



WAVE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

Greetings,

On behalf of USA Working Equitation's Board of Directors, welcome to this commemorative program celebrating the USA International Team at the 2026 WAVE World Championship in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain.

We are honored and humbled by the tremendous support we have received from across the country as we embark on this historic journey. The Working Equitation community is truly unique. It is a community where competitors cheer one another on, volunteers generously give their time, families become part of every event, and friendships extend well beyond the show ring.

*"Some journeys are
measured in miles.
Others are measured in
vision, perseverance,
and the people who
choose to believe in
something bigger than
themselves."*



As we prepare for the World Championship, we are reminded of how far USAWE has come. Since becoming a recognized WAVE member nation in 2022, we have worked toward the goal of representing the United States on the international stage. That vision is now becoming reality. We are especially grateful to those who have helped guide this journey, including Team Coach Miguel Undabarrena, Chef d'Équipe Julie Alonzo, and International Committee Chair Barbara Price, whose leadership and dedication have been instrumental in bringing this opportunity to fruition.

As you turn the pages of this program, we hope you will share in the pride and excitement of this remarkable milestone. The USA International Team represents not only the riders and horses entering the arena, but the entire community that has supported them along the way. We invite you to follow their journey and join us in celebrating this historic moment for USA Working Equitation.

With pride and gratitude,

USA Working Equitation Board of Directors

THE ROAD TO JEREZ

Every historic achievement begins with a single step. For USA Working Equitation, the journey to the 2026 WAVE World Championship was not the result of a single event, but years of vision, collaboration, and determination.

From the unification of two national organizations to the formation of an international program, each milestone brought the United States one step closer to competing alongside the world's finest Working Equitation nations. Volunteers dedicated countless hours, committees established policies and selection procedures, riders committed themselves to increasingly demanding standards, and supporters across the country rallied behind a shared dream.

The following timeline highlights some of the defining moments that transformed an ambitious vision into reality. Each milestone represents another stride toward Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, where USA International Team will proudly represent our nation at the 2026 WAVE World Championship.



2020

USAWE formed through the merger of WE United and the Confederation for Working Equitation.



2022

USAWE is officially recognized by WAVE



2023

The official International Committee is established.



2026

The committee comes together to go through the meticulous process of selecting the 2026 Masters riders to represent the USA.

2025

The team selection criteria is developed



2024

The first training camps begin to host events throughout the country.

SEPT. '26

Four spectacular riders, and two alternates will travel to Spain to represent the USA on the biggest Working Equitation stage in the entire world.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, SPAIN



The Heart of Working Equitation

For centuries, the traditions of horsemanship have been woven into the cultural fabric of Jerez de la Frontera, a city in the Andalusian region of southern Spain renowned throughout the world for its horses, horsemanship, and equestrian heritage. It is here, where skilled horsemen perfected the techniques of working livestock from horseback, that many of the traditions celebrated in modern Working Equitation continue to thrive.

Jerez is home to the world-famous Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art, whose performances showcase the elegance, athleticism, and classical training of the Pure Spanish Horse. The city's deep connection to the horse extends beyond exhibition and competition...

it is a living tradition that reflects generations of ranching, agriculture, and partnership between horse and rider.

As competitors from around the globe gather in Jerez for the 2026 WAVE World Championship, they become part of a tradition that spans generations and continents. For the USA International Team, competing in this historic setting is both a privilege and an inspiration. It is an opportunity to represent the United States while honoring the roots of a sport that has united riders from around the world through a shared appreciation for horsemanship, partnership, and tradition.

Surrounded by centuries of equestrian history, the USA International Team arrives not only to compete, but to learn, to celebrate, and to contribute to the continuing story of Working Equitation on the world stage.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE



22 Nations - 74 Participants

SEPTEMBER 7TH -13TH



Real Escuela Andaluza del Arte Ecuestre

**MON
7TH**

Arrival of all horses
Arrival of Judge President and WAVE Technical Delegate

**TUE
8TH**

Arrival of remaining judges & final riders
Vet Check
Judge Panel Meeting

**WED
9TH**

Dressage

**THUR
10TH**

Dressage
Maneability (EOH), course walk, first pairs
Maneability (EOH), first pairs

**FRI
11TH**

Maneability (EOH), course walk, remaining pairs
Maneability (EOH), remaining pairs

**SAT
12TH**

Speed - all pairs
Gala Closing Party

**SUN
13TH**

Draw of cattle for cattle trial.
Cattle trial all teams
Final awards ceremony



MEET THE TEAM

*4 Riders - 2 Alternates
1 Team*

One team. One Vision. One historical moment

From nearly every corner of the equestrian industry, six spectacular riders and the dedicated officials supporting them have come together to mark another major milestone in USA Working Equitation history. Every meticulous step they have taken over the last several years has led to this defining moment. This team could not be more diverse, yet together they embody what it means to be a proud USA rider.

Everything this team accomplishes as they move forward into the 2026 WAVE Championship will be monumental and historic. They will forever be honored to carry the title of being a WAVE World Championship qualifier and competitor.

Over the next couple of pages, you will learn about the backgrounds, experiences, and diversity that make up this influential team. We hope their stories inspire you to keep chasing your goals, keep pushing beyond what you thought was possible, and always keep your eyes on the horizon.

KIMBERLEE BARKER



Kimberlee Barker – Corvallis, Oregon

Kimberlee Barker brings a lifetime of horsemanship, classical dressage, and a commitment to excellence to the USA International Team. A USDF “L” Graduate with Distinction and Bronze and Silver Medalist, she has trained and competed numerous horses through the FEI levels. In Jerez, Kimberlee will be partnered with Paquirri do Monte Negro, continuing their journey together on the international stage.

Kimberlee discovered Working Equitation in 2019 and quickly became passionate about the sport’s unique combination of dressage, obstacles, and partnership. Competing from Introductory through Masters, she has consistently ranked among the nation’s top competitors and has earned USAWE Pewter, Bronze, Silver, and Platinum Lifetime Rider Medals.

Kimberlee believes Working Equitation creates an especially harmonious relationship between horse and rider. She trains with internationally recognized

instructors and teaches students from Introductory through Masters in Working Equitation and from Training Level through FEI in Dressage.

Representing the USA International Team in Jerez is a tremendous honor and the realization of a dream to showcase the sport she loves on the world stage.



ROBIN BOND

Robin Bond – Santa Ynez, California

Robin Bond is a professional horsewoman specializing in Working Equitation and Ranch Horse events. Her distinctive approach blends the traditions of the California bridle horse with classical dressage, developing versatile and confident horse-and-rider partnerships.

Robin has enjoyed competitive success in reining, reined cow horse, extreme cowboy race, ranch horse, and Working Equitation, which she has competed in since 2012. Based in Santa Ynez, California, she trains and coaches riders of all levels in both ranch horse and Working Equitation.

Her partner, Kiger Zapata KCA, is a 13-year-old Kiger Mustang stallion gathered from the wild in Oregon in 2015 and specifically selected for Working Equitation. Robin trained him from the Introductory level through Masters, developing a remarkable partnership built on trust and patience.

Robin is especially proud to represent the United States with a horse whose journey from the wild to the World Championship reflects the versatility, determination, and partnership at the heart of Working Equitation.



MATT FRENCH

Matt French – La Mesa, California

Matt French and his Mustang, Navarro, affectionately known as “Navi,” represent the kind of partnership that makes Working Equitation so special.

Rescued as a young horse, Navi’s future was uncertain. Through patience, dedication, and thoughtful training, Matt developed him from his early beginnings into a confident and accomplished Masters-level competitor. Their journey demonstrates the remarkable partnership that can develop when horse and rider learn to trust one another and meet each challenge together.

Based in La Mesa, California, Matt has devoted himself to developing Navi into a successful Working Equitation partner. Together, they embody the versatility, athleticism, and willingness that the sport demands.

For Matt, representing the USA International Team at the 2026 WAVE World Championship is the culmination of years of dedication and an extraordinary journey with a rescued horse. He and Navi are honored to carry the United States onto the international stage.



KENTON WRIGHT



Kenton Wright – Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Kenton Wright's lifelong connection with horses began almost from birth. At just five days old, he accompanied his mother as she rode cattle pens in a feedlot. A sixth-generation rancher in the Pacific Northwest, Kenton grew up riding and training ranch horses.

A committed athlete, Kenton continued training horses in multiple disciplines throughout his collegiate and professional baseball career. He discovered Working Equitation in 2017 and immediately found a sport that combined his athletic background with his deep roots in ranch horsemanship.

In his first year of Working Equitation, Kenton earned national honors by winning the Novice Horse/Rider Pair Division. Since then, he has

earned numerous Horse of the Year titles at multiple levels, including Masters, while competing domestically and internationally. He holds both USDF medals and the USAWE Platinum Lifetime Rider Medal.

Representing the USA International Team in Jerez is the culmination of a lifetime in the saddle and an opportunity to bring generations of ranching heritage to the world stage.



