



MEMORANDUM

Date: 16 July 2026

To: US Dressage Athletes

From: Laura Roberts, USEF Managing Director, Dressage

Re: 2027 Championship of the Americas – January 19-22, 2027

The USEF will receive an invitation from the organizer of the Championship of the Americas to enter one team in the Event on January 19-22, 2027 in Ocala, Florida. While the competition format has not yet been published, it is anticipated to provide options for a Big Tour team, a Small Tour team, or a combination Big/Small Tour team. The decision of the composition of the team(s) will be made by the USEF Dressage Selectors in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and USEF Managing Director of Dressage.

The selection process for the U.S. Dressage team will include Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions which will include all U.S. and foreign CDI competitions for those levels. Scores from the time period of September 1, 2025 – December 14, 2026 will count for qualification purposes. A list of these competitions can be found at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>. A minimum of two (2) CDIs (CDI3* and above or CDI1*) must be completed within the qualifying period to establish a ranking list.

Athletes interested in competing in this event must apply through their USEF Athlete Dashboard no later than December 1, 2026 at 11:59pm ET in order to be considered for selection. Only a horse listed on the Athlete's application may be selected to compete in combination with the Athlete.

No later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry for the Event, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations which successfully completed an application by December 1, 2026 at 11:59pm ET and will recommend a Team composed of four (4) athlete/horse combinations subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The Selectors may also recommend up to two (2) reserve athlete/horse combinations and/or reserve horses.

Athlete/horse combinations named to the Team and the reserve athlete/horse combination will be selected based on the following criteria (in no priority order):

1. Recent CDI scores in Big Tour or Small Tour (past 12 months)
2. Standing on ranking list, including trend in scores
3. Results from the 2026 USEF Intermediare National Championship and 2026 USEF Grand Prix National Championship

4. The potential to produce scores above 70% in the Big Tour (GP, GPS and/or GPF) or Small Tour (PSG, I-I and/or I-IF);
5. Previous international experience of the athlete or horse, including the demonstrated ability of the horse and athlete to succeed in CDIs or CDIOs;
6. Recent scores and trend in scores including scores from the FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special, FEI Grand Prix Freestyle or FEI Prix St. Georges, FEI Intermediate I, and FEI Intermediate I Freestyle test scores at CDNs or CDIs. CDN scores must be from a panel of two or more judges.
7. Potential of the athlete and/or horse to contribute to a medal winning team in 2028 and/or future teams meaning that consideration may be given to a talented athlete in order to provide experience for potential future teams;
8. "Errors of Course" (FEI Dressage Rules [25th edition, updates effective 1 January 2022], Article 430) or Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, Observations Events due to elimination or withdrawal;
9. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
10. The physical conditions in which the Event will be held, including the travel to the Event, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combinations' performance.

If you have any questions regarding this Event, please contact Laura Roberts at lroberts@usef.org or 859.225.6986.