



SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR

2012 USEF “BRENTINA CUP” PROGRAM

USEF NATIONAL YOUNG ADULT

DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Date and location TBD

The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for equestrian sport. The USEF Dressage Committee will oversee the selection process, which process subsequently shall be reviewed and approved by the USEF Executive Committee. Any member of the USEF Dressage Committee who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest as defined in the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy must recuse himself/herself and not participate in the selection process.

The USEF “Brentina Cup” Championship (the “Championship”) will be conducted under USEF Rules. The purpose of the USEF “Brentina Cup” Program is to assist U.S. Young Riders make the transition to Senior Grand Prix competitor.

I. APPLICATION:

1. In order to be considered for the 2012 USEF National “Brentina Cup” Championship, an **Application of Intent** must be completed and submitted to USEF **no later than March 1, 2012**. Applications will be available on the USEF website after December 1, 2011. Applications received by the USEF Dressage Department on or before February 1, 2012 will require an application fee of \$50. Applications received after February 1, 2012 but on or before March 1, 2012 will require a fee of \$150. No applications will be accepted after March 1, 2012.
2. It is the responsibility of the owners and riders of horses to ensure that they know and understand the USEF Rules.
3. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of Application of Intent.

II. ELIGIBILITY:

FOR RIDER:

1. Riders must be United States citizens.
2. Riders must be Active Members in good standing of USEF at all times when competing under these procedures.
3. **Riders are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 25.**
4. No rider may qualify more than two (2) horses for the Championship.

FOR OWNER(S):

1. Must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF and his/her National Federation at the time qualifying scores are earned and during the Championship, and must be an Active Member in good standing of USEF and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing from his/her National Federation.
2. Must be willing to pay for all expenses incurred for the inclusion of the horse/rider combination in this competition, including but not limited to, transportation.
3. Qualification goes with the horse/rider combination; ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championship as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

FOR HORSE:

1. Horses **must be Annual or Life Recorded** with USEF at the time of all qualifying performances and the Championship. **Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.**
2. This Championship will be held as part of a USEF-Licensed Competition (not a CDI); therefore, an **FEI passport will NOT be required for this Championship.**
3. Ponies and mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship.

FOR HORSE/RIDER COMBINATION:

1. Qualification is based upon horse/rider combination.
2. Riders aged 16 to 21 may compete in both Young Rider (16-21) and “Brentina Cup” (16-25) divisions, but may not compete in both divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same horse. A Young Rider may not compete in National or FEI Championships for both the Young Rider and “Brentina Cup” divisions within the same year on the same horse, but may do so with different horses.

III. QUALIFYING PROCEDURES:

1. **QUALIFYING PERIOD:** The qualifying period shall begin **August 2, 2011** and will end **May 28, 2012**.
2. **QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS:** A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. A list of these Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions is available on the Federation website www.usef.org *. *Please note:* for these qualification purposes, competition(s) held over the course of more than one day counts as a **single** qualifying competition (even if each day has a separate license number). Qualifying scores for the USEF “Brentina Cup” Championship may only be earned at these Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. Each horse/rider combination must earn scores in at least **three (3) different Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions**. * (See Memo to Athletes dated July 29, updated September 2, 2011. http://www.usef.org/documents/disciplines/dressage/Memo%20FoC_BC_%20July%202011.pdf
3. **TESTS:** The USEF Young Adult “Brentina Cup” Test (current edition) or FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test (current edition) must be used for qualification from Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. However, only one score will count for the competition. For scores obtained within a CDI competition only, the FEI Grand Prix Test, the FEI Intermediaire II Test, and/or the FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test may be used (see #4, below).

4. **CDI QUALIFICATION:** Horse/rider combinations competing in U.S. CDI competitions may use the FEI Grand Prix Test, the FEI Intermediaire II Test, and/or the FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test. As CDI scores are not automatically tracked by USEF for purposes of the Brentina Cup Program, notification of scores being counted towards qualification must be received in writing (via e-mail or fax) by the USEF Dressage Department no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the conclusion of the competition. Scores submitted for qualification after this deadline will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all qualifying CDI scores for this program have been presented to USEF on time and are accurate.
5. **ONE RIDER RULE:** Under penalty of disqualification for USEF championship qualifying purposes, at no time during a competition offering USEF championship qualifying classes, at a USEF Qualifying Competition, may any horse entered in a USEF championship qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in the USEF championship class on that horse. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds of a USEF Qualifying Competition.
6. **NUMBER OF SCORES:** **At least three (3) qualifying scores must be earned** which meet all qualification requirements outlined herein.
7. **DROP SHOW:** If four (4) or more qualifying scores are earned at Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the score from the one (1) competition that has the lowest score will be dropped. If seven (7) or more qualifying scores are earned, an additional score of the next-lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each horse/rider combination's overall average.
8. **JUDGES:** Qualifying tests must be **judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF "S" judges**. For tests to be counted towards qualification, **at least one (1) judge must differ per panel**. *Please note: Judges who are an owner of a horse or parent of a rider or coach of a rider competing in this division may NOT officiate for any USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Classes for this division at Designated Qualifying Competitions in any USDF region. Scores obtained under these conditions will not be counted and the judge may be sanctioned.*
9. **SCORE CALCULATION:** USEF will automatically track scores for horse/rider combinations which are earned at Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for this Championship unless requested by USEF staff.
10. **MINIMUM AVERAGE:** A minimum overall average of **62%** must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
11. **DRESS & SADDLERY:** Please refer to USEF Rules for dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120 – 121) for USEF/USDF-Licensed Dressage Competitions, and FEI Dressage Regulations for CDI competitions. As per DR 121 / FEI Rule 428, **Double bridles are mandatory**.

