



PLATINUM PERFORMANCE / USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS



FINALS WEST

DECEMBER 4-6, 2026

DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK
THERMAL, CALIFORNIA

QUALIFICATIONS CLOSE OCTOBER 31, 2026
CLOSE OF ENTRIES NOVEMBER 15, 2026

FINALS EAST

OCTOBER 2-4, 2026

USET FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS
GLADSTONE, NEW JERSEY

QUALIFICATIONS CLOSE AUGUST 31, 2026
CLOSE OF ENTRIES - SEPTEMBER 15, 2026

SEE [USEF.ORG/TALENTSEARCH](https://usef.org/talentsearch) FOR MORE INFORMATION



**SHOW JUMPING
ATHLETE PATHWAY**



PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS EAST 2026



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING PHOTOS TAKEN AT FINALS EAST YOU
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// HISTORY OF THE SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

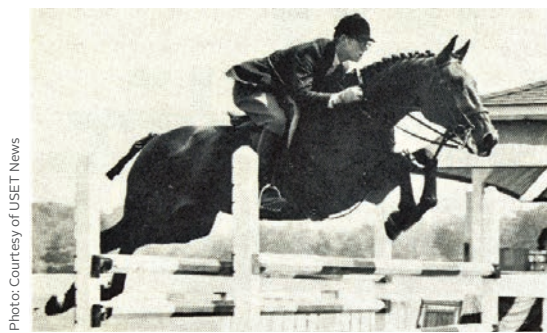


Photo: Courtesy of USET News

Jim Rice, the first USET Gold Medalist.

U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation) as the USET Equitation Class. The Class was designed to fill the gap for those juniors who qualified for the “Medal” and the “Maclay” early in the year and had no further incentive to keeping showing in horsemanship (Equitation).

The USET Medal Classes encouraged Young Rider development through the awarding of Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals for wins earned in Medal Classes throughout the United States. At the end of the competition year, two riders who accumulated the most wins were invited to spend a week with the Team at its Training Center in Gladstone, New Jersey the following year.

In 1982, the Program incorporated year-end Finals as a further goal and in 1994 the USET decided to change the name of the USET Medal Program to the USET Show Jumping Talent Search Program.

This change better reflected the focus of the Program by asking developing riders to meet a more difficult set of standards than required in other competitions, thus helping to prepare them for berths on future international Show Jumping Teams.

In 2003, the USET became a Foundation for the purpose of raising funds for equestrian high performance programs, and the newly formed United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) emerged as the National Governing Body for equestrian sports. The Show Jumping Talent Search Program became a part of USEF's Show Jumping High Performance Department and continues to serve as the pipeline for future stars to travel through on their way to the high performance world.



Photo: Courtesy of USET News

The early USET medals.



Photos: James Leslie Parker(1), Shannon Brinkman (2-3)

The Talent Search Program is a proven pipeline of helping riders to develop their show jumping skills while laying groundwork for future international success. McLain Ward (pictured above) won the Finals East in 1990 and is now a two-time Olympic Gold Medalist!

EAST COAST || OCTOBER 2-4, 2026 GLADSTONE, NJ

MANAGER & SAFETY COORDINATOR	David Distler, West Palm Beach, FL
SECRETARY	Rachel Denning, Bedminster, NJ
USEF FACILITY LIASON	Rachel Denning, Bedminster, NJ
USEF SPORT LIASON	Erin Keating, Lexington, KY
USEF TECHNICAL DELEGATE	Anthony D'Ambrosio, Red Hook, NY
JUDGES/COURSE DESIGNERS	Chris Kappler, Flemington, NJ
.....	Michael Tokaruk, Wellington, FL
STEWARD	Sue Blessing, Woodcliff Lake, NJ
SCHOOLING SUPERVISOR	Doug Curry, Aiken, SC
ANNOUNCER	Kevin Giblin, Wellington, FL
VETERINARIAN	Dr. Greg Staller, Running S. Equine Veterinary Services
.....	Emergency 908.581.7008
FARRIER	Bob Pethick, Bedminster Forge, 908.510.2462

WEST COAST || DECEMBER 4-6, 2026 THERMAL, CA

MANAGER	Philip J. De Vita, Apopka, FL
SAFETY COORDINATOR	Skylar Brittner, Sacramento, CA
SECRETARY	Ashley Keeler, Littleton, CA
USEF LIAISON	Erin Keating, Lexington, KY
USEF TECHNICAL DELEGATE	Anthony D'Ambrosio, Red Hook, NY
JUDGES/COURSE DESIGNERS	Chris Kappler, Flemington, NJ
.....	Michael Tokaruk, Wellington, FL
STEWARD	Sally Hudson, Monterey, CA
SCHOOLING SUPERVISOR	Debbie Sands, Encinitas, CA
ANNOUNCERS	Vic Carmen, Davin Malmqvist
VETERINARIAN	East West Veterinarians, 859.940.4478
FARRIER	Meredith Clarke, 949.584.4317

The above individuals have accepted their invitation to officiate. The Committee reserves the right to add, vary or make substitutions.

ENTRIES

Please contact the East Coast Show Secretary listed below with all inquiries regarding the Talent Search Program or Finals.

EAST COAST

Entries will be completed online and details will be available on the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search website, usequestrian.org/talentsearch. The online entry must be submitted, with proper payment, by the entry deadline of September 15, 2026

Address all Talent Search inquiries to:

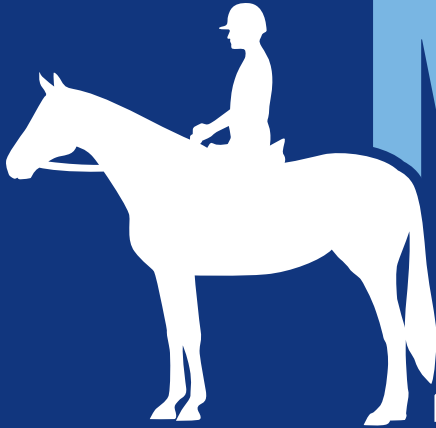
USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – East
Rachel Denning, Show Secretary
P.O. Box 83
1040 Pottersville Road
Gladstone, NJ 07934
Phone: 908.997.3006
Email: rdenning@usef.org

WEST COAST

Entries will be completed online and details will be available on the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search website, usequestrian.org/talentsearch. The online entry must be submitted, with proper payment, by the entry deadline of November 15, 2026.

Address West Coast entries to:

USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals – West
Ashley Keeler, Show Secretary
Email: Ashley@deserthorsepark.com



