

2026 USEA POLICIES & GUIDELINES

For USEA
Recognized Competitions
and Members of the
Association

USEA MEMBERSHIP POLICY

1. COMPETITOR: A rider competing in any USEA-registered competition at any level, including the *Starter level, must hold a Full, Junior, or Life membership. The USEA will extend a 14- day grace period for Starter level riders to join the USEA, renew their membership or to register their horses, upon the conclusion of the competition. The 14-day grace period extends to upgrade a horse from Limited to Full. Points and/or championship qualifications are not retroactive after the 14-day grace period. The USEA will consider on a case by case basis a reinstatement of qualifications for the current year championship and current year-end awards, only. A fee of \$100 will be assessed for each inquiry to consider reinstatement.

***STARTER LEVEL:** Effective December 1, 2023, Starter Division is now a recognized level with the USEA. USEA membership and horse registration (limited or full) are mandatory to accumulate year end award points and qualifications for area championships and USEA American Eventing Championships. For more information about starter level visit the USEA website at useventing.com/events-competitions/resources/starter-level-regulations.

USEA Programs Refund & Cancellation Policy: A full refund may be issued for memberships, program memberships, interscholastic and intercollegiate program enrollments, and horse registrations if a written request is received within **5 business days** of the original transaction date. Refund requests submitted after this period will **not** be honored. All refund requests must be submitted **in writing** to the USEA office. A **\$10 processing fee** will apply to the above purchases, and any applicable administrative costs may be deducted from the refund amount.

Insufficient Funds or return checks: All returned checks will be charged a \$50.00 fee, and the USEA membership will be suspended until payment has been resolved with the association.

Credit Card Disputes and Chargeback: For all chargeback accounts your USEA membership and affiliated horse registration will be placed on hold until your debt to the association has been paid in full. All Entry chargeback must be directed to the appropriate event. Please see the competition Omnibus page for competition refund policy.

2. INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTING LEAGUE (IEL) MEMBER: The IEL Club must register with the USEA by February 15. Students and junior members from 5th to 12th grade may join the IEL by selecting their IEL Club. Those not registering online will be able to fill in the name of their club or ECP coach on the membership form.

3. STARTER LEVEL, REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS:

Refer to useventing.com/events-competitions/resources/starter-level-regulations

4. CLASSIC THREE-DAY EVENT, BN3D AND N3D REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS:

Refer to useventing.com/events-competitions/usea-classic-series/classic-series-guidelines

5. DIGITAL MEMBERSHIP: Open to ALL volunteers who have tirelessly showed their loyalty to the sport of eventing. By volunteering 10 or more hours through ***EventingVolunteers.com***. The Digital Membership will be awarded to these well-deserving participants on a yearly basis. Additionally, all members of the Eventing Affiliates who are not already USEA members will receive a complimentary Digital membership.

Affiliate Clubs must submit a roster to USEA. The Digital Membership will offer qualifying participants several benefits. Digital Members will have full access to the USEA's online resources, including the Member Rewards Program and digital issues of the award-winning ***Eventing USA*** magazine, subscription to all USEA eNewsletters, and access to online competition and educational videos.

Digital members will also have voting rights with the association and the ability to make their voice heard in advocacy for the sport of eventing. Participation in USEA Educational Activities, like clinics, seminars and camps, is another perk that Digital Members will be encouraged to take advantage of, as they provide a great opportunity to increase your knowledge base and meet new people who share your love of the sport. If you are interested in volunteering to start accumulating 10 hours of service towards your upcoming Digital Membership, visit ***EventingVolunteers.com*** for a full listing of participating events.

6. AMATEUR STATUS: For all returning USEA members, amateur status will transfer automatically to the next competition season. It is the responsibility of each competitor to inform the USEA of any changes to their status. Amateur status begins at the time it is declared and its benefits are not retroactive. A fee of \$50.00 will be assessed for each inquiry to consider activating status at an earlier date.

For the definition of amateur status, please refer to the ***USEF Rules for Eventing***, Appendix 2.1.3 Amateur (A). If you are unclear about whether you qualify as an amateur or professional, please email: ***amateurinquiry@usef.org***.

7. ORGANIZER: The organizer, or the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of an event, must be a current Full or Life, member of the USEA.

THE USEA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS ARE WAIVED ONLY IN THE FOLLOWING CASES:

1a. EVENTING TESTS: Such as but not limited to: Intro, DX Eventing, Coach Allowed Test (CAT), or Schooling Show competitors. Participation is open to non-members. For USEA Recognized Combined Tests, riders must be a current USEA member at the Community level or higher. Horses must be registered with the USEA at the Restricted level or higher. A \$20 starter fee will be collected per horse for the Young Event Horse (YEH) classes and recognized CT divisions. CT and YEH competitions must be USEA registered \$150 (if not hosted alongside a recognized HT).

