



UNITED STATES EVENTING ASSOCIATION



**2025
POLICIES
AND GUIDELINES**

FOR USEA RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

2025 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 fine 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.

Member Refund and cancellation Policy: A full refund will be issued to a member, if notice is received in the USEA office within ten (10) days from the date of joining the association.

Insufficient Funds or return checks: All returned checks will be charged a \$35.00 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 appropriated event. Please see the competition calendar for competition refund policy.

2. INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTING LEAGUE (IEL) MEMBER: The IEL Club or ECP coach 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 or ECP coach. 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 the EventingVolunteers.com. The Digital Membership will be awarded to those well-deserved participants on a yearly basis. Additionally, all members of the Eventing Affiliates who have not been a member of the USEA will receive a complimentary Digital membership. Affiliate Clubs must submit 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 that share your love for 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 fine 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, 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 Shows, USEA membership/non-member fee is waived for participation. For Combined Tests, USEA membership is not required for any level of a combined test. A \$20 starter fee must be collected per horse for the Young Event Horse (YEH) classes. Eventing test and Schooling activities are exempt from the Association fees (Starter and D&M).

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, ie: April to March to be eligible for this discount.
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, such as Starter Test, 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 competitions 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**.

NOTE: The registration of the named horse with the United States Eventing Association (USEA) is for competition purposes only, and the registration does not indicate the legal Status of ownership of, or liability for, said horse. USEA accepts no liability for the accuracy of the registered details which information is intended for its own sole use and benefit, and does not decide, resolve, or become involved in ownership disputes.

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 (\$45) 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.

The Rules for all USEA recognized competitions would be the current *US Equestrian Rules for Eventing*.

4. Not offer any unrecognized eventing division during the days of recognized competition.

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 is not required for any level of a Combined Test. Combined Tests are exempt from the Association fees (Starter and D&M).

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

- 1. 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.
- 2. Adult Team Championships.** The team championship to be held in conjunction with the American Eventing Championship for the levels Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, Modified, and Preliminary. Qualifying criteria and other eligibility requirements are found under the AEC section of the USEA Website.

AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Area championships may be offered at any level. They may be restricted by age (Junior, Young Rider, or Senior). A horse division may be offered, but must be listed in the division section of the Prize List 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 website will publish general terms of the qualifications, but 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 Starter, Beginner Novice, Novice, Training, Modified, and Preliminary levels are 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 ensure 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 USEF Eventing Sport Committee. Scheduling of all inter-Area competitions shall be coordinated by the Areas involved and approved by the USEF Eventing Sport 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 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

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.** USEA membership is not required for any level of a combined test. USEA Starter, D&M fees do not apply.
- 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 ***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 ***USEF 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	2200 – 3520m	2200 – 3520m
Phase A Speed	160 mpm or 220 mpm	160 mpm or 220 mpm
Phase A Time	10-16 minutes	10-16 minutes
Phase B Distance	800 - 1200m	940 – 1410m
Phase B Speed	400 mpm	470 mpm
Phase B Speed Fault	470 mpm	540 mpm
Phase B Time	2-3 minutes	2-3 minutes
Phase B Jumping Efforts	0 – 6 (optional for this level; to be published in the event prize list). 3’0” maximum brush height; 6” minimum of brush.	3 – 6 3’7” maximum brush height; 6” minimum of brush.
Phase C Distance	2400 – 4480m	2400 - 5500m
Phase C Speed	160 or 220 mpm	160 or 220 mpm
Phase C Time	15-28 minutes	15-34 minutes
Phase D Cross-Country	XC heights & spreads - same as H.T. level. Refer to Appendix 2	XC heights & spreads - same as H.T. level. Refer to Appendix 2
Phase D Distance	1625 – 2450 m	2200 - 2700m
Phase D Speed	325 or 350 mpm	375 or 400 mpm
Phase D Speed Fault	420 mpm	450 mpm
Phase D Time	5-7 minutes	5-7 minutes
Phase D Jumping Efforts	16 - 22 Not more than one effort per 100 meters commenced.	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**.