



## Nations Cup returns to HITS

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Horse Shows in the Sun, best known as HITS, has announced that the USEF Board of Directors has again selected HITS to host the FEI Nations Cup Qualifier, which will be elevated to a CSIO-5\*, in 2018 and 2019. The Nations Cup Jumping series is equestrian sport's oldest and most prestigious team challenge. Pending FEI confirmation, the 2018 Nations Cup CSIO-5\* will be held during Week V of the HITS Ocala Winter Circuit, Feb. 13-18.

"To host the Nations Cup for a fourth straight year is an enormous honor," said Tom Struzzieri, HITS Founder and CEO, in a prepared statement. "To produce this event in the Horse Capital of the World demonstrates HITS' continuing commitment to offer premier horse sport in Ocala and Marion County. Now, with three years of experience, HITS is prepared to create an event that will be the flagship FEI Nations Cup event for the United States."

New to the 2018 and 2019 Nations Cup in Ocala will be a special Youth Nations Cup event for the Young Rider, Junior and Children's age categories.

Last year, the Nations Cup at HITS Ocala hosted seven teams: Canada, USA, Colombia, El Salvador, Ireland, Mexico, USA, and Venezuela. City of Ocala and Marion County leaders and members of the community welcomed the competitors with an inaugural Parade of Nations, which culminated in Jump Downtown, a ceremony on the downtown square to introduce the teams and kick-off Nations Cup Week.

The HITS Ocala Winter Circuit will host 12 USEF-rated shows during the 2017-2018 season, with the Ocala Holiday Series running Dec. 1-3 and 13-17, 2017, and the Ocala Winter Circuit running Jan. 16 - March 25. The circuit culminates with the Great American \$1 Million Grand Prix on March 25.