

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2026 FEI WORLD ENDURANCE
CHAMPIONSHIP
BUTHEEB, UAE
DECEMBER 19, 2026**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

- Athlete must be a national of the United States at the deadline for the application of intent through to the end of the 2026 World Endurance Championship for (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 International Federation (IF) standards for participation:

- All Athletes wishing to compete on the Team must meet the FEI Qualifying requirements by July 1, 2026. The FEI Qualifying requirements, once posted, can be found [here](#).
- Athletes and Horses must meet the age requirements as required by the FEI.
- All Athletes must meet the minimum weight requirements of 165lbs/75kg for Senior divisions, with weight including all riding equipment, except the bridle.
- The Athletes must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
- The Horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
- The Horse must meet all FEI criteria of eligibility for the Event, once posted, that information can be [found here](#).
- The Athletes and Horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
- Horse Owners must be in good standing with the FEI at the time of Nominated Entries, and until the conclusion of the Event.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be an Active Member of the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") in good standing at the time of application, and through the conclusion of the Championship.
- Horses must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing with USEF or recorded and in good standing with their National Federation at the time of application, and through the conclusion of the Championship.
- Horses must have a valid FEI passport by the deadline for the Application of Intent.
- **Application** – Athletes wishing to be considered for the Championship must complete the online application at www.usef.org and pay the appropriate fee. Applications must be submitted online on or before 11:59 PM ET, December 1, 2025, along with the non-refundable fee in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per application. No changes will be accepted after the application deadline. Athletes must list any and all horses they wish to be considered for the Team on their Application by the stated deadline*. Each athlete must certify, by signing the

Application, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, [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](#).

- Horse Participation Consent Agreement: Individual owners of U.S. horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry must sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement ([Attachment F](#)) prior to the FEI Nominated Entry deadline. If an owner is under 18 years of age, then a parent or legal guardian must sign too. The failure of a U.S. horse owner, or parent/legal guardian if applicable, to timely sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or Athlete from the FEI Nominated 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, [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](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the end of the Championship will be required to undergo a background check in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- 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 Athlete Safety Policy](#).

* Should there be extenuating circumstances that prevent an Athlete from timely submitting the Application, a waiver may be granted. Waiver requests must be submitted to the USEF Director of Endurance by July 1, 2026 at 5:00PM ET. Waivers will be considered by the USEF Endurance Selectors against the criteria outlined in Section 2.2.1.

2. Selection Events:

2.1. Event names, dates, and locations of all competitions to be used as part of the selection process:

Athlete/Horse combinations wishing to be considered for Team selection for the Championship must successfully complete two or more single day FEI 160km events or longer (Selection Events) between September 1, 2024, and July 1, 2026 (Qualifying Period). At least one of the athlete/horse combination's successful completions at Selection Events must take place between December 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026. At least two of the athlete/horse combination's successful completions at Selection Events must come from Selection Events hosted at different venues.

Note: Proxy riders will not be permitted for purposes of qualification.

2.2. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the Championship:

- 2.2.1. **Short List:** After the close of the Qualifying Period, the Selectors will name an unranked short list of athlete/horse combinations (Short List). The Short List will be limited to no more than ten athletes. There may be more than ten athlete/horse combinations on the Short List as athletes may be named multiple times on the Short List in combination with horses listed on their Application. Additionally, after the close of the Qualifying Period, the Selectors will rank athlete/horse combinations as alternates (Alternates). The Selectors will recommend the Short List and ranked Alternates to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an

Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. In making their recommendation, the Selectors will consider the following factors in no particular order:

- The overall performance and soundness of the athlete/horse combination at Selection Events, with emphasis on the athlete's and/or horses' competitive results/placings and completion rate within the Selection Period.
- Athlete and horse's previous competitive experience, with emphasis on the athlete's and/or horse's ability to perform consistently under pressure as demonstrated by successful results gained outside of the United States and at FEI Championships.
- Athlete/horse combination's competition history, considering the location of competitions and the combination's ability to successfully complete in varying locations, terrain, and field of entries, with emphasis on consistent completion rates.
- The athlete/horse combination's likelihood to contribute to a Team Medal at the Championship.
- The athlete/horse combination's likelihood and willingness to contribute to a team completion and support team goals as communicated by the Chef d'Equipe.
- Athlete and horse's training history within the Selection Period.
- Recommendation of the Veterinarian Advisory Panel*, USEF Approved Veterinarian, and/or veterinarian records regarding horses' current fitness, soundness, and ability to compete utilizing evaluations by the Veterinarian Advisory Panel, USEF approved Veterinarian, and/or veterinary records of the horses.
- Willingness of the athlete to be transparent and cooperative with the USEF Team Veterinarian(s), Chef d'Equipe, and Team Staff.

* A Veterinary Panel consisting of three FEI Veterinarians (Veterinarian Advisory Panel) will review veterinary examination reports of the horses in contention for selection to the Short List. These veterinary examinations will be conducted by a veterinarian chosen by USEF at the expense of the athlete. The Veterinarian Advisory Panel will provide a recommendation to the Selectors of each horse's ability or inability to be fit to compete at the Championship.

