

U.S. WORLD CUP SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION TEAM APPLICATION

Name: _____ Sex: _____ Team Preference¹: __ 3G __ 5G

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Ph. #: () _____ USEF # _____

Parent/Guardian (if under 18) : _____

School Attending: _____ Grade/Level: _____

List your non-horse related interests: _____

What equestrian prizes have you won that you feel would best reflect your riding achievements and skill level at this time?

Are you currently competing? _____ In equitation or performance? _____

If you are not showing at all, please detail the cause (sold horse, college, etc.) and outline what you are doing to keep "riding-fit": _____

If you are being coached by a professional at this time, please provide name of coach. If not currently being coached, please list most recent coach and dates that you trained with them:

LETTER OF PERMISSION: If under age 18, please include a letter from your parents stating why they feel that you would make a good candidate, giving their parental consent to this application, as well as adding any other details that might be helpful in evaluating this application. (Please attach a letter of not more than one typewritten page to application)

LETTERS OF REFERENCE: References must include a brief (not more than one typewritten page) recommendation on your behalf. All letters of reference are to be submitted by you with your completed application packet. **IMPORTANT:** Each reference should rank you on the questions that follow. References may choose ranks of *Excellent, Good, Average* or *Poor*.

❖ 3 PERSONAL REFERENCES—NON-HORSE RELATED (TEACHER, CLERGYMAN, ETC.).

- _____ Communications skills
- _____ Ability to speak easily to a large audience
- _____ Knowledge of international geography and culture
- _____ Ability to think and act quickly under pressure
- _____ Diplomatic skills (poise, tact, etc.)
- _____ Leadership skills

❖ 3 REFERENCES FROM MEMBERS OF THE HORSE COMMUNITY (INSTRUCTORS, JUDGES, EXHIBITORS) AT LEAST ONE OF WHICH IS NOT CONNECTED WITH YOUR SHOW BARN.

- _____ Ability to ride unfamiliar horses
- _____ Ability to take an unequitated horse through a basic pattern
- _____ Adaptability under adverse or rapidly changing circumstances
- _____ Ability to take instruction from someone other than primary instructor
- _____ Ability to explain the saddle seat discipline to layperson
- _____ Skills as a team player and leader

PERSONAL RESPONSES:

ESSAY QUESTION: [Attach answer in your own words (not to exceed one typewritten page) to Application]

Why do you think you would like to be selected as a member of this team and how do you feel that you personally can best contribute to its success?

SELF-ASSESSMENT:

The questions below are designed to let the committee know your opinion of your strengths and weaknesses in non-equestrian related areas that team members will likely face. **NOTE: THESE ARE NOT IN ANY WAY A PART OF SELECTION CRITERIA.** Please score yourself on the following questions. You may choose Excellent, Good, Average or Poor for each question. If you feel you would like to explain any answer, you may do so on a separate sheet, however, please keep your explanation **BRIEF**.

- _____ 1. Ability to speak easily to a large audience?
- _____ 2. Knowledge of the geography and culture of foreign countries (ie., South Africa, Namibia, UK and Canada)?
- _____ 3. Ability to be a TEAM player in a sport that has always emphasized INDIVIDUAL performances?
- _____ 4. Ability to think and act quickly under pressure?
- _____ 5. Ability to ride strange horses?
- _____ 6. Ability to take an unequitated horse and do a basic pattern?
- _____ 7. Skills at being an “ambassador”?
- _____ 8. Adaptability under adverse circumstances?
- _____ 9. Ability to take instruction from someone other than your instructor?
- _____ 10. How would you rate your social skills? (ie., table manners at a State dinner, dancing, conversing with foreign hosts and team members, etc.)
- _____ 11. Skill as a leader of other teammates?

¹IMPORTANT: *You must indicate for which team your application is being submitted in the space provided at the beginning of this application. YOU MAY APPLY FOR BOTH TEAMS, BUT MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:*

- You must indicate which team you prefer in the event were to make both teams. Indicate your preference by marking ‘1’ or ‘2’ in the spaces next to the teams. (ie., 1 3G 2 5G)
- Riders must submit separate application packets for each team, including providing complete application packets to each member of the appropriate selection committee. Separate videos should be submitted with your three- and five-gaited applications, with each showing footage appropriate to that division.

