



**USEF Young Rider Eventing
Championships**

HANDBOOK

FOR AREA VIII

YOUNG RIDERS AND PARENTS

JANUARY 2022

IMPORTANT

Please be sure you read through and familiarize yourself with the manual written for riders and parents. We strive for a successful and positive experience throughout the whole process of getting to Championships and completing the Event for all Team members. Please be sure to read the Code of Conduct attached to the Letter of Intent as well as the last page of this manual (Guidelines and Procedures for Handling Concerns)

BEFORE COMMITTING

- **Be sure you understand the importance of the TEAM concept**
- **Be sure you understand the personal expense involved in participating at the Young Rider Eventing Championships (YREC).**
- **Be sure you understand the Area VIII fundraising necessary for participation**
- **Must be a dues-paid member of Area VIII Young Riders**
- **Be sure everyone in your family is familiar with the Code of Conduct and the Guidelines for Handling Concerns**

Introduction

This manual is designed to give potential YR Championship riders and their families a broad understanding of the YREC program, how it is structured, steps for participating at YREC, guidelines, expectations, fundraising, team responsibilities, requirements and efforts that make up the USEF and Area VIII YREC program.

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Contacts

Area Chair: Elissa Gibbs gibbselissa@gmail.com

Coordinators: Joanie Morris joaniemorris1@icloud.com
Four Schools Farm
400 Iron Works Rd
Paris, KY 40362
484-459-2045

Shelley Ryan shelleywryan@gmail.com
1558 Player Dr
Lexington, KY 40511
859-224-3411

Emily Watson emilywatson2019@gmail.com
GlenAyre Equestrian Centre
6751 Old Zaring Rd
Crestwood, KY 40014
502-802-3277

Treasurer: Sharon Leonard
121 Creekwood Way
Nicholasville, KY 40356
dleonard0215@yahoo.com

Selectors: Elissa Gibbs
Wayne Quarles
Liz Halliday Sharp

Area VIII Website: <http://www.usea8.org>

UNDERSTANDING YREC AND THE AREA VIII TEAM

The North American Junior & Young Riders Championships was started in 1974 to provide Young Riders the opportunity to participate in a team competition set up similarly to senior team competitions such as the Olympics, the World Equestrian Games and the Pan Am Games. NAJYRC began with just the Eventing discipline and was then called simply NAJYRC and was only between US and Canada. Since that beginning, a specific Junior division was added along with other disciplines: Dressage, Show Jumping, Reining, and Endurance. Mexico also sent teams to the Championships.

Beginning in 2017, because of the expenses putting on NAJYRC for organizers, the decision was made to separate the venues to keep NAJYRC viable. The Eventing discipline will be hosted in conjunction with a horse trial and separate from Show Jumping, Dressage and other disciplines.

In 2018 the name was changed to North American Youth Championships.

In 2021 the name was changed to the Youth Team Challenge and the format was changed to 4 Events on each Coast with the final Event being the Championship (East and West).

In 2022 the name was changed to the USEF Young Rider Eventing Championship which will be held in 1 location. In 2022 the Championship will be held at Tryon International Equestrian Center November 10 – 13, 2022.

To provide the team experience, our Young Riders teams are set up similarly to those “Senior Teams” at the Olympics, WEG and Pan Am Games.

At YREC we can enter up to six riders at each level. Two of those six riders will participate as individuals representing their Area and four riders will be placed on a Team also representing their Area. In some cases, if we are unable to field a complete team of four riders from Area VIII, a scramble team will be created by USEF personnel with riders from other Areas of the US who will be part of a complete team with our Area riders.

There is also a possibility that we might have a rider on our Area VIII team whose actual address is in another Area, but the rider “declares” for Area VIII for the year because he/she may be attending college in our Area or may be a working student with a trainer in our Area.

The task for choosing which Area VIII qualified riders to compete at YREC and which are part of the 4-person squad vs riding as an individual will be determined by our group of Area VIII Selectors. We appoint selectors each year to handle this task (details follow in the next section). Before this selection process takes place, the selectors with the assistance of Candidate Observers, will make themselves available at horse trials in the months leading to YREC and may observe and evaluate Area VIII Young Riders in one or all of the competition phases.

