



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2025 EVENTING EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT TOUR  
(December 16, 2024)**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- 1.1. The European Development Tour (“Tour”) will consist of either of the following competition options (individually referred to herein as “Event”):
- Track 1:
    - Bicton Arena (GBR) CCIO4\*-NC-S: May 22-25, 2025
    - Luhmuhlen (GER) CCI4\*-S or CCI5\*-L: June 11-15, 2025
  - Track 2:
    - Bicton Arena (GBR) CCIO4\*-NC-S: May 22-25, 2025 (non-team member)
    - Bramham International (GBR) CCIU25-4\*-L: June 5-8, 2025
- 1.2. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for selection to the Tour and associated Event Team(s) (“Team(s)”) and FEI Competitions.
- The Athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the [FEI General Regulations](#) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the applicable Event. Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.3. USEF Eventing Pathway Program Participation:
- Athletes must be current participants in the USEF Eventing Development Programs. Past participants in the USEF Eventing Development Programs are eligible for the Tour, provided they have participated in either Program within the three (3) years preceding application.
- 1.4. Minimum International Federation (FEI) standards for participation:
- Athlete/Horse combinations must meet minimum Federation Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) requirements for the relevant Event per Article 520 of the current [FEI Eventing Regulations](#).
  - The Athlete and Horse must comply with FEI Rules and Regulations for the Event.
- 1.5. Other requirements:
- The Athlete must be an Active Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing from the time of application through the conclusion of the Tour.
  - The Horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing from the time of submission of the application, and through the conclusion of the relevant Event.
  - At least one individual owner or a designated representative of a syndicate of U.S. applicant horses must be an Active Member of USEF in good standing from the time of submission of the application, and through the conclusion of the Event.

- Athletes wishing to be considered for the Tour must complete an online Application through their USEF Athlete Dashboard by 11:59 p.m. EST on March 10, 2025. No late applications or amendments to submitted applications will be accepted following the deadline. Changes to an application may be made until the March 10, 2025 deadline.
- The Athlete must certify by electronically signing the Application that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Tour, the [USEF Code of Conduct](#), the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), the [USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- Owners listed on the FEI Passport of the applicant Horse(s) named to the FEI Definite Entry must sign the [USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement](#) by FEI Definite Entry deadline as published in the FEI Approved Schedule for the Event. An Owner's failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the FEI Definite Entry. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Consent Agreement, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, [USEF Code of Conduct](#), the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), the [USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) and [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- Any Athlete aged eighteen (18) or older as of the of the Tour will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USEF SafeSport Policy](#).

1.6. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the Tour (include maximum Team size):

- 1.6.1. The Tour will consist of up to six (6) Athletes that will be recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Eventing Development Coach, to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee, which will submit its recommendations for final approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- 1.6.2. For each Event designated as a part of the Tour, three (3) to four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations will be recommended by the USEF Eventing Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Eventing Development Coach, to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee, which will submit its recommendations for final approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors, prior to the FEI Definite Entry deadline. Combinations will be selected based off the discretionary selection as outlined below. See Section 2.
- 1.6.2.1. If there are more than four (4) Athlete/Horse combinations that meet all requirements of Sections 2.2 and 2.3, Direct Alternate and Alternate Athlete/Horse combinations will be ranked at the recommendation of the USEF Eventing Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Eventing Development Coach, to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee, which will submit its recommendations for approval to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors. The ranked order will be the order in which replacements are processed (see Section 3).

- 1.6.3. Events designated on the Tour will be memorialized on the USEF Eventing website via a memo outlining the Tour and Targeted Nations Cups and Team Competitions to be posted no later than December 1, 2024.
- 1.6.4. If the Athletes participating in the Tour cannot fulfill a team for one of the Events designated as a part of the Tour, an application process will then open for all U.S. Athletes qualified for the competition to apply. This selection process will follow the procedures outlined in the Untargeted Nations Cup procedures.
- 1.6.5. Once selected for the Tour, Athlete/Horse combinations will come under the guidance of the Chef d'Equipe and agree to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, from the time of selection through the conclusion of the Tour. Additionally, once selected, Athletes and/or Horse Owners agree to provide a report of all veterinary treatments administered to the Horse, if requested by the Team Veterinarian.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