You are required to provide complete application packets to **EACH** member of the Selection Committee for the team to which you are making application. Names and mailing addresses of Selection Committee members will be available no later than November 1, 2009. All application packets must be received by Selection Committee Representatives no later than 9PM EST on December 31, 2009. It is strongly suggested that you send each packet by registered mail, return receipt requested, to be sure that all committee representatives have received your materials. Note that five-gaited applicants will only send to **five** committee members rather than **seven** (AMHA and AHA representatives will NOT evaluate five-gaited applications). ***NO FAXES WILL BE ACCEPTED!***

PLEASE ENCLOSE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WITH **EACH** APPLICATION PACKET TO SELECTION COMMITTEE:

1. Completed copy of this Application, with appropriate signatures.
2. Copy of typewritten response to essay.
3. Copy of Letter of Permission from parent/legal guardian (if applicant is under 18).
4. Copies of Letters of Reference as indicated above.
5. DVD (or VHS, but DVD preferred) format video, not to exceed five minutes in length, highlighting your skills. The content of your video is up to you, however it must include the following elements at some point in the tape: Rider demonstrating performance at the walk, trot and canter (slow-gait and rack as well if applying for five-gaited team); rider wearing informal riding suit; rider performing a pattern.
6. Color photograph (minimum size 5 x 7) of yourself on or off horseback in your day riding suit. NO COLOR COPIES PLEASE.
7. Color head or full body photograph (minimum size 5 x 7) of yourself in “street wear”. NO COLOR COPIES PLEASE.

*NOTE: Videos/Photographs will not be returned. Videos/Photographs MAY be professionally produced.

PLEASE ENCLOSE THESE **ADDITIONAL** ITEMS IN APPLICATION PACKET(S) TO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

1. Completed Intent to Apply Form

2. Check(s) for the required \$150 application fee per team (submit separate check for each team if applying for both teams).

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT APPLICATION FEE:

Copy/Copies of your application packet(s) to be sent to the US Saddle Seat World Cup Executive Secretary, Christy O'Donnell, MUST contain your application fee(s) and your completed Intent to Apply form:

A signed check for \$150 per team for which you are making application, **made payable to "U.S. Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup"**. This is a non-refundable application fee. It will be used to defray expenses in the selection process as well as for the World Cup event itself. If you wish to apply for both teams, please enclose a separate check with each application packet submitted to Executive Secretary. **Application(s) without application fee(s) included in the packet sent to the Executive Secretary will NOT be considered!**

Deadline of submission of the packet(s) containing completed Intent to Apply form and application fee(s) is also 9 p.m. EST December 31, 2009. Intent to Apply packet(s) should be sent to the following:

**Christy Judd O'Donnell
Executive Secretary
US Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup
5450 Bruce B. Downs Blvd., #142
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544
PH (813) 760-0465**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The US Team Selection Trials for 2010 will consist of the following components:

- ❖ 2 RAIL WORK SEGMENTS (22.5% EACH)
- ❖ 2 PATTERN SEGMENTS (22.5% EACH)
- ❖ 1 PERSONAL INTERVIEW SEGMENT (10%)

In the past, due to the winter date of the Selection Trials, some riders have experienced travel delays in reaching William Woods University. It is strongly suggested that riders allow sufficient time for such delays when making their travel arrangements. Should a rider be delayed, but still able to reach the competition at a point where the Selection Committee, in consultation with the University staff, deems it feasible to include the rider with minimal scheduling changes, such efforts will be extended to that rider.

At or prior to the trials, each rider will be required to present a copy of their current USEF membership card, along with proof of Amateur certification. Riders (or their parent/legal guardian if less than 18 years of age) will also be required to sign a waiver of liability releasing the organizers, officials, William Woods University, etc. from any responsibility for injury, death, etc. This will be provided to riders in their official notification and will also be made available AT THE COMPETITION. This waiver must be signed before the rider may compete in the trials.

