, regardless of any individual ranking.

1.3.2.4. If not selecting for a Team, athletes will be selected based on their final results, regardless of expertise in a particular phase.

1.3.2.5. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

1.3.2.6. Willingness of athlete to be transparent with USEF Team Veterinarian(s), Chef d’Equipe, and Team Leader.

1.3.3. FEI Definite Entries **(DATE TBD)**: By no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entries, USEF may enter a maximum of two (2) Singles Driving athletes with a maximum of one (1) pony per Driving athlete on the FEI Definite entry list. This list will be comprised of the Team with any ranked Alternates substituted due to removals as approved by the EC, BOD, or Ad Hoc prior to the Nominated Entry. Any additional individual entries permitted will be selected in order from the remaining list of ranked Alternates.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

2.1. Rationale for Utilizing Discretionary Selection (if any): Discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible for the Championship. Applicants willingly submit themselves to this subjective process.

2.2. Discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used: See section 1.3.2.1 and 1.3.3.1.

2.2.1. Additional Discretionary Criteria:

2.2.1.1 Soundness: At the athlete's expense, an FEI treating veterinarian must examine any ponies that are candidates for the FEI Definite Entry or Substitutes for soundness, as requested by USEF.

2.2.1.2. The examining veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation once named to the FEI Nominated Entries.

2.2.1.3. Ponies found to be unsound by the FEI Veterinarian may be eliminated from the Selection Process.

2.2.1.4. In making their decision, the Selectors will consult with the Team Veterinarian and, if applicable, an FEI Veterinarian on the current fitness, soundness, and ability of athlete/pony combinations to determine if they are perceived to be able to meet the standards for the Championship (i.e. dressage scores, distance, size and complexity of the obstacles, and required speed to avoid time penalties).

2.2.2. Team Veterinarian Request: Upon request from the Team Veterinarian and at their own expense, Athletes shall make up to 24 months' worth of veterinary records available for ponies under consideration for selection. At their own expense, athletes shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for the ponies in question. If necessary, at their own expense, athletes shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consulting with the ponies' treating veterinarian, if requested. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the ponies and/or athlete from the selection process by the Selectors, upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, the DSC, and with the approval of the EC, BOD or Ad Hoc.

2.2.3. Veterinary Treatment: Once ponies are named to the FEI Nominated Entries or FEI Definite Entries, all selected athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their selected ponies being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directive of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of ponies and/or athlete from the selection process by the Selectors, by recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, the DSC, and with the approval of the EC, BOD, or Ad Hoc.

2.2.4. Medical Request: In the event of illness or injury, athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the athlete's ability to compete at the Championship. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the athlete from the selection process by the Selectors, upon recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s), the DSC, and with the approval of the EC, BOD, or Ad Hoc. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the athlete unfit to compete, the athlete will be removed from the selection process at the recommendation of the DSC and with the approval of the EC, BOD, or Ad Hoc.

2.3. Complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles & their role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity: See [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) for a list of USEF Committee members & their roles.

- USEF Driving Selectors
- USEF Driving Team Veterinarian
- USEF Driving Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Selection Group

2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All individuals involved in selection must comply with the USEF Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any individual involved in selection who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the individual poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Pony in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the individual's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the individual's level of involvement (e.g., whether that individual must recuse themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse themselves from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that an individual who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the remaining individuals involved in selection, provide such information to the

committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the individual with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision. The individual must not otherwise influence other individuals in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, owner, or coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Pony) with a good faith belief that an individual has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No individual shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USEF selection appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

3.1. From the time of Application until the completion of the Championship, the USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An Athlete or Pony that is nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO or the Director of Driving.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF CEO. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- 3.1.5. Failure of the pony owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B).
- 3.1.6. Injury or illness of the Pony as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an Athlete and/or Pony owner refuses to have the Pony examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the pony may be removed.
- 3.1.7. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Team Leader, Chef d'Equipe, and the Team Veterinarian.
- 3.1.8. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Pony (see below).
- 3.1.9. Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding Athletes and Ponies, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.10. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII.

#### **4. SUBSTITUTION / REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & PONIES**

4.1. Substitution/Replacement athletes and ponies will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:

4.1.1. Prior to acceptance of FEI Nominated Entry: Prior to the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry, athlete/pony combinations may be substituted in accordance with the process in Section 1.3 above. Any substitution other than voluntary withdrawal must be upon the recommendation of the Selectors, and the DSC, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitution for Veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

Any substitutions for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF CEO.

4.1.2. Prior to the closing date for FEI Definite Entry: Once the Team and Individual(s), if any, have been announced and prior to the closing date of the FEI Definite Entry, Team members or Alternates may be replaced with an athlete/pony combination on the FEI Nominated Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3. Replacements may only be made based on the ranked list approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee or USEF Ad Hoc, and in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Driving Events and/or for reasons set forth in Section 3. Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO.

4.1.3. After acceptance of FEI Definite Entry and up to two (2) hours prior to the Horse Inspection: After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until two (2) hours before the First Horse Inspection unless an earlier date is specified in the Approved FEI Schedule or is required due to communicated logistical restrictions, USEF has the ability to replace athletes and/or ponies on the FEI Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with an athlete/pony combination from the FEI Nominated Entry. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either the athlete 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 necessary. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval



of the USEF Team Leader, and in accordance with the FEI Driving Regulations or for reasons set forth in Section 3.