To use the USEA Xentry online entry system, an ID number must be created. ID numbers do not require membership and can be created by going to the USEA home page and clicking on the Login tab. Click "New User?" to create profile. Please note: This is not a membership level. You must pay to compete at the Starter level and above levels.

1b. U.S. PONY CLUB members are exempt from USEA membership and horse registration requirements at the Starter, Beginner Novice, and the Novice levels, if they are participating in a Pony Club sanctioned rally being held in conjunction at a USEA recognized horse trials.

USEA HORSE REGISTRATION AND YEAR-END AWARDS POLICY

All horses competing in any USEA recognized competition at any level, including the *Starter level, must have a valid **FULL** or **LIMITED STATUS**. The USEA will extend a 14-day grace period to register a Starter level horse or, upgrade a horse from Limited to Full, upon the conclusion of the competition. Points and/or championship qualifications are not retroactive after the 14-day grace period. The USEA will consider reinstatement of qualifications for the current year 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.

***STARTER LEVEL:** Effective December 1, 2023, Starter Division is now a recognized level with the USEA. USEA membership and horse registration (limited or full) are mandatory to accumulate year end award points and qualifications for area championships and USEA American Eventing Championships. For more information about Starter level visit the USEA website at useventing.com/events-competitions/resources/starter-level-regulations.

1. All horses must have a **FULL STATUS** registration with the USEA in order to participate in USEA recognized competitions at the Modified level and above levels.
2. ALL horses must have a **LIMITED STATUS** registration with the USEA in order to participate in USEA recognized competitions at the Training level and below, and at Young Event Horse tests.
3. **FULL WEANLING REGISTRATION DISCOUNTED FEE ONLY DURING FIRST YEAR OF LIFE**
(Registry papers or other acceptable ID and proof of foaling date must be submitted at time of registration). Horse must be registered in its first year of life, i.e. April to March to be eligible for this discount.

DETERMINING WEANLING AGE:

- **Northern Hemisphere** (January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025) - Any foal born in the Northern Hemisphere between January 1 and December 31, 2025 can be registered with the USEA as a Weanling. These foals will be considered yearlings through the USEA database starting January 1, 2026.
- **Southern Hemisphere** (August 1, 2025 - July 31, 2025) - Any foal born in the Southern Hemisphere between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2026, can be registered with the USEA as a Weanling. These foals will be considered yearlings through the USEA database starting on August 1, 2026.

Due to the later breeding season in the Southern Hemisphere, these dates are meant to even the playing field between foals that are born in the first half of the year, like in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and those that are born in the second half of the year, in places like Argentina, for example.

4. All horses with a **LIMITED STATUS** registration must be upgraded to **FULL STATUS** registration prior to competing at the Modified level.
5. Restricted Eventing Test Horse registration is used to enter eventing tests using the USEA Xentry online entry system for a Coaching Allowed Test (CAT), Event Derby, Intro, or Combined Test level(s) only. **THIS IS NOT A VALID HORSE REGISTRATION FOR COMPETITION.** Horses registered at this level do not earn award points or AEC qualifications. The results are not posted to the rider or horse's profile.
6. **U.S. PONY CLUB** members that are exempt from the membership requirement stated under USEA Membership also exempts horse registration for Starter, Beginner Novice, and Novice levels when competing in team competitions or Pony Club rallies held in conjunction with a USEA recognized horse trials.

7. YEAR-END AWARD POINTS VERIFICATION: The USEA has established a cut-off date of November 15th for inquiries on competitive records for events held prior to November 15th. While we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our members' competitive record, we realize that errors do occur. It is the responsibility of every owner/rider to verify their horse's records.

8. LEADERBOARD POINT SYSTEM:

Refer to useventing.com/events-competitions/leaderboard/leaderboard-point-system.

9. TRANSFER OF USEA HORSE ACCOUNT: The USEA no longer requires the submission of bills of sale for horses registered with the Association. Additionally, the USEA will no longer track horse ownership. Any information on horse ownership provided to the USEA by the Horse Account holder will be used solely for promotional purposes as a benefit to the USEA Horse Account holder, however the USEA cannot acknowledge nor prove horse ownership. When a transfer of a USEA Horse Account has been initiated an email will be generated to the previous account holder on file with the USEA. The primary, or syndicate representative, account holder will be notified. When acknowledgement has been received, the transfer of the Horse Account will be completed. **Please note:** Only one (1) Horse Account per horse. Multiple accounts are NOT allowed and will be merged to the original account. No refunds will be issued for duplicate horse registrations. For questions, please contact the USEA office at memberservices@useventing.com or 703-779-0440 x 1.

