



USEA INTRO LEVEL REQUIREMENTS & REGULATIONS

Debut August 1, 2026 - Leaderboards beginning Dec. 1, 2026

OBJECTIVE: To serve as the introductory level for riders and horses into the sport of eventing in a safe, low-pressure environment. The primary goal is to build confidence, reinforce foundational skills, and provide a positive early competition experience across all three phases of a horse trial.

- a. **Dressage:** Competitors should be prepared to do a walk, trot, and canter dressage test with 20-meter figures and a halt. Tests **CAN BE** called to the rider.
- b. **Cross-Country:** Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile. Obstacles may be completed in trot or canter.
 1. There must be no flagged water crossing.
 2. There must be no ditches or combinations allowed.
 3. The track of the course is recommended to be viewable from one place and must avoid turns with less than a 20-meter radius
 4. Verbal coaching **CAN BE** provided to the rider while on course.
- c. **Show Jumping:** The jumping course should be inviting and straightforward.
 1. Recommend lines of 25m (82 ft) or more.
 2. Combinations and spreads are not allowed.
 3. Verbal coaching **CAN BE** provided to the rider while on course.

MEMBERSHIP/HORSE REQUIREMENTS

Membership Requirements: The rider may be of any age. Membership with the USEA is optional. A full competing membership is mandatory to accumulate year-end award points or to earn qualifications for Area Championships. A 14-day grace period will be extended to join the USEA or renew membership upon the conclusion of the competition. The USEA will consider on a case-by-case basis a reinstatement of qualifications for the current year Area Championships and current year-end awards, only. A fine of \$100 will be assessed for each inquiry to consider reinstatement. Inquiries must be submitted within 30 days after the 14-day grace period has expired.

Horse Requirements/Registration: The horse must be at least 4 years of age or older. Horse registration is optional. A limited or full registration is mandatory to accumulate year-end award points or to earn qualifications for Area Championships. A 14-day grace period will be extended to register the horse with at least a limited registration, upon the conclusion of the competition. The USEA will consider on a case-by-case basis a reinstatement of qualifications for the current year Area Championship and current year-end awards, only. A fine of \$100 will be assessed for each inquiry to consider reinstatement. Inquiries must be submitted within 30 days after the 14-day grace period has expired.

Qualifications: There are no qualifications for a rider or horse to enter the Intro level.

USEA Starter/D&M Fees: A \$35 USEA Starter/D&M fee will be assessed for each entry. The fee is collected by the competition management on behalf of the association.

Year-end Awards: Point values are tabulated the same as the Beginner Novice level.

Area Championships: As determined by the relevant Area Council.

NO AEC CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HOSTED

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

PARTICIPATION

Organizers have the right to combine or divide the division as they see fit.

OFFICIALS

President, Ground Jury: Must at minimum be a Federation licensed "r" Eventing judge.

Ground Jury will perform the course evaluation functions of the Technical Delegate. Other Judges may be Federation licensed Judges, participants, or graduates of the USEA Training Program, or knowledgeable horse people. A veterinarian and qualified medical personnel must be present on the grounds during any Cross-Country or Show Jumping phases.

COMPETITION SPECIFICATIONS PER PHASE

All three phases at this level will be subject to the current USEA requirements for the Intro level, USEA Policies and Guidelines, and the USEF Rules for Eventing. Whenever there is no directive given for this level, governance is deferred to the USEF Rules for Eventing, Beginner Novice level and to specifications applied to all levels.

DRESS: In accordance with the USEF Rules for Eventing, Subchapter EV-9 Dress

SADDLERY: In accordance with the USEF Rules for Eventing, Subchapter EV-10 Saddlery and USEF Annex 1

DRESSAGE TESTS

2023 USDF Intro C test

2026 USEA Starter Test | Small (20mx40m) Arena. Time approximately 4:00 minutes

CROSS-COUNTRY

Numbers and Letters: As designated by the Organizer and printed on the course map

Distance: 800 to 1200 meters

Speed: 225-275 mpm

Speed Faults: 400 mpm

No. of Efforts: 8-10

Fixed Height: .45 m (18")

Brush Height: .76 m (2'6") (not to exceed 2' in center or spaced brushing)

Top Spread: .30 m (1'0")

Base Spread with Height: .70 m (2.3")

Spread w/out Height: No ditches

Drops: No drops

Water: No water crossing

**Combinations are not allowed.*

SHOW JUMPING

Distance: Maximum 600 meters

Speed: 225 mpm

No. of Jumping Efforts: 6 – 8

Heights: .45 m (18")

Spread: No spreads

**Combinations are not allowed.*