

# Need to Know News for the 2021 Competition Season

someone other than immediate a family member;

3. Have at least completed five hours of community volunteer service in the 2020-2021 calendar year.

4. Submit a 200-500 word essay on the applicant's experience with horses, success with horses, school, and other areas, and what their future plans and career goals are.

Applications are due by July 1 with the winner announced at the club's July horse show. For more information, go to [smqha.org](http://smqha.org).

## MD-TB Eventing Series Makes Adjustments

For 2021, the Maryland Thoroughbred Eventing Series has adjusted its division categories in order to create a more equitable competition. Series coordinators recognized that having riders at Preliminary competing against riders at Beginner Novice did not offer a level playing field. By dividing the competition into levels, competitors have more opportunities to win, further promoting the post-racing careers of Thoroughbreds.

Unrecognized events were added to the series in 2020 with the intent to welcome the lower levels of eventing into the series. For 2021, the rules for the unrecognized events have been streamlined to align them with how competitors were using these unrecognized events.

For more information on these rule changes, please see [mdteventing.com](http://mdteventing.com).

## USHJA Creates Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy Plan



On December 4, 2020, during the US Hunter Jumper Association virtual annual meeting, the newly formed USHJA Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy Committee held a free webinar to discuss fostering an inclusive and open culture in equestrian sport. In addition, the webinar attendees helped identify opportunities for betterment and created an action plan. Below is the committee's action plan.

1. Provide unconscious bias and diversity awareness training for USHJA Staff, Board and Committee members.

2. Develop and include unconscious bias and diversity awareness content for inclusion as part of the USHJA Licensed Officials Education and Instructor Credential.

3. Identify solutions to reduce obstacles to equine sport faced by marginalized populations, and to increase the popularity of equine sport in marginalized communities.

4. Work with competition managers to implement multilingual signage at shows.

5. Create a directory of BIPOC and LG-

BTQ-owned or operated equine facilities and businesses as a reference for all members to use to connect with, encourage and support equestrians from underrepresented backgrounds.

6. Work with USHJA resources to establish marketing and messaging strategies that riding facilities, show managers and others can use to attract and encourage the participation of historically marginalized individuals in equestrian sports.

7. Establish a leadership and mentorship program which identifies and connects equestrians from traditionally underrepresented groups with opportunities to:

- a. Audit clinics
- b. Visit and tour barns and equestrian facilities
- c. Intern or be a working student at a riding establishment
- d. Shadow or intern with a show manager and/or show staff
- e. Shadow licensed officials

## YEH Champs Return to Fair Hill

The Young Event Horse East Coast Championships are set to run this fall to Fair Hill as part of the inaugural Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. The West Coast Championships will be held at Twin Rivers Ranch in California. The East Coast YEH championships have been held at Fair Hill for the past several years and