

# North American Junior and Young Rider Championships



# Rules and Official Qualifying Criteria

*Please note that this publication is an overview of the NAJYRC program and is in no way intended to represent or replace the complete qualifying criteria and/or official competition rules.*



The NAJYRC is the premier equestrian competition in North America for junior and young riders, age 14-21. Young equestrians come from the United States, Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean Islands to vie for team and individual FEI medals in the three Olympic equestrian disciplines of show jumping, dressage, and eventing as well as the FEI World Equestrian Games disciplines of reining and endurance.

Complete rules and qualifying criteria for the NAJYRC can be found at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org). It is strongly recommended that before riders begin the process of qualifying for the NAJYRC, they should check the USEF

and USDF websites for guidance and for updates on any changes to the qualifying process. Adherence to the rules of the NAJYRC Qualifying Criteria is paramount in the selection process. Riders must not rely on show secretaries or show managers to know the NAJYRC qualifying rules. It is solely the riders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with all pertinent rules including the [USEF Rule Book Governing Dressage Competitions](#), the [FEI Rules for Dressage Events](#), the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#), and the [FEI Clean Sport](#) website. Rules are subject to change at any time.

## Age Requirements and Limitations

Riders may compete in the Young Rider division from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21. Riders may compete in the Junior Rider division from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.



## Tests Used for Qualifying

Young Riders compete using the current issue FEI Young Rider Team Test, the Young Rider Individual Test, and the Young Rider Freestyle test. The movements in these tests are at the Prix St Georges level. The Junior Riders compete using the current issue FEI Junior Team Test, the Junior Individual Test, and the Junior Freestyle Test. These tests are composed of third level movements. All tests must be ridden from memory. Copies of the tests may be found on the [FEI website](#).

# Qualifying Procedures

The 2012 qualifying period is from July 1, 2011 to June 25, 2012.

All riders attempting to qualify for the NAJYRC must complete the USDF Declaration of Intent and pay the required fee by the published deadline. The declaration can be found at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org). Scores may be earned prior to completing the Declaration of Intent.

Each USDF region may enter one Junior Rider team with three or four riders and one Young Rider team with three or four riders. The qualifying procedures and minimum score requirement are the same for both Junior Riders and Young Riders.



Selection for the team will be based on a horse/rider combination's average scores at designated USEF/NAJYRC qualifying competitions and may also include reported scores from CDI/Y/Jr competitions. Each horse/rider combination must accumulate a minimum of three scores composed of the average of the FEI Team Test and the FEI Individual Test ridden at designated qualifying competitions. The four horse/rider combinations that hold the highest averages at the end of the qualifying period will be selected for the team as long as each pair's overall average is 62% or higher. In addition each combination must ride a minimum of one FEI Freestyle Test at a designated qualifying competition and earn a minimum score of 62%. This score will not be computed into the rider's overall average.

A rider may choose to ride only the Freestyle Test at a competition. However, the Team Test and the Individual Test must always be ridden together at a qualifying competition or the rider

will receive a score of zero for that competition. If a rider competes in more than 3 qualifying competitions, the score from the one competition that has the lowest average will be dropped.

CDI/Y/Jr scores will only be computed upon receipt of the "CDI/Y/Jr Report Form" within the specified deadline. Report forms can be found at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org).

In addition, a horse/rider combination must compete in at least one designated USEF/NAJYRC qualifying competition during the spring season.

## Date and Location

The championship is tentatively scheduled for July 18-22, 2012, at the Kentucky Horse Park (KHP) in Lexington, KY.

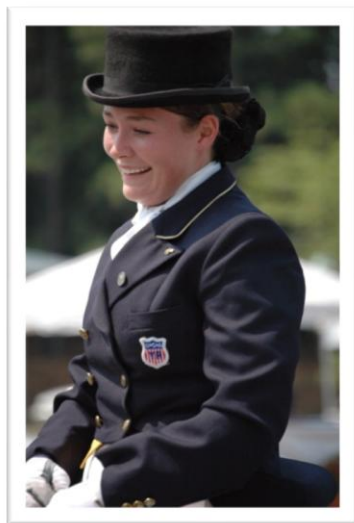
# Membership Requirements and Fees

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Riders attempting to qualify for the NAJYRC must be US citizens at the time of declaration and must hold a USDF membership from the first qualifying competition through the NAJYRC. In addition, riders must also be USEF members in good standing from the time of their first qualifying competition. Horses must be Lifetime registered with USDF and annual or life recorded with USEF from the time of the first qualifying competition until after the NAJYRC. The owner of the horse must be a USDF member and an Active Competing Member of USEF at the time of qualifying through the time of the championships.

All athletes competing in CDI/Y/Jr competitions and/or the NAJYRC will be required to pay International High Performance (IHP) fees at the time of entry.

