



USEA EVENTING COACHES PROGRAM CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

Continuing education requirements are common to professional careers. ECP has developed its Continuing Education Program for ECP-certified coaches, Young Event Horse (YEH) coaches, and Young Event Horse (YEH) professional horse trainers as a response to the complex demands of event riding instruction and event horse training as well as the importance of on-going learning. Event instructing and horse training are intriguing subjects that capture the human mind and heart for a lifetime. Past, present, and future riding, training, and competing concepts; the care and development of horses; the psychology of teaching and learning; safety issues; professionalism; the sport itself – each of these topics is multifaceted. ECP-certified coaches (including Levels I through IV and Young Event Horse coaches) and ECP-certified YEH professional horse trainers value growing intellectually and practically throughout their professional lives – for the sake of their students, the horses, the horse owners, and themselves. The excitement of sharing and learning with other professional coaches and YEH professional horse trainers that is generated by participation in ECP Workshops and Assessments is carried forward for ECP-certified coaches and YEH professional horse trainers by their Continuing Education activities.

ECP CERTIFICATION INITIAL REQUIREMENTS AND ECP CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Current USEA membership (Initial and Continuing Education)**
- 2. Current Professional Liability Insurance Policy (Initial and Continuing Education))**
- 3. Current First Aid/CPR Training (Initial and Continuing Education)**
- 4. Current Criminal Background Check (Initial and Continuing Education)**
- 5. Completion of SafeSport Training module (Initial)**
- 6. Completion of U.S. CDC Concussion Training module (Initial)**
- 7. Signing of ECP Code of Professional Responsibility (Initial)**
- 8. Completion of 4 ECP Cont. Ed. activities credits per each 4-year Cont. Ed. cycle**
(Continuing Education) *See numbers below for guidance about each of the above requirements.*

This document references for you both ECP's initial requirements for ECP certification and ECP's Continuing Education requirements once you are ECP-certified. These requirements are identified in the box above and described below. See notes below at each number, 1. through 8.

With respect to ECP Continuing Education, throughout their professional career as an ECP-certified coach, an ECP-certified YEH coach, or an ECP-certified YEH professional horse trainer, all ECP-certified individuals must report to the USEA office his/her completion of ECP CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS either during or at the end of (depending upon the requirement) each of a certified individual's successive 4-year Continuing Education cycles.

An ECP-certified individual's first 4-year Continuing Education cycle ends on December 31 of the fourth full year following his or her certification; the second cycle, and all of those following, run 4 more years in length, each finishing at the end of 4 years on December 31.

To check what information you have already remitted to your own USEA ECP file, go at any time to that file electronically. Log onto your USEA online services account. There will be an education box in the lower right hand corner. You will see at a glance if you are non-compliant with any of the requirements. You will also be able to see what you have submitted for your current 4-year cycle.

1. Initially and during every year that an ECP-certified individual is professionally active, the USEA requires that an ECP-certified individual be **A CURRENT USEA MEMBER** at whatever level of USEA membership that individual chooses.
2. Initially and at the end of each year (by Dec. 31), the USEA requires that an ECP-certified individual possess **A CURRENT PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY** and must provide written proof of it to Brandi Bishop at the USEA office (bbishop@useventing.com). "ECP-certified individual" includes anyone who has earned an ECP ICoach certificate (Levels I, II, III, or IV), a YEH Coach certificate, or/and a YEH Professional Horse Trainer certificate.

The USEA requires that your liability insurance policy meet the following minimum requirements:

- The policy must be a liability policy that covers the certified coach for his/her professional riding instruction, professional horse training, and related activities. The coach should consult his/her insurance agent as to the type of liability policy that will best protect him/her.
 - The liability policy must have an annual occurrence limit of at least \$1 million and an annual aggregate limit of at least \$1 million.
 - The insurance company must be A rated (or better) by A.M. Best.
 - The coach must send proof of a certificate of insurance to the USEA office annually by December 31 each year, after having sent proof upon becoming certified.
 - The USEA and its designees must be named on the policy as an Additional Insured. *(Note: As of January, 2005, until otherwise notified by ECP, you do not have to request that your insurance company name USEA and its designees on your policy.)* Be aware that landowners and/or organizers of farms where you teach or ride/train might require proof that you have liability insurance and might ask to be named on your policy as additional insured. Your agent should be able to assist you with this issue.
3. Initially and as often as your selected First Aid/CPR program requires, an ECP-certified individual must possess a **CURRENT FIRST AID/CPR CARD** and must provide written proof of its currency to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office each time you renew that card according to that program's renewal schedule.

It is likely that at least two renewals per 4-year-Cont. Ed. 4-year cycle will be necessary. Each renewal must be verified by your remitting a copy of the updated First Aid/CPR card to the USEA office after you fulfill the requirements to keep your card current.

