

**FAQ: Change in Rules:  
Foreign Participants must join USEF as Competing Members  
to Participate in National Competitions**

**Why is USEF making this change?**

USEF prioritizes the safety of athletes and other participants and aims to provide an environment that is free from all forms of abuse. USEF has implemented various policy changes over the past several years specifically focused on ensuring a safe competition environment for its participants, particularly minors, that is free from abuse. This change removes a special carve-out that existed for foreign participants and places them in the same position as any other individual participating at USEF events. While foreign participants must currently adhere to the same rules as USEF member participants, they have not been required to take SafeSport Training. This training is important to ensure all participants are knowledgeable about how to recognize and report abuse, and otherwise abide by the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, USEF Safe Sport Policy, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (“MAAPP”).

**When does this change go into effect?**

This change takes effect beginning on September 1, 2023 (exception: Canadian citizens with a current Equestrian Canada (EC) gold or platinum sport license in good standing have until December 1, 2023, to comply with the new requirements). In order to participate in any USEF national competition beginning September 1, a Competing Membership is required as well as SafeSport Training for those members 18 years of age and older. The SafeSport Training must be refreshed every 12 months for eligibility to compete.

**Who is considered a “participant” and required to obtain a competing membership?**

A Competing Membership is required for a rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, and coach. Aside from trainers and coaches, individuals participating in one of these roles at only one national event may do so by obtaining a Show Pass. Anyone participating in the role of a trainer or coach, including legal guardians signing as trainer/coach, must obtain a membership and is not eligible for a Show Pass.

### **Does this have any impact on obtaining a Show Pass?**

No. Non-members that wish to participate at USEF national competitions may still do so by obtaining a Show Pass and paying the requisite fee. However, please remember that eligible individuals are only permitted to participate by obtaining a Show Pass for only one (1) competition per competition year. Anyone participating in the role of a trainer or coach, including legal guardians signing as trainer/coach, must obtain a membership. They are not eligible for a Show Pass.

### **What benefits do I receive for becoming a Competing Member with USEF?**

In addition to being able to compete at USEF national competitions, membership with USEF comes with a variety of other benefits. Competing Members receive access to the USEF Network for live and on-demand content, EQ Weekly, US Equestrian magazine, SafeSport Training, MemberPerks Discounts, and more!

### **How do I join or upgrade to a Competing Membership?**

It's easy! You can go to <https://www.usef.org/join-usef/join-renew> and click on the "Join as Competing" button then follow the prompts to join as a Competing Member or upgrade your existing account.