All horses and riders competing in CDI competitions and/or the NAJYRC are required to obtain an FEI Registration Number prior to starting the competition. FEI registration should be processed at least four weeks prior to the FEI competition and must be renewed each year. Registration applications can be found at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Click on the membership tab and then either the "sign in" or "join or renew" tab to access the application.



# Schooling at NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions

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For USEF licensed competitions with NAJYRC qualifying classes: At no time during the competition (beginning when the horse and/or rider arrive on the show grounds) may any horse entered in a NAJYRC qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in the class. For CDI/Y/Jr competitions with NAJYRC qualifying classes and for the NAJYRC: Under penalty of disqualification, no horse shall take part in a CDI which has been schooled by anyone other than the athlete mounted in the saddle 24 hours before the planned Veterinary Inspection as well as for the duration of the event.

# Veterinary/Medical Withdrawal Certificate

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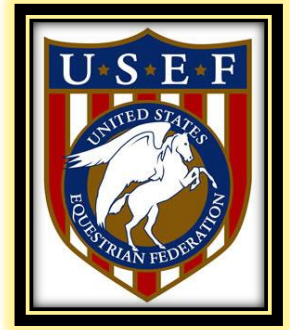
If a rider rides the Team Test and cannot complete the Individual Test due to an injury to the rider or the horse, a "Veterinary/Medical Withdrawal Certificate" must be completed and signed by the official show veterinarian or by a physician stating the reason the horse and/or rider was unable to complete the competition. Documentation must be received by the USEF Dressage Department within 48 hours of the end of the competition. This form is available at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org). It is solely the responsibility of the rider to submit this documentation.

# Passports

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All horses entered in the NAJYRC must have a valid FEI Passport. Riders competing in CDI/Y/Jr qualifying events must present either a valid US National Passport or a valid FEI Passport depending on the CDI rating. The process of obtaining a passport is handled by the USEF and takes a minimum of six weeks but can take months. The USEF charges \$300 to process the passport application, and there is usually a fee charged by the veterinarian for completing the passport itself. Passport application forms and additional information on passports can be found at:

[www.usef.org/documents/international/Passports101\\_2.pdf](http://www.usef.org/documents/international/Passports101_2.pdf),  
[www.usef.org/documents/international/Passports101.pdf](http://www.usef.org/documents/international/Passports101.pdf), and  
[www.fei.org/veterinary/identification-and-passports](http://www.fei.org/veterinary/identification-and-passports).



Equine influenza vaccinations are required to be up-to-date and recorded in the passport. The initial influenza vaccination which is a series of two inoculations approximately one month apart must be documented in the passport. There are very specific requirements regarding the influenza initial series and boosters. Please consult with USEF or refer to the [FEI Vet Regulations, Annex VI](#) for more information.

# Drugs and Medications

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All horses and riders are subject to drug testing at qualifying competitions and at the NAJYRC. Additional information can be found at [www.feicleansport.org](http://www.feicleansport.org) and at [www.youngriders.org](http://www.youngriders.org).

# Entry Requirements for the State of Kentucky

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The state of Kentucky has stringent entry requirements for horses, and these requirements can change depending on where the horse is coming from. For accurate information on these requirements, please consult the [Kentucky Department of Agricultural](#) at as you begin planning your trip to the Championships.



# Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Riders

The Regional NAJYRC Coordinator directs the organizational and fundraising activities of the Region 9 Junior and Young Riders. Funds raised for the benefit of the NAJYRC teams are held on account in the USDF Region 9 FEI Junior and Young Rider Fund. These funds are used to pay entry fees for the teams at NAJYRC, the *chef d'equipe's* travel expenses while at NAJYRC, and a set reimbursement for the riders for expenses incurred while at the competition. Currently there is a \$1,000 reimbursement per rider for expenses. Treasurer's reports can be found at [www.usdfregion9.org](http://www.usdfregion9.org) under "Regional Business". Donations to this account are welcomed and are tax deductible.



## Typical Expenses for the NAJYRC

The expenses incurred at the NAJYRC are highly variable depending on the personal choices that each rider makes about transportation, hotels, meals, training, and shipping. However, the information shown below represents typical expenses that will be encountered and can be used as a framework to explore options and develop one's own budget for the trip.