- 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: The Tour's objective is to provide Athletes the opportunity to gain international experience, achieve results at European Nations Cups, and develop future Team Athletes through immersion in a Team environment.
- 2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used:  
By no later than the FEI Definite Entries deadline of the Event (TBD), and based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in conjunction with the USEF Eventing Development Coach, will recommend up to the maximum number of athlete/horse combinations able to be nominated to the USEF Eventing Selectors Committee then to the USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee, subject for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Recommendations and approved athlete/horse combinations will be named to the Event based on the following (in no priority order):
  - The overall performance of the Athlete/Horse combination with emphasis on cross-country performance, including faults, boldness, rideability, and speed.
    - Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination's competition records (see definitions) and/or EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions).
  - Consistency and trend of performance of the Athlete/Horse combination's complete competition records (see definitions with emphasis on dressage scores, cross-country, and show jumping performance: jumping without faults and/or incurring time penalties, boldness, rideability, and speed).
    - Performance may be evaluated using the Athlete/Horse combination's competition records (see definitions) and/or the EquiRating's High Performance Metrics (see definitions).
  - Athlete's fitness (see definitions).
  - The boldness and rideability of the Horse (see definitions).
  - Horse Soundness (see definitions).
  - The behavior of the 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 environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the Team.
  - The potential of the Athlete and or Athlete/Horse combination to develop to the CCI5\*-L level and/or represent the U.S. on future Teams.

2.3. Other Discretionary Criteria Used:

- 2.3.1. Horses that are candidates for Selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian (and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian) upon the request of the Selectors or Chef d'Equipe and based on the availability of the Team Veterinarian or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian.

Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Team Evaluating Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete/Horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

Team Veterinarian Request: Athletes, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, the previous 24 months' worth of veterinary records of Horses in consideration for selection. In addition, applicants, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for Horses in consideration for selection.

Athletes, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the Horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the Athlete, for Horses under consideration for selection.

Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process by recommendation from the Chef d'Equipe, Selectors, or Team Veterinarian.

Exceptions may be granted for emergency situations. The Team Veterinarian must be apprised of any emergency within 24 hours of the treatment.

- 2.3.1.1. Medical Request: In the event of illness or injury, Athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by USEF at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the Athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the Athlete from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of USEF approved physician(s), and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the Athlete to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process pending approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.4. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

- USEF Eventing Development Coach
- USEF Eventing Selectors
- USEF Eventing Sport Committee or its designee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors

- 2.4.1. 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 Horse 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 Horse) 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 OR HORSES**

- 3.1. Athletes and/or Horses nominated to the Tour by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:
- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. The Athlete must submit a written letter to Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs ([gstobbs@usef.org](mailto:gstobbs@usef.org)).
  - 3.1.2. Athlete injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. 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 SafeSport Policy](#).
- 3.1.5. Failure to sign the [Horse Participation Consent Agreement](#) by the FEI Definite Entry Date.
- 3.1.6. Failure to complete a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- 3.1.7. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian. If an Athlete and/or Owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Team Evaluating Veterinarian, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the Horse may be removed.
- 3.1.8. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, from the time of selection through the conclusion of the Tour.
- 3.1.9. Failure to provide a report of all veterinary treatments administered, if requested by the Team Veterinarian.
- 3.1.10. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- 3.1.11. 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 Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.12. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these procedures.
- 3.1.13. Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- 3.1.14. Failure to comply with reasonable requests, as determined by the Director of FEI Sport and Managing Director of Eventing, from the USEF Eventing Department regarding logistical information and deadlines.
- 3.1.15. Loss of form or failure to show readiness in or out of competition, as determined by the USEF Eventing Development Coach.
- 3.1.16. Behavior of the Athlete and people associated with the Athlete (including, without limitation, accredited Owners, Coaches, and Grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive Team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the Team.

An Athlete who is removed from the Tour pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USEF Bylaws Part VII.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES OR HORSES**

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) and Horse(s) should a vacancy occur through the Last Date of Substitutions (see definitions):
  - 4.1.1. After a Team, Direct Alternates, and Alternates have been named, substitutions, if they occur, will be filled by an Athlete/Horse combination that is named to the Direct Alternate or Alternate Athlete/Horse combination list. If an Athlete on the Team or nominated as an Alternate has been nominated with a Direct Alternate Horse, and the Horse on which they were initially nominated to the Team or as an Alternate must be replaced, that Horse will be replaced by the Direct Alternate Horse.