In the event that Area VIII is able to field a full complement of six riders at YREC levels, all riders are part of the Area VIII team and will participate in all lessons, course walks, team meetings, etc. They will be expected to wear and use Team clothing and equipment and conduct themselves in a cooperative, supportive way towards the entire team. It is important to understand that “TEAM” means everyone: the riders, grooms, coach, chef, coordinators, team vet and all support staff.

Another important issue that all families must consider before deciding about YREC participation is the cost and commitment to fundraising. Entries, travel, accommodations and related expenses can be high, and YREC is no exception. Expenses paid by the Area VIII treasury must be replaced through fundraising by the Area VIII Young Riders.

Any and all ideas for fundraisers and volunteers to organize them are necessary and appreciated. We always hope to find sponsors each year who will not only provide the team with product, but also donate funds to help cover our expenses. ALL RIDERS must be a part of the effort to raise funds to help with costs. More details will follow in the Fundraising section of this document.

Please be sure to consider all these factors and all the following information in this handbook before deciding whether YREC fits into your competition goals.

STEPS TO QUALIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION

If you plan to submit your Letter of Intent with the Code of Conduct for YREC you must be an Area VIII Young Rider Member. It is very important that you attend the Area VIII Annual Meeting; this is particularly important if you've not competed at YREC in the past. In 2022 we held a virtual meeting due to Covid restrictions. We will coordinate conference calls and emails periodically to keep Team members in the loop.

Age of Eligibility for YREC

YREC 1* Athletes must have been born between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2008

YREC 2* Junior Championships: Athletes must have been born on or between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2008.

YREC 3*: Athletes must have been born on or between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 2006.

Please refer to the USEF Selection Procedures for more information. This is posted on the Area VIII website.

Please refer to USEF Eventing Rules Appendix 3 – Participation in Horse Trials Section 3 and Levels of International Horse Trials and Events Section 4 to determine Minimum Eligibility Requirements to compete at 1, 2, and 3* Events.

Letter of Intent & Code of Conduct for-YREC

The Letter of Intent Information and forms will be emailed to all Area VIII Young Riders by the Young Rider Coordinators. **The forms are also available on the Area VIII website.** Each rider who is qualified or hopes to qualify for YREC will be required to submit their Letter of Intent along with the signed Code of Conduct and their personal Nomination Fee of \$100 (the first part of fundraising goals that are further discussed in the Fundraising section). In your Letter of Intent, you will provide all your contact information and will also include all FEI, USEF, USEA numbers for both you and your horse(s). The form also asks for the name, email, and phone number of your regular coach/trainer. This will enable the Area VIII coordinators, as you move along in the qualification process, to contact your trainer to ask him/her about your strengths, weaknesses, and other suggestions for working with you at YREC training sessions and at YREC itself.

When Letters of Intent and the Code of Conduct are returned to Coordinators, your proposed competition schedule for the upcoming months prior to YREC must be included.

Letters of Intent are due April 1, 2022.

USEF CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to establish the United States Equestrian Federation's ("USEF") common expectations in the sport of equestrian. It is a foundation intended to promote a positive environment and good sportsmanship. As ambassadors for the sport of equestrian, this Code of Conduct applies to the following individuals at all times: Board of Directors, Officers, volunteers (including all committee, council, and task force members), employees, members, participants, athletes (and athlete support personnel), owners, competition organizers and managers, licensed officials, coaches, chefs d'equipe, and others appointed or authorized to act on behalf of the USEF:

Act as an ambassador of the sport and in a manner that does not bring embarrassment to USEF, or otherwise may be detrimental to the image or reputation of USEF or the sport of

equestrian. Adhere to the highest standards and rules and regulations of the USEF, including the Sportsman's Charter.

Adhere to the USEF Safe Sport Policy, U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policies.

Adhere to the rules and policies of the Federation Equestre Internationale ("FEI") and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee ("USOPC"), including the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, where applicable.