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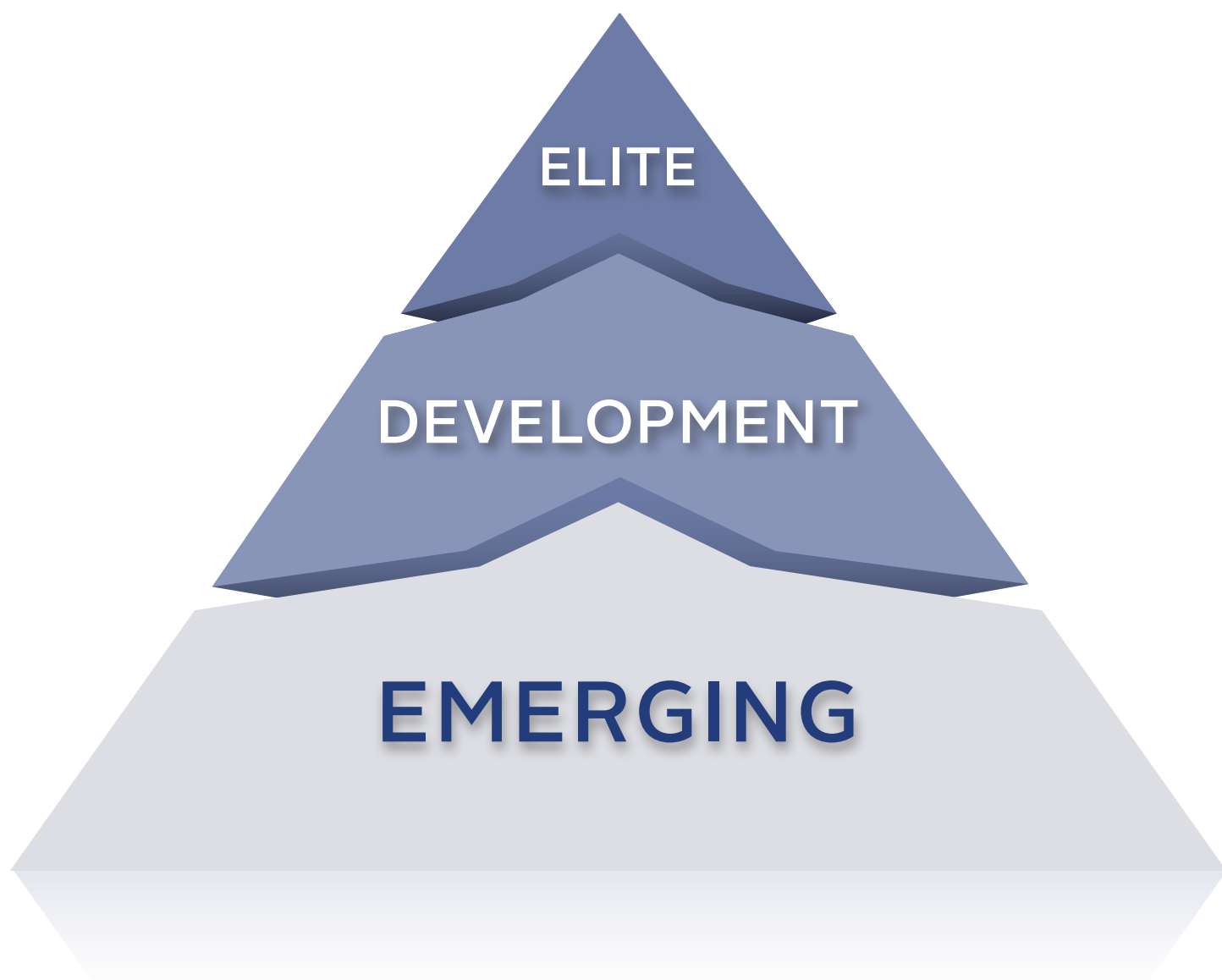


SHOW JUMPING ATHLETE PATHWAY



WWW.USEF.ORG

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Developing the United States' Emerging stars into Elite Athletes of the future.

// OVERVIEW OF THE SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH

Mission: The Talent Search Program plays an important role in the rider pathway as it addresses the principal that form follows function and that it is important for a rider to have equitation basics and a solid jumper seat position in order to become an effective jumper rider. The Talent Search classes test a rider's ability to ride a jumper style course effectively while maintaining the classic American forward style of riding. The Talent Search program fosters this tradition in U.S. Show Jumping and builds on preparing the next generation of international jumping riders.

The Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Program seeks to educate and test participants by encouraging Junior and Young Riders to develop show jumping skills, thus laying groundwork for future international successes. The Program consists of Classes held across the country and the Finals held each autumn at the USET Foundation Headquarters in Gladstone, NJ and in Thermal, CA during the Desert Holiday .

A very demanding competition, the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals attracts the nation's top Junior and Young Riders in head-to-head competition and are carefully orchestrated to test the entrant's skills in the show jumping arena. The Finals are open to U.S. citizens who are Junior or Young Riders under Federation rules and who have qualified through their placement in Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Classes. By focusing on skills which are judged with regard to execution and technique as they relate to performance, riders must show that they understand and can successfully solve problems presented to them as they compete in four varied and difficult Phases.

Riders are first judged on the flat. In Phase I they are asked to demonstrate knowledge of the elementary principles of dressage training which affect a show jumper's performance.

In Phase II, riders are asked to translate the skills demonstrated on the flat to an intensive gymnastic course. Making quick turns, and shortening and lengthening their horses' strides while maintaining rhythm and balance are the hallmarks of the difficult Gymnastics Phase.

Phase III consists of show jumping over grand prix style fences, which may include natural obstacles such as a grob, ditch, bank, Liverpool and/or water jump.

Phase IV is open to the 10 best placed athlete/horse combinations (including those tied for 10th place) according to cumulative scores from Phases I, II, and III. Phase IV will be held over a shortened course and will be judged. The judges will be looking for a rider who can combine speed with short turns, accuracy, an efficient track while maintaining control, classical riding, and the horse's ability to jump clear. The time taken to complete the round will be considered as a factor in the judges' scoring. Faults will be scored as four points deducted from the final score for each rail down. Although Phase IV will be timed, time and faults are NOT the sole deciding factors.

USEF Talent Search Medals are awarded in recognition of wins in Talent Search Classes. Five wins qualify the rider for a Bronze, 10 for Silver, and 20 for the coveted USEF Gold Medal. Wins are cumulative and may be carried forward for as long as the rider qualifies as a Junior or Young Rider as defined by USEF rules.

Gold Medal winners are no longer eligible to compete in Talent Search Classes, but may compete in the Finals through the calendar year in which they reach their 21st birthday under USEF rules for Young Riders. Winners of the Talent Search Finals may continue to compete in Talent Search Classes in pursuit of additional wins leading towards special Gold, Silver and Bronze USEF Medals, but may not compete in future Finals.

Since its beginning, 967 Bronze Medals, 370 Silver Medals, and 100 Gold Medals have been awarded. The roster of graduates of the Program is impressive and includes Greg Best, Chris Kappler, Peter Leone, Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum, Beezie Madden, Katie Monahan Prudent, Richard Spooner, McLain Ward, Andre Dignelli, Joie Gatlin, Lauren Hough, Brianne Goutal, and Charlie Jayne.

// SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH GOLD MEDALISTS



Photo: James Leslie Parker

2026	Adriana Forte Avery Glynn Amira Kettaneh	2006	Haylie Jayne	1992	Hillary Bowers Libby Copeland
2025	Skylar Wireman	2004	Ashley Delzer Charlie Jayne	1992	Lynn Gaeckle Tracy Typinski
2023	Natalie Jayne Taylor Madden		Courtney Anne McKay Erin Stewart	1991	Shachine Belle
2022	Ellie Ferrigno	2003	Andrew Ramsay	1990	Laura Chapot Wendy Chapot
2021	Daisy Farish	2002	Kristy McCormack	1989	Becky Adler Andrea Barbarossa
2020	Grady Lyman Elli Yeager	2001	Caitlin Cullen Maggie Jayne Tara Krisle Sarah Willemann		Cassandra Karazissis
2017	Kelli Cruciotti		Tiffany Cornacchio Jenny Jones	1988	Havens Schatt Christy Conrad Christina Delia Candice Schlom
2016	Alexandria Desiderio Ransome Rombauer	1999	Amanda Baird Cullen Latimer Caitlin Venezia	1987	Stacia Klein Meredith Michaels Kelly Mullen
2015	Caitlin Boyle Victoria Colvin	1998	Amanda Carone Kai Kampsen	1986	Neil Ashe Kara Flynn
2014	Lillie Keenan	1997	Marley Goodman Elise Haas Jackie McQuade Mary Mead	1985	Archie Cox
2013	Hasbrouck Donovan Caitlin Hope		Samantha Darling Courtney Donaldson Leslie Fishback Suzanne Guerette Kristin Posehn	1984	Helen Homer Francesca Mazella
2012	Haley Buchmiller	1996		1983	Jennifer Pesko
2011	Chase Boggio Hayley Barnhill			1980	Ruthann Bowers Maura Nielsen
2010	Allyson Blais Hannah Selleck Jacqueline Lubrano Jessica Springsteen Laura Pfeiffer Michael Delfiandra Shelby Wakeman	1995	Amy Betuker Hilary Schlusemeyer Alix Schwartz Emily Straw	1978	Elizabeth Guerin
2009	Amelia McArdle Emma Johnson			1975	Alex Dunaif Vincent Sava
2008	Carly Anthony Michael Desiderio	1994	Jaime Krupnick Abigail Mort	1974	Robin Ann Rost
2007	Julie Welles Maggie McAlary Mara Kranz Maria Schaub Nikko Ritter	1993	Katherine Davis Juliana Starbuck Terry Stephens	1971	Katie Monahan Anna Jane White
				1969	Teri Ardleigh
				1968	Ann Snyder
				1967	James Rice

// SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS BEST HORSES



Photo: Isabelle Whiteside/US Equestrian

WINNER OF THE GRAPPA TROPHY

2025 PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING
TALENT SEARCH FINALS EAST BEST HORSE AWARD

EAST



Photo: Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

WINNER OF THE GULLIVER TROPHY

2025 PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING
TALENT SEARCH FINALS WEST BEST HORSE AWARD

WEST

2025	Charlie Brown (Don Stewart, Owner)	Photoshop (Don Stewart, Owner)
2024	Oki D'Eclipse (Sea Horse Investments, Owner)	Quiwian (Victoria Zahorik, Owner)
2023	Franco (Joe Craver, Owner)	Cetello (Ella Dyson, Owner)
2022	Mac One III (Taylor Madden, Owner)	Cetello (Ella Dyson, Owner)
2021	Mac One III (Taylor Madden, Owner)	The Original (Kiely Equestrian, LLC, Owner)
2020	Copperfield 39 (Elli Yeager, Owner)	Fandawest Rebel (Parker Cliff, Owner)
2019	Cent 15 (Mountain King Rance, LLC Owner)	Campitello 5 (Highpoint Farm, LLC, Owner)
2018	Salt Lake (Two Acres Equestrian, LLC, Owner)	Scirocco 91 (AES Equestrian, Owner)
2017	Charisma (Heritage Farm)	Caracas 89 (Elvenstar Farm, Owner)
2016	Clearline (McLain Ward, Owner)	Cantoblanco (Megan Hilton, Owner)
2015	Skyfall (Linda Langmeier, Owner)	Lalonde (Alexis Graves, Owner)
2014	Zentina B (Chasonette Farm, LLC, Owner)	Sorcerer (Sydney Hutchins, Owner)
2013	Class Action (Allison Toffolon, Owner)	Lamont (Catherine Boettcher, Owner)
2012	Drake (Don Stewart, Jr., Owner)	Santika (Samantha Harrison, Owner)
2011	Uriam (Michael Murphy, Owner)	Punkt (Melissa Doddridge, Owner)
2010	Massimo (Chase Boggio, Owner)	Fernway Park (Don Stewart, Jr., Owner)
2009	Pioneer (Heritage Farm, Owner)	Bingo Bongo (Holly Scapa, Owner)
2008	Sir Neel (Victoria Hobbs, Inspirational Farms, Owner)	W.C. Swing (Carol Bird, Owner)
2007	Deneuve (Jessica Springsteen, Owner)	Y2K (Natalie Rae Medlock, Owner)

// SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS WINNERS

2025

ELEANOR RUDNICKI

WINNER OF THE 2025 PLATINUM
PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING
TALENT SEARCH FINALS EAST



Photo: Isabelle Whiteside/US Equestrian

EAST

2025	Eleanor Rudnicki	2004	Brianne Goutal
2024	Taylor Cawley	2003	Michael Morrissey
2023	Luke Jensen	2002	Kristy McCormack
2022	Augusta Iwasaki	2001	Derek Braun
2021	Natalie Jayne	2000	Sarah Willeman
2020	Elli Yeager	1999	Jennifer Jones
2019	Ellie Ferrigno	1998	Cullen Latimer
2018	Daisy Farish	1997	Ellie Ritch
2017	McKayla Langmeier	1996	Hillary Schlusemeyer
2016	TJ O'Mara	1995	Jackie McQuade
2015	Victoria Colvin	1994	Lauren Hough
2014	Geoffrey Hesslink	1993	Abigail Mort
2013	Michael Hughes	1992	Jessica Karp
2012	Jacob Pope	1991	Peter Lutz
2011	Samantha Schaefer	1990	McLain Ward
2010	Brittany Hurst	1989	David Oliynyk
2009	Matthew Metell	1988	Tamara Provost
2008	Sophie Benjamin	1987	Craig Shegog
2007	Nikko Ritter	1986	Neil Ashe
2006	Charlie Jayne	1985	Andre Dignelli
2005	Julie Welles	1984	Jenno Topping
		1983	Karen McKelvey

2025

NICOLE MCMILLION

WINNER OF THE 2025 PLATINUM
PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING
TALENT SEARCH FINALS WEST



Photo: Leslie Potter/US Equestrian

WEST

2025	Nicole McMillion	2004	Kasey Ament
2024	Avery Glynn	2003	Katie Gardner
2023	Camilla Jerng	2002	Tedra Bates
2022	Ella Dyson	2001	Jamie Taylor
2021	Zoe Brown	2000	Anneliese Kanno
2020	Skylar Wireman	1999	Eva Gonda
2019	Emma Catherine Reichow	1998	Michelle Yang
2018	Sophie Simpson	1997	Elise Haas
2017	Halie Robinson	1996	Kirsten Coe
2016	Peyton Warren	1995	Kristin Posehn
2015	Ransome Rombauer	1994	Abigail Dachs
2014	Sydney Hutchins	1993	Megan Johnstone
2013	Olivia Champ	1992	Devon Jackson
2012	Samantha Harrison	1991	Emily Esau
2011	Demi Stiegler	1990	Lauren Kay
2010	Taylor Ann Adams	1989	Karen Chandler
2009	Theo Boris	1988	Richard Spooner
2008	Hannah Selleck	1987	Lisa Osier
2007	Natalie Ray Medlock	1986	Meredith Michaels
2006	Nick Haness	1985	Stacey Eurich
2005	Alex Maida	1984	Catherine Schwenn
		1983	Linda Harwood

// QUALIFICATIONS

2025/2026 PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH POINT SCALE

Effective September 1, 2025 the following Point System will be used for the 2025/2026 Talent Search qualifying period:

TALENT SEARCH CLASS PLACINGS	NUMBER OF EXHIBITORS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE				
	3-5 EXHIBITORS		6+ EXHIBITORS		
	1*	2*	1*	2*	3*
1	15	20	30	45	90
2	7	15	15	30	60
3	5	10	10	20	40
4	2	5	5	10	20
5		2		5	10
6					5

Finals East

- Qualifications close August 31, 2026. Talent Search classes at competitions which begin on or after September 1, 2025, will count towards qualification for the 2026 Finals.
- To qualify for the Finals East, a rider must earn 90 points and a ribbon placing in a 2* or 3* Talent Search class
- A 3* win automatically qualifies a rider for the East Final

Finals West

- Qualifications close October 31, 2026. Talent Search classes at competitions which begin on or after November 1, 2025, will count towards qualification for the 2026 Finals.
- To qualify for the Finals West, a rider must earn 15 points in Talent Search class(es) within the qualifying period.

// RULES AND REGULATIONS

Open to Junior and Young Riders under USEF rules who are U.S. citizens, members of the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., and who have qualified prior to September 1, 2026. Previous Finals winners are ineligible for either Final.

This competition is a test of an individual's abilities as a potential show jumping rider. Management shall settle any dispute or question that may arise and Management's decision shall be final. Exhibitors and other participants herein, as a condition to admission, agree to such a method of settlement.

