



**2009**  
**POLICIES AND GUIDELINES**  
**FOR USEA**  
**RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS**  
**AND MEMBERS**  
**OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**United States Eventing Association, Inc.**

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## • USEA MEMBERSHIP POLICY •

**1.** To participate in USEA registered competitions, a rider must be a current Full, Life, Junior or Family member of the USEA, Equine Canada, or the Mexican Equestrian Federation. The USEA membership year runs from **December 1 through November 30.**

The USEA membership requirements may be waived at the discretion of the organizer only in the following cases:

**1a.** Riders competing in the Beginner Novice division may pay a \$25 Beginner Novice non-member fee per competition in lieu of holding an annual membership.

**1b.** U.S. Pony Club members are exempt from the membership requirement at the Novice level, and the Beginner Novice non-member fee when competing in team competitions or Pony Club rallies held in conjunction with USEA recognized horse trials. Horse registration is also exempt at the Novice level.

**2.** The organizer, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of an event must be a current Full, Life, Junior, Family or Non-Competing member of the USEA.

## • USEA HORSE REGISTRATION AND YEAR-END AWARDS POLICY •

**1.** All horses must have **LIMITED STATUS** registration with the USEA in order to participate in USEA recognized competitions at the **Young Event Horse Test** and **Novice** thru **Training levels.**

**2.** All horses must have a **FULL STATUS** registration with the USEA in order to participate in USEA recognized competition at the **Preliminary level and above.**

**3.** All horses with a **LIMITED STATUS** registration must be **upgraded** to **FULL STATUS** registration **prior to competing at the Preliminary level.**

**4. NOVICE LEVEL and ABOVE:** The USEA will attempt to notify owners/riders of registration requirements prior to competition and will allow fourteen days from the date of notification for the horse to be brought into compliance. After fourteen days, any high score points and/or AEC qualification earned at that specific competition will be removed. Should the horse continue to be competed without proper registration, at the fourth occurrence all points and **ALL** qualifications will be removed. When the horse is properly registered qualifications **ONLY** will be re-instated.

**5. BEGINNER NOVICE HORSES and RIDERS:** Registration of horses and membership of riders competing at the **Beginner Novice** level is not required **EXCEPT** where the owner/rider wishes the horse and rider to be considered for USEA high score leaderboards, year-end awards, and/or qualifications for USEA Championships. Award points and qualifications are not retroactive.

**6.** For year-end awards, the USEA is establishing a cut-off date of **November 15th** for inquiries about horses' competitive records for competitions that have been held prior to November 15th. While we make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of our members' competitive records we realize that errors do occur. It is the responsibility of every owner/rider to verify their horses' records. This may be done using the **Horse Qualification Search** on the website at **www.useventing.com**, under the Competitions section, or copies of horses' profiles may be requested from the USEA office.

## • PRELIMINARY LEVEL AND ABOVE PARTICIPATION IN USEF RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS •

1. To participate in U.S. Equestrian Federation licensed competitions at the Preliminary level or above, riders must be Individual Members of the U.S. Equestrian Federation. For non-members, participants must pay a non-member registration fee.

**The Rules for all USEA recognized competitions will be the current USEF Rules.**

## • 2009 POLICIES FOR RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS •

**The Rules for all USEA recognized competitions would be the current U.S. Equestrian Federation Rules for Eventing.**

### **ALL EVENTS REGISTERED WITH THE USEA MUST:**

1. Have their competition date and levels approved by their Area Chairman and Council.
2. The organizer, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of an event must be a current Full, Life, Family or Non-Competing member of the USEA.
3. Be listed in the USEA *Omnibus*; pay a registration fee of (\$175) and (\$125) for the *Omnibus* on-listing, a total of \$300. This application must be submitted by the appropriate *Omnibus* deadline.

### **TRAINING LEVEL THREE-DAY EVENT TESTS:**

4. The TR-3D Test is exempt from the Association Starter Fees only - the D&M fee will be collected and submitted to the USEA Office.

### **EVENTING TESTS:**

5. Organizers may also offer "Tests" in conjunction with their horse trials. Refer to *Sub-Chapter EV-2 - Rules for Tests*. Eventing Tests (except TR-3 Day) are exempt from the Association fees (Starter and D&M).
6. Not offer any unrecognized eventing divisions during the days of recognized competition.
7. Require USEA membership of all competitors or, at Beginner Novice level only, collect a non-member fee of \$25. At the Novice level, members of the U.S. Pony Clubs riding in Pony Club Team or Rally competitions, run in the framework of a USEA horse trials, are exempt from the membership and horse registration fees.
8. All horses competing at the Novice level and above must be registered with the USEA - except Beginner Novice. *Please refer to the USEA Horse Registration/Year-End Awards section.*
9. At horse trials, two-day, or three-day events (except TR-3 Day), pay a starter levy fee of \$12.00 for each horse at the Beginner Novice through Advanced level that starts in the competition. This applies even if one or all phases of the event is cancelled.
10. All USEA recognized competitions must submit all documents and fees due to the USEA Office within 10 working days of the competition.

#### **10a. 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 10 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 thirty days after the completion of the competition, the competition will lose its status as a future USEA recognized competition and will not be listed in the *Omnibus* until such fees are paid in full. Starter Fees are not required of competitions with 50 or less starters. This exemption does not include the Drug and Medication fee.

### **10b. Refund Policy for Withdrawal of an Entry Prior to the Start of Competition.**

In the event a competitor withdraws prior to Closing Date, all fees related to the entry will be returned to the competitor with the exception of any published office fee.

After closing date, the refund policy published in the *Omnibus* by Competition Management will apply, except that Starter Fees and the Drugs and 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 the Drugs and Medication Fees to qualifying competitors shall be made within thirty days of the completion of the competition.

### **11. Drugs and Medications/Endorsement Fee**

The USEA has an agreement with U.S. Equestrian Federation whereby the 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 and is paid by the competitor with the entry. The amount of the drug fee shall be set by the Board. 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 not being listed in the *Omnibus* until such fees are paid in full.

**12.** Adhere to pertinent USEA directives and memorandums.

**13.** Agree to a pre-event inspection by the technical delegate approximately six weeks prior to the competition. The event TD may appoint a local qualified deputy to perform the pre-event inspection, although he/she will remain ultimately responsible. All first year events will be identified as such in the *Omnibus*. In consultation with the Area Chair, the USEA will approve the organizer's choice of technical delegate and provide 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.

**14.** The Technical Delegate, President of the Ground Jury, and Course Designer must be stated in the *Omnibus* listing for each competition. A competition will not be published in the *Omnibus* 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 U.S. Equestrian Federation Eventing Technical 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.

## **• 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.

**2.** Only stabling approved by the organizer is permitted. Stalls made from rope, string, or wire is not permitted. Pipe corrals are acceptable.

## • 2009 USEA CHAMPIONSHIPS •

Horse trials and three-day events may not be called championships without the approval of the U.S. Equestrian Federation Eventing Technical Committee. Inter-Area competitions, whether horse trials or three-day events, must be approved by the U.S. Equestrian Federation Eventing Technical Committee.

**1) American Eventing Championships.** The USEA Horse Trials' Championship competition to be held each September. The selected location will host the championship for three years. The AEC will recognize and reward the top horse/rider combinations from the Beginner Novice through the Advanced levels. Horses and riders must qualify over a twelve-month period. Refer to the AEC information page on [www.useventing.com](http://www.useventing.com).

**2) Adult Team Challenge.** Three regional championships will be offered each year, East, Central and West. The USEA Adult Riders Committee will select the sites.

a) **At the Beginner Novice, Novice and Training level**, participation will be restricted to current USEA members 22 years of age or older, who have not completed any FEI competition at the two-star level or above—including the North American Young Riders' Championships or at the Intermediate or Advanced levels, within the current and previous two years. A horse may be any grade.

b) **At the Preliminary level**, participation will be restricted to current USEA members 22 years of age or older, who have not completed any FEI competition at the two-star level or above—including the North American Young Riders' Championships or at the Advanced level within the current and previous two years. A horse may be any grade, but may not have competed at the Advanced level in the current year.

c) **The Adult Team Challenge** is awarded on an annual basis at three sites each year. The ideal site would have on grounds stabling, quality Beginner Novice, Novice, Training and Preliminary courses, the ability to handle increased entries and the enthusiasm to provide a special experience for Adult Team Riders. The USEA provides special arm patches for each participant. The USEA also provides perpetual Challenge trophies that are displayed at the event.

### AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Area championships may be offered at any level. They may be restricted by age (Juniors, Young Riders, or Seniors). A horse division may be offered, but must be listed in the division section of the *Omnibus* listing, for example: NH, TH. In principle, all Area championships shall be horse trials.

The Area Chair and Area Council shall determine qualifications for entry. The *Omnibus* will publish general terms of qualifications, but is not the complete version. Specific details of the Area qualification criteria shall be published on the Area's website and/or newsletter. It is the responsibility of each competitor to read the criteria for participation published by both the Area and the USEA, and to comply with the Area's qualifications.

The Area Chair and the Area Council shall approve scheduling of all Area Championships. Applications to host a championship shall be addressed to the council. Area championships at the Novice, Training and Preliminary levels are considered to be an essential part of the framework of the sport. At the higher levels, Areas are cautioned to consider the anticipated number and state of preparation of competitors before scheduling a championship to insure that these competitions are meaningful.

### INTER-AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Inter-Area Championships may be offered at any level. They may be offered for teams or individuals, but if offered for teams, individual prizes must also be awarded. They may be restricted to Juniors, Young Riders, or Seniors. They may be horse trials or three-day events. Qualifications for entry shall be determined by the Areas involved, and shall be approved by the U.S. Equestrian Federation Eventing Technical Committee. Scheduling of all inter-Area competitions shall be coordinated by the Areas involved, and approved by the U.S. Equestrian Federation Eventing Technical Committee. Applications to host inter-Area competitions should be addressed to the Areas.

## • USEA COMBINED TEST POLICY •

### **DEFINITION:**

A USEA recognized combined test comprises two of the three tests of a horse trials 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 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 trials of the same level. There are no set qualifications if the combined test consists of the dressage and show jumping phases.

### **COMBINED TEST POLICY:**

- A.** In order for a combined test to be recognized by the USEA, the dates and divisions must be approved by the Area chairman and the appropriate registration fee(s) must be paid to the USEA at the appropriate deadlines. All USEA recognized competitions must submit all documents and fees due to the USEA Office within 10 working days of the competition.
- B.** USEA membership is not required for any level of a combined test, but a non-member fee of \$25 will be collected.
- 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" registered 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 U.S. Equestrian Federation rules 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, placings and awards are to be duplicated.
- I.** USEA combined tests shall conform to the following U.S. Equestrian Federation Rules concerning safety, cruelty and competition.

*Also refer to Sub-Chapter EV-2 - Rules for Tests.*

1. **EV106 - Entries - Withdrawals.**
2. **EV108 - Practice fences.**
3. **EV111 - Abuse.**
4. **EV113 - Medical requirements.**
5. **EV114 - Dress.**
6. **EV114.1 - Protective headgear.**
7. **EV114.3 - Whips.**
8. **EV114.4 - Spurs.**
9. **EV114.10 - Extreme weather.**
10. **EV115.1 - Saddlery; exercise areas.**
11. **EV115.2 - Saddlery; dressage.**
12. **EV115.3 - Saddlery; cross-country and show jumping.**
13. **EV133-136 - Dressage Test.**
15. **EV137 - Cross-Country:**
  - a. EV138.2 - Timing.
  - b. EV138.3 - Errors of course.
  - c. EV138.4 - Pace and dismounting.
  - d. EV138.6 - Competitor in difficulty
  - e. EV138.7. - Stopping competitors.
  - f. EV138 - Unauthorized assistance.
  - g. EV138.10 - After elimination.
  - h. EV139 - Courses
  - i. EV140 - Obstacles.
  - j. EV141 - Scoring.
  - k. EV142 - Definition of faults.