Adhere to all applicable state, federal, and foreign laws, including those governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and alcohol to minors.

Place the well-being, health, and safety of horses and others above all other considerations, including developing performance.

Engage in no verbal or physical threats against others.

Instruct one's support team in sportsmanship and demand that they display good sportsmanship.

Model fair play, respect, and the highest levels of sportsmanship.

Model inclusive behavior, supporting diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including racism and sexism, at all levels of the sport.

Promote the sport of equestrian and treat officials, athletes, coaches, trainers, support personnel, participants, media, and fans: fairly, properly, justly, professionally, respectfully, with sensitivity, and without any form of discriminatory behavior.

Report Code of Conduct violations. ENFORCEMENT A violation of this Code of Conduct may be grounds for action, which could result in an admonishment, warning, required training, or penalties set forth in General Rule 703.

Adopted June 2021

Code of Conduct violations must be reported promptly to the USEF Regulations Department Director, Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org USEF does accept anonymous reports. All reports will be investigated and the Chief Executive Officer, or a designee, will determine whether a violation occurred. Respondents will be afforded an opportunity to be heard on the merits before disinterested members of the Hearing Committee prior to limiting one's opportunity to participate in competition.

Temporary measures, such as a temporary suspension, may be imposed where circumstances warrant. See Bylaw 702 regarding Temporary Measures.

For information on the disciplinary process for Code of Conduct violations, see Bylaws Part VII –

Complaints and Disputes.

For procedural guidance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org

ANTI-RETALIATION

Retaliation against someone reporting a violation in good faith will not be tolerated and will be considered a Code of Conduct violation and grounds for discipline hereunder.

ATHLETE OMBUDS

For guidance on the USOPC grievance processes and information regarding athlete rights, please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombuds Office, toll free at 719.866.5000 or at ombudsman@usathlete.org, or visit www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Ombuds.

For additional resources and to access An Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate, see <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations>

The USEF Code of Conduct is included in the Letter of Intent for your signature.

Proposed Competition Schedule & Changes

When returning your Letter of Intent, include a proposed competition schedule detailing the horse trials, including dates, where you plan on competing between February through mid October (up to the dates of YREC). Include the level or division you will be competing in at each trial. This schedule will allow our Team Selectors, Candidate Observers, and coordinators to know where and when you are competing so that they can watch your riding or check your results.

Your initial competition schedule and Letter of Intent will be forwarded to the Selectors and Candidate Observers by the Area VIII Coordinators. The Selectors may make suggestions on your schedule both for your benefit and the welfare of your horse. If you need help drawing up your proposed competition schedule, please contact someone on the Young Rider Staff so we can be sure you get any assistance you need with planning your schedule.

If you make changes or additions to your submitted competition schedule, you must email those changes to the Coordinators so Candidate Observers and Selectors can be informed. All Area VIII staff have the health and safety of both horse and rider in mind; they want to be sure that your schedule is not putting undue stress or strain on either of you and will instead lead to your success and your YREC qualification.

Selectors and the Selection Process

Our group of Selectors is usually made up of our Area's ICP Level 4 Instructors and Upper Level Officials. Selectors must sign USEF's Conflict of Interest form so that everyone can be sure that no personal relationships are considered in the selection process. Selectors as a group will decide which riders will represent Area VIII in all divisions at YREC (providing there are more than six qualified in either division) and then will decide which riders will compete as individuals and which will be on the 4-person squad (again, providing there are more than 4 riders at either level). Selectors will not simply choose who will be on the complete team, but may also disallow a rider who may be technically qualified but who they feel may not be truly ready for a championship level.

For their selection decisions, they will use your competition record, any observations that they or any of the Candidate Observers have made at competitions throughout that season, and any feedback from the veterinarian regarding jogs at training sessions.

The Selectors may consult with the Area VIII Chef, Veterinarian, and local trainers/coaches of riders on a conference call. Only the Selectors will make the final decision. If there is a Selector with a conflict of interest with one of the possible riders, he/she will step down from the voting on that candidate. If there is a tie, without the vote of the Selector in conflict, one of the local trainers will be asked to vote.

