



MEMORANDUM

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on January 14, 2017 and February 27, 2017

To: Potential 2018 Longines FEI World Equestrian Games - Endurance Applicants

Date: October 31, 2016

From: Kristen E. Brett, Director of Endurance

Copy: Will Connell

Re: Planned Observation Events & FEI Certificate of Capability

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and is subject to change.

The 2018 Longines FEI World Equestrian Games – Endurance is scheduled to take place September 10-23. It is important to note that the World Equestrian Games (WEG) format is being discussed at the 2016 FEI General Assembly in November. Rules, format, number of athlete/horse combinations per National Federation (NF) and qualifications are all subject to confirmation.

Please be advised that the following CEI2*/CEIYJ2* and CEI3*/CEIYJ3* events may be named as USEF Selection Events for the WEG. The designation is subject to the final approval of the USEF International Disciplines Council and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Group. Athlete/horse combinations are expected to compete at a minimum speed of 14kph.

2016

Broxton Bridge November 11-12

2017 *Dates are Tentative**

Broxton Bridge January 27-28
Twenty Mule Team February 25
FITS March 2-4
Lone Star Express April 20-22
Biltmore Challenge May 6
Mt. Adams May 20
Ft. Howes June 10-11
Broxton Bridge November 10-11

2018 *Dates are Tentative**

Broxton Bridge January 31 – February 4
FITS March 24-26
Indian Springs April 28-29
Biltmore Challenge May 3-6
Mt. Adams May 18-20

CEI2*/CEIYJ2* and CEI3*/CEIYJ3* events held outside of the U.S. between January 1, 2017 and June 12, 2018 may be considered as a Selection Trial but only with the approval of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and the USEF Endurance

Committee. Any athlete wishing to use a CEI2*/CEIYJ2* or CEI3*/CEIYJ3* held outside of the U.S. as a Selection Trial must make the request in writing to the USEF Director of Endurance no less than 60 days prior to the start of the Competition.

Beginning 20 March 2017, and until further notice, results earned at the Dubai International Equestrian Club (DIEC) will not meet the USEF eligibility requirements for the 2018 Longines FEI World Equestrian Games - Endurance, neither will results achieved at DIEC be considered by the USEF Endurance Selectors.

The final list of Selection Trials will be published as part of the approved Endurance Selection Procedures for the 2018 Longines FEI World Equestrian Games - Endurance. Additional events may be added. Notification of additional events will be no less than 30 days prior to the competition.

Training List: Immediately following the completion of a Selection Trial, the Selector in consultation with the member of the USEF Endurance Veterinary Group in attendance at the event, may request a baseline exam for the horse. All athlete/horse combinations named on the Training List are required to demonstrate continued preparation, soundness, and ability. Horses may be required to attend one fitness and soundness assessment with at least one member of the Veterinary Advisory Group, at least one Selector, and the horse's treating veterinarian based on the preliminary results found during the baseline exam. The Veterinary Advisory Group and the horse's treating veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the applicant horse(s).

Once an athlete/horse combination has been named to the Training List, they will come under the control of the Chef d'Equipe through the conclusion of the Mandatory Training Event and/or WEG. The athlete, trainer, and/or owner must discuss their training, competition, and coaching schedule with the Chef d'Equipe. The Chef d'Equipe will approve the schedule and deviations must be communicated to and approved by the Chef d'Equipe.

An athlete/horse combination may be removed from the Training List for any of the following reasons but not limited to:

- Voluntary withdrawal by the athlete or owner.
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Veterinary Advisory Group.
- Injury or illness of the athlete as certified by a USEF approved physician or medical staff.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- **Violation of the USEF Safe Sport Policy Handbook.**
- Failure to train or prepare the horse for the WEG as directed by the Chef d'Equipe.
- Failure to comply with any request of the Veterinary Advisory Group.
- The presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker found during drug testing.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, parents, coaches, and crew/grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.

FEI Certificate of Capability: To be eligible to participate in the Longines FEI World Equestrian Games - Endurance, all athletes and horses wishing to compete must earn an FEI Certificate of Capability no later than 21 May 2018 (*subject to change*).