USEA RULES FOR HORSE NAMES

The USEA reserves the right to approve or disapprove all horse names submitted. The USEA further reserves the right to require a name change and/or to immediately revoke or deny a horse registration based on a name that:

- Is profane or distasteful.
- Contains a potentially vulgar or obscene meaning.
- May be offensive or threatening to others based upon protected characteristics, e.g., color, creed, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, politics, or sexual orientation.
- Appears to be designed to harass, humiliate, or disparage a specific individual, group, or entity.
- Any other factor that appears to be problematic.



MODIFIED AND ABOVE PARTICIPATION IN USEF RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS

To participate in U.S. Equestrian Federation licensed competitions at the Modified level or above, riders, owners, coaches, and trainers must be individual members of the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF).

Riders and owners who are not current USEF members, are permitted to obtain one U.S. Equestrian Show Pass fee (\$85) per competition year. If one person holds more than one position, e.g., rider and trainer, only one payment of \$45.00 is required.

POLICIES FOR RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS

1. All events registered with the USEA must apply for licensure (Modified and above) through US Equestrian in accordance with GR3. Endorsed status (Training and lower) events are approved by the USEA Executive Committee; upon approval the event profile will be submitted to US Equestrian. US Equestrian will assign a competition ID#. New events and any modifications to dates, levels and location of existing events, are subject to the USEA and USEF review process, to include, organizers, area councils, USEA Competitions, Calendar and Rules Committee, USEA Executive Committee, USEF Calendar Working Group, USEF Eventing Sport Committee, and International Disciplines Council (where applicable).

2. The organizer or the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of an event must be a current Full or Life member of the USEA.

3. The event prize list must be posted to the USEA website. The USEA Event Registration Fee is \$350.00. Competition liability insurance is included in the registration fee, meeting US Equestrian General Regulations. The registration fee and prize list are due 30 days from the opening date of the competition.

Organizers are responsible for submitting the prize list directly to the USEF 30 days prior to the start of the competition to prizelist@usef.org. The USEA will provide the necessary material that is required under US Equestrian General Regulations.

Any event pending the USEA event registration fee will not have the prize list posted online until the registration fee has been paid.

5a. At horse trials, three-day events, CCIs, collect a starter levy fee itemized on the entry form of \$35.00 for each horse at the Starter through Advanced level, including FEI levels, that start in the competition. This applies even if one or all phases of the event are cancelled once the event has commenced.

5b. Starter Fees: Competition Starter Fees are a tariff imposed by the USEA on each starter in USEA recognized competitions. Such fees are collected by the competition management on behalf of the Association. Per USEA Policy, Starter Fees are due in the USEA office within ten days after the completion of the competition. If such fees are not received within such time, competition management will be notified of the situation; when such fees are not paid within 30 days after the completion of the competition, the next competition(s) will not be posted online and may lose its status as a future USEA recognized competition until such fees are paid in full.

5c. Drugs and Medications/Endorsement Fee: The USEA has an agreement with U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) whereby the Beginner Novice, Novice, and Training levels are covered by the rules, regulations and hearing processes of the U.S. Equestrian Federation Inc. and all levels of competition may be subject to the U.S. Equestrian Federation Drugs and Medications program.

Pursuant to that agreement, a drug fee may be imposed by the USEA on each horse in competition in lieu of the drug fee imposed by the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) and is paid by the competitor with the entry. The amount of the drug fee shall be set by the USEA Board of Governors. Organizers shall collect any such fees on behalf of the organization and remit them within ten days of the completion of the competition. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the competition losing its status as a USEA recognized competition and, the next competition (s) will not be posted online until such fees are paid in full.

6. Refund Policy for Withdrawal of an Entry Prior to the Start of Competition: After closing date, the refund policy published in the Prize List by Competition Management will apply, except that Starter Fees and Drugs & Medication Fees shall be returned to any competitor who withdraws prior to the start of the competition, regardless of the date of the competitor's withdrawal. Refund of Starter Fees and Drugs & Medication Fees to qualifying competitors shall be made within 30 days of the completion of the competition. USEA Starter Fees and Drug and Medication Fees are not subjected to any office fee.

7. Post Competition Report: All USEA recognized competitions must submit the competition results via email using the USEA template, within four days of the competition to results@useventing.com. All fees and additional documents (where applicable) are due to the USEA Office within 10 days of the competition.

