



## **2021 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements** **Young Horse and Developing Horse**

*Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on July 14, 2020.*

The 2021 Championship (“Championships”) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective July 14, 2020, unless stated otherwise. The qualifying criteria published herein are subject to additions or revisions. This Championship qualifying criteria pertains to the following divisions:

- Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships for Four, Five, and Six-Year-Old Horses
- Markel/USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championships – Prix St. Georges
- Markel/USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championships – Grand Prix

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Qualifying Requirements, please contact Hallye Griffin, Managing Director of Dressage ([hgriffin@usef.org](mailto:hgriffin@usef.org) / 859.225.6949). These Dressage National Championships will be conducted under USEF Rules except where outlined herein.

### **I. Application and Membership and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.**

#### **Application:**

1. In order to be considered for these Championships, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 16, 2021. Applications are made available on the USEF website after September 2, 2020.
  - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 12, 2021 will require an application fee of \$50 per horse.
  - b. Applications received after May 12, 2021 but on or before June 16, 2021 will require a fee of \$150 per horse.
  - c. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received.
  - d. Additional horses added to an existing application(s) of intent will require a fee of \$50 per horse until June 16, 2021.
2. No applications of intent will be accepted after June 16, 2021 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. The athletes are permitted to compete at the Championships with only those horse(s) named on a submitted application of intent. See Section III – Qualification System.

#### **Athlete Membership:**

1. For Young Horse Championships (Four, Five, and Six-Year-Old Horses) –
  - a. Athletes must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
2. For Developing Horse Championships (Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix) –
  - a. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championships. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
  - b. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.

### **Horse Membership:**

1. Horses must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF in order for qualifying scores to count as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.
2. Horses must have valid registration papers with a member of a national studbook, which is recognized by the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH), or with a recognized national breed registry. Horse must have registration papers, but entry is NOT limited to WBFSH members (i.e. Jockey Club, AQHA papers are accepted). These Registration papers must be submitted to USEF by end of business (5:00pm ET), no later than July 26, 2021 in order to receive an invitation to the National Championships.
3. These Championships will be held as part of a USEF Licensed Competition (not a CDI); therefore, an FEI passport will NOT be required for these Championships.

### **Horse Owner(s) Membership:**

1. For Young Horse Championships (Four, Five, and Six-Year-Old Horses)–
  - a. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) per GR202 in order the athlete/horse combinations' scores to count towards qualifying and compete in the National Championships.
  - b. U.S bred horses may be owned by non-U.S. citizens. Foreign-bred horses must be either owned or co-owned by U.S. citizen(s).
  - c. Owners must be in possession of horse's valid registration papers.
  - d. Qualification goes with the horse; ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championships as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.
2. For Developing Horse Championships (Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix) –
  - a. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) in order for the athlete/horse combinations' scores to count towards qualifying and compete in the National Championships.
  - b. Owner must be in possession of horse's valid registration papers.
  - c. All of the above "Owner" requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF per GR202, including all owners of a partnership, farm, company, corporation, etc. if a horse is recorded as owned by that type of entity.
  - d. Qualification goes with the athlete/horse 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.

## **II. Division and Age Requirements for athlete and horse.**

*For all divisions listed below, athletes are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16. No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses or ponies (when applicable) in each Championship. Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in these Championships. Per DR119.10, the horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year. FEI Rules apply in CDI competition. Refer to FEI Dressage Article 422.*

### **Young Horse:**

1. Young Horses must fit into one of the following age categories for competition (refer to DR119.10):
  - a. Become four (4) years of age in 2021;
  - b. Become five (5) years of age in 2021; or
  - c. Become six (6) years of age in 2021.
2. Ponies are eligible to qualify for and compete in these Championships. The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1). Ponies must have a current and valid USEF Standard or Temporary Measurement Certificate for Dressage/Driving. All ponies may subject to additional measurement at the Championships.

### **Developing Horse:**

3. For the Prix St. Georges division, horses must fit into one of the following age categories for competition (refer to DR119.10):
  - a. Become seven (7) years of age in 2021;
  - b. Become eight (8) years of age in 2021; or
  - c. Become nine (9) years of age in 2021.
4. For the Grand Prix division, horses must fit into one of the following age categories for competition (refer to DR119.10):
  - a. Become eight (8) years of age in 2021;
  - b. Become nine (9) years of age in 2021; or
  - c. Become ten (10) years of age in 2021.

### **III. Qualifying System.**

*For the Young Horse division, qualification goes with the horse. The athlete may be changed during the qualifying period and for the Championships as long as the new athlete meets all of the above the criteria.*

*For the Developing Horse Divisions (Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix), qualification is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, the athlete cannot change during the qualifying period.*

### **Qualifying Period:**

1. The qualifying period shall begin January 1, 2021 and end July 26, 2021 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2021.

### **Qualifying Competitions:**

1. A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website. Qualifying scores may only be earned at these designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions or CDIs. The FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) (please note that the 2021 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020).

*For all divisions (Young Horse and Developing Horse), please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar and the USEF Qualifying Calendar as changes to competitions may be posted at any time.*

2. Athlete/horse combinations may also earn qualifying scores at any CDI with their respective division held within the qualifying period. For scores to count, see point 7 below.
  - a. Young Horse –
    - i. For Four-Year-Old horses, the “FEI Dressage Test for Four-Year-Old Horses-Final” cannot be used. Only the USEF Dressage Test for Four-Year-Old horses is used for qualification. See Qualifying Tests below.
    - ii. For Five-Year-Old horses, only the “FEI Dressage Test for 5-Year-Old Horses – Final” in a CDI-YH may be used.
    - iii. For Six-Year-Old horses, only the “FEI Dressage Test for 6-Year Old Horses – Final” in a CDI-YH may be used.
  - b. Developing Horse, Prix St. Georges – Athlete/horse combinations may only use the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.
  - c. Developing Horse, Grand Prix – Athlete/horse combinations may only use the scores from FEI Intermediate II Test or FEI Grand Prix Test; however, only one score per CDI may be submitted on the USEF CDI Report Form to be counted towards the ranking list.
3. For Young Horses, an athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a CDI, if the combination also competes in a national competition (CDN) at the same event.
4. For Developing Horses, an athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a CDI, if the combination also competes in a national competition (CDN) at the same event.
5. Athlete/horse or athlete/pony combinations are limited to one qualifier in the same location in one seven-day period; however, any applicable division CDIs are exempt from this requirement.

6. 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 applicable division tests must be used. For CDI score reporting, see point 7 below. However, all foreign National level competitions must be approved by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee or its designees prior to the start of the competition. All other requirements as outlined above including application, eligibility, qualification period, judges, scores, etc. will apply for this method of qualification. Copies of the entire qualifying score sheet(s) must be submitted to and received by the USEF Dressage Department ([hgriffin@usef.org](mailto:hgriffin@usef.org)) no later than the end of the qualifying period for consideration.
7. CDI scores as described above are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse or pony's overall average upon receipt of a USEF CDI Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form to the USEF Dressage Department. Scores submitted late will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all qualifying CDI scores for this program are submitted to USEF on time and are accurate.

### **Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:**

*All tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF qualifying ("Test of Choice" classes will not count).*

1. Young Horse
  - a. Horses must obtain at least two (2) qualifying scores in their respective age division.
  - b. The current editions of the following Young Horse Tests must be used for qualification:
    - i. Four-Year-Olds: "USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses"
    - ii. Five-Year-Olds: "FEI Dressage Test for 5-Year-Old Horses – Final"
    - iii. Six-Year-Olds: "FEI Dressage Test for 6-Year-Old Horses – Final"
  - c. A minimum overall average must be achieved in order to receive an invitation to these Championships:
    - i. Four-Year-Olds: 7.5 average
    - ii. Five-Year-Olds: 7.5 average
    - iii. Six-Year-Olds: 7.2 average
  - d. The "FEI Preliminary Dressage Tests for 5-Year-Old Horses" and "FEI Preliminary Dressage Tests for 6-Year-Old Horses" may be offered at competitions as warm-up classes only but do not count towards qualifying scores for the Championships. However, both the Preliminary and the Final Tests will be used in the Championships competition. The Four-Year-Old Division will use the USEF test ONLY. Please refer our USEF Dressage National Championship Competition Format Guidelines for more details.
2. Developing Horse (Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix)
  - a. Horses must obtain at least two (2) qualifying scores which meet all qualification requirements outlined herein.
  - b. The current editions of the following Developing Horse Tests must be used for qualification:
    - i. Prix St. Georges: USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test
    - ii. Grand Prix: USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test
  - c. A minimum overall average must be achieved in order to receive an invitation to these Championships:
    - i. Prix St. Georges: 68% average
    - ii. Grand Prix: 62% average

### **Judging Panels for Qualifying Competitions:**

1. Young Horse
  - a. Four-Year-Old Qualifying tests may be judged by a panel of either:
    - i. At least two (2) FEI Judges or two (2) USEF 'S' Judges; or
    - ii. One (1) USEF 'R' Judge and at least one (1) FEI Judge\*; or
    - iii. One (1) USEF 'R' Judge and at least one (1) USEF 'S' Judge\*
    - iv. One (1) USEF 'R' Judge, at least one (1) FEI Judge and at least one (1) USEF "S" Judge, for a maximum of five judges.