Every class offered herein which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current USEF Rule Book will be conducted and judged in accordance therewith. Should any questions or disputes arise that are not provided for in the rules, the same shall be referred to the management whose decision shall be final. From herein the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - East will be referred to as "Finals East," and the Platinum Performance/USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - West will be referred to as "Finals West."

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS REPRESENT AN EXCEPTION TO USEF RULE EQ 102.9.a/b/c.

1. ENTRIES - Entries for East Finals close September 15, 2026 and West Finals November 15, 2026. Entries received after the closing date may be accepted at the discretion of Management. Entries will only be accepted online via showmanagementsystems.com for Finals East and showgroundlive.com for Finals West.

Entry Fee: \$350 Schooling Class Fee: \$100

Numbers will not be issued until the entries have been properly signed, entries have been paid in full, and USEF release forms have been signed. Entry fees are inclusive of USEF Fees (D/M \$15, USEF \$23) and USHJA Zone Fee (\$30).

2. PAYMENT - Exhibitors are advised that non-negotiable funds are a serious offense which may be considered grounds for refusing entries. This includes checks and credit cards that are declined. A fine equal to 10% of the amount due or \$50.00, whichever is greater, will be made for all non-negotiable funds. Accounts will be given ten (10) days in which to be paid in full (including penalty) or they will be turned over to the USEF under GR913.

3. REFUNDS - Entries that are scratched before the closing date will receive a full refund. Stall, tack stall, and shavings fees are not refundable after the closing date. Entries that are scratched after the closing date but before the start of the competition (Schooling Class is start of competition) will receive a refund of entry fees paid minus a \$25 office fee. Entries that are scratched after the competition begins will receive a refund of entry fees paid minus a \$25 office fee upon receipt by the Show Secretary of a veterinarian's certificate or medical doctor's note.

// RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

4. FINALS HORSE - Competitors must compete on the same horse throughout all Phases of the competition. Stallions are permitted.

5. SCHOOLING - FEI Schooling Rules will apply at both Finals, e.g. there will be no poling or use of offsets. Schooling fences will be flagged and must be jumped in the correct direction. FEI schooling rules will be in effect beginning the day prior to Phase I.

6. ELIMINATION - Two refusals or a fall by horse and/or rider will result in elimination from the Phase in which they are competing. The competitor may continue to compete in the competition in subsequent Phases.

7. MEDAL CEREMONY - Competitors who have earned a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal during the past year will be presented their Medal in a Medal Ceremony prior to the start of Phase IV. Competitors must be appropriately attired in order to participate in the Medal Ceremony. It is the competitor's responsibility to notify the USEF Liaison at least 24 hours before the Ceremony if there are any discrepancies with the type of Medal earned.

8. AWARDS CEREMONY - Awards will be presented immediately following Phase IV. The Top Ten competitors must be formally attired and mounted for the Awards Ceremony.

9. AWARDS & TROPHIES - Champion trophy, ribbon, and cooler to the winner. Reserve Champion frame, ribbon, and cooler to 2nd place. Picture frame, ribbon, and cooler to 3rd place. Ribbons for 4th-10th place. Best Horse frame and ribbon to the horse determined as the best by the judges. Leading Trainer trophy to the trainer of the winner.

Ties for anyone finishing 5th-10th will be broken as follows:

- According to the higher score in Phase III (Jumping); if there is still a tie, then
- According to the higher score in Phase II (Gymnastics); if there is still a tie, then those tied will remain tied.

10. ATTIRE - Riders must be properly attired for all Phases. Polo shirts are acceptable for the Schooling Class. White breeches are required for Phases III and IV.

11. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR - It is compulsory for all persons at Federation licensed hunter, jumper or hunter/jumper competitions, when mounted anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries. USEF GR801.

12. EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT - EMTs will be on the show grounds for the duration of the Finals.

13. DOGS - While on the showgrounds all dogs must have proof of a rabies certificate and be restrained on a leash at all times. Stable dogs must be confined at all times. Owners of loose dogs are subject to a \$50 fine and are responsible for the entry fee (\$350) of the horse and rider whose performance may be disrupted. Litigation fees resulting from any incident will be the responsibility of the dog owner. USEF GR1301.6

14. LIABILITY - All owners and competitors are personally responsible for damages to third persons caused by themselves, their employees, their agents, or their horses. They therefore are strongly advised to take out third-party insurance providing full coverage for participation in equestrian events at home and abroad, and to keep the policy up to date.

Neither the U.S. Equestrian Team Foundation, Inc., US Equestrian Federation, Inc., nor the DIHP or any affiliated companies, officials, sponsors, all of their directors, officers, members, agents and employees as well as individuals serving in a volunteer capacity, accept any liability for any expense, accident, injury, illness or loss of horses, owners, riders, attendants, spectators, or any person or property whatsoever which may allegedly or actually arise out of or in connection with, or result from anyone's child's participation in the USEF Finals or as a result of or in connection with travel to or from the USEF Finals site, whether or not caused by the negligence of the competition, the negligence or willfulness of some third party, or by any other cause.

"WARNING: UNDER NEW JERSEY LAW, AN EQUESTRIAN AREA OPERATOR IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ANIMAL ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF EQUINE ANIMAL ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO P.L.,1997,C.287 (C.S:15-1 et seq)."

// RULES AND REGULATIONS (CONTINUED)

15. CANCELLATION OF EVENT - Show management reserves the right to make adjustments to the schedule, procedures, and protocols and to make cancellations as deemed necessary or appropriate.

16. INCLEMENT WEATHER - In the event of inclement weather, Management reserves the right to move the location and start time of any of the Phases.

17. USEF MEMBER STATEMENT - Life, senior active and junior active members shall be eligible to participate in all classes at Regular Competitions, Eventing Competitions at the Preliminary Level or above and Combined Driving Competitions at the Advanced Level, Dressage, Reining and Vaulting Competitions and Endurance Rides. A nonmember may participate as a handler, rider, driver, owner, lessee, agent, coach or trainer at Regular Competitions, Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions, Reining Competitions and Combined Driving Competitions upon payment of a \$45 Show Pass fee. Participants in the following classes are exempted from the Requirements of this rule: 1) leadline; 2) exhibitions; 3) games and races; 4) classes for 4-H members; 5) walk trot academy classes (academy classes are classes limited to horses used regularly in a lesson program); 6) USDF introductory level tests, pas de deux and quadrille classes; 7) assistant handlers in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes.

18. FEDERATION ENTRY AGREEMENT - By entering a Federation-licensed Competition and signing this entry blank as the Owner, Lessee, Trainer, Manager, Agent, Coach, Driver, Rider, Handler, Vaultor or Longeur and on behalf of myself and my principals, representatives, employees and agents, I agree that I am subject to the Bylaws and Rules of The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (the "Federation") and the local rules of the competition. I agree to be bound by the Bylaws and Rules of the Federation and of the competition. I will accept as final the decision of the Hearing Committee on any question arising under the Rules, and agree to release and hold harmless the competition, the Federation, their officials, directors and employees for any action taken under the Rules. I represent that I am eligible to enter and/or participate under the Rules, and every horse I am entering is eligible as entered. I also agree that as a condition of and in consideration of acceptance of entry, the Federation and/or the Competition may use or assign photographs, videos, audios, cable - casts, broadcasts, internet, film, new media or other likenesses of me and my horse taken during the course of the competition for the promotion, coverage or benefit of the competition, sport, or the Federation. Those likenesses shall not be used to advertise a product and they may not be used in such a way as to jeopardize amateur status. I hereby expressly and irrevocably waive and release any rights in connection with such use, including any claim to compensation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, or to misappropriation. The construction and application of Federation rules are governed by the laws of the State of New York, and any action instituted against the Federation must be filed in New York State. See GR908.

19. MOTORIZED VEHICLES - Minors who do not have a valid driver's license which allows them to operate a motorized vehicle in the state in which they reside will not be permitted to operate a motorized vehicle of any kind, including, but not limited to, golf carts, motorcycles, scooters, or farm utility vehicles, on the competition grounds of licensed competitions. Minors who have a valid temporary license may operate the above described motorized vehicles as long as they are accompanied by an adult with a valid driver's license. The parent/legal guardian or individual who signs the entry blank as a parent or guardian of a minor operating a motorized vehicle in violation of this rule are solely responsible for any damages, claims, losses or actions resulting from that operation. Violations of this rule will be cause for penalties against those responsible for the child committing the offense. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this rule. The unsafe use of personal electronic transport devices, as determined by the competition officials and management in their sole discretion, that do not require a driver's license to operate, including but not limited to segways, hover boards, and single wheeled scooters is prohibited on competition grounds. Operating such devices in areas where people gather may be deemed "unsafe use" if there is a risk of harm to others. If the operator of the device is a minor, the parent/legal guardian or individual who signs the entry blank as a parent or guardian of a minor operating the device in violation of this rule is accountable and may be subject to penalties. Wheelchairs and other mobility assistance devices for individuals with disabilities are exempt from this rule.

20. MEDICAL WASTE - Competition management shall place a minimum of one sharps container per each competition, whether or not stabling is provided. Additionally, at least one sharps container per 50 occupied stalls for the disposal of needles and other disposable sharp instruments in convenient locations in barns housing competition horses. It is competition management's responsibility to replace such containers when full and dispose of them properly. Competition management may fine any individuals including trainers, owners, exhibitors, or their agents up to \$100 for improper disposal of needles or other sharp disposable instruments. USEF GR1210.4.

21. SAFE SPORT - All USEF Life and Senior Active members, as well as participants who have regular contact with minor athletes, are required to comply with the U.S. Center for SafeSport training requirement to be eligible to participate in the competition. All participants must adhere to the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, USEF Safe Sport Policy, and the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies. More information about these can be found at www.usef.org

// FINALS WEST, DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK - THERMAL, CA

STABLING: Stalls will be permanent and/or portable with stall doors. Stalls will be provided without bedding.

FOOTING & RING DIMENSIONS: Footing is all-weather. Dimensions of competition arena are: Grand Prix - 250' x 350'.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: Please refer to Desert Holiday 1 or contact the Show Secretary.

HORSE INSPECTION: All horses participating in the 2026 Finals are required to pass the Horse Inspection before competing. Each competitor is required to present his/her own horse, unless permission is granted by competition management for a representative to present the horse. All horses must be presented in a controlled and safe manner. All horses will be identified with their number and either a passport or a coggins certificate. Horses found to be unsound will have the opportunity to be represented at a time agreed upon with competition management prior to the start of Phase I.

SCHOOLING: During the week of the finals and through the conclusion of the event, Finals horses may only compete in designated talent search finals classes. Designated classes include Clear Round classes on Tuesday; Class #1000 Talent Search 90 second (water option) on Thursday; Talent Search Finals Phase I & II on Saturday; and Phase III & Phase IV (if eligible) on Sunday.

The warm up class will be open to Finals competitor only. Athlete may ride more than one horse in the warm up class and must declare their Finals horse to the show secretary no later than one hour prior to the start of Phase I.

VIDEO SERVICES: ClipMyHorse, www.clipmyhorse.tv

// FINALS EAST, USET FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS - GLADSTONE, NJ

STABLING: Stalls will be either permanent or temporary with stall doors. Stalls will be provided without bedding. Exhibitors are advised that failure to clean out a permanent stall will result in an additional charge of \$200 per stall. Accounts will be given ten (10) days in which to be paid in full or they will be turned over to the USEF under GR913.

FOOTING & RING DIMENSIONS: Footing is all-weather. Dimensions of the competition arena are 150' x 325'.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS: In accordance with USEF GR845, all horses entering the USET Headquarters property must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the competition grounds upon request by Competition Management. See USEF GR845 for documentation requirements.

HORSE INSPECTION: All horses participating in the 2026 Finals are required to pass the Horse Inspection before competing. Each competitor is required to present his/her own horse, unless permission is granted by competition management for a representative to present the horse. All horses must be presented in a controlled and safe manner. All horses will be identified with their number and either a passport or a coggins certificate. Horses found to be unsound will have the opportunity to be represented at a time agreed upon with competition management prior to the start of Phase I.

SCHOOLING: One schooling class will be held on Friday, October 2. Athletes may ride more than one horse in the Schooling Class but must declare the horse they intend to compete with to the Show Secretary no later than one hour prior to the start of Phase I. A course of approximately eight obstacles will be set and will include a water jump (with or without a pole). Each athlete will have 90 seconds in the arena and will be free to jump any flagged obstacle including multiple times. Rules regarding refusals and falls will be enforced. Beginning at 6:00pm ET Thursday, October 1st only Junior or Young Rider athletes entered in the Finals may ride horses entered in the Finals. Only athletes may walk the course for the Schooling Class and all phases of the Finals.

ARRIVAL: Horses may not arrive at the USET before 9 a.m., Thursday, October 1. All horses must be on the grounds by 9 a.m., Friday, October 2. Horses planning to arrive after 5 p.m. and before 8 a.m. must contact Management. Horses may not leave the grounds without the permission of Management.

FEED, HAY & BEDDING: Shavings may be ordered from the show office or with the entry. Feed and hay is available for purchase from Somerset Grain & Feed of Long Valley, NJ - 908.766.0204. Advance orders are recommended. **There will be no feed delivery on Saturday or Sunday so please plan accordingly.**

PARKING: Grounds will be restricted in the interest of safety and security. Vans and trailers must park in the designated areas. All competitors must follow parking directions. Campers are not permitted at the USET Headquarters.

VIDEO SERVICES: ClipMyHorse, www.clipmyhorse.tv

PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES: Kind Media LLC. 215.280.8388, www.kindmediallc.com. Photography request forms should be completed prior to the competition. The form and more information can be found at www.usef.org/talentsearch.

// SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (TENTATIVE)

	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4	SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
FINALS WEST	Riders Meeting	Phase I & II (individually)	Phase III Jumping
	Horse Inspection		Phase IV Ride Off
	Schooling Class		
	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
FINALS EAST	10:00 a.m. Riders Meeting	9:00 a.m. Phase I & II (individually)	9:00 a.m. Phase III Jumping
	12:00 p.m. Horse Inspection		1:00pm Phase IV Ride Off
	2:00 p.m. Schooling Class		

// TACK (INCLUDING SCHOOLING CLASS)

- Legal bits include snaffles, pelhams, gags, kimberwicks, hackamores, and two or three ring bits. Full bridles may be used. Any other bits (including but not limited to hackamores, etc.) are prohibited.
- Change of bridle is permissible, between the jumping phases.
- Legal nosebands include leather cavesson, flash, drop and figure eight.
- Running martingales used in the conventional manner are legal in all phases. Standing martingales, German martingales, draw reins, or restricted martingales are prohibited in all phases.
- Bit converters may be used.
- Blinkers are prohibited.
- Boots and conservative colored bandages are permitted on the legs only. The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a Horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc.), is 500 grams or 17.637 ounces (shoe excluded).
- Elimination will incur for competing with a belly band, or a wrap or bandage anywhere other than the horse's legs.
- Type of saddle is optional.
- Nose nets are permitted.

// PHASE I (FLAT)

PHASE I: FLAT - The purpose of Phase I (Flat) is to prepare the horse for jumping. Riders will be asked to demonstrate the following as a group or individually: working walk, working trot sitting, working trot rising, working trot showing a lengthening of stride, working canter, working canter showing a lengthening of stride, and working canter on the counter lead. Judges may require advanced flatwork such as shoulder-in, shoulder-out, haunches-in, and haunches-out. To be judged on rider's position and seat, as well as the correctness and effectiveness of the aids. Phase I will have a multiplier of 1. The start order of Phase I will be by a random draw.

