TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA FOR U.S. TEAM CPEDI3* EVENTS
Revised September 27, 2026

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Para-Equestrian Sport Committee will oversee the selection process.

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:
   1. Citizenship: The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, 1 January 2020, updates effective 1 January 2026, Article 119, (see www.fei.org) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the CPEDI3* competition ("the Event").
   2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:
      a. The athlete must reach their 14th birthday during the year of the competition (see the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage [4th Edition, 1 January 2020 – updates effective 1 January 2026], Article 8426).
      b. A horse must be a minimum of six (6) years of age (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) for CPEDI 1* and CPEDI2* A horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) for CPEDI 3* (See the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage [4th Edition, 1 January 2020 – updates effective 1 January 2027], Article 8430).
      c. The athlete and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
      d. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
      e. At the time of nomination, the athlete must be internationally classified with either a sport class status of "Confirmed" or "Review" with a fixed review date (FRD).
   3. Other Requirements:
      a. The athlete must be a USEF member in good standing at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
      b. The athlete/horse combination must be entered in the CPEDI3* in accordance with the current USEF processes. Only athlete/horse combinations correctly entered will be considered for team selection.
      c. The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102 and in good standing under USEF rules at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
      d. A minimum of at least one owner(s) of the horse must be a USEF member in good standing at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

B. **Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will be selected to become team nominees.**
   Athlete/horse combinations participating in a CPEDI3* event will be considered for Team and Alternate selection utilizing the following criteria:
   1. An athlete must meet all of the requirements outlined in Section I.A. of these Selection Procedures in order to be considered for U.S. CPEDI3* Team selection.

2. Athletes must be eligible to participate in CPEDI3* events pursuant to the FEI rules for Para- Equestrian Dressage, which can be found at www.fei.org.
3. No athlete may compete on more than two (2) horses at the CPEDI3* Event, only one horse shall be selected for the Team. Although a second horse may be selected as a reserve.
4. At each CPEDI3* Event held there will be an observation period the day prior to the jog and/or the day of the jog. The scheduled observation times will be posted on the USEF Event's WhatsApp page Athletes should reconfirm the observation date and times for any changes made due to weather issues, etc.
   Athlete/horse combinations that would like to be considered for the Team at that Event must ride in at least one of the observation days during the designated observation period. Observers may include any or all of the following: the USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe, USEF Para-Dressage Selector(s) present at Event, USEF Director of Para-Equestrian, and/or USEF Para-Dressage Team Veterinarian. On the day of the observation, the USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe may request additional observation times of one or more of the athlete/horse combinations on the day of the First Inspection. An athlