



Athlete Age Determination: FEI, USEF versus USEA

FEI events, USEF and USEA national events use three different systems to determine the age of an athlete for competition purposes. This means that a rider may be one age to compete in USEA events, USEF events and a different age to compete in FEI events.

FEI Age

Where is FEI age used?

FEI events include CSIO Nations Cups, CSIOY/J/Ch Nations Cups, CSIs, North American Children's Championship (NACHC), North American Junior and Young Rider Championship (NAJYRC).

Other events like the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search, U25 National Championship and The Artisan Farms U25 Grand Prix Series are USEF events; however, they are run in accordance with FEI age rules.

What are the FEI age categories?

Child Riders: FEI ages 12 to 14

Junior Riders: FEI ages 14 to 18

Young Riders: FEI ages 16 to 21

U25 Riders: FEI ages 16 to 25

How is FEI age determined?

FEI Age is the age the athlete will turn during the calendar year of the event. Unlike USEF age, the month and day of birth do not matter. For example, an athlete born October 15, 2003, will turn 14 during 2017, so their FEI age is 14 for the entire 2017 calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2017, and eligible to compete as a Child Rider or a Junior Rider.

USEF Age

Where is USEF age used?

Events that use the USEF method include Children/Adult Jumper Championship, Junior Jumper Championship and Prix des States, and U.S. Pony Jumper Finals.

What are the USEF age categories?

Junior Riders: 17 years of age and under

Senior Riders: 18 years of age and over

How is USEF age determined?

An athlete's USEF age is determined by the age they are on December 1st, when the USEF competition year begins. For example, an athlete born October 15, 2003 would be 13 on December 1, 2016, so their USEF age is 13 for the entire 2017 USEF competition year, December 1, 2016 through November 30, 2017.

USEA Age

Where is USEA age used?

Events that are USEF Endorsed/USEA Recognized

What are the USEA age categories?

Junior Member: 18 years of age and under

Young Rider: 16 years through 25 years. (Open to Athletes from the beginning of the calendar year of their 16th birthday through the end of the calendar year of their 25th birthday.)

Adult Rider: 22 years or older.

Full Member: 19 years of age and over

Life Member: Any age

Life member 60 and Over: 60 years of age and older

How is USEA age determined:

For membership purposes, a rider's USEA age is based on the age they will turn during the calendar year of their membership. For example, an athlete born October 15, 2007, will turn 18 during 2025, so their USEA age is 18 for the entire 2025 calendar year, January 1 through December 31, 2025, and eligible to compete as a Junior Rider. Membership is valid for the competition year, which runs from December 1 of the previous year to November 30 of the membership year.

USEA Athlete's Participating in Amateur programs:

Riders wishing to participate in the Amateur program must declare Amateur status beginning in the calendar year they turn 19. For membership and competition purposes, a rider's age is determined by the age they will reach during the calendar year of their membership.