

Organizer's Guide: USEA Intercollegiate Team Challenge

Since its inception in 2014, the USEA Intercollegiate Eventing program--aimed to enfranchise and maintain the participation in eventing by the college-student age group--has experienced a notable increase in the level of membership and in competition entries as well as welcome new faces to the sport of eventing.

We thank all the organizers who have helped host these important, sport-enhancing competitions, and hope that organizers in every Area will consider offering an Intercollegiate Team Challenge.

The USEA has formulated this document to assist organizers in easily incorporating a USEA Intercollegiate Team Challenge into a USEA horse trials. This "Organizer's Guide" will help answer questions and provide solutions to many potential organizational challenges. This document covers event promotion, entries, team dynamics and scoring, awards, and affiliates.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Intercollegiate Eventing?

Intercollegiate Eventing is the USEA program, formulated in 2014, that is aimed uniquely at the college student who would like to continue to event or expand his/her eventing experience while enrolled in an accredited college or university.

The program is strongly based on a team competition--referred to as an Intercollegiate Team Challenge--between two or more teams of students from one or more colleges or universities and held under the auspices of a USEA/USE-recognized Horse Trial. All rules of competition as put forth in the USEA and the USE *Rule Book* apply to all Intercollegiate competitors.

Who may participate?

- Any student enrolled part- or full-time at any college or university. The program is open to students of any age. It is the responsibility of the students and institutions to be in membership compliance.
- A student must be a current individual member of the USEA, either as a "Full" or "Life" member or as an "Collegiate" member, which is a discounted membership for this category.
- The institution is strongly encouraged, but not required, to be a current Affiliate member of the USEA. This is an annual membership.
- Only students from colleges and universities that are registered as Affiliate Organizations may participate in the annual USEA Intercollegiate Championship.

Quick Tips

- An organizer may choose to either 1) host an Intercollegiate Team Challenge or 2) accept the request of a college team or group of teams to host one at their event.
- *Levels of Competition:* Levels to be included in an Intercollegiate Team Challenge are offered at the discretion of the organizer. Frequently, Beginner Novice through Preliminary are the levels offered.
- *Teams:* Teams can consist of either three or four riders. Four-member teams may utilize a “drop score”; three-member teams may not do so.
 - Individual riders representing their college are greatly encouraged to participate by joining a “scramble” team.
- *Fees:* No fees are required by the USEA for offering an Intercollegiate Team Challenge.
- *Scoring:* There are no official requirements for scoring. However, the USEA encourages all host venues to utilize the scoring guidelines provided on the [USEA website](#).
- *Awards:* While not required, organizers are encouraged to classify separately and award ribbons for the Intercollegiate Team Challenge competitors.
- *Communication:* An organizer can expect to have all communications regarding the organization of an Intercollegiate Team Challenge with either a student liaison of the college or its Riding or Athletic Director. The organizer should not expect to communicate with the USEA, although the organizer is welcome to contact the USEA office at any time with questions regarding the Intercollegiate program.

****Please read all sections of this guide for a complete understanding of hosting an Intercollegiate Team Challenge****

Get the Word Out

Once an organizer has determined that they would like to host a USEA Intercollegiate Team Challenge at their event, the following promotional steps are recommended:

- **List your event** on the [Intercollegiate Team Challenge calendar](#) found on the USEA website by emailing event information to the USEA’s Director of Programs Kate Lokey, klokey@useventing.com.
- Add Intercollegiate Team Challenge information to the host event’s **USEA Omnibus listing** by emailing USEA’s Director of Competitions Sharon Gallagher, sharon@useventing.com.
- **Alert the students, colleges/universities and eventers in your Area.** Share the announcement on your event’s website and social media pages. An organizer or event representative may also write a brief announcement for inclusion on the Association News section of the USEA website. When possible, alert the Athletics Director and/or Riding Director of colleges in your area and encourage their participation.

Entries

When listing a USEA Intercollegiate Team Challenge in the *Omnibus*, Intercollegiate Calendar or elsewhere, organizers should indicate:

- the levels to be offered for the Intercollegiate Team Challenge
- the preferred method (online, paper, etc.) for making a team entry

The following options are suggested for students/teams when signing up for an Intercollegiate Team Challenge:

- When making an entry, include the college/university name on the stabling list and also email the organizer a team roster.
- Make note of their college/university or team name on a paper entry.
- Since team challenge participants are encouraged to stable together in order to promote team atmosphere and camaraderie, a team should indicate if it would like to avail itself of this stabling option.

The USEA is currently refining the entry process for team challenges, including working with online entry systems to incorporate a section for team challenge sign-ups.

Team Dynamics and Scoring

Although there are no official requirements for team dynamics or for scoring an Intercollegiate Team Challenge, the USEA would like to encourage all host venues to use the following guidelines, as this is the scoring system utilized at the USEA Intercollegiate Championship.

Team Dynamics

- Teams can be made up of three or four riders.
- Teams can be made up of riders of different levels.
- Only the three lowest individual scores will count towards the team score, which allows a four-member team to have a drop score. Three-member teams will have no drop score.
- The team with the lowest score at the end of all three phases will be declared the winner of the team challenge.
- To maximize participation, an organizer may create scramble teams, combining students from multiple schools to create full teams.

Scoring

To account for differences in level difficulty, each rider's score is multiplied by a coefficient appropriate for their level, and then the individual scores are added together to determine the team score. The recommended coefficient system is as follows:

Beginner Novice: 1.1

Novice: 1

Training: 0.9

Preliminary: 0.85

Intermediate: 0.75

CCI*: 0.75

CIC2*: .70

For FEI divisions: To account for level difficulty, scores from FEI competitors should be calculated before the 1.5x FEI coefficient is applied. For example, if a CCI* competitor earned a 50 on the leaderboard, their raw score would have been 33.33 (50/1.5). To calculate their collegiate score, $33.33 \times .75 = 24.99$.

The USEA has not assigned coefficients for the Modified level or mixed levels such as Beginner Novice/Novice, Novice/Training, Training/Preliminary etc.

An organizer may use their own scoring system to track scores for an Intercollegiate Team Challenge or download a free Excel template from the USEA website.

Awards

It is recommended that the organizer post the scores for an Intercollegiate Team Challenge separately from the horse trials divisions so that the teams may keep up with the team challenge standings.

Organizers may offer team ribbons and/or prizes and if possible host an awards ceremony for the team challenge.

The USEA requests that final results of the team challenge be submitted to the Association at the conclusion of the competition.

USEA University Affiliates

It is recommended that participating colleges/universities be registered as an Affiliate Organization with the USEA, but a school's registration is not required for their students to participate in a USEA Intercollegiate Team Challenge. However, **all schools participating in the annual Intercollegiate Championship must be registered as an Affiliate Organization.**

Once an institution is registered as an Affiliate Organization, all current students of that school may receive a discounted USEA membership. Moreover, as an affiliate of the USEA, the college/university will be able to access all of the benefits offered to USEA Affiliates.

www.useventing.com/membership/intercollegiate