**16. EV143 - Show Jumping:**

- a. EV144 - Arena.
- b. EV146 - Course.
- c. EV149 - Obstacles.
- d. EV150 - Scoring
- e. EV151 - Unauthorized assistance
- f. EV152- Time faults/Corrections
- g. EV153 - 154 Definition of faults.

**17. Sub-Chapter EV-6 - Officials:**

- a. EV176.1.a - Veterinarian on grounds.

**18. Organization:**

- a. EV102.3.c - USEA Registration.
- b. EV103 - Prize list.
- c. EV120 - Organizer's rights.
- d. EV121.2 - Area Chairmen.

# USEA HORSE GRADING POLICY

## CLASSIFICATION OF HORSES

### 1. Horses are classified as follows:

- Grade 1 - Horses that have accumulated 61 points or more
- Grade 2 - Horses that have accumulated 21-60 points, inclusive
- Grade 3 - Horses that have accumulated 1-20 points, inclusive
- Unrated - Horses that have accumulated no points.

### 2. Horses purchased from foreign countries

Owners/riders should obtain full details of the horse's competitive record from the national federation of the country concerned. These details must be forward to the USEA Office.

### 3. Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the owner/rider to compete the horse in the appropriate division.

### 4. Registration of Horses

Horses must be registered in compliance with the current policies of the U.S. Equestrian Federation and the USEA. All horses competing at the Novice level and above must be registered with the USEA. Beginner Novice level is exempt. Grade Points are earned at Preliminary level and above. A Horse Life Registration form may be found on the USEA website at [www.useventing.com](http://www.useventing.com) under Forms and Documents.

### 5. Tables of Points

The following tables of points apply, for grading purposes, to horses placing in competitions in the U.S. These points also apply to competitions outside the U.S. recognized by the FEI or the national federation of the country in which the event is held. It is the responsibility of the rider who competes in an event outside the U.S. to send full details of such competition and placings to the USEA.

The number of placings which receive points shall be based upon the total number of starters in the division. For every additional 4 starters above 39, one more level of placings shall be awarded points equal to 10th place points.

Where there are less than 10 starters in a division of a horse trials, a two-day or three-day event, the points will be awarded at the next lower level. In the case of this occurring at the preliminary level the existing points will be halved.

A horse trials division that offers dressage and show jumping at a higher level, with cross-country at the lower level, e.g, Advanced Intermediate, Intermediate Preliminary, will be considered in accordance with and points awarded to the level of cross-country being run.

## PRELIMINARY LEVEL

Place	Starters	P H.T.	Two-Day Events	CIC1 *	CCI1 *
1		6	7	8	15
2		5	6	7	12
3		4	5	6	10
4	over 15	3	4	5	8
5	" 19	2	3	4	7
6	" 23	1	2	2	6
7	" 27	1	1	2	5
8	" 31	1	1	2	4
9	" 35	1	1	2	3
10	" 39	1	1	2	3
	(and so on)				

Clean cross-country completion points:  
(No jump penalties)

**3**

**3**

## INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Place	Starters	I H.T.	Two-Day Events	CIC2 *	CCI2 *
1		12	13	16	30
2		10	11	14	28
3		8	9	12	26
4	over 15	6	7	10	24
5	" 19	4	5	8	22
6	" 23	2	3	6	20
7	" 27	2	3	6	16
8	" 31	2	3	6	13
9	" 35	2	3	6	13
10	" 39	2	3	6	13
	(and so on)				

Clean cross-country completion points:  
(No jump penalties)

**5**

**5**

## ADVANCED LEVEL

Place	Starters	A H.T.	CIC3 *	CCI3 *	CCI4 *
1		24	32	60	90
2		22	29	55	83
3		20	26	50	76
4	over 15	18	23	45	69
5	" 19	16	20	40	62
6	" 23	14	17	35	55
7	" 27	12	14	30	48
8	" 31	10	10	25	41
9	" 35	8	10	20	34
10	" 39	8	10	20	27
	(and so on)				

Clean cross-country completion points:  
(No jump penalties)

**10**

**20**