- 12. FOREIGN COMPETITIONS:** Competitors may qualify for the Championship in foreign countries by competing in CDIs. Only CDIs may be used for this method of qualification. The FEI Grand Prix Test, the FEI Intermediaire II Test, and/or the FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test may be used for this method of qualification. Competitors must submit a written notification to the USEF Dressage Department of their intent to earn a qualifying score in a foreign competition – this notification must be received by the USEF Dressage Department at least two (2) weeks prior to the first day of competition. Competitors qualifying internationally will be responsible for reporting of scores to the USEF Dressage Department within five (5) days of the conclusion of the competition. A list of foreign CDIs can be found on www.fei.org.

IV. INVITATION TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1. All horse/rider combinations that have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see “Application”) and have qualified by the method outlined above (see “Qualifying Procedure”) **will be ranked according to scores and be accepted up to the numbers of entries available, not to exceed 12.**
2. No rider may qualify more than two (2) horses for the Championship.
3. In the case of a tie, the horse/rider combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked horse/rider combination shall be #3.

V. CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION:

1. The 2012 USEF “Brentina Cup” Championship date and location is to be determined. USEF Championship Rules will be followed.
2. The number of entries for each age group accepted for the Championships competition will be limited as determined by the USEF. Up to the top **twelve (12)** ranked horse/rider combinations which meet the minimum eligibility requirements will be invited.
3. Horses will be examined for soundness. A jog will be scheduled prior to the Championship classes, at which time all horses must be presented to the treating veterinarian and a member of the judging panel for examination.
4. Tests shall be ridden from memory and **WHIPS ARE FORBIDDEN**. Please refer to USEF Dressage Division Rules for complete dress and saddlery requirements. As per DR 121 / FEI Rule 428 / YR7, **Double bridles are mandatory**.
5. Starting order shall be determined by an open draw.

VI. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT:

1. **DAY 1 – USEF “BRENTINA CUP” TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 1’s “Brentina Cup” Test. The USEF Young Adult “Brentina Cup” Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards **50%** of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by five (5) judges (three of which must be FEI judges, two USEF “S” judges may be used).
2. **DAY 2 – FEI YOUNG RIDER GRAND PRIX 16-25 TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2’s FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test. The FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards **50%** of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by five (5) judges (three of which must be FEI judges, two USEF “S” judges may be used) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those judging Day 1’s “Brentina Cup” Test). *Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: USEF “Brentina Cup” Test – 50%, FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test – 50%.*

3. **TIES:** Breaking of ties in individual Tests will be in accordance with DR127.8. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Young Rider Grand Prix 16-25 Test only.

VII. CODE OF CONDUCT: Riders, horse owners and trainers will be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct with entry to the Championship.

VIII. DRUG TESTING: ; All horses shall be subject to drug testing at the Championship, and the horse must meet all Federation drug and medication rules. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected at any time during the competition. Samples collected from horses will be tested for the presence of all substances forbidden and/or controlled by USEF. The amount of this substance will be quantified and reported to the USEF. Any horse whose sample contains a prohibited substance or a restricted substance in a concentration greater than Federation limits shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with Federation Rules.

IX. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: No person involved in the Selection Process, including but not limited to members of the Dressage Committee, members of the Executive Committee, and veterinarians, shall have had, during the entire Selection Process, any financial or other interest, including as coach, trainer, or otherwise, in an applicant horse, or have had financial dealings with the rider or owner or members of their families, nor be a member of the family of an applicant rider or owner. If within the entire Selection Process an individual has had any financial or other interest as outlined above, he/she shall excuse himself/herself from the selection process. Further, each decision maker in the selection process shall be required to fill out a conflict of interest statement, disclosing any potential conflicts with any of the applicants. Potential conflicts as disclosed will be reviewed by the Dressage Committee, or by the Executive Committee if involving a member of the Dressage Committee, and a decision will be made as to whether or not the stated conflict is deemed disqualifying.

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE PROCEDURES PLEASE CONTACT:

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