During the final Training Session, the selection of the four riders who will be on the 4-person squad and the 2 ranked individuals will be made and announced. At any point between this announced selection and the official Team Declaration to officials at YREC, an individual can replace a squad member, if necessary, due to health/soundness or other issues.

Conversations on a selection conference call are strictly confidential. If this confidence is broken, the person responsible will be asked to step down from their position in Area VIII Young Riders.

Passports

Horses will be required to have a valid FEI or National passport. Please note that it can take up to 6 weeks to process a new passport. <https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/QLYMwK5hZwQ/first-time-fei-registration--required> Also note that horses must be microchipped.

The Entry Process for YREC

After sending in your Letter of Intent and application fee to the Area Coordinators, there are several other steps to the entry process for YREC, some that the riders must complete and others that the Coordinators must do. Emails with reminders will be sent to all riders prior to deadlines

Athletes wishing to represent an Area at the Event must submit an **Application and Area Declaration** online at www.usef.org through their USEF account **no later than 12:00 PM EDT on May 1, 2022** and will be charged \$75 per application. Please refer to the Selections procedures document on the Area VIII website. Do not leave this until the last minute. Give yourself plenty of time in case there are questions or the computers are down. (It has happened in the past!)

Nominated Entries: Coordinators and/or Chef Rider Profile/Bio & Waivers

After applications are completed, Coordinators will receive an email from USEF for submitting our Nominated entries. They will include names of riders and horses that the Area is “nominating” for YREC. This will include all our riders who have submitted their Letters of Intent and completed the USEF online application. Riders do not have to be qualified to be nominated. Areas can nominate up to 18 riders for each level.

After nominated entries are submitted, riders will receive an automated email from USEF asking for a rider bio/profile and a link for either printing out and signing the USEF Waiver (or for signing electronically) and then submitting to our Area Coordinators or Chef.

Definite Entries: Coordinators and/or Chef

In mid October, the email for Definite Entries will be sent to Coordinators. If our Area has more than 6 riders qualified at each level, this is the point where our Area Selectors may need to step in and do their job of choosing the six riders at each level who will actually travel to YREC. Definite entries are due in early November.

From this process, riders who are on the Definite Entry list will receive an email from USEF regarding credentialing for YREC.

The Credentialing Process for-YREC

If the horses are stabled in a secured barn area, the following will apply:

Credentials are identity cards or wristbands issued by USEF/Competition and worn by those allowed in the secure barn area at upper level FEI events. Credentials will be issued for each rider and his/her groom, the Chef and the Coach. Each family may submit names and photographs of two additional people for credentialing (generally the parents). The Area is also able to get a few additional credentials for team veterinarian, farrier, and possibly Coordinators. The credentialing process is strictly controlled to avoid having too many people in the barns for the safety and comfort of horses and riders.

Please be aware that we will strictly limit parents' time in the barns and friends and other family members will only be allowed in the barns for set-up and tear-down. Area VIII will always attempt to provide a place for parents, family and friends to gather and relax.

Personal trainers/coaches cannot be credentialed as they are unable to be in the barns. It is important that the barns stay as quiet and controlled to keep stress levels down for horses and riders.

Coaching at YREC and the Training Sessions

Unlike previous years where we hired one Coach for the YR Teams, we have elected to have Dressage and Show Jumping Coaches while calling upon a 5* rider to walk XC courses with the Teams. The Chef d'Equipe will handle some of the coaching/management aspects. A Coordinator will be involved in mediating between the Area Coaches and the personal coaches. It will be important for candidates to attend minicamps and clinics to allow Coaches to become familiar with the horses and riders.

Team Gear and Other "Gear"

Area VIII provides some team equipment that all riders and grooms must use during the competition unless there is a specific reason why they cannot.

Area VIII provides saddle pads for each of the 3 phases, a scrim/fly sheet (for walking to jogs or keeping horses/saddles free of dust, etc.), ear bonnets for any and all phases, leather halters for use in the barns. These items will be used by the riders during the competition but returned after use so that they can be laundered and stored for later years.

