



## SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR 2012 USEF NATIONAL PONY RIDER 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 National Pony Rider Dressage Championship (the “Championship”) will be conducted under USEF Rules.

### **I. APPLICATION:**

1. In order to be considered for the 2012 USEF National Pony Rider Dressage 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 ponies to ensure that they know and understand the USEF Rules and Selection Procedures.
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 as Pony Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16.**
4. No rider may qualify more than two (2) ponies 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 pony/rider combination in this competition, including but not limited to, transportation.
3. Qualification goes with the pony/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 PONY:**

1. Ponies **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. The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1).
3. Ponies must have a current and valid Federation Standard or Temporary Measurement Certificate for Dressage/Driving. All ponies will be subject to additional measurement at the Championship.
4. 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.
5. Horses (an animal over 148cm without shoes and 149cm with shoes) and mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship.

#### **FOR PONY/RIDER COMBINATION:**

1. Qualification is based upon pony/rider combination.
2. A Pony Rider may also compete in Junior and/or Young Rider divisions, but may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount. A Pony rider may not compete in National or FEI Championships for the Junior and Young Rider divisions within the same year.
3. Once a competitor has taken part in a National or FEI Championship for Juniors and/or Young Riders in any discipline, he/she can no longer go back to a National or FEI Championship for Pony Riders in the same discipline.

### **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](http://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 National Pony Rider Dressage Championship may only be earned at these Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. Each pony/rider combination must earn scores in at least **three (3) different Designated Qualifying Competitions**. (\*See Memo to Athletes dated July 29, updated September 2, 2011.  
[http://www.usef.org/documents/disciplines/dressage/Memo%20FoC J YR P%20July%202011.pdf](http://www.usef.org/documents/disciplines/dressage/Memo%20FoC%20J%20YR%20P%20July%202011.pdf) )
3. **TESTS:** The FEI Pony Team Test (current edition) and FEI Pony Individual Test (current edition) must be used for qualification. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF qualifying ("Test of Choice" classes will not count). A pony/rider combination must complete **both** the Team and Individual Tests at a Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competition. For calculation purposes, each test will be counted towards **50%** of a pony/rider combination's overall average from a Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competition. A rider may not ride **ONLY** the FEI Pony Team or **ONLY** the FEI Pony Individual Test in designated

qualifying classes at a Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competition. BOTH tests must be completed or the pony/rider combination will receive a zero (0.000%) for the Qualifying Competition.

*Note: In the event that a USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competition must be cancelled due to weather, extreme conditions or acts of God and The Team Test has already been ridden the athlete will not receive a zero and his/her scores will not count towards USEF National Championship Qualifying.*

4. **VETERINARY/MEDICAL WITHDRAWAL:** Exceptions to #3 (above) requiring completion of both tests will only be made for Pony Riders who submit an Official USEF/USDF Veterinary/Medical Withdrawal Certificate completed and signed by the official show veterinarian or from a physician stating the reason the pony and/or rider was unable to complete the competition. Documentation must be received by the USEF Dressage Department within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the competition. It is the sole responsibility of the rider to submit this documentation to the USEF Dressage Department within the time allowed. In such cases, the score for the single completed ride will not be factored into the pony/rider combination's overall average.
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/pony entered in a USEF championship qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in the USEF championship class on that horse/pony. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse/pony and athlete arrive on the show grounds of the USEF Qualifying Competition.
6. **NUMBER OF SCORES:** At least three (3) sets of qualifying scores must be earned (3 – Team Test, 3 – Individual Test = 3 overall averages) which meet all qualification requirements outlined herein.
7. **DROP SHOW:** If a pony/rider combination competes in four (4) or more different Designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the scores from the one (1) competition that has the lowest average (Team and Individual Tests) will be dropped. If seven (7) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned, an additional competition average score of the next-lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) competition average scores may be dropped. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each pony/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.** *Please note: Judges who are an owner of a pony or parent of a rider or coach of 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 pony/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. **DRESS & SADDLERY:** Please refer to USEF Rules for dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120 – 121) or FEI Dressage Regulations if competing in CDI-P competition. For all qualifying competitions, as per FEI Rule: P-18/P-19/428/427; Whip maximum one meter (1 m). Spurs are optional, but if used, only blunt metal spurs no longer than one and a half centimeters (1.5 cm) are allowed. Rowels on spurs are not allowed.
11. **FOREIGN COMPETITIONS:** Competitors may qualify for the Championship in foreign countries by competing in CDIs. Only CDIPs 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 CDIPs can be found on [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

#### **IV. INVITATION TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

1. All pony/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) ponies for the Championship.
3. In the case of a tie, the pony/rider combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked pony/rider combination shall be #3.

#### **V. CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION:**

1. The 2012 USEF National Pony Rider Dressage Championship dates and locations are to be determined. USEF Championship Rules will be followed.
2. The number of entries for each age group accepted for the Championship will be limited as determined by the **USEF**. Up to the top **twelve (12)** ranked pony/rider combinations which meet the minimum eligibility requirements will be invited.
3. Ponies will be examined for soundness. A jog will be scheduled prior to the Championship classes, at which time all ponies must be presented to the treating veterinarian and a member of the judging panel for examination.
4. All ponies will be subject to measurement at the Championship.
5. Tests shall be ridden from memory and **WHIPS ARE FORBIDDEN**. Please refer to USEF Dressage Division Rules for complete dress and saddlery requirements. At the Championship per FEI Rule: P-18/P-19/428/427; Whip maximum one meter (1 m). Spurs are optional, but if used, only blunt metal spurs no longer than one and a half centimeters (1.5 cm) are allowed. Rowels on spurs are not allowed.
6. Starting order shall be determined by an open draw.

#### **VI. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT:**

1. **DAY 1 – PONY TEAM TEST:** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1’s Pony Team Test. The FEI Pony Team 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 – PONY INDIVIDUAL TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2’s Pony Individual Test. The FEI Pony Individual 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 the “Team Test”. ***Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.***
3. **TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR127.8. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.

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

**VIII. DRUG TESTING:** All ponies shall be subject to drug testing at the Championship, and the pony must meet all Federation drug and medication rules. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected at any time during the Championship. Samples collected from ponies 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 pony 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 pony, 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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