



## 2009 Elite Rider European Grant

It is expected that United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) will be given some number of invitations by the organizer to compete at the CHIO and CDI-3\* Aachen, June 30-July 5, 2009. USEF intends to award six (6) Elite Rider European Grants (Grants) for riders wishing to compete at these events. USEF intends to send a team consisting of four (4) horse/rider combinations to compete in the 2009 CHIO Aachen team event and intends to send two (2) horse/rider combinations to compete in the CDI-3\* individual event. The six (6) horse/rider combinations that receive the Grants will constitute the Short-List of Applicants to compete in the 2009 CHIO Aachen team event. Riders wishing to be considered to receive a Grant must complete an Application of Intent form. Final criteria for team selection for the CHIO Aachen June 29- July 5, 2009 will be published after January 1, 2009.

### APPLICATION:

1. In order to be considered for the 2009 USEF Dressage Elite Rider European Grant an **Application of Intent** must be completed and submitted to USEF in accordance with published application deadlines. Applications of Intent will be available on the Federation website on January 1, 2009 and must be received by January 31, 2009.
2. It is the responsibility of the owners and riders of horses to ensure that they know and understand the USEF Rules.

### ELIGIBILITY:

#### **FOR RIDER:**

1. Riders must be United States citizens.
2. Riders must be Active Members in good standing of USEF at the time of all qualifying competitions and throughout the European Tour.
3. **Riders are eligible to compete in the qualifying competitions as long as they have reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in the year in which the competitions occur.**
4. Riders must pay International High Performance Dues.
5. Riders must be registered and in good standing with the FEI.

### **FOR OWNER(S):**

1. Must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time qualifying scores are earned and during the European tour, and must be an Active Member in good standing of USEF or 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 European tour, including but not limited to, transportation.
3. Qualification goes with the horse/rider combination; ownership may change during the qualifying period as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

### **FOR HORSE:**

1. Horse **must be Annual or Life Recorded** with USEF at the time of all qualifying performances. **Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.**
2. Horse must be eligible to compete at the Grand Prix level under FEI rules.
3. Horse must have an FEI Passport and be registered and in good standing with the FEI.

**FOR HORSE/RIDER COMBINATION:** Qualification is based upon horse/rider combination.

### **QUALIFYING PROCEDURES:**

1. **QUALIFYING PERIOD:** The qualifying period shall begin January 1, 2009 and end May 1, 2009.
2. **QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS:** A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as Qualifying Competitions for the USEF High Performance National Championships, which shall also serve as Qualifying Competitions for Grant applicants. A list of these Qualifying Competitions is available on the Federation website or by contacting the USEF Dressage Department. Please note: All Competitions are CDIs. Each horse/rider combination must earn scores in at least two (2) different Qualifying Competitions. Only scores earned in the Grand Prix will be used in calculating the horse/rider combination's average.
3. **SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS:** USEF will maintain a ranked list of results from Qualifying Competitions held during the Qualifying Period for all Grant applicants. The Grants will be awarded based on the horse/rider combinations' average on the ranking list at the conclusion of the Qualifying Period. Horse/rider combinations' scores and performance for the 2008 competition year will also be considered.
4. **TESTS:** The FEI Grand Prix Test (current test editions must be used), FEI Grand Prix Special (current test editions must be used) and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (current test editions must be used) will be used. A horse/rider combination must complete both the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special in at least one (1) Qualifying Competition. Horse/rider combination must also complete the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle in at least one (1) Qualifying Competition. The scores from all FEI Grand Prix tests completed at qualifying competitions will be counted towards calculation of final averages, regardless of whether the Grand Prix Special or Grand Prix Freestyle tests were completed in combination with the Grand Prix test.

If a rider does not want the scores from a USEF 2009 High Performance Qualifying Competition to count towards their final average, they must submit their request in writing to Gil Merrick, USEF Managing Director of Dressage Sport Programs no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the veterinary inspection for that event. This request must include the name of the horses they will compete at the Qualifying Competition. If the USEF Managing Director has not received the request forty-eight (48) hours prior to the veterinary inspection, the score(s) will count toward their final average. It is the responsibility of the rider to confirm with the USEF Managing Director that their request has been received.

5. **NUMBER OF SCORES:** At least two (2) qualifying scores must be earned which meet all qualification requirements outlined herein.
6. **JUDGES:** Qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of at least five (5) FEI officials.
7. **SCORE CALCULATION:** USEF will automatically track scores for horse/rider combinations which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions. Only the scores earned in the Grand Prix test will be used to calculate overall averages for the ranking list.
8. **MINIMUM AVERAGE:** Must achieve at least one score of 68% or higher in a Grand Prix at a CDI during the qualifying period.
9. **DROP SCORE:** If a horse/rider combination competes in three (3) or more different Qualifying Competitions, the scores from the one (1) competition that has the lowest Grand Prix score will be dropped (regardless of whether the Grand Prix Special or Grand Prix Freestyle test were ridden in combination with the Grand Prix test).
10. **DRESS & SADDLERY:** Please refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for dress and saddlery requirements in CDI competitions.
11. **CDI COMPETITIONS HELD OUTSIDE THE USA:** Riders may qualify for the Grant by competing in CDIs outside the United States. Scores from all CDI competitions, both within and outside of the USA, will automatically count unless the rider notifies Gil Merrick, Managing Director of Dressage Sport Programs no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the veterinary inspection for that event. Riders must submit their request in writing, including name of the horse and competition for which they do not want the scores to count.

#### **ELITE RIDER GRANT/TEAM TRAINING:**

1. Riders 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 their qualifying Grand Prix scores and selected to receive a Grant in accordance with the selection criteria outlined above (see “Selection of Grant Recipients”) and invited to travel to Europe for training and final team selection.**
2. The horse/rider combinations chosen for the Grant may be required to compete in at least one European CDI prior to the 2009 CHIO Aachen if selected.

## **TEAM SELECTION CHIO AACHEN:**

### **1. TBD and published after January 1, 2009.**

**CODE OF CONDUCT:** Riders, horse owners and trainers will be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct prior to departing for the European tour and entry in the 2009 CHIO/CDI.

**DRUG TESTING:** All horses selected for the Elite European Rider Grant are subject to drug testing; blood and/or urine samples may be collected at any time during the European tour. In addition to testing for substances and quantities prohibited by USEF, all samples collected from horses will be tested for the presence of all substances forbidden and/or controlled by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). A positive test in violation of the FEI anti-doping rules may result in removal from the Short-List for the European tour. The amount of the substance will be quantified and reported to the USEF High Performance Dressage Committee. If this results in a violation of USEF drug rules then further sanctions may be imposed by the USEF Hearing Committee.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** No person involved in the Selection Process, including but not limited to members of the High Performance 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 High Performance Dressage Committee, or by the Executive Committee if involving a member of the High Performance Dressage Committee, and a decision will be made as to whether or not the stated conflict is deemed disqualifying.

**QUESTIONS? Contact:**

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