// PHASE II (GYMNASTICS)

PHASE II: GYMNASTICS - Phase II is to be judged over a series of gymnastic lines, which will be developed by the Judges with the approval of the designated Talent Search Finals Technical Delegate. A trot fence, not to exceed .90m, may be permitted prior to the first gymnastics exercise. To be judged on effectiveness of execution. The course will be posted and open 30 minutes prior to the start of competition for walking, and may be walked only by the competitor. Phase II will have a multiplier of 1.5.

// PHASE III (JUMPING)

PHASE III: JUMPING - To be shown over a course of approximately 10-13 fences set at 1.15m with spreads to 1.50m (excluding the water jump, which may be wider). To include one double combination and one triple combination, or three double combinations, and an open water jump (with or without a pole, see USEF JP128). Speed 350 meters per minute. The course will be posted and open 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition for walking and may be walked only by the competitor. To be judged on effectiveness of execution. Time and jumping faults will be taken into consideration in the judges' evaluation of the rider. Phase III will have a multiplier of 2. The start order of Phase III will be the reverse order of standings after Phases I and II, respectively.

Phases II and III may include obstacles such as banks, ditches, and water.

// PHASE IV (RIDE OFF)

Veterinary Evaluation - Prior to the start of Phase IV, a veterinary evaluation will be held for the top ten (10) horses qualified to participate. Horses in 11th and 12th place after Phase III (Jumping) will also be required to jog. In the case of accident before the start of Phase IV, if an athlete or horse is unable to participate for health reasons, they will automatically be replaced by the 11th placed competitor and so on.

Conduct and Start Order - Phase IV is open to the 10 best placed athlete/horse combinations (including those tied for 10th place) according to cumulative scores from Phases I, II, and III. The starting order will be the reverse order of cumulative scores (i.e. highest score starting last). In the event of ties at the conclusion of Phase III, the score from Phase III will determine the starting order.

Phase IV will be held over a shortened course and will be judged. The judges will be looking for a rider who can combine speed with short turns, accuracy, an efficient track while maintaining control, classical riding, and the horse's ability to jump clear. The time taken to complete the round will be considered as a factor in the judges' scoring. Faults will be scored as four points deducted from the final score for each rail down. Although Phase IV will be timed, time and faults are NOT the sole deciding factors.

Obstacles, Speed, Length of Course - Phase IV fences will be set at 1.15m in height with spreads to 1.50m and must include a double or triple combination. The water jump will not be used in Phase IV. Minimum speed of 375 meters per minute with a maximum speed of 500 meters per minute.

Scoring - The judges will score each round numerically and add to each athlete/horse combinations overall score. Scores will not be announced until the end of the class. The Finalist with the highest score from all four phases will be the winner; the Finalist with the second-highest score will finish second, and so on. Finalists that retire or are eliminated will receive a score of zero for Phase IV and placed last in Phase IV.

// DIRECTIONS

TO DESERT INTERNATIONAL HORSE PARK

FROM POINTS WEST (INCLUDING FROM PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT): From I-10 E. keep RIGHT to take CA-86 Spur S toward Brawley/El Centro. 6.5 miles. Turn RIGHT onto Airport Blvd. 2.2 miles and proceed to stabling gate. Spectators may enter via the Main gate.

TO USET HEADQUARTERS

FROM THE NORTHEAST: NY Thruway take Route I-287 South, or take George Washington Bridge to Route I-80 West to Route I-287 South. From Route I-287 South take Exit 22 to Route 202/206 North (look for brown USET signs). Proceed North on Route 206 to Pottersville Road, aka Route 512 (sixth traffic light – approximately five miles). Turn left at the traffic light. Follow GENERAL DIRECTIONS below.

FROM THE NORTHWEST: Route I-80 East take Exit 27 off Route I-80 to Route 206 South. Take 206 South. Approximately four miles south of Chester make a right at the light for Pottersville Road, aka Route 512. Follow GENERAL DIRECTIONS below.

FROM THE SOUTH: NJ Turnpike take Exit 10 off NJ Turnpike to Route I-287 North. Take Exit 22B off Route I-287 for Route 202/206 North (look for brown USET signs). Proceed North on Route 206 to Pottersville Road aka Route 512 (sixth traffic light - approximately five miles). Turn left at the traffic light. Follow GENERAL DIRECTIONS below.

FROM THE WEST: Route I-78 East to Route I-287 North. The second exit on I-287 will be #22B for Routes 202/206 North (look for brown USET signs). Proceed North on Route 206 to Pottersville Road, aka Route 512 (sixth traffic light - approximately five miles). Turn left at the traffic light. Follow GENERAL DIRECTIONS below.

FROM NEWARK AIRPORT: After exiting the airport follow the signs to Route I-78 West, take Exit 29 to Route I-287 North. The second exit on I-287 will be #22B for Route 202/206 North (look for brown USET signs). Proceed North on Route 206 to Pottersville Road, aka Route 512 (sixth traffic light - approximately five miles). Turn left at the traffic light. Follow GENERAL DIRECTIONS below.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS: Travel on Pottersville Road for approximately 3/4 mile. On left is white USET sign, turn onto Schoolhouse Road. Follow this road, after the third speed bump the USET headquarters are on the right. The Show Office is located in the stable rotunda.

// ACCOMMODATIONS

WEST COAST

LA QUINTA RESTORT & CLUB
49-499 Eisenhower Dr
La Quinta, CA 92253
760.564.4111

LEGACY VILLAS
48871 Legacy Dr
La Quinta, CA 92253
1.800.965.6689

HOMEWOOD SUITES LA QUINTA
45-200 Washington St
La Quinta, CA 92253
760.391.4600

EAST COAST

DELTA HOTELS BY MARRIOTT
80 Allen Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908.848.4187
Restaurant on premises

COURTYARD MARRIOTT
595 Martinsville Road
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
908.542.0300

Restaurant on premises

MARRIOTT BRIDGEWATER
700 Commons Way
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908.927.9300

HAMPTON INN BRIDGEWATER
1277 Route 22 West
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908.722.9910

DENALI MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY

Donated by Mrs. Maya Z. Hamburger
awarded to the winner of the
Platinum Performance/USEF
Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - West

Once upon a time, in Montana, a racing Quarter Horse named “Flint Chief” was born to a thoroughbred mare. In addition to growing up and holding multi-state racing records, he was reputed to hold pole-bending and barrel racing records.

An amateur-owner named Leslie Brown spent summers in Alaska, teaching families to ride, and coincidentally, an Alaskan family bought the talented “Flint” sight unseen and shipped him from Montana to Alaska for a trail horse. He was too much for family trail riding, so exercising him fell to Leslie.

Leslie showed “Flint” some old standards and poles to jump, and from that day on, Flint jumped anything. He used his racing and pole-bending skills to make REALLY fast tight turns. Leslie dubbed him “Denali”-“The Great One” in Eskimo.

His first show was at the International Forum in Los Angeles. Leslie was shocked at the size of the jumps. Not Denali. He entered the ring, looked around, and won. And from that day on, he won wherever he went – Indio, Phoenix, Coto de Caza, Fresno, the Cow Palace, Santa Barbara, and Del Mar.

Four years after first seeing him at the Forum, Denali became 12-year old Melanie Hamburger’s baby-sitter and best friend. Just as he did with Leslie, Denali carried Melanie safely over countless fences (even if it was a bit faster than her trainers might have liked)... and won.

The following year, Melanie and Denali competed successfully at Spruce Meadows. They added Grand Prix jumping to the Junior Classes. And Denali won!