Most programs allow you to renew your status electronically by going to its website and following its instructions for keeping current in order to receive an updated card. Here are several First Aid/CPR websites:

redcross.org firstaidweb.com cprandfirstaid.net cpr-first-aid.com cpraccess.com

4. Initially and at the end of every 4-year Cont. Ed. cycle, an ECP-certified individual must provide to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office a nationwide **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK** showing no conviction for child abuse. Such is required of virtually all individuals who work in the U.S. with or in close proximity to children and youth.

To obtain a Nationwide Criminal Background Check, go to criminalwatchdog.com or intelius.com.

VERIFICATION METHOD FOR CURRENT INSURANCE POLICY, CURRENT FIRST AID/CPR CARD, CURRENT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK:

Email, mail, or fax a copy of current insurance certificate, a copy of current First Aid/CPR card, and nationwide criminal background check to the USEA office. Brandi Bishop's phone: (703) 779-0440 ext. 3014 or (703) 779-9896; fax: (703) 779-0550; e-mail: bbishop@useventing.com; mailing address: U.S. Eventing Association, 525 Old Waterford Road NW, Leesburg, VA 20176

5. Initially, an ECP-certified individual must complete the **SAFESPORT TRAINING MODULE**, whose completion is now legally required by the U.S. federal government for individuals who are teachers or coaches of sporting youth. Provide proof of completion to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office.

Find the SafeSport Training module as follows:

- Go to the SafeSport Training link: <https://safesport.org/>
- Complete the 3 segments of SafeSport Training and email the completion certificates to [Brandi Bishop](#).

Directions to complete SafeSport Training:

- Go to the USEF Website at usef.org.
- Click on "My USEF" in the top right hand corner of the home page.
- Look below the log in prompts and click on "Create New Account."
- Tick "I don't Know" when asked if you have an existing ID.
- Input your First and Last names in ID Search and hit return. If you do have an existing USEF ID #, you will be prompted to login in or create a login.
- If you do not have an existing USEF ID # you will receive the following message : "No search results." You can search again or select "No, I am new to USEF." Click on the button beside "No, I am new to USEF" above the login information on the same page.
- Continue creating a new ID #.

6. Initially, an ECP-certified individual must complete the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **CONCUSSION TRAINING MODULE** and provide proof of completion to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office.

Find the concussion training module as follows:

- Go to the Concussion Protocol Training link: cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/training/index.html.
- Complete the training module and send completion certificate to [Brandi Bishop](#) in the USEA office

7. Initially, an ECP-certified individual must sign the **ECP CODE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY** and provide a signed copy to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office via email or hard mail.

Find the ECP Code of Professional Responsibility on the USEA website under Education > ECP.

8. To fulfill ECP Continuing Education activities requirements, all ECP-certified coaches (including coaches certified at Levels I through IV and YEH coaches), all YEH professional horse trainers, and all ECP faculty must complete **EQUESTRIAN RELATED ACTIVITIES EQUALING AT LEAST 4 CREDITS PER EACH 4-YEAR CONTINUING EDUCATION CYCLE**, 3 open credits and 1 defined-activity credit.

Each ECP-certified individual must provide written verification of completion of each of his/her selected activities by the end of each of his/her 4-year Continuing Education cycles (by December 31 of each 4th year, in other words), if not earlier. You may submit your verifications of Continuing Education activity credits to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office. Include the name of the activity, date(s), location, clinician if applicable, and one idea or practice that you took away from each of the activities you chose to participate in or attend.

Note to individuals who have earned an ECP certificate for instructing as either a Level I, II, III, IV Coach or YEH Coach (or, in rare cases, both) and for ridden training as a YEH Professional Horse Trainer:

- Use the 4-year cycle dates which began with your first-earned certificate;
- If you have earned an ECP Coach certificate and a YEH professional horse trainer certificate, then, during every 4-year cycle, you must engage in activities to earn the 3 open Cont. Ed. activities credits and 2, not just 1, of the defined-activities listed below to earn 2 defined-activity credits. One of your selected defined-activity options must be a YEH Professional Horse Trainer activity described below; the other defined-activity option should involve instructing.

For the 3 open credits, a broad range of activities is identified below in the Open Credits List.

Select any 3 activities from the Open Credits List for every 4-year cycle of yours. Choose more than 3, if you like. Each option on the Open Credits List is equivalent to 1 credit, except where noted.

For the 1 defined-activity credit, you have 2 options from which to choose; you must select one option to complete this defined-activity credit for every 4-year cycle of yours. If you wish, you may select both defined-activity credit options during any 4-yr Cont. Ed. Cycle, thereby earning 2 of your 4 total credits during that cycle. If you have earned a YEH professional horse trainer certificate as well as a coach certificate(s) (either Level I through IV coach or YEH coach, or both), see the directives above under “Note.”

