



Competition Resources

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USEF Combined Driving National Championships



2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Ponies & Para Driving

September 15-20, 2026, at Tryon Fall CDE at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Pair Horses, Intermediate Horses, Preliminary Horses and Training Horses

November 5-8, 2026, at Stable View in Aiken, SC.

Click [here](#) to view full date and location announcements.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Four In Hand Horses and 2026 USEF Combined Driving Youth National Championships

March 11-15, 2026, at Live Oak International in Ocala, FL. Click [here](#) to view the full results.

2026 USEF Combined Driving National Championships for Advanced Single Horses

April 22-26, 2026, at Katydid at Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC. Click [here](#) to view the full results.

FEI Updates

On **July 1, 2026**, the new article 973 of the FEI Driving Rules will go into effect regarding the implementation of cone lifters. As of July 2, 2026, the Board approved an emergency board resolution regarding this new rule. Due to the delayed production of the cone lifter material specified in Annex 7, the requirement for manufacturers to use this specific material has been removed. This emergency resolution will continue until the new identified material has undergone its participation in the testing program in order to ensure consistent and appropriate testing conditions.

On **January 1, 2027**, the new article 928 of the FEI Driving Rules will go into effect regarding the requirement of protective headgear while riding on a carriage anywhere on the show grounds. For more information, read the FEI Driving Rules [here](#).

Keep in mind the FEI rule changes for 2026, which can be found [here](#).

[VIEW ALL 2026 FEI RULE CHANGES](#)

If you are interested in participating in FEI Young Horse Classes, please connect with the USEF FEI Horse Passport office at passports@usef.org to get your equine registered prior to the competition.

The International Carriage Drivers Association has been recognized by the FEI through a memo of understanding, for more information or to join, visit ICDA-driving.com.

FEI Pony Measurement Session

USEF is determining interest from athletes and owners on hosting an FEI Pony Measurement Session. If an FEI Pony Measurement Session is held, it is the intention to hold this in Ocala in March of 2027. Please complete [this form](#) if you are interested in participating.

Upcoming Development Program Information

The 2026 Athlete Pathway Program Lists can be found [here](#). Updates to the Pre-Elite and Elite Program Lists are made regularly.

Following the close of the Developing Program applications on June 1st, we are pleased to announce the athletes and equine combinations selected for the program:

Developing Athlete Program:

- Virginia Miner with L.F. Tuscaloosa owned by Virginia Miner
- Ingrid Nichols with Lexus, Nico, Eriny, and Ilonist owned by Ingrid Nichols

Developing Equine Program

- Leslie Berndt with Rainfall owned by Leslie Berndt

USEF is pleased to welcome the new participants the Developing Program.

The Developing Program is designed provide guidance, educational resources, mentorship, and training opportunities to support the development of athletes and equine with international potential. The Program offers multiple Developing Training Sessions throughout the year to the selected athletes, as well as competition planning and goal setting with Clinicians for short and long-term goals. Additional virtual education opportunities may also be offered to further enhance competitive success.

Remaining 2026 Developing Training Sessions:

- **October 9-11** at Charlotte's Creek Farm in Georgetown, KY

Athletes can apply for the training sessions through their [USEF Athlete Dashboard](#).

Upcoming Emerging Clinic Information

Emerging Athlete Driving Clinics:

- **August 28-30** at Charlotte's Creek Farm in Georgetown, KY. Organized by Jennifer Harber (dunhorse1220@gmail.com).
- **September 4-6** at Orleton Farm in Stockbridge, MA. Organized by Harvey Waller (hwaller562@aol.com).
- **September 4-6** at Falcon View Farm in Waymart, PA. Organized by Beth Ann Berwanger (bethannberwanger@yahoo.com).

The above list of Emerging Clinics is not associated with USEF until the agreements are signed.

USEF Updates & Resources

Please be aware that many rule changes were approved at the mid-year board meeting. These rules can be found more in depth [here](#). Below is a highlight of some of the rules members should be aware of.

Rules effective starting December 1, 2026:

GR847.1 changes to the qualified medical personnel requirement.

DC901.1 removes small pony classes. Small ponies will enter regular pony classes. Removes VSE at the advanced levels.

DC905.3 specifies the use of video evidence by officials.

DC908.1 clarifies which events qualify athletes to compete in advanced divisions.

DC920.2 specifies when horse inspections are mandatory.

DC944.4 removes the requirement for on-site farriers during competition.

DC959.1 allows for the POJ to appoint the technical delegate as a cones judge at a short format event with less than 45 entries.

DC970.1 Requires all national championships to have a minimum of 3 judges. At competitions that are not national championships it allows the advanced divisions to only have a minimum of 2 judges.

DC974 requires a veterinarian to be present for all in-harness exams at the end of a marathon course for Short Format events.

Competition Coach/Trainer Requirements for 2026

Please note as of December 1, 2025, coaches (in addition to trainers) must be listed on all USEF competition entry forms and submitted in the results returned by the competition organizer. As a reminder, membership requirements for coaches are the same as trainers and show passes are not permitted for coaches. Coaches are those who have or share the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, or advertising a rider, driver, handler, or vaulter in equestrian skills. Coaches may or may not also be trainers. Trainers are those who have responsibility for the care, training, custody, of the horse.

US Equestrian App

Keeping track of your US Equestrian membership and horse ID cards has never been easier. The US Equestrian App allows you to access your membership details, save and flag horse ID cards and much more. Plus, with USEF MemberPerks and discounts at your fingertips, you can save with preferred retailers and brands. Download the app [here](#).

SafeSport Updates

As part of our commitment to members and to their wellbeing, US Equestrian has partnered with the McLaughlin Young Group to offer members free confidential counseling services for mental health first aid. [Learn more](#)

Welfare Updates

When we implemented our expanded Unethical Treatment of Horses rule (GR838) last year, we empowered USEF and licensed officials to take action in cases of unethical treatment of horses, on show grounds and off. [Read more](#)

Interested in Becoming a Licensed Official?

Individuals can apply to become a licensed official for combined driving competitions and serve in different roles. Give back to the sport as a judge, technical delegate, or course designer. The requirements to become a national licensed official are located in the [Licensed Officials Policies and Procedures](#), which includes updated expedited application options for current Athletes competing at the Advanced or CAI2* levels. [Learn more about becoming a national or FEI combined driving official here.](#)

Support Combined Driving

Interested in ways to support USEF Combined Driving or Para-Driving? You can find the link to donate to the USET Combined Driving and Para Driving [here](#).

Connect with US Equestrian

Stay up to date with U.S. Driving by following [USA Driving on Facebook](#) and US Equestrian on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). Use #USADriving.



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