

U.S. Saddle Seat World Cup Team 2010 Bid Selection Guidelines

Selection trials will be held to choose the three- and five-gaited team members to represent the United States in competition in 2010. Each team will consist of five riders plus one alternate. The Selection Trials for both teams will be held March 26-28, 2010 at William Woods University for a final ride-off to determine the teams and alternates. The pool of finalists for the three-gaited team will consist of twenty riders, while the five-gaited team trials will include ten finalists.

THREE-GAITED

The process for choosing the twenty 'finalists' for the three-gaited trials is as follows:

There shall be twelve (12) automatic bid awards reserved out of the twenty available positions. The definition of an automatic bid is as follows: *A rider who wins a qualifying final as defined herein in the calendar year prior to the final ride-off (in this case, winning in 2009) or is nominated by a breed organization noted herein and meets all eligibility requirements shall automatically receive an invitation to participate in the final ride-off.* Should a rider (or alternate as outlined below) win more than one qualifying final, be ineligible, or decline to accept an automatic bid, the "extra" bid shall then transfer to an additional opening to be filled from the pool of eligible applicants. The allocation of these automatic bids is as follows:

UPHA Finals (6 bids): Senior, Adult, Pleasure, Morgan, Arabian, and NSH
USEF Saddle Seat Amateur Medal Finals (1 bid)
USEF Adult Amateur Saddle Seat Medal Finals (1 bid)
NHS "Good Hands" Event Finals (1 bid)
AMHA Nominee (1 bid + 1 alternate)
AHA Nominee (1 bid + 1 alternate)
NSHR Nominee (1 bid + 1 alternate)

Riders earning automatic bids will be notified no later than December 1, 2009 and must accept or decline their bid by December 15, 2009. Riders accepting bids must submit their acceptance fee and required paperwork by the December 15, 2009 deadline.

The remaining minimum of eight (8) bids to the final ride-off shall be selected from a pool of qualified applicants. Riders shall submit completed standardized application packets to each member of the Three-Gaited Selection Committee (seven members) PLUS the Executive Secretary (8 total). Packets will include an application, an essay, letters of reference, a DVD/VHS video, two color photographs and signed affidavit/certification of eligibility. **Refer to the application document for specific application material requirements.**

FIVE-GAITED

The process for choosing the ten 'finalists' for the five-gaited trials is as follows:

Riders shall submit completed standardized application packets to each member of the Five-Gaited Selection Committee (five members) PLUS the Executive Secretary (6 total). NOTE: The Five-Gaited Selection Committee does not include the AMHA and AHA Representatives, as their breeds are not used in five-gaited competition. Packets will include an application, an essay, letters of reference, a DVD/VHS video, two color photographs and signed affidavit/certification of eligibility. **Refer to the application document for specific application material requirements.**

There shall be one (1) automatic bid awarded for the five-gaited trials. The definition of an automatic bid is as follows: *A rider who wins a qualifying final as defined herein in the calendar year prior to the final ride-off (in this case, winning in 2009) or is nominated by a breed organization noted herein and meets all eligibility requirements shall automatically receive an invitation to participate in the final ride-off.* Should a rider be ineligible, or decline to accept an automatic bid, the "extra" bid shall then transfer to an additional opening to be filled from the pool of eligible applicants. The allocation of these automatic bids is as follows:

Five-Gaited Horsemanship Finals (1 bid)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS—PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

1. Per the requirements of ISSEA (International Saddle Seat Equitation Association, the governing body for the International Saddle Seat World Cup competition), rider must be aged 14 years or older on January 1st of the World Cup competition year (2010).
2. Rider shall meet the requirements for Amateur status as evidenced by maintaining current amateur certification by United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) and shall provide their Amateur number and/or a copy of their Amateur card at the Selection Trials. To remain eligible, rider must continue to maintain such certification until the conclusion of the international Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup. Any rider who initially meets the requirement but subsequently loses such certification shall be declared ineligible from participation in the selection trials, the international competition or both. In such instances, if it is necessary to replace a rider prior to the selection trials, the next highest scoring applicant will receive the invitational bid. Should replacement be necessary after the U.S. team has been selected but prior to the international competition, likewise the next highest scoring finalist (ie., the alternate, or sixth-place rider, and so on down the line) shall fill the vacant position on the team.
3. **IMPORTANT RULE: Rider may not apply for or compete by virtue of automatic bid in the selection trials for a team upon which they have competed twice in Saddle Seat World Cup competition. Stated differently, a rider may only serve as a TEAM MEMBER for a specified team (three- or five-gaited) twice. At most, a rider may serve four times on a World Cup team, with a maximum of two terms on three-gaited and two terms on five-gaited. Alternate status does not constitute team membership under this rule.**
4. Rider is only eligible to compete upon ONE team—EITHER the three-gaited OR five-gaited team. Riders may apply for both teams provided they submit the required application materials and fees in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Application document.
5. Rider shall submit a non-refundable application fee in the amount of \$150 per team, made payable by check to U.S. Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup. Riders applying for both teams must submit separate application fee payments as outlined in the Application document.
6. Rider shall strictly adhere to the format of the application. No additional photographs, information, or commentary shall be included with the application. Failure to abide by this rule will result in the application being deemed ineligible for consideration by the Selection Committee and the application fee submitted shall be forfeit.
7. A rider may have a conflict of interest with not more than one member of the Selection Committee in order to be considered eligible. A list of the members of the 2009-2010 Selection Committees shall be available to applicants no later than November 1, 2009. Rider will be asked to sign an affidavit affirming their eligibility in this respect. A conflict is determined by the following definition: *Applicant is currently trained and/or is employed in any capacity by a member; member currently has, or has had within the preceding 90 days, a horse on board and/or training for applicant, any member of applicant's family or any business entity controlled by applicant or a member of applicant's family; or member is related via biologic or legal means to applicant.*

Applications will be available no later than November 1, 2009. APPLICATIONS ARE THE SAME FOR BOTH THE THREE- AND FIVE-GAITED TEAMS. Deadline for receipt of complete application packets by all required members of the Selection Committee and the Executive Secretary shall be 9 p.m. EST on December 31, 2009.

A list of the members of the 2009-2010 Three-Gaited and Five-Gaited Selection Committees, the Executive Secretary and all of their appropriate mailing address information shall be available to applicants no later than November 1, 2009. Again, riders applying for the three-gaited team will submit packets to the Three-Gaited Selection Committee members plus the Executive Secretary (8 total). Riders applying for the five-gaited team trials will only send packets to the five members noted for the Five-Gaited Selection Committee, (the AMHA and AHA Representatives being the omitted members) plus the Executive Secretary (6 total) .

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The U.S. Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup Council maintains a Selection Committee for the purpose of evaluating applications received by eligible riders, as well as assisting the Board of Directors with the administration of the selection process. The Selection Committee consists of seven members, inclusive of one Chairman. The makeup of the Selection Committee shall be as follows:

- ❖ Chairman: USWC Executive Director (or his/her designee)
- ❖ UPHA Representative
- ❖ USEF Representative
- ❖ ASHA Representative
- ❖ NSHR Representative
- ❖ AMHA Representative
- ❖ AHA Representative

NOTE: The Selection Committee for the Five-Gaited will be the same, except for the exclusion of the AMHA and AHA Representatives, as their breeds are not represented in five-gaited competition. Thus the number of committee members evaluating applicants for the five-gaited team will be five as opposed to seven.

Each organization has nominated a candidate to these positions on the Selection Committee.

NOTIFICATION

Riders earning automatic bids will be notified by December 1, 2009 and must accept or decline their bid by December 15, 2009. The remaining riders rounding out the fields of twenty (20) finalists for three-gaited and ten (10) finalists for five-gaited will be notified by February 1, 2010. After eligibility has been verified and bids are accepted, press releases will be issued to breed associations and various media sources for distribution and publication.

INDEMNIFICATION

Riders accepting bids, either automatic or extended by application approval, will be required to sign a waiver of liability releasing the U.S. Saddle Seat Equitation World Cup Council, its members, affiliates, William Woods University, etc. from claims with regard to damages, injury, death, etc. in order to be eligible to participate in the Selection Trials final ride-off.

SELECTION PROCESS SCORING

For 2010, the process of selecting riders for both three- and five-gaited teams from among the eligible finalists shall consist of numerical scoring on each of the following:

2 Rail Segments (22.5% each); 2 Pattern Segments (22.5% each) and 1 Personal Interview (10%)