Defined-activity credit OPTION #1:

A Levels I through IV Coach, including ECP faculty, sets up a session to observe the teaching /coaching of and have his/ her own teaching /coaching observed by another ECP-certified coach. The coach selected as the observer should be at a higher ECP Level than the coach completing this option. A Level IV coach should select another Level IV coach.

The cross-country mentoring credit may be completed at ECP Faculty taught clinics where certified coaches would teach a 15-minute section of the clinic, with permission from the coach and clinic host. It could also be obtained at a competition by having another ECP Certified Coach watch you warm up your student for cross-country. Additionally, it could be fulfilled by having an ECP Faculty Member, or another ECP Certified Coach at a level above the level at which you are certified, observe a cross-country warm up with the coach’s student. A Level IV coach should select another Level IV coach.

This teaching/coaching must include cross-country riding/jumping instruction or coaching.

A YEH coach sets up a session to observe the teaching/coaching of and have his/her own teaching/coaching observed by another YEH coach or by a Level I-Training or higher coach.

This teaching/coaching must include cross-country riding/jumping instruction or coaching.

A YEH professional horse trainer sets up a session to observe another professional horse trainer as the latter trainer is riding and jumping a young horse; the YEH professional horse trainer must then be observed while riding/jumping a young horse by that other professional horse trainer. The other professional horse trainer may be another ECP-certified professional horse trainer or a professional horse trainer who is not ECP-certified. *This riding/training must include cross country riding/jumping.*

OR

Defined-activity credit OPTION #2:

An ECP-certified individual may choose to set up and/or participate in an ECP Cont. Ed. co-teaching clinic, either organized by/ for a small group of ECP-certified individuals by one of the participating coaches or led by an ECP advisor. ECP Advisors are [listed here](#). Please note: ECP co-teaching or cotraining clinics may be run with or without an advisor present.

ECP Cont. Ed. co-teaching clinic participants may include anyone who is ECP-certified, whether as a Level I-IV coach, a YEH coach, or a YEH professional horse trainer. A YEH professional horse trainer may earn this credit by participating as a rider in a Cont. Ed. co-teaching clinic, or he/she may participate in an ECP Cont. Ed. co-training clinic (see below).

For a Cont. Ed. co-teaching clinic, decide what riding/teaching content you, the other participating coaches, and the riders want to address. Settle upon a site and a date. Teach and discuss the teaching and the riding; ideally, include the riders in those discussions. *Every Cont. Ed. co-teaching clinic's content should include some XC riding/jumping and discussion by all ECP-certified coach participants in order to count as completion of this defined activity.*

YEH professional horse trainers may choose to set up and/or participate in an ECP Cont. Ed. co-training clinic. Decide what training challenges you and the other participating YEH professional horse trainer(s) want to address. A co-training clinic may include professional horse trainers who are not ECP-certified. Settle upon a site and a date. Organize the session so that some participants are riding while the others watch/discuss/offer commentary/ask questions. Then switch roles so that everyone both rides and watches/offers commentary. *Every Cont. Ed. co-training clinic's content should include some XC riding/jumping and discussion by all ECP-certified prof. horse trainer participants in order to count as completion of this defined activity.*

Co-teaching and co-training clinics may include as many or as few participants as best suits your circumstances and your clinic goals. There could be only 2 participants or as many as, say, 8. Decide upon a number that will allow everyone to participate fully in the co-teaching or the co-training. If there are 6 or more participants, ECP advises including an ECP advisor to lead the clinic; ECP advisors are [listed here](#).

ECP Cont. Ed. co-teaching or co-training clinics may include auditors.

For either kind of ECP Cont. Ed. clinic – co-teaching or co-training – please share your experience by email or hard copy with Brandi Bishop at bbishop@useventing.com so that ECP can share what you have done with other certified coaches and YEH professional horse trainers. Thank you!

Dates of ECP Cont. Ed. co-teaching and co-training clinics are often listed on the ECP calendar section of the USEA website if an coach communicates that information ahead of time to [Brandi Bishop](#) at the USEA office and secures the USEA insurance for the activity. Find the ECP calendar at useventing.com. Click on Education, then on Eventing Coaches Program; then click in upper right on “Upcoming Events.”