If a selected Athlete/Horse combination withdraws and all the remaining applicant Athletes have declined, an additional Athlete/Horse combination that did not submit an online Application in accordance with these procedures may be recommended by the Chef d'Equipe and the USEF Eventing Selectors to fill a Team position.

The recommendation will go to USEF Eventing Sport Committee, or its designees, for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Group approved by the Board of Directors for approval.

The method used for selection will be the criteria as outlined in Section 2. The Horse and Athlete must meet the requirements set forth in Section 1.

Any Horse replacements for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian (and member(s) of the Team Evaluating Veterinarian, if requested by the Team Veterinarian).

Any replacement for extraordinary circumstances, prior to arriving on the venue, must have unanimous approval by the Chef d'Equipe and a majority of the Selectors. Once the Team arrives on the venue, if there is any replacement for extraordinary circumstances, it must have the unanimous approval of the Development Coach, Technical Advisor and Director of FEI Sport with input from a veterinarian.

Horse Replacement Request: If an Athlete's first ranked Horse is not available for any reason, an Athlete may request to be considered for selection on another Horse and the request will be reviewed and a recommendation made by the Selectors, or its designees after consultation with the USEF Eventing Development Coach, and/or Chef d'Equipe and subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final. In reviewing the request, the Eventing Sport Committee, or its designees, will evaluate the past performance of the Athlete/Horse combination.

If the Horse Replacement Request is not granted, the Athlete remains eligible for selection on their first ranked Horse. If the Athlete declines, the next highest Athlete/Horse combination will be named.

## **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the conclusion of the relevant Tour.

## **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Event (include as attachments or provide links):

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and/or Horse Owner following selection to the Event:

- Application
- [USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement](#)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement

**7. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS** - Athletes will be required to read and requested to sign the USEF Athlete Agreement and are requested to sign this document.

**8. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

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

8.1. USEF web site: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors.

8.2. Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

**9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Athlete and horse combinations selected for the Tour must agree to train with USEF Eventing Development Coach at a location determined by USEF throughout the entire Tour.

**10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USADA, and USEF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA and USEF Rules, as applicable.

B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

1. In-Competition. All Horses 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 Horse 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 FEI/High Performance Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse 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 a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Event 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 Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse 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 FEI/High Performance Sport and/or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.
  - b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the selection process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the selection of the Event 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.
  - c. 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.
  - d. USEF General Rule 409.2 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 was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

USEF Eventing Development Coach  
USEF Eventing Athletes Working Group  
USEF Eventing Selectors  
USEF Eventing Pathway Working Group  
USEF Eventing Sport Committee  
USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors

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

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures are available [here](#).

#### **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 Tour does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event. Athletes are encouraged to refer to the memo distributed for the Tour for information on funding and grant opportunities. USEF will cover the entry fee and accommodation for the athlete (single room) and groom (twin room) during competition(s) on the Tour.

Selected Athletes that receive funding support will be expected to agree to targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) with the USEF Eventing Development Coach and USEF Eventing Staff. Athletes that receive funding will be required to submit a report following the Tour outlining what they achieved and the impact of the Tour on the athlete’s future. This report will be used to assess the value and the functionality of the Program and to justify funding support.

After Athletes have been selected for the Tour, the Pathway Working Group will allocate the funding based on the budget and athletes named to the Tour.

**15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**



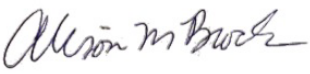
These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available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

**16. 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.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		12/16/24
Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		01/03/25
USOPC Athletes’ Advisory Council Representative*	Allison Brock		12/16/24

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USEF, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, USEF must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Gemma Stobbs, Director, Eventing Development Programs.

PHONE: +1 (859) 225-6929

EMAIL: [gstobbs@usef.org](mailto:gstobbs@usef.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

## DEFINITIONS:

**ALTERNATE** – A Horse or Athlete/Horse combination that has been named as a potential replacement should there be a removal or withdrawal of a Tour/Team Horse or Athlete/Horse combination.

**BOLDNESS** – Whether the Athlete/Horse combination moves forward with confidence, aggression, and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the Athlete/Horse must answer to successfully negotiate the test, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, jumping into water, etc.), whether the Athlete/Horse combination answer the question with the same positive attitude.