Area VIII will provide riders and grooms a XC shirt and/or T shirts, jacket for riders only, backpacks for grooms only, ball caps and possibly other gear. This clothing is what some of our fundraising will cover.

Riders are responsible for purchasing two jog outfits for the horse inspections at YREC. At some point prior to the YREC the teams will need to decide what those outfits will be. It is recommended that riders' choices for jog outfits are conservative and classic, reasonably priced. Comfortable, well-fitting shoes are very important.

TEAM MEMBERS: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The TEAM Concept

The Area VIII YREC Team is made up of everyone involved: riders, grooms, coach, chef, coordinators, veterinary staff and selectors. Every one of those individuals must be respected and supported in any activity and any decision. Anything negative, whether verbally, through actions, or through social media reflects on Area VIII and the entire team. All decisions and actions are made for the good of the TEAM, so every member of the team must support and abide by those actions.

One of the most important take-aways from YREC is that of being part of a team – understanding that concept for future Eventing endeavors such as senior teams at the Olympics, WEG, etc.

If you, as a rider or family or as any other member of the team, do not feel that this team concept with its set of rules and requirements (coaches, team gear, etc.) is something that fits in with your competitive plans, the choice to not participate in YREC and its activities is certainly one you can make and that we respect.

But we also feel there is nothing more valuable than the friendships, life lessons and experiences you will have by being part of a team, no matter what the actual competition results are at the end of the event. We are, of course, excited when an individual or team ends up on the YREC podium or with a ribbon, but

even more exciting is when we see those friendships and life-long bonds that have developed by the end of YREC week and the education that riders and grooms have acquired by being part of this experience. There are years when we may have a rider on our Area VIII YREC team who has declared as an Area VIII rider for the year because he/she may be going to school or is a working student in the Area. These riders are as much a part of the Area VIII team as any other rider. They will attend team training sessions and work with the Area VIII team coaches prior to and at YREC. They will also get the same consideration by our selectors in any decision regarding their selection as an individual rider or riding on the 4-person squad.

Chef d'Equipe Responsibilities

- Be the team “troubleshooter” for any and all issues and manage all the details of the team prior to and during the YREC
- Attend spring training sessions, jogs, and mandatory outings as much as possible
- When present at events, observe riders at horse trials; watch rider on-line results
- Select grooms for riders based on rider recommendations and supervise those grooms at YREC.
- Maintain contact information for farrier, physio and vet at YREC and schedule as needed.
- Attend Chef meetings at YREC and pass on information at scheduled team meetings
- Schedule daily morning and/or evening team meetings
- Communicate to all team members scheduled schooling and ride times
- Watch over activities in the barn: horse management, equipment care and use, tack room organization

Riders' Duties

- Send in Letter of Intent to Coordinators along with signed Code of Conduct, Competition Schedule and check for \$100 by April 1, 2022.
- Participate in fundraising activities. Each rider is required to raise a certain amount of money TBD depending on the number of participants, by October 15.
- Attend mandatory training sessions and outings. Please note that should a horse or rider not be able to participate in a mandatory outing due to extenuating circumstances, an exemption will be considered.
- Keep selectors informed of changes to your competition schedule, ride times and results
- Submit rider profile/bio to USEF when requested, as well as USEF/FEI Waiver
- Provide the name of a prospective groom several weeks prior to YREC. Provide that person with a Groom Application to be sent to the Chef or Coordinators. Grooms must be approved by the Chef before being accepted to be a part of the team.
- Be in the barns at the required times to care for horses.
- Attend team meetings.
- Maintain a positive team attitude at all times.
- Support all riders by watching their tests and rounds as much as personal ride times and other duties allow.
- Promote team sponsors by using social media and any other ways of promoting products and support from individuals and businesses.

Grooms' Duties

- Send completed Groom Application to Chef or Coordinators
- Help with caring, grooming and preparing the horse for your rider at YREC

- Wear team gear to promote Area VIII at YREC.
- Help other Team grooms and riders when able
- Help with Vet box duties for the team

Team Selector Responsibilities

- Review competition schedules for riders who have submitted Letters of Intent, as well as changes to schedules to determine appropriate preparation for YREC qualifications
- When able, observe horses and riders at horse trials
- Review competition results for riders and reports on riders from Candidate Observers
- Sign Conflict of Interest forms early in the year
- Be available for conference calls to discuss rider selection and keep discussions on those call confidential

Parents

- Parents are an integral part of the team by providing both monetary and moral support. They are the travel provider and greatest support network. Their job has been a crucial part of their child's success in qualifying for YREC.
- Parents are not grooms. This is a learning experience for the grooms as well as the riders.
- Limit your time in the barn; follow rules for hours parents are allowed in the barns so that riders and grooms can do what they need to do to care for their horses and get things done efficiently.
- Allow your child to express their concerns or ask questions of the coach, chef or coordinators as a life skill experience. Our goal is to help him/her succeed not only as a rider but as an individual and team member.

FUNDRAISING

Young Rider Championships is an expensive endeavor for Area VIII and the families that are participating. For that reason, fundraising in general is important for the entire Young Rider Program which includes YREC and the YRAP (Young Rider Advancement Program). We have ongoing efforts to establish donated funds available to improve and add activities to both programs

Fundraising is an important part of the YREC process. Not only does it help Area VIII offset some of the expenses related to YREC but it also gives the riders the experience of approaching and soliciting donors and sponsors, all of which they may need to do in their later riding careers if they hope to continue riding at the upper levels of the sport.

There are basically two types of fundraising that riders may do. Fundraising for the Area VIII YREC treasury for expenses that the Area must bear and personal fundraising to help parents with their financial responsibilities.

Area VIII's YREC Expenses

Following are all the expenses that Area VIII must cover through your fundraising efforts (what needs to be replenished in the treasury fundraising).

- Coaching fees, including mandatory training sessions, travel expenses and accommodations for their Chef, and one Coordinator
- Rental of golf carts at the event

- Tack and feed stall(s)
- Team clothing (shirts, jackets, hats)
- Horse gear, if replacement or additional items are needed
- Miscellaneous office or promotional supplies

The above costs will vary year to year depending on the location of YREC and the needs of the Team

Family Financial Responsibilities

- Shipping of horse to training sessions and YREC
- Personal travel and hotel fees for training sessions and YREC, including any layover accommodations if needed
- Purchasing jog outfits for the rider
- Shavings for stalls at YREC
- Veterinary fees for YREC competition (meds, fluids, etc.)
- Any farrier and alternative therapy services

Fundraising Goals

Each year, Area VIII will ask each Young Rider who will be competing at YREC to raise money to contribute to the YREC fund. The amount that will be required depends on various factors (location of Championships, number of riders and grooms from the area going, etc.) The challenge is that it may be just four or five weeks prior to championships before a rider will know if he or she has qualified or has been selected, which makes raising that amount of money difficult

American Horse Trials Foundation

One of the best ways to help with individual fundraising is for riders to set up an account with the American Horse Trials Foundation. The AHTF is a non-profit corporation established to assist event riders in raising tax deductible financial support for national and international competition. Once riders are approved with AHTF they are then able to apply for grants to help with expenses for training and competing at national and international events.

Family and friends can make a tax-deductible donation to AHTF at any time. Those funds can stay in AHTF until needed by riders. If the rider then successfully qualifies and is selected to compete at YREC he/she can apply for his/her grant from AHTF and use it for his/her Area VIII fundraising goal. If, for whatever reason, the rider doesn't make it to YREC, that money can remain with AHTF for that rider's future YREC or any other competition related expense.

For further information or instructions and forms to set up an account, visit their website at www.ahtf3day.org or speak with our coaches, chef or coordinators.

Area VIII Fundraising Ideas

In the past, riders have used various means of raising revenue for Area VIII YREC and there are many ideas which riders individually or as a group can implement:

- Car washes
- Bake sales or sales of other items
- Course walks with a "big name rider" who will donate his/her time for donations from attendees
- 5 K race

- Dressage ride a test with an Official or Instructor who donates his/her time
- Ride a Show Jumping Course with an instructor who will critique/coach
- Speak to an organizer about donating to your group for volunteering at a horse trial.
- Volunteer at shows and horse trials. Wear your AREA VIII shirts to make yourself visible and raise awareness so others may be willing to donate to your group.

Sponsorships

Riders can solicit product donations from sponsors after asking for approval from Coordinators or our Fundraising Chairperson. Depending on donations from Sponsors, their value may or may not be part of fundraising goals.

We always appreciate having sponsors and businesses who donate product to the riders going to YREC and welcome those sponsors. For larger companies who donate product, we try to solicit a cash donation from them also to help offset YREC expenses. Those businesses will in turn get perks from Area VIII, such as their banner displayed in our stabling area at YREC and /or their logo on team wear or horse gear. Depending on the product donation and if the company is smaller and no cash donation is made, we may ask the company to promote Area VIII Young Riders using various social media outlets as a means of raising funds for YREC. Please refer to the Sponsor tab on the Area VIII website.

Fundraising which is advertised using Area VIII as the recipient of the proceeds are funds that must go to the Area VIII treasury. This money can be used towards your fundraising goal, but cannot be used towards personal expenses for getting to YREC (hotel, travel, etc.)

Personal Fundraising

Personal fundraising is money you would like to raise to help your parents/family pay for your YREC expenses: hotel, travel/shipping, jog outfits, etc. Riders have used various methods to raise funds themselves: gofundme.com, selling handmade items, etc. "Advertising" for these donations should mention you personally and your goal of riding at YREC but not seen as funds going towards Area VIII Young Riders. If your personal fundraising goes above and beyond what you personally need, those funds can certainly be donated to Area VIII. Personal fundraising not directly donated to Area VIII will not go towards your Area VIII fundraising goal.

Other Fundraising Guidelines/Rules

- Cash donations made to Area VIII are also tax deductible in most cases. The only time an Area VIII donation is not tax deductible is when a parent makes a donation AFTER their child has qualified and has been selected to compete at YREC. Donation checks should be made out to "USEA Area VIII Young Riders".
- Funds that you raise towards your fundraising goal must be sent to the Area VIII Treasurer. Once those funds have been submitted to Area VIII, they will be used for Area VIII YREC expenses and cannot be returned to the rider or used for a rider's personal expenses (USEA's strict guideline). The funds can be used only for Area VIII YREC expenses that year or put into the Legacy Fund for future use.
- One of the most important aspects of fundraising concerns sponsorships that we receive each year. As riders, you have a huge responsibility to follow through with promoting and thanking each sponsor/company who has donated product and/or money to the YREC program.

SUMMARY

Your Responsibilities

- Attend the Annual meeting
- Turn in your Letter of Intent, signed Code of Conduct, proposed competition schedule and \$100 fee by April 1, 2022 This paperwork is to be submitted to Shelley Ryan
- Begin fundraising
- Be sure your horse's Passport is current
- **Apply for and declare your Area for YREC competition at the USEF website. Strict deadline is May 1, 2022**
- Keep Selectors informed of ride times, changes, and results at Horse Trials
- Provide rider bio and sign waiver to USEF
- Attend training sessions, clinic and/or preparation event(s)
- Continue fundraising
- Find a groom and have his/her application turned in to Shelley Ryan
- Choose jog outfits with the rest of the team
- Continue Fundraising
- **PLEASE GO TO THE AREA VIII WEBSITE FOR LETTER OF INTENT FORMS AND DOCUMENTS AS WELL AS SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS SPELLED OUT BY USEF**

At the Event-

- Use team gear
- Utilize services of the Chef and Coordinator to keep communication open
- Support all team riders
- Respect and support the whole TEAM
- Use social media to thank and promote those sponsors who have donated products or funds
- HAVE FUN!
- MAKE FRIENDS!
- ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!