Denali may have looked as though he were made from spare parts, only 15.2 1/2 hands, but he had a jumbo rump to propel him over fences and courage, heart, and a love of jumping that made everything seem easy. His expressive eyes never let Leslie or Melanie forget for one moment that Denali would keep them safe...and WINNING.



FRENCH LEAVE MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY

Donated by Gerald A. Nielsen Family
awarded to the winner of the
Platinum Performance/USEF
Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - East

French Leave...a remarkable horse.

Known as one of the most versatile horses of his time, French Leave made many appearances in the hunter, jumper, and equitation rings. Owned by the Nielsen Family, French Leave was ridden by all three children during their riding careers.



In 1982, Sandy rode French Leave to win the inaugural Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East and the USEF Hunter Seat Medal (only one of five riders to ever do so). Karen also rode French Leave to win the USEF Hunter Seat Medal in 1987 and placed 2nd the following year in the Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East. She placed 2nd in the ASPCA Maclay Finals aboard French Leave in 1987 and 1988.

Many times French Leave would zip around a junior jumper course and then race over to the equitation ring and perform in a Maclay flat phase, and at the end of the day he would win both!

LEADING TRAINER AWARD

Donated by the late Mr. Hugh J.B Cassidy, III
awarded to the trainers of the winners
of the Platinum Performance/USEF
Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - East & West



Photos: Gladstone Archive (1-2), Geoff Oliver Bugbee (3)

BEST HORSE TROPHY - FINALS WEST THE "GULLIVER" TROPHY

Donated by Karen Healey
awarded to the best horse, chosen by the
Judges of the Platinum Performance/USEF
Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - West

In 1988, Thea Nielsen called Karen Healey a few days before the USET Finals as she heard Karen needed a horse for Nicole Bloom. Thea said she had a five-year-old Thoroughbred that she had shown in the hunters and jumpers. Karen went over two days before the Finals and tried him.



Nicole used him that year and was fourth when she knocked a jump down with her feet in the last change of horses. Bert deNemethy was judging that year and accidentally scored the class on the horse not the rider and declared him the winner. It was all sorted out, but that was Gulliver's first "Best Horse" win.

Gulliver's record after that auspicious beginning is extraordinary. If one of Karen's riders didn't win whatever Equitation Final it was, Gulliver often won with the rider who had been switched on to him, always ending up the Best Horse. After that first year as a five-year-old, Gulliver helped equitation riders through 1995, when he was retired, and spent his days at Thea Nielsen's farm in Montana.

Specific results with Karen's students include:

- 1989 2nd ASPCA Finals (Lauren Kay)
- 1990 1st ASPCA Finals (Lauren Kay)
- 1990 1st Talent Search Finals West (Lauren Kay)
- 1991 2nd ASPCA Finals (Carlee Kay)
- 1991 1st ASPCA Regionals (Carlee Kay)
- 1991 1st AHSA Regionals (Carlee Kay)
- 1992 2nd USET Talent Search Finals West (Carlee Kay)
- 1994 1st PCHA 14 Finals (Buffy Lake)
- 1994 1st LA Jr. Finals (Buffy Lake)
- 1994 1st PHA West Finals 14 (Buffy Lake)

As Karen says, "I think sometimes in the equitation we overlook the contribution of the horse, so I'd like to donate this trophy in honor of one of the best equitation horses ever — Gulliver."

BEST HORSE TROPHY - FINALS EAST THE "GRAPPA" TROPHY

Donated by Sarah Willeman
awarded to the best horse, chosen by the
Judges of the Platinum Performance/USEF
Show Jumping Talent Search Finals - East

Grappa has always known when he's in the winner's circle. Give him a loose rein for his victory photograph, and he'll hold his head high with ears pricked and a gleam in his eye. That energy and engagement have characterized everything Grappa has done in his impressive career; he is one of the best equitation horses the sport has ever seen. With Missy Clark's students, Grappa won seven national equitation championships and every major specialty class on the equitation tour, including winning the Calvin Klein Equitation Classic at Southampton three times. Grappa jumped the open water, banks and ditches with the same athleticism and grace he expressed in a Maclay class or over a hunter course. His brilliant flatwork and impeccable jumping style have made him unfailingly a pleasure to watch. In all of his show performances, Grappa displayed the classic trait of a truly great athlete: he made it look easy.

Grappa's seven national championships include:

- 1996 ASPCA Maclay Finals (Lauren Bass)
- 1997 AHSA Medal Finals (Lauren Bass)
- 1998 WIHS Equitation Classic Finals (Sarah Willeman)
- 2000 USET Talent Search Finals East (Sarah Willeman)
- 2000 AHSA Medal Finals (Sarah Willeman)
- 2001 ASPCA Maclay Finals (Brian Walker)
- 2002 AHSA Medal Finals (Maggie Jayne)

Grappa also has the distinction of having bucked off all of his riders, often at the most unexpected moments. His mischievous personality kept him young. Still sound and healthy, Grappa retired in 2006, at the age of 20, to live at North Run/ Turnabout Farm in the green mountains of Vermont.



Photos: J.L. Parker (1), Gladstone Archive (2)



FEDERATION ENTRY AGREEMENT

By entering a Federation-licensed Competition and signing this entry blank as the Owner, Lessee, Trainer, Manager, Agent, Coach, Driver, Rider, Handler, Vaultor or Longeur and on behalf of myself and my principals, representatives, employees and agents, I agree that I am subject to the Bylaws and Rules of the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (the "Federation") and the local rules of _____ (Competition). I agree to be bound by the Bylaws and Rules of the Federation and of the competition. I will accept as final the decision of the Hearing Committee on any question arising under the Rules, and agree to release and hold harmless the competition, the Federation, their officials, directors and employees for any action taken under the Rules. I represent that I am eligible to enter and/or participate under the Rules, and every horse I am entering is eligible as entered. I also agree that as a condition of and in consideration of acceptance of entry, the Federation and/or the Competition may use or assign photographs, videos, audios, cable - casts, broadcasts, internet, film, new media or other likenesses of me and my horse taken during the course of the competition for the promotion, coverage or benefit of the competition, sport, or the Federation. Those likenesses shall not be used to advertise a product and they may not be used in such a way as to jeopardize amateur status. I hereby expressly and irrevocably waive and release any rights in connection with such use, including any claim to compensation, invasion of privacy, right of publicity, or to misappropriation. The construction and application of Federation rules are governed by the laws of the State of New York, and any action instituted against the Federation must be filed in New York State. See GR907.4.

If not currently a USEF Active Competing member or Subscriber and competing only in classes that are exempt from membership requirements, I acknowledge and agree that I will be enrolled at no cost as a USEF Fan and my USEF Fan Account will continue to annually automatically renew unless and until USEF determines in its sole discretion to terminate my Fan account. Additionally, I acknowledge that the benefits of a USEF Fan are subject to change without notice. I acknowledge that I may opt out at any time by going to My USEF Dashboard or calling (859) 810-8733.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I AGREE that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by all applicable Federation Bylaws, rules, and policies including the USEF Safe Sport Policy and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) as published at www.usef.org, as amended from time to time, as well as all terms and provisions of this Prize List. If I am signing and submitting this Agreement electronically, I acknowledge that my electronic signature shall have the same validity, force and effect as if I affixed my signature by my own hand.