OPEN CREDITS LIST

- Attend a national ECP presentation, like the ECP East Coast Symposium or the ECP West Coast Symposium
- Attend any ECP Workshop or ECP YEH Workshop as an auditor, a participating coach, or the host (2 credits)
- Scribe for one full day for an ECP faculty member at an ECP Workshop or YEH Workshop.
- Participate in a competition XC course walk for certified coaches, led by an upper level ECP-certified coach
- Have teaching or riding mentored by a qualified horse person who is not ECP-certified (with description and evaluation activity and sign-off by that person)
- Participate in a competition XC course walk for certified coaches, led by an upper level ECP-certified
- Have teaching or riding mentored by a qualified horse person who is not ECP-certified (with description and evaluation activity and sign-off by mentor)
- Attend a USEA course design or officials' seminar (with sign-off by presenter)
- Teach a half-day session (or more) to Pony Clubbers (with sign-off by a Pony Club local officer)
- Audit or ride in an equestrian clinic (with sign-off by the clinician)
- Attend a seminar related to teaching theory and practice, sports psychology, physical training, or Coaching (with sign-off by presenter)
- Attend a business training workshop (with sign-off by coach, or read about business management)
- Attend ECP programs/forums at a USEA annual meeting
- Attend a USEA Area annual meeting
- Watch an equestrian video of significance
- Read an equestrian book of significance
- Write an article for the USEA website or *Eventing USA*
- Engage in an equestrian-related activity not mentioned above but important in some way to your thinking/ experience as an coach or a professional horse trainer. (1 credit of the 3 open credits in each 4-year Cont. Ed. cycle may be coach- or professional horse trainer-selected in this way.)

- Volunteer time to support/develop an event or the sport of (with appropriate sign-off)

DEFINED-ACTIVITY CREDITS LIST *(Required credit with 2 options. Read 8. above.)*

- Observe an ECP-cert. coach teaching/coaching XC riding and be observed by that coach as you teach/ coach XC riding/jumping. For a YEH professional horse trainer, observe the riding of another horse trainer and have that trainer observe your own riding of a YEH, including XC riding/jumping.
- OR
- Set up and participate in an ECP Cont. Ed. co-teaching clinic
- or co-training clinic:
 - Participate in and/or organize an ECP co-teaching clinic, with 2 to 8 certified coaches present (1 credit for participating/organizing, 2 credits for leading).
 - Participate in and/or organize a co-training clinic, with 2 to 8 horse trainers present (1 credit for participating/ organizing, 2 credits for leading).

VERIFICATION METHOD FOR THE 4 ACTIVITIES

You may submit your continuing education credits via email to [Brandi Bishop](#) in the USEA Office. Include the name of the activity, dates, location, clinician if applicable and one idea or practice that you took away from attending the activity. Remit to Brandi by December 31 of the last full year of each of your 4-year cycles. Keep copies for yourself of everything you have remitted.

Each completed Continuing Education Verification shall include the following:

- Name, address, phone, e-mail address of the ECP-certified individual (Levels I-IV or YEH) or YEH professional horse trainer
- Date and place of activity
- Name and description of activity
- Each completed Continuing Education verification should include a brief description of one idea or practice that you took away as a result of the activity. These descriptions help specify the activity's meaning to you; they also stimulate new ideas and new thinking within the ECP program itself.

IN SUMMARY, VERIFICATION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

REQUIREMENTS • Current registration as a USEA member.

- Verification of current professional liability insurance certificate to the USEA office by December 31 of each full year of the 4-year cycle (4 times per 4-year cycle), including last year of each 4-year cycle.
- Verification of current First Aid/CPR card to the USEA office (2 times minimum per 4-year cycle), including last year of each 4-year cycle.
- Verification initially and at end of each 4-year cycle of a nationwide criminal background check.
- Verification of completion of the 4 Activities Credits to the USEA office by December 31 of the last year of each 4-year cycle (4 credits per 4-year cycle), with 1 of those 4 credits completing one of the defined-activity options. If an individual is ECP-certified as both a coach and also a professional horse trainer, he or she must complete 2 defined-activities credits during each 4-year Cont. Ed. cycle. (Please read 8. above.)

CONSEQUENCES OF LACK OF VERIFICATION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AT THE END OF EACH 4-YEAR CYCLE:

By December 31 at the end of each 4-year cycle following the year of a coach's certification, if an ECP-certified individual is not a USEA member and/or fails to send to the USEA office the verification of 4 activity credits (including the defined-activity credit), verification of current professional liability insurance, verification of current First Aid/ CPR card, and verification of absence of child abuse conviction, he/she will be allowed until end of the following March (3 months) to complete remission to the USEA office of whatever is missing.

If not completed by end of March, your name will be removed from the ECP Coach list on the website until you are compliant with the continuing education credits. Once requirement verifications are submitted and accepted, you will return to current ECP-certified status and your name will be added back to the USEA website's ECP Coach list, the YEH Coach list, and/or the YEH Professional Horse Trainer list.