

SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR
2008 USEF NATIONAL DEVELOPING HORSE
DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Sponsored by the Dutta Corporation and Performance Sales International

Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, KY
September 2008

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 Developing Horse Dressage Championship will be conducted under the auspices of the Federation Rule Book.

APPLICATION:

1. In order to be considered for the 2008 USEF National Developing Horse Dressage Championship, an **Application of Intent** must be completed and submitted to USEF. Applications received by the USEF Dressage Department on or before **June 20, 2008** will require an application fee of \$50. Applications received after June 20, 2008 but on or before August 1, 2008 will require payment of a \$150 fee. **No applications will be accepted after August 1, 2008.** A separate application must be received for each horse/rider combination. The Application of Intent is available on the Federation website or by contacting the USEF Dressage Department.
2. It is the responsibility of the owners and riders of horses to ensure that they know and understand the USEF Rules.
3. Qualification is based upon horse/rider combination.

ELIGIBILITY:

FOR RIDER:

1. Must be a minimum of 16 years of age as of January 1, 2008.
2. Must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time qualifying scores are earned. During the Championship, the rider must be an Active Member in good standing of USEF or have proof, in English, of membership in good standing from their National Federation.

FOR OWNER(S):

1. Must be a United States citizen(s);
2. Must be an Active Member(s) in good standing with USEF at the time all qualifying scores are earned and during the Championship;
3. 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.
4. 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 OR PONY:

1. Must have a current **Annual or Life Recording with USEF** at the time all qualifying scores are earned and during the Championship (**Horse Identification [HID] Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement**);
2. Must fit into one of the following age categories for competition (*refer to DR119.9**):
 - A. Become seven (7) years of age in 2008; or
 - B. Become eight (8) years of age in 2008; or
 - C. Become nine (9) years of age in 2008.
3. 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**.
4. Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship.

**Rule DR119.9 states: "The horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year."*

QUALIFYING PROCEDURE:

1. **QUALIFYING PERIOD:** The qualifying period shall begin January 1, 2008 and end August 15, 2008.
2. **QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS:** A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as Qualifying Competitions for the USEF Developing Dressage Programs. A list of these Qualifying Competitions is available on the Federation website or by contacting the USEF Dressage Department. Qualifying scores for the USEF National Developing Horse Dressage Championship may only be earned at these designated Qualifying Competitions. Each horse/rider combination must earn a **minimum of two (2) scores earned in at least two (2) different Qualifying Competitions**.
3. **TESTS:** The **USEF Developing Horse Test** (2007 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). **For scores obtained within a CDI competition only, the FEI Prix St. Georges Test may be used** (see #4, below).

- 4. CDI QUALIFICATION:** Horse/rider combinations competing in U.S. CDI competitions may use the FEI Prix St. Georges Test. As CDI scores are not automatically tracked by USEF for purposes of the Developing Horse 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 forty-eight (48) 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. NUMBER OF SCORES:** At least two (2) qualifying scores must be earned which meet all qualification requirements outlined herein.
- 6. DROP SHOW:** If a horse/rider combination competes in more than two (2) different Qualifying Competitions, the score from the one (1) competition that has the lowest score will be dropped. Only the score from one (1) competition may be dropped. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each horse/rider combination's overall average.
- 7. JUDGES:** Qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF "S" officials. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per panel.
- 8. MINIMUM AVERAGE:** A minimum overall average of 62% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
- 9. SCORE CALCULATION:** USEF will automatically track scores for horse/rider combinations which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions based upon official results submitted to the USEF office by Competition Secretaries (with the exception of CDI scores – see #4, above).
- 10. DRESS & SADDLERY:** Tests must be ridden from memory; whips are allowed for qualifying rides, except when the class is run within the CDI competition in accordance with FEI rules. Please refer to USEF Rules for complete dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120 – 121).
- 11. INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION:** Horses that meet all age, registration and ownership qualifications may qualify by competing at either FEI competitions or National Level competitions in a foreign country. The FEI Prix St. Georges (2000 edition) or equivalent National test for the same horse age group may be used. All other requirements as outlined above including application, eligibility, qualification period, judges, scores, etc. will apply for this method of qualification. **Copies of entire qualifying score sheet(s) must be submitted to and received by the USEF Dressage Department no later than August 15, 2008 for consideration.**

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. The number of entries accepted will be limited to twenty (20) horse/rider combinations.**
2. 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 shall be #3. If there is a tie for 20th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries accepted (e.g. 21 entries accepted).
3. Horse/rider combinations will be notified of their final Championship qualification status by e-mail, phone and/or fax no later than August 22, 2008.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION:

1. The 2008 USEF National Developing Horse Dressage Championship shall be held at the Kentucky Horse Park, September 2008 in Lexington, Kentucky. USEF Championship Rules will be followed.
2. The number of entries accepted for this Championship competition will be limited to twenty (20) horse/rider combinations.
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.
5. Starting order shall be determined by an open draw.
6. Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. In the case of a tie for National Champion or Reserve Champion, the United States bred horse shall prevail. (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.) If both horses are non-U.S. bred or both horses are U.S. bred (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.), the Ground Jury will be asked to possibly break the tie.

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT:

1. **DAY 1 – QUALIFYING CLASS:** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1’s Qualifying Class. The FEI Prix St. Georges Test* (2000 edition) will be used. This test will count towards **40%** of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by **two (2) or three (3) U.S. FEI officials.**

2. **DAY 2 – CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS:** All entries will compete in Day 2's Championship Class. The USEF Developing Horse Test* (2007 edition) will be used. This test will count towards **60%** of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be **judged by two (2) or three (3) U.S. FEI officials** (at least one (1) of which must differ from those judging the "Qualifying Class"). *Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Qualifying Class – 40%, Championship Class – 60%.*

CODE OF CONDUCT:

Riders, horse owners and trainers may be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct prior to entry into the Championship.

DRUG TESTING:

All horses shall be subject to drug testing at the USEF National Developing Horse Dressage Championship, and the horse must meet all Federation drug 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; in the event a substance is detected for which the Federation has established quantitative restrictions, the amount of this substance will be quantified and reported to the USEF Dressage Committee. Any horse whose sample contains a prohibited substance or a restricted substance in a concentration greater than Federation limits shall be disqualified from the Championship.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

No person involved in the Selection Process, including but not limited to veterinarians, members of the Dressage Committee, and the Executive Committee, 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.

QUESTIONS? Contact:

Jennifer Keeler
USEF National Director of Dressage
4047 Iron Works Pkwy.
Lexington, KY 40511
(859) 225-2024
jkeeler@usef.org