8. Adhere to pertinent USEA directives and memorandums.

9a. Agree to a pre-event inspection by the technical delegate prior to the start of the competition.

9b. New Event (national levels only): As defined by USEA (see below), will provide a one-time only reimbursement, up to \$500 towards the technical delegate's fees and travel expenses to and from the event. The organizer is responsible for housing and meals.

NEW EVENT DEFINED AS:

1. An entirely new event, with new organizational staff and over new cross-country courses.

2. An experienced organizational staff running an event over a new competition site with all new cross-country courses.

- An existing event adding a new level of competition or an additional date to the calendar is not considered a new event.

3. An all new organizational staff (organizer and secretary) taking over an existing cross-country site that has not been used for two or more years.

10. Officials: The Technical Delegate, President of the Ground Jury, and Course Designer must be stated in the Prize List for each competition. A competition may not be published or posted if these officials are not named.

LEVELS OF COMPETITION

1. There is no restriction on the number of levels that may be held at any registered event. However, organizers must use their judgment and not run more divisions or accept more competitors than can be reasonably handled without adversely affecting the safety or the quality of the event.
2. The USEF Eventing Sport Committee, or the USEA Executive Committee, in cases where the event is not licensed by the Federation, reserves the right to restrict the number of levels and/or competitors at any registered event, if this is deemed necessary in the interest of the sport.

COMBINED TEST/EVENTING TESTS

1. Organizers may also offer “Tests” in conjunction with their horse trials. Refer to **Sub- Chapter EV-3 - Rules for Tests**. USEA competition guidelines for combined tests are on page 9 of this publication.

2a. Combined Tests: If a Combined Test offers the cross-country phase, qualifications to compete are the same as for Horse Trials. USEA membership and horse registration are mandatory to accumulate year end award points for the CT Leaderboard. USEA registered Combined Tests are subject to a \$20 starter fee.

2b. Eventing Tests: Eventing Tests are exempt from the Association fees (Starter & D&M), Young Event Horse Tests are assessed a \$20 USEA Starter Fee.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. If schooling of any kind is permitted at the end of the scheduled day of competition, the USEA highly recommends that these sessions are properly supervised, and adequate insurance coverage is obtained by the organizer. The application for Educational Activity insurance is available on www.useventing.com under **Safety + Education - Educational Activities**.
2. Only stabling approved by the organizer is permitted. Stalls made from rope, string, or wire is not permitted. Pipe corrals are acceptable.



USEA CHAMPIONSHIPS

AMERICAN EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USEA Horse Trials Championship (AEC) will recognize and reward the top horse/rider combinations from the Starter through the Advanced levels. Horses and riders must qualify over a 14-month period. Refer to the AEC information page on www.useventing.com/aec.

ADULT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The team championship to be held in conjunction with the American Eventing Championship for the levels Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, and Modified. Qualifying criteria and other eligibility requirements are found under the AEC section of the USEA Website.

AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USEA is divided into 10 Areas and each one hosts an annual championship with its own set of qualifications, levels, and prizes. Area Championships are a great stepping stone to the national championships at the USEA American Eventing Championships. Refer to the Area Championships information page on www.useventing.com.

INTERCOLLEGIATE & INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Beginning in 2026, the USEA Intercollegiate & Interscholastic Eventing Championships will be hosted as a standalone event only open to program participants. The event will be hosted on rotating dates with the first year scheduled for May 15-17, 2026, and the second year on May 7-9, 2027. The first two-year bid has been awarded to Stable View to again serve as the host venue. Refer to the Intercollegiate Eventing Program information page on www.useventing.com.

YOUNG EVENT HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The USEA Young Event Horse (YEH) Championships host West Coast and East Coast Championships. In 2026, the East Coast Championships will take place October 15-16 at Fair Hill (Elkton, MD), and the West Coast Championships will take place October 23-24 at Twin Rivers Ranch (Paso Robles, CA). The judges will be Marilyn Payne (USA) and Chris Ryan (IRL). Refer to the Young Event Horse information page on www.useventing.com.



USEA COMBINED TEST POLICY

DEFINITION

A USEA recognized combined test comprises two of the three tests of a horse trial and takes place on one day, during which the competitor rides the same horse in both tests. Each competitor's scores from both tests are added together to determine the result. Riders may compete with more than one horse in a combined test. If a cross-country phase is offered, horse and rider qualifications shall be the same as the qualifications to compete in a horse trial of the same level. There are no set qualifications if the combined test consists of the dressage and show jumping phases.