- 2.2.2. **FEI Nominated Entries:** Prior to the FEI Nominated Entry Deadline for the Championship, the Selectors will recommend a Team of five athlete/horse combinations and up to the maximum number of ranked Alternates able to be nominated on the FEI Nominated Entry using the criteria detailed in Section 2.2.1 above to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.
- 2.2.3. **FEI Definite Entries:** Prior to the FEI Definite Entry Deadline for the Championship, the Selectors will recommend a Team of five athlete/horse combinations and up to the maximum number of ranked Alternates able to be nominated on the FEI Nominated Entry using the criteria detailed in Section 2.2.1 above to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The Team will be comprised of the five athlete/horse combinations named to the Nominated Entries, except in instances of removal or replacement, see Section 5.

3. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

- 3.1 **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** The option of discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible in the Event.
- 3.2 **Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):** For discretionary selection used please see the following sections:

- 2.2.1 – Selection for the Short List
- 2.2.2– FEI Nominated Entry
- 2.2.3– FEI Definite Entry

3.3. **Other Discretionary Criteria:**

- Soundness** - Horses that are candidates for selection for the Championship may be examined at any time following the application deadline and through the conclusion of the Championship for soundness by the Team Veterinarian. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete and/or Horse from the selection process, at the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- Team Veterinarian Request** – Horse owners, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months’ worth of complete veterinary records of horses being considered for selection. In addition, Horse owners, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for selection. Horse Owners, 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 being considered 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 upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, and approval by the majority of the Selectors, the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.
- Veterinary Treatment** – From the time of the nominated entry through the conclusion of the Championship, Athletes on the Nominated Entry will be required to consult with the Team Veterinarian prior to Horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete and/or Horse from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- Medical Request** - In the event of illness or injury, Athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a USEF-approved physician(s) 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 upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physician(s) and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF-approved physician(s) find the Athlete to be unfit to compete, the Athlete will be removed from the selection process with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

3.4 **Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee(s) listed above:**

All Athletes involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#).

Any person involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to December 1, 2025 (the "Application" date). Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting.

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 Athlete has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No Athlete shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

4. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES/HORSES

At any time during the selection process through the conclusion of the Event, USEF has jurisdiction over Athletes. An Athlete or Horse that is nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO or Director of Endurance.
- 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.
- Failure to participate in veterinary exams or other requirements as defined in these procedures.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- 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 the ability to win a Team medal.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Team for the Championship, in consultation with the Selectors.
- Failure of the Horse owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement.
- Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by a veterinarian approved by USEF, and/or member of the Veterinarian Advisory Panel. If an Athlete and/or Horse owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the Veterinary Advisory Panel or a veterinarian approved by USEF, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian, and/or Team Leader.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Advisory Panel or a veterinarian approved by USEF.
- Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- 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.
- Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in these selection procedures.
- Failure to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to the Horse receiving veterinary treatment by any veterinarian who is not the Team Veterinarian. Written permission is required upon selection as a Team or Alternate Horse. Failure to comply with set deadlines from the USEF Endurance Director regarding logistical information. Deadlines will be communicated via email

to the Athlete.

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.

5. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & HORSES

5.1. Selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) & Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:

5.1.1. Prior to submission of the Nominated Entries:

Replacement of Athlete/Horse combinations will be based on the list of ranked Alternates as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee, or USEF Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors.

5.1.2. After submission of the Nominated Entries but prior to submission of the Definite Entries:

Replacement of Athlete/Horse combinations will be based on the list of ranked alternates as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee, or USEF Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors. Replacement Athlete/Horse combinations must only come from those submitted on the Nominated Entries.

5.1.3. After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries and before the Declaration of Starters:

Replacement of Athlete/Horse combinations will be based on the list of ranked alternates as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee, or USEF Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors. Replacement Athlete/Horse combinations must only come from those submitted on the Nominated Entries and that are still willing and able to travel to the Championship.

5.1.4. After submission of the Declaration of Starters and up to one hour before the start of the Championship:

If an accident or illness of an Athlete or Horse makes it impossible for either one to take part in the Championship, replacements may be made in accordance with the FEI rules. Replacement of Athlete/Horse combinations will be based on the list of ranked alternates as approved by the USEF Board of Directors, USEF Executive Committee, or USEF Ad Hoc of the Board of Directors. Replacement Athlete/Horse combinations must only come from those submitted on the Nominated Entries and that are still willing and able to travel to the Championship.

6. 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 Event.

7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and Horse owner, or the parent/guardian if applicable, as a condition of nomination to the Event (include as attachments or provide links):

- Application ([See here](#))
- USEF Code of Conduct ([Attachment B](#))
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification ([Attachment C](#))
- Horse Participation Consent Agreement (U.S. owned horses) ([Attachment F](#))

- USEF Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest & Gifts & Entertainment Policy ([Attachment H](#))

8. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF on the USEF Web site: www.usef.org These Selection Procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

9. DATE OF NOMINATION

The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than **October 14, 2026**.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

10.1 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.

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

10.2.1 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. 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 Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

10.2.2 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 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 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.

10.2.3 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.

10.2.4 USEF GR 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 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Endurance Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment X for list of USEF committee, their roles, and list of members.

12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in USEF Bylaws Part VII and in the Supplemental Procedures for Complaints and Grievances. See www.usef.org.

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.

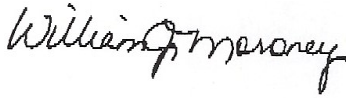
15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in FEI rules or 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.

16. USEF SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into these 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		5/19/2025
USEF Director of Endurance	Nicole Zerbee		5.19.2025

Approved on: May 19,2025