- b. Five and Six-Year-Old Qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF “S” judges.
  - c. For all Young Horse Qualifying Tests: For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per panel per Qualifying Competition.
  - d. It is required that all judges on the panel have completed and received credit from a USEF or FEI-recognized Young Horse training session.
2. Developing Horse (Prix St. Georges & Grand Prix)
- a. Qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF “S” officials.
  - b. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per panel per Qualifying Competition.

**Score Calculation:**

*For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse combination’s overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the designated qualifying classes in Qualifying Competitions. Scratches and withdrawals will not be penalized.*

- 1. Dropped Scores
  - a. If an athlete/horse 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 athlete/horse combination’s overall average.
- 2. Ranking List
  - a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF staff.
  - b. As stated above, CDI scores must be reported to the USEF by the deadline as indicated on the USEF CDI Report Form in order to be counted.
  - c. International Qualification procedures as stated above must also be adhered to in order for scores to count.
  - d. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent.

**IV. Additional Rules and Requirements**

**One Athlete Rule:**

- 1. For these Championships and for USEF championship qualifying purposes, within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class. 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.

**Short Lists:**

- 1. Young Horse –
  - a. The [Short List for the FEI WBD Championships](#) is the list used to determine invitations for the 2021 FEI World Breeding Championships. The ‘Short List’ is a separate ranking list than those ranking lists used to determine invitations to the Championships. However, horses which are named to the Short List may be eligible for an automatic invitation to the Championships (pending submission of an Application of Intent).
  - b. These automatic invitations to the Championships for Short-Listed horses will only be granted for a maximum of the top five (5) ranked horses in each age division (five- and six-year-olds).
  - c. Refer to the Selection Procedures for the [FEI World Breeding Championships](#) for further information on the Short List for the FEI WBD Championships.

**Dress and Saddlery:**

- 1. Please refer to [DR120-121](#) for dress and saddlery rules.
- 2. If competing in a CDI event, all [FEI Dressage](#) and [General Regulations](#) must be followed.

**Conflict of Interest:**

1. Judging Panels at CDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.
2. Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304.
3. All competitors and officials are subject to the conflict of interest rules as outlined in the USEF General and Dressage Rules.

**Clean Sport**

1. **Equine Anti-Doping**: All horses/ponies shall be subject to drug and medication testing during qualifying and 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/ponies will be tested for the presence of all substances forbidden and/or controlled by USEF. Any horse/pony whose sample contains a prohibited substance or a restricted substance in a concentration greater than USEF limits shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with USEF Rules.
2. **Human Anti-Doping**: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and USADA protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA rules, if applicable.

**Grievance Procedures:**

Athletes wishing to file a grievance a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the [Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate](#) and Grievance Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org).

Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org), or visit [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org) for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process

**General:**

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses/ponies to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), USEF Code of Conduct, and [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
2. Athletes, horse owners and trainers will be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct with entry to the Championship.
3. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
4. USEF is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected, or stolen correspondence either electronic, postal, commercially shipped, or voice activated. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that all application, application fees, and qualifying competition scores have been received by published deadlines.

**V. Championship Competition.****Invitations to the Championship:**

1. All athlete/horse or pony combinations that have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see "Application") and have qualified by the method outlined above (see "Qualifying System") will be ranked according to scores and be accepted up to the numbers of entries available, not to exceed 15.
2. In the case of a tie, the athlete/horse or pony combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete/horse or pony combination shall be #3.
3. If there is a tie for 15th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries accepted (e.g. 16 entries accepted).
4. All horses meeting the 'Short List' qualifications for each respective division as outlined above, will be awarded automatic invitations to the Championship if an Application of Intent has been submitted and received.
5. Athlete/horse combinations shall only participate in one National Championship division level within the same year.

**Competition information:**

1. It is anticipated that the 2021 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions will take place on August 17-22, 2021 at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.
2. USEF Championship Rules will be followed.
3. Horses will be examined for soundness. A Horse Inspection 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. All individuals aged twenty-five (25) and under must wear protective headgear during the Horse Inspection. Please refer to the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#) on Horse Inspection Procedures.
4. Tests shall be ridden from memory and WHIPS ARE FORBIDDEN. Please refer to USEF Dressage Division Rules for complete dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120-DR121).
5. A double bridle is mandatory for the Developing Horse Grand Prix Division, and is optional for the Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Division.
6. Championship Format for each division is available on the [USEF Website](#) by February 1, 2021.

*These Qualifying Requirements are based on the USEF and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Qualifying Requirements caused by a change in USEF or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The Qualifying Requirements are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the Qualifying Requirements are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.*