<u>Expense Item</u>	<u>Estimate</u>
Entry and stabling fees, per rider (paid by Region 9)	\$ 560
Early arrival stabling at KHP, 2 nights	\$ 110
Horse transport to KHP from Dallas, commercial shipper, round trip	\$1,500
Veterinarian fees for entry permit and piroplasmosis test	\$ 100
Airline tickets from Dallas to Lexington, round trip (2 parents, 1 rider, 1 trainer)	\$2,000
Rental car, seven days	\$ 300
Gas for rental car	\$ 100
Lodging, Fairfield Inn or equivalent, seven nights (rider and parents)	\$ 800
Lodging, Fairfield Inn or equivalent, seven nights (trainer)	\$ 800
Meals for parents and trainer, seven days	\$ 875
Trainer fees, per day	Variable
Bedding for stall, seven days	\$ 175
Feed and hay, seven days	\$100
Golf cart rental, seven days (optional)	\$500
Rider videos, three rides (optional)	\$225
Professional photos, access to rider proofs, (optional)	\$35

# What to Expect at the Championships

Horses will be required to be at the venue on a designated day usually one day prior to the jog. Many riders will choose to bring their horses into Kentucky prior to that day. "Early arrival" stabling is sometimes available at the Horse Park at an additional fee paid by the rider.

A jog will be scheduled prior to the championship classes, at which time all horses must be presented to the FEI veterinarian and members of the ground jury to be evaluated for soundness. Stabling will be closed at a designated time on the day of the jog and only authorized individuals will be allowed access after that time. Access to the stabling area is limited in order to provide a relatively calm and quiet place for the horses to rest as well as to provide security to the area. The number of guests allowed per rider is usually limited to a groom, a guest (trainer or parent), and the horse owner as listed on the horse's passport.

The NAJYRC is  
the only FEI  
championship  
held annually  
in this country.

All riders compete in the Team Test and the Individual Test. Scores from the Team Test are averaged to determine the winner of the Team Competition. If a team has four members, the team's lowest score is dropped. Scores from the Individual Test determine the winner of the Individual Competition. The top scoring 15 riders from the Individual Test qualify to ride in the Freestyle Competition.

The region's *chef d'equipe*, or team manager, will help coordinate decisions regarding the team. In addition, the *chef* completes the entries for the region and communicates on behalf of the team as needed with the show's organizers and management. Individual competitors are not allowed to approach show officials directly. All riders are expected to be present for the opening and closing ceremonies as well as for the award ceremonies.

Meals are usually provided for riders and their designated grooms in the Hospitality Tent on the grounds of the KHP beginning on the first day of competition.

Hotels are plentiful in Lexington but booking early is recommended. Campsites are also available and are conveniently located adjacent to the Horse Park.

Dever, Inc. is the feed store that is on the KHP grounds. Riders may purchase bedding, feed, hay and other items from them. Devers also handles golf cart rentals. Their website is [www.deverinc.com](http://www.deverinc.com).

The NAJYRC is conducted under the rules of the FEI. The FEI Definite Schedule for the championship can be found under "Team Resources" on the [www.youngriders.org](http://www.youngriders.org) website, usually by mid-spring. The Definite Schedule contains rules and other information that are specific to this FEI competition. Check this website often as the competition approaches as it contains a lot of important information.



# Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can ponies participate in the NAJYRC?

A: No. Horses must be over 149 cm in height with shoes.

Q: Are double bridles compulsory in all NAJYRC qualifying classes?

A: Yes. Whether the qualifying class is offered at a USEF licensed competition or as part of a CDI/Y/Jr, a double bridle must be used.

Q: May whips be used in NAJYRC qualifying classes?

A: Whips of 120 cm or less including the lash may be used in qualifying classes that are part of a USEF licensed competition. At CDI/Y/Jr competitions and at the NAJYRC, whips of 120 cm or less may be used during schooling, but not during the competition.

Q: May the FEI Junior or Young Rider qualifying tests be ridden as a Test of Choice (TOC)?

A: No. The FEI Junior and Young Rider tests must be ridden in a designated USEF/NAJYRC qualifying competition and indicated as the official qualifying class on the competition prize list.

Q: Can riders wear a top hat in NAJYRC classes?

A: Riders under the age of 18 must wear protective headgear at all times while riding at USEF licensed competitions including while riding in NAJYRC qualifying classes. If the rider is 18 years of age or older and only riding in FEI tests, then a top hat may be worn. If the horse is ridden in a national level test in addition to the FEI test, then a helmet must be worn. When riding in CDI/Y/Jr competitions, FEI rules supersede USEF rules. According to FEI Article 127, top hats may be worn in the FEI Junior and Young Rider tests.

Q: Are spurs compulsory in the FEI Junior and Young Rider tests?

A: At USEF licensed competitions spurs are mandatory for those riders competing in the Young Rider tests, but they are optional for riders competing in the Junior tests. If the rider is competing in a CDI/Y/Jr, then spurs are mandatory for both the Young Rider and the Junior tests. Check current USEF and FEI rules for approved spurs.



For additional information about the NAJYRC program, please contact the Region 9 NAJYRC Coordinator, Ed Lavalée at 214.336.7125 or [ejlava@sprynet.com](mailto:ejlava@sprynet.com).