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INFORMATION BELOW AND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES AND SIGN THE AFFIDAVIT INDICATING ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS OF THIS APPLICATION. UNSIGNED APPLICATIONS WILL BE REMOVED FROM CONSIDERATION AND WILL FORFEIT APPLICATION FEES:

I, the undersigned, do hereby affirm that all information in this application is correct and true. I understand that submitting application does not imply selection to compete in the US Team Selection Trials. However, if I am selected, I agree to be present at William Woods University, Fulton, Missouri from March 26-28, 2010 for the US Team Selection Trials. I further understand that if chosen as a finalist, I am responsible for my own expenses incurred as a result of attending the Selection Trials.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Bid Selection Guidelines and that I meet all eligibility requirements outlined therein.

I recognize that if I am chosen as a member of Team USA, I will be an integral part of our fundraising team. Therefore, I accept responsibility for raising a total of \$5,000, including sales of a minimum number of gala fundraising event and chance drawing tickets as required. I understand that failure to meet these fundraising requirements will result in a financial penalty equal to the amount by which I fall short of the minimum fundraising goal assigned to me.

As the United States will be hosting the international competition for 2010, I understand that our best chance of success requires we field an outstanding collection of quality horses for use by all of the teams participating in the event. Therefore, I agree that if I am ultimately selected as a team member or 1st Alternate, I will furnish two equitation horses suitable for use in a high-level Saddle Seat Equitation competition as approved by the Selection Committee. I understand that I may provide my own horse and one additional mount, or I may elect to provide two additional mounts. I further warrant that in the event mount(s) which I own or lease and are promised by me for use in the competition are subsequently leased or sold to another party, I will include participation of the horse in the 2010 International Saddle Seat World Cup competition as a condition of sale or lease. I understand that in the event of such sale or lease, I may petition the Selection Committee for permission to substitute another mount and agree to accept their decision as final. In the event that I object to the final determination of the Selection Committee, I may elect to forfeit my position on the US Team.

US SADDLE SEAT WORLD CUP CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. and a member, alternate member, coach or manager of the U.S. Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup team, I acknowledge my obligation to uphold and adhere to the highest standards of horsemanship, sportsmanship, and citizenship whenever I am representing my country whether as a team member/alternate member, coach or manager, and whether during actual competition or not.

As a horseman, I will place my horse's welfare above all other considerations and faithfully observe the following Code of Conduct, which has been built upon the principles of the FEI/USEF Code of Conduct:

As a sportsman, I will know and comply with all pertinent rules of USEF as my National Governing Body (NGB), the US Saddle Seat World Cup, and, when applicable, the International Saddle Seat Equitation Association (ISSEA), and honor the principles of fair play inherent in them. I will place the interests of the Team above my own, and accept the decisions of its duly appointed/elected officials, made in the Team's best interest, even if I disagree with them.

As a citizen, I will respect the laws of my own country as well as those of foreign countries in which I may compete. Knowing that as a USEF competitor and member of Team USA I also serve as an Ambassador for my sport, USEF, the US Saddle Seat World Cup and my country I will endeavor at all times to reflect credit on them through my conduct, dress, and behavior.

Many members of our Teams may be under the age of 21. This presents the unique challenges of being faced with social settings in conjunction with our sport that may afford the opportunity to partake of substances that are illegal to persons of any age (drugs) or to those under the age of 21 (alcohol). I pledge that I will observe the US law as it applies to these issues whether in the United States or abroad. If I am a Team USA member for whom it is legal to possess or partake of alcohol, I will nonetheless follow the Team Rules as set forth on the attached page.

I understand and accept that serious or repeated transgressions of this Code may be grounds for immediate elimination from the team and the competition. In the event that I were to be dismissed from the team, I and/or my parents/legal guardians will be responsible for reimbursing the US Saddle Seat World Cup Council for any expenses incurred to date on my behalf including, but not limited to: travel expenses, such as airfare and other taxes and deposits as well as equipment, clothing and official gear. Similarly, I will be responsible for reimbursing the USWC for any additional expenses incurred as the result of replacing me with an alternate rider.

Any infraction that results in dismissal while en route to or in the course of the official International Saddle Seat World Cup event or on any related tour or event preceding the competition shall result in my being barred from competition in any or all remaining events or attendance at any remaining official functions. I and/or my parents/guardians will be solely responsible for securing and paying for my return travel.

I understand that my official term as a member of Team USA and a representative of the US continues from the date of my selection to the team through such time as our next team is chosen. Up until that time, I understand that I may be requested to attend training, fundraising or public relations appearances on behalf of the team. Therefore I commit to exhibiting dedication to the team and exemplary behavior during my full term as a member of Team USA. I will retain all of my official team apparel for use during any appearances as requested.

I acknowledge that it shall be the sole right and responsibility of the Executive Council of the US Saddle Seat World Cup to adjudicate matters pertaining to violations of this Code of Conduct, and further I accept that their decisions with regard to such matters shall be final.

My signature below reflects that I have read, understand and agree to the terms of this Application, the Code of Conduct and the Team Rules (as set forth in Appendix A, attached).

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

(Printed Name of Applicant)

(Parent/Guardian Signature if competitor is under the age of 18)

Appendix A

US SADDLE SEAT WORLD CUP TEAM USA RULES

United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. and a member, alternate member, coach or manager of the U.S. Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup team, I acknowledge my obligation to uphold and adhere to the highest standards of horsemanship, sportsmanship, and citizenship whenever I am representing my country whether as a team member/alternate member, coach or manager, and whether during actual competition or not.

Specifically, I agree to abide by the following rules:

1. Riders will place the interests of the Team above their own, and accept the decisions of its duly appointed/elected officials, made in the Team's best interest, even if they disagree with them.
2. It is the responsibility of the coach/manager to make decisions with regard to horse assignments, and such decisions are to be made with the success of the Team as a whole held as the sole goal.
3. All conduct from **all official representatives of Team USA** (including members, alternate members, coaches and managers) shall be exemplary as befitting an Ambassador for Saddle Seat Equitation, the US Saddle Seat World Cup, and the United States.
4. Specific team rules to be observed include the following:
 - Riders shall be courteous to fellow team members, officials, international competitors, media representatives and fans at all times.
 - Riders shall observe the dress code as determined by their team manager or their appointed representative(s).
 - Riders will follow the instructions of their coaches/managers without question unless they feel that doing so places themselves or others at risk for physical harm. In such a case, it is the responsibility of the rider(s) affected to request an evaluation by the members of the US Saddle Seat Executive Committee. Decisions of the Executive Committee are final.
 - Coaches/Managers will establish a schedule, including a curfew for members of the Teams. Failure to adhere to this schedule will result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Coach and Manager. Again, riders may request an evaluation by the US Saddle Seat Executive Committee if they feel that the requests and/or disciplinary action are unreasonable, but again the decisions of the Executive Committee are final.
 - Riders will participate in all official events as a group. The only exceptions shall be made as the result of illness, injury or disciplinary action.
 - Riders will be punctual for all official events and shall take care that they are neat and clean in their personal appearance at all times.
 - Riders, coaches and managers will maintain their official apparel for use in designated public appearances until such time as the next US World Cup team is selected.
 - Social events which include the opportunity to partake of alcohol are to be treated with special care. Riders who are under the age of 21 shall not partake of alcohol. As a matter of team unity, it is requested that team members who are over the age of 21 also adhere to a no alcohol policy during the duration of the official competition. **EXCEPTION:** In the event that a social event were to offer some exposure to alcohol (such as a dinner or wine tasting), it *may, by vote of the Teams*, be permitted for riders to partake of such events so long as the following requirements are met:
 1. The laws pertaining to alcohol consumption in the country hosting the event shall prevail.
 2. Where those laws permit consumption by individuals under the age of 21, those riders under the age of 21 must provide a signed Letter or Statement of Permission from their parents/guardians clearly stating that they may participate in such an event. This must be on file even if the parent is in attendance at the event in question.
 3. Riders of any age, as well as coaches and managers understand that excessive drinking is not permitted at any time when representing the US at an event. Excessive drinking and/or objectionable behavior are grounds for immediate disciplinary action. The US Saddle Seat World Cup Executive Committee along with the Team Coach and Manager shall have the final determination on matters of disciplinary action.
 - Drug use of any kind, other than that for which a rider may produce documented evidence from a physician of a medical necessity, is grounds for severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, immediate dismissal from the team.
 - Team USA members, alternate members, coaches and managers may suggest additions, deletions and/or modifications to Team Rules by presenting such material for the review of the US Saddle Seat World Cup Board of Directors. Such presentation shall occur only after a majority vote in favor of such an addition, deletion or modification has been reached by the Team members and alternate members.