RIDER/DRIVER/HANDLER/VAULTER/LONGEUR (mandatory)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

TRAINER (mandatory)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

OWNER/AGENT (mandatory)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

COACH (if applicable)

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: (Required if Rider/Driver/Handler/Vaultor/Longeur is a minor) _____

Print Parent//Guardian Name: _____ Emergency Contact Phone No. _____

Is Rider/Driver/Vaultor a U.S. Citizen: ☐ Yes ☐ No



WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

For and in consideration of United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. dba US Equestrian ("USEF") allowing me, the undersigned, to participate in any capacity (including as a rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, lessee, owner, agent, coach, official, trainer or volunteer) in a USEF sanctioned, licensed or approved event or activity, including but not limited to equestrian clinics, practices, shows, competitions and related or incidental activities and ("USEF Event" or "USEF Events"); I, for myself, and on behalf of my spouse, children, heirs and next of kin, and any legal and personal representatives, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, hereby agree to and make the following contractual representations pursuant to this Agreement (the "Agreement"):

A. RULES AND REGULATIONS: I hereby agree that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by all applicable Federation Bylaws, rules, and policies including the USEF Safe Sport Policy and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) as published at www.usef.org, as amended from time to time.

B. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INHERENT RISKS: I knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily acknowledge the inherent risks associated with equine activities, including but not limited to horseback riding and equestrian sport, are inherently dangerous, and that participation in any USEF Event involves risks and dangers including, without limitation, the potential for serious bodily injury (including broken bones, head or neck injuries), sickness and disease (including communicable diseases), trauma, pain & suffering, permanent disability, paralysis and death; loss of or damage to personal property (including my mount & equipment) arising out of the unpredictable behavior of horses; exposure to extreme conditions and circumstances; accidents involving other participants, event staff, volunteers or spectators; contact or collision with other participants and horses, natural or manmade objects; adverse weather conditions; facilities issues and premises conditions; failure of protective equipment (including helmets); inadequate safety measures; participants of varying skill levels; situations beyond the immediate control of the USEF Event organizers and competition management; and other undefined, not readily foreseeable and presently unknown risks and dangers ("Risks").

WARNING:

CAUTION: HORSEBACK RIDING AND EQUINE ACTIVITIES CAN BE DANGEROUS. RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK.

UNDER NEW JERSEY LAW, AN EQUESTRIAN AREA OPERATOR IS NOT LIABLE FOR AN INJURY TO OR THE DEATH OF A PARTICIPANT IN EQUINE ANIMAL ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM THE INHERENT RISKS OF EQUINE ANIMAL ACTIVITIES, PURSUANT TO P.L. 1997, c.287 (C.5:15-1 et seq).

C. ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I understand that the aforementioned Risks may be caused in whole or in part or result directly or indirectly from the negligence of my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the USEF Events, or the negligent acts or omissions of the Released Parties defined below, and I hereby voluntarily and knowingly assume all such Risks and responsibility for any damages, liabilities, losses, or expenses that I incur as a result of my participation in any USEF Events. I also agree to be responsible for any injury or damage caused by me, my horse, my employees or contractors under my direction and control at any USEF Event.

D. WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY: In conjunction with my participation in any USEF Event, I hereby release, waive and covenant not to sue, and further agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the following parties: USEF, USEF Recognized Affiliate Associations, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), USEF clubs, members, Event participants (including athletes/riders, coaches, trainers, judges/officials, and other personnel), the Event owner, licensee, and competition managers; the promoters, sponsors, or advertisers of any USEF Event; any charity or other beneficiary which may benefit from the USEF Event; the owners, managers, or lessors of any facilities or premises where a USEF Event may be held; and all directors, officers, employees, agents, contractors, and volunteers of any of the aforementioned parties (**Individually and Collectively, the "Released Parties" or "Event Organizers"**), with respect to any liability, claim(s), demand(s), cause(s) of action, damage(s), loss, or expense (including court costs and reasonable attorney fees) of any kind or nature ("**Liability**") which may arise out of, result from, or relate in any way to my participation in the USEF Events, including claims for Liability caused in whole or in part by the negligent acts or omissions of the Released Parties.

E. COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE: This Agreement represents the complete understanding between the parties regarding these issues and no oral representations, statements or inducements have been made apart from this Agreement. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unlawful, void, or for any reason unenforceable, then that provision shall be deemed severable from this Agreement and shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any remaining provisions.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS DOCUMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY, UNDERSTAND ALL OF ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS, AND KNOW IT CONTAINS AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK, RELEASE AND WAIVER FROM LIABILITY, AS WELL AS A HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFICATION OBLIGATIONS.

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand, and agree to be bound by all applicable Federation Bylaws, rules, and policies including the USEF Safe Sport Policy and Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) as published at www.usef.org, as amended from time to time. Further, by signing below, I (as the participant or as the Parent/Legal Guardian of the minor identified below) hereby accept and agree to the terms and conditions of this Agreement in connection with my (or the minor's) participation in USEF Events. If, despite this Agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf or the minor's behalf, makes a claim for Liability against any of the Released Parties, I will indemnify, defend and hold harmless each of the Released Parties from any such Liabilities as the result of such claim.

The parties agree that this agreement may be electronically signed. The parties agree that the electronic signatures appearing on this agreement are the same as handwritten signatures for the purposes of validity, enforceability, and admissibility.

☐ RIDER/DRIVER/HANDLER/VAULTER/LONGEUR ☐ OWNER ☐ TRAINER ☐ OFFICIAL ☐ STAFF ☐ VOLUNTEER ☐ COACH (IF APPLICABLE) ☐ OTHER

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Print Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: (Required if Rider/Driver/Handler/Vaulter/Longeur is a minor) _____ Date: _____

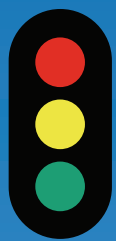
Print Parent//Guardian Name: _____ Emergency Contact Phone No. _____

02.18.26

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION : 4001 WING COMMANDER WAY : LEXINGTON, KY 40511 : 859.810.8733 : FAX 859.721.1151 : USEF.ORG

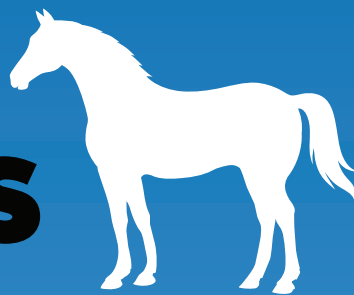
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PLATINUM PERFORMANCE/USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS



KNOW THE SIGNS

USEF HORSE WELFARE



See Guidelines



USEF has developed horse welfare guidelines based on the stoplight system to help us recognize acceptable or unacceptable interactions between horses and humans

GREEN

horse friendly

The horse appears happy, willing, and content.

The connection between horse and human is harmonious and in sync.

YELLOW

cautionary

Actions that cause you to pause and question whether they are acceptable.

Some actions may be acceptable for a very short period of time but may escalate to mistreatment if pressure or conflict increases in intensity.

RED

unacceptable OR not okay

Actions that make you think, "This is not okay."

Actions that make you immediately think,
"This behavior must stop."

Sometimes athletes can be acting in the red zone without even realizing it - these situations may be resolved by a licensed official interrupting the training, discussing the issue, and providing a verbal warning.

If you see an interaction that falls into the red zone, please alert an official to the situation and submit a report.

Scan to report





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ON THE PATHWAY

Eleanor Rudnicki and Qwantreau
2025 USEF Jumping Talent Search
Finals - East Champions

Photo by Isabelle Whiteside/US Equestrian

ON THE PATHWAY

Nicole McMillion and Change Up PS
2025 USEF Jumping Talent Search
Finals - West Champions

Photo by Leslie Potter/US Equestrian



Photo by Shannon Brinkman

ON THE PODIUM

2025 U.S. JUMPING TEAM TRIUMPHS AT CHIO AACHEN'S MERCEDES-BENZ JUMPING NATIONS CUP CSIO5*

Kent Farrington, Laura Kraut, McLain Ward, Lillie Keenan and Chef d'Equipe Robert Ridland with CHIO Aachen presentation committee

Farrington rode Toulayna (not pictured), Kraut rode Bisquetta (not pictured), Ward rode Imperial HBF (pictured), and Keenan rode Argan De Beliard (pictured) to capture the win at the prestigious competition.



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