4.1.4. Substitutions & Declaration of Starters: After the acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries and until one hour before the first Horse Inspection, in the event of an accident or illness of athlete or pony, the athlete and/or pony may be substituted by another from the FEI Nominated Entry list (subject to approval of the OC & the Ground Jury, Article 946). After the acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries and until one hour after the first horse inspection, the Chef d'Equipe in consultation with the Team Veterinarian and Team Leader will declare in writing the Team of two (2) athlete/pony combinations that will compete in accordance with the FEI General Regulations (Article 121 & FEI Driving Rules Article 947).

4.1.5. Any replacement for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian.

4.1.6. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Championship venue who is approved by the USEF CEO.

## **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the end date of the Championship.

## **6. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS** - Athletes will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment A) and are requested to sign this document.

## **7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and Pony owner as a condition of nomination to the Team for the Championship.

- USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement (Attachment C)
- [USEF Conflict of Interest](#) and Gifts & Entertainment Policy

## **8. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

7.1. USEF Web site: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

7.1.1. These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USEF.

7.1.2. These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

## **9. DATE OF NOMINATION**

Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all Athletes and submitted to the FEI on or before: The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than the Nominated Entry date declared on the approved FEI Schedule for the Championship **(DATE TBD)**.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and USADA rules, as applicable.
- B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Ponies are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
  - 1. In-Competition: All Ponies entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Pony arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
    - a. Positive Finding: At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
    - b. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Pony and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
    - c. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
    - d. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and the Team Veterinarian selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
  - 2. Out-of-Competition: Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following

notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Ponies out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Pony available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Pony and/or Athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

a. Positive Finding: At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Pony and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Team Veterinarian appointed for the Selection of the Championship certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

3. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

4. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Driving Sport Committee.
- USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee

For a complete list of committee members please visit <https://www.usef.org/about-us/councils-committees>

## **12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found here

<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/BGN5FsGwqSk/athletes-guide-to-filing-grievance>.

Contact information for the USOPC Athlete Ombuds can be found below.

**13. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

**14. FUNDING DISCLAIMER**

Selection to the team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Championship.

**15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on the FEI rules and regulations as presently applicable, known, and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in the 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.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the Selection Events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

**16. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE**

Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds for independent and confidential advice on a variety of sport related matters, including their rights, applicable rules, policies or processes, and questions related to resolving disputes and grievances. The Athlete Ombuds can also help Team USA athletes connect with legal counsel or mental health resources if needed. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing domestically at the masters or youth level, recreational athletes, foreign athletes) are welcome to visit the Athlete Ombuds website to review informational resources and should work directly with their NGB to understand additional resources and options available to them.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

Website: [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org)

Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy:

(A) In general.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds. (B) Exception.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information

described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved.

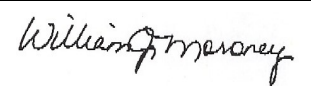

(C) Judicial and administrative proceedings.—(i) In general.—The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds . (ii) Work product.—Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds—(I) shall be confidential; and(II) shall not be—(aa) subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or (bb) admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding. (D) Applicability.—The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to—(i) applicable federally mandated reporting requirements; (ii) a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds;(iii) a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or (iv) a congressional subpoena.

**Anti-retaliation Statement**

No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF or the USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

**17. USEF SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>USEF CEO</b>	<b>William J. Moroney</b>		<b>11/13/2023</b>
<b>USEF Director of Driving</b>	<b>Anna Brooks Thomas</b>		<b>11/15/23</b>

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to the USEF Director of Driving, Anna Brooks Thomas: United States Equestrian Federation, 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511, abthomas@usef.org or 859-225-2033.

Approved by the USEF Driving Sport Committee: 9/12/23

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee: 11/13/23

## Definitions

**USEF Driving Sport Committee (“DSC”)**—a quorum of the current USEF Driving Sport Committee members, which is published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

**USEF Driving Selector (“Selectors”)**—Selectors nominated by the DSC for the current Championship year will include three (3) individuals (the “Selectors”) that will be appointed by the CEO upon the recommendation of the DSC. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct, USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy, and USEF Safe Sport Policy. The Selectors and members of the Driving community who are knowledgeable and experienced in Driving at the International level, and are senior active members in good standing at USEF, including a minimum of one Driving Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”) (See Definitions on page 10) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the “Eligible Athlete Representative Selector”).

A minimum of one (1) Replacement Selector will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 33.3% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of the Selectors.

**Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (“BOD or Ad Hoc”)**—at least 3 members of the USEF Board of Directors, which is published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**Driving Athlete Representative**—An Athlete will be considered a Driving Athlete according to the USEF Bylaws, Part IV, Bylaw 401.

**International Experience**—A competitive record over the past 5 years that indicates the Athlete/pony combination(s) have successfully met the challenges of FEI international events & perform under pressure.

**Substitute Athlete**—Replacing an athlete/pony combination after the FEI Definite Entries have been submitted.

**USEF Team Leader**—USEF Director of Driving, or other appointed USEF Staff member.