1. Horses must have successfully completed at least 3 CEI 2* events or higher.
2. Athletes must have successfully completed at 5 CEI 2* events or higher
3. All athletes, including young riders, must meet the minimum riding weight of 75kg, including all riding equipment.
4. Of these CEI events, at least one competition must be in combination with the nominated athlete at the minimum speed of 14kph and the same distance of the event. *Exception: Unless the athlete is an Elite Endurance Athlete. In such cases, the horse can be ridden by other applicable athlete.*

Mandatory Training Event(s): It is anticipated that up to the maximum number of athlete/horse combinations permitted on the FEI Nominated Entry will be named to participate in the Mandatory Training Event(s). By no later than May 1, 2018, all details regarding the Mandatory Training Event(s) will be posted on the USEF website,

www.usef.org. At present, it is anticipated that the athlete/horse combinations will take part in additional veterinary evaluations, performance enhancing equitation lessons, strategic planning, and educational sessions. These educational sessions may include sessions such as Fitness; Sports Psychology; Media Training; Biomechanics; Equine Nutrition and/or Veterinary Care. The purpose of the Mandatory Training Event(s) is to identify those athlete/horse combinations to be named to the Team, the Traveling Reserve, and/or FEI Definite Entry. Details will be communicated directly to the athletes.

International Federation (IF) Eligibility of Athletes, Owners, and Horses:

- ✓ The athlete must be a U.S. Citizen and born before January 1, 2005.
- ✓ Horses must be a minimum of eight (8) years of age. Horses are deemed to have their birthday on January 1. *It is important to note that the age of the horse is being discussed at the 2016 FEI General Assembly, November 19-22, 2016. The age requirement is subject to change to nine (9) years old.*
- ✓ The athlete and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI through the conclusion of the Event.
- ✓ The horse must have a valid FEI Passport no later than the date of the Mandatory Training Event.
- ✓ The athlete must be an Active Member and in good standing with the USEF through the conclusion of the Event.
- ✓ The owner must be an active member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the WEG and have proof, in English of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.
- ✓ The athlete, owner, and horse must comply with all USEF and FEI Rules for the Event.

Selection of the Team: The 2018 U.S. Endurance Team may consist of three to five athlete/horse combinations or one to two athlete/horse combinations (*subject to confirmation of the WEG Rules by the FEI*). Subject to funding, it is intended to send a traveling reserve horse or athlete/horse combination. Selection to the Team or as an Individual does not guarantee funds will be available to send a team or individuals. Combinations will be named by the Selectors in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Veterinary Advisory Group based on the below anticipated evaluations:

1. The overall performance and soundness of the athlete, horse, and/or athlete/horse combination in those competitions considered as a Selection Trial(s) and/or the Mandatory Training Event(s) with emphasis on soundness; current fitness; performance; boldness; manageability; and speed.
2. Previous experience of athlete and/or horse at FEI events.
3. Continued preparation of athlete and/or horse.
4. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated proven ability to succeed at CEI competitions.
5. The physical condition in which the Event will be held, including travel to the Event, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combination's performance.
6. Potential to contribute to a medal winning team.
7. The athlete's ability to follow team policy and team orders while targeting a team result including athletes competing as individuals if allowed.
8. Demonstrated ability of the athlete's crew/grooms. Each athlete may be allowed up to three (3) approved crew members to attend the Championship.
9. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, parents, coaches, and crew/grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
10. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Event's accreditation allocation and restrictions.

Beginning 20 March 2017, and until further notice, results earned at the Dubai International Equestrian Club (DIEC) will not be considered by the USEF Endurance Selectors for purposes of the 2018 Longines FEI World Equestrian Games – Endurance.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Endurance Department at 859.225.6919 / kbrett@usef.org.

DEFINITIONS

BOLDNESS – Whether the athlete/horse combination moves forward with confidence and vigor demonstrating a positive attitude. When presented with a question (any situation that the athlete/horse must answer to successfully negotiate the course, e.g., an obstacle, change of terrain, handling crowds, etc.), whether the athlete/horse combination answer the questions with the same positive attitude.

CONTINUED PREPARATION – Athlete/horse combination's overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Endurance Competitions, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

ELITE STATUS - To achieve Senior Elite Athlete status, athletes must have successfully completed a minimum of ten (10) CEI 3* 160km events or higher. To maintain Senior Elite Athlete status, athletes must successfully complete at least one (1) CEI3* 160 km within every successive 24 months.

FITNESS – whether the horse competed at a high level more frequently than is consistent with delivering a peak performance at the event for which selection is being made. Whether the horse demonstrated in training the modicum of preparation necessary for preparedness for the rigors of the event for which selection is being made.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE - a competitive record over the past two-three years that indicates that the athlete/horse combination has successfully met the challenges of FEI international events, demonstrating an ability to perform under pressure consistently

MANAGEABILITY – On course the horse responds to the aids (directions) of the athlete as a result of his training. In the vet gate the horse demonstrates composure, obedience and confidence in himself and his handler.

SPEED - Evidence that in the international record of the horse, and at a Selection Trial for the Team that the athlete/horse combination demonstrates the ability to compete the Event distance at the speed demanded.