COMING DEC. 1, 2026 - COMBINED TEST LEADERBOARD: The USEA is excited to offer a new pathway for recognition within our existing competition framework. This new leaderboard will separately track Combined Test results, calculated using dressage and show jumping phases only, to be recognized nationally with year-end awards.

- Competition organizers retain the ability to set entry fees and publish prize lists at their discretion.
- CT points and results do not overlap with recognized Horse Trials. This keeps CTs distinct but respected, avoiding the sense of a "shortcut."

COMBINED TEST POLICY

A. For USEA recognition, the dates and divisions must be approved by the area chairman and the appropriate registration fee(s) paid to the USEA at the appropriate deadlines. All USEA recognized competitions must submit all documents and fees due, if applicable, to the USEA Office within ten days of the competition.

B. Riders and horses must be USEA members, and results must come from USEA registered competitions offered alongside recognized Horse Trials or as a standalone USEA competition. Riders must be a current USEA member at the Community level or higher. Horses must be registered with the USEA at the Restricted level or higher. CT competitions must be USEA registered \$150 (if not hosted alongside a recognized HT) and a \$20 starter fee will be applied.

C. A Federation licensed judge is required. If the combined test offers a cross-country phase at the Intermediate or Advanced level, then the Federation Official must be selected from the roster of "R" (intermediate) or "S" (advanced) Licensed Eventing Judges. Other judges may be Federation Licensed Judges, participants or graduates of the USEA Training Program, or knowledgeable horseman.

D. In both the cross-country and show jumping phases, timing is optional. If timing is used, it must conform to the *US Equestrian Rules for Eventing* appropriate to that phase.

E. If a combined test consists of the dressage and show jumping phases, a competitor may enter the same horse in two consecutive levels.

F. The same horse may compete in both a horse trials and a combined test that is offered at a competition provided the horse only competes over one cross-country course. The horse may compete for placing in the final classification if the levels are the same or consecutive. If the levels are not consecutive, the horse may compete, however, he may compete for final placing in one level only and must ride the other level Hors Concours.

G. Schooling and warm-up areas should be supervised.

H. Whenever horses are tied in the final classification, the horse with the least number of faults (jumping and time) in the show jumping or cross-country test shall be placed first. If still tied, the best score of the collective marks of the dressage shall prevail. If still tied, placing's and awards are to be duplicated.

I. USEA combined tests shall conform to the current *US Equestrian Rules For Eventing*.
Also refer to Sub-Chapter EV-3 - Rules for Tests.

USEA CLASSIC THREE-DAY SPECIFICATIONS

| | BEGINNER NOVICE THREE-DAY | NOVICE THREE-DAY |
|--|--|---|
| Dressage | | |
| USEF Eventing Tests | Beginner Novice 3D – Standard or Small with one or two judges | Novice 3D - Standard or Small with one or two judges |
| Phase A Distance Phase A Speed Phase A Time | 2200 – 3520m 160 mpm or 220 mpm 10-16 minutes | 2200 – 3520m 160 mpm or 220 mpm 10-16 minutes |
| Phase B Distance Phase B Speed Phase B Speed Fault Phase B Time Phase B Jumping Efforts | 800 - 1200m 400 mpm 470 mpm 2-3 minutes 0 – 6 (optional for this level; to be published in the event prize list). 3’0” maximum brush height; 6” minimum of brush. | 940 – 1410m 470 mpm 540 mpm 2-3 minutes 3 – 6 3’7” maximum brush height; 6” minimum of brush. |
| Phase C Distance Phase C Speed Phase C Time | 2400 – 4480m 160 or 220 mpm 15-28 minutes | 2400 - 5500m 160 or 220 mpm 15-34 minutes |
| Phase D Cross-Country Phase D Distance Phase D Speed Phase D Speed Fault Phase D Time Phase D Jumping Efforts | XC heights & spreads - same as H.T. level. Refer to Appendix 2 1625 – 2450 m 325 or 350 mpm 420 mpm 5-7 minutes 16 - 22 Not more than one effort per 100 meters commenced. | XC heights & spreads - same as H.T. level. Refer to Appendix 2 2200 - 2700m 375 or 400 mpm 450 mpm 5-7 minutes 18 - 25 Not more than one effort per 100 meters commenced. |
| Show Jumping | Same as H.T. level. Refer to Appendix 2. | Same as H.T. level. Refer to Appendix 2. |

For more information about the USEA Classic Series, please contact Kaleigh Collett at kcollett@useventing.com.

For Classic Training Three-Day, Modified Three-Day, and Preliminary Three-Day, please refer to the *USEF Rules for Eventing*, Appendix 8: Specifications for Three-Day Events.