**CCI** - Concours Complet d'Equitation.

**CHEF D'EQUIPE** – the Chef d'Equipe is appointed by the USEF to oversee the following for the duration of the Event:

- The general management and fitness of the Horses entered for the Event and the observance of the VRs by Team Veterinarians and other official team members.
- The declaration and the scratching of Athletes and Horses entered for the Competitions at CIOs, FEI Championships, FEI Regional, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and at CIs if appointed.
- The general management, fitness, and behavior of Athletes, especially those under the age of 18. In the case of Athletes under the age of 18, the Chefs d'Equipe are responsible for the behavior of both their teams and individuals for the entire duration of the Event and are obliged to stay with their teams and individuals.
- Notifying the OC which Athletes and Horses have been selected to start in Team Competitions.

### COMPETITION RECORDS –

Records of past competitions may be sourced from the USEF, USEA, FEI or other applicable governing bodies to review an Athlete/Horse combination's scores in the dressage, show jumping and cross-country phases.

**DIRECT ALTERNATE HORSE** – A Horse That Is Nominated As An Automatic Replacement For An Athlete On The Team, Should Their First Horse Become Unavailable.

### EQUIRATINGS HIGH PERFORMANCE METRICS –

#### ELO Score

Eventing is a complex sport, and it can be difficult to rank horses in order of their overall *quality* and *consistency* using a single metric. The EquiRatings Elo does exactly this. It is a ranking algorithm that is affected *every time* a horse starts the cross-country phase of an event (*withdrawals prior* do not affect the metric). In terms of a single metric for predicting finishing position, this is the best in class. The Elo rewards horses that beat highly rated opponents, thus accounting for the quality of a competition.

#### EquiRatings Expected Values

To assess the expected performance of a Horse in each individual phase of an Eventing competition, the EquiRatings Expected Values are the most effective values. They measure expected performance in dressage, show jumping, cross-country jumping reliability and cross-country speed. These are complex formulae that account for recent trends, the difficulties of past conditions and the likely impact that these have on future performance.

#### HPR Score

The HPR score accounts for course difficulty, scoring conditions and the quality of opposition for a single performance.

### Power Average

The power average is the average of the *three best* finishing scores for a given horse or rider over a given dataset. A horse could therefore have a season power average at four and five-star levels.

### Two Phase Average

The two phase average is the average of all dressage *and* show jumping penalties for a horse or rider over a given dataset. The two phase average excludes cross-country penalties as these can skew the statistics if a rider is opting to compete at a slower pace.

### Zone Analysis

Zone Analysis is a simple way to organize *finishing scores* into various scoring zones. This helps to give a visual representation as to whether a horse/rider/nation tends to score in excellent/good/average ranges, or whether they have poor outcomes or even non-completions.

**FEI** – Federation Equestre Internationale, the International Federation for Equestrian Sport.

**FEI DEFINITE ENTRY** - this is the date by which you must submit the final selection of Athletes and Horses that will participate in this Event.

**FEI NOMINATED ENTRY** - this is the date by which you must submit a long list of Athletes and Horses that might participate in this Event.

**FITNESS** – whether the horse or athlete competed at a high level more frequently than is consistent with delivering a peak performance at the event for which selection is being made. Whether the horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

**GOOD STANDING** – eligible to compete under USEF rules.

**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION EXPERIENCE** - a competitive record over the past 3 years that indicates that the Athlete/Horse combination has successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure consistently.

**LOSS OF FORM** - deterioration in performance, demonstrated inability to produce results at the level at which the combination was performing at the time at which they were selected.

**MER** – Minimum Eligibility Requirement

**REPLACEMENT** – Replacing an Athlete/Horse combination after the USEF has named the Team.

**RIDEABILITY** – whether the Horse exhibits in all three tests - dressage, cross-country, and show jumping - that it responds readily to the aids (directions) of the Athlete because of its training; whether it moves forward, slows down, turns, and jumps any obstacle with composure, obedience, and confidence in itself and the Athlete.

**SPEED** - evidence that in the international record of the Athlete/Horse combination, and in the final trials for the Team, the Athlete/Horse combination shows the ability to complete the Event distances at the speed demanded.

**SOUNDNESS** – a condition in which a horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.

**TEAM** – The U.S. Eventing Team

**TOUR**- The Eventing European Development Tour

**USEA** – United States Eventing Association

**USEF** – United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. Governing body of USA Equestrian sport.

**USEF EVENTING SELECTORS** - individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF CEO with recommendation from the USEF Eventing Sport Committee. The Selectors are members of the Eventing community who are knowledgeable and experienced in Eventing at the international level.