STEPHANIE HAYES



Stephanie Hayes
Johnson, Vermont [Alternate]

Stephanie Hayes is an accomplished competitor, educator, and advocate who has played an important role in the growth of Working Equitation in the United States. A USAWE “L” Judge, Masters Level Professional Instructor, and member of the Professional Development Committee, Stephanie has earned numerous National Leaderboard and Regional Championships as well as the USAWE Platinum Lifetime Rider Medal.

In 2018, she co-founded New England Working Equitation, Inc., helping expand the sport throughout the Northeast. Her commitment to education and development has made her a valued leader within the Working Equitation community.

Stephanie has represented the sport internationally in Canada, Portugal, and Spain, most recently competing in Segovia. Her consistent success earned her a place among the top three U.S. riders in the 2025 WAVE standings.

As an Alternate for the USA International Team, Stephanie is proud to support the team and contribute to this historic appearance on the world stage.



PATI PIERUCCI

Pati Pierucci – Willow Park, Texas [Alternate]

Pati Pierucci is a high-performance dressage competitor whose accomplishments include being long-listed for the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. She has brought that extensive dressage experience to Working Equitation, reaching the Masters level with Tirabuxio La Devesa (“Tiago”), owned by Gwen Kleinschmidt.



In Tiago’s first year of competition, the pair earned an impressive fifth-place finish on the USAWE National Leaderboard. Pati has also demonstrated her ability to perform on the international stage, earning a strong result at a WAVE Qualifier in Segovia, Spain, while competing on a leased and unfamiliar horse—a testament to her adaptability and horsemanship.

Beyond competition, Pati is dedicated to advancing Working Equitation in the United States as a trainer, instructor, and clinician.

As an Alternate for the USA International Team, Pati is honored to support the inaugural World Championship team and contribute her experience, knowledge, and passion to this historic moment for American Working Equitation.



THE OFFICIALS BEHIND THE TEAM

The USA International Team's journey to the WAVE World Championship is the result of countless people working behind the scenes. Coaches, owners, veterinarians, grooms, officials, volunteers, sponsors, families, and supporters have each played an important role in bringing this historic opportunity to life.

This achievement belongs not only to the riders and horses, but to the entire Working Equitation community that believed in the dream and helped make it possible. Thank you for being part of the journey.

BARBARA PRICE

Chair Person, International Committee

Barbara Price is one of the first licensed Working Equitation judges in the United States and has been instrumental in the development of the sport for nearly 15 years. A USAWE Registered Judge and Working Equitation Canada Medium Judge, she has officiated at numerous national and regional championships throughout the U.S. and Canada. A founding member of the U.S. Rules Committee and former USAWE President, Barbara now leads USAWE's international competition efforts as Chair of the International Committee. A lifelong Iberian horse enthusiast, she discovered Working Equitation through travels in Portugal and Spain.

MIGUEL UNDABERRENA

Team Coach

Miguel Undaberrena was the first individual to represent USAWE at the WAVE World Championship in 2022 and now serves as Coach for the 2026 International Team. A USAWE Recorded Judge, international rider, trainer, and multiple national and international medalist, Miguel has been competing in Working Equitation since its early days in the United States. He is also a USDF Bronze, Silver, and Gold Medalist and is passionate about helping riders of all backgrounds succeed in the sport.

JULIE ALONZO

Team Chef d'Équipe

Julie Alonzo serves as Team Chef d'Équipe, overseeing logistics and serving as the primary link between riders, judges, and event staff. She has been involved in Working Equitation since its beginnings in the United States and is the founder of Working Equitation Oregon, one of the country's largest regional organizations. A longtime leader in the growth and development of the sport, Julie has organized educational programs for riders and officials in the U.S. and abroad and currently serves as USAWE Secretary.

USAWE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tracey Erway • Laura Kobrin • Sara MacKenzie • Dawn Metzger
Glynn Hoekstra, USAWE Vice President (rotating member)

The beauty of JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA





BUILDING WORKING EQUITATION
in Southern California



This GOLD LEVEL SPONSORSHIP was made possible through a community fundraiser held by Kelly and Lou Gonda & Christy Reich of ECF and Abigail Martinez of Ride 2 Thrive!



We are proud to be growing the WE sport and are cheering for our first US team!



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The membership of Working Equitation of North Carolina is honored to support our USAWE International Team and wishes them all the best at the 2026 WAVE World Championships. We are so very proud of you.

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Wow

MILTON - FREEWATER, OREGON

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Behind every great achievement is a community. Bringing the USA International Team to the world stage has been a true collective effort, made possible by the dedication, generosity, and support of coaches, volunteers, sponsors, donors, horse owners, families, affiliates, and supporters across the country. To everyone who has contributed their time, resources, expertise, and encouragement...thank you. This achievement belongs to all of you, and your support is helping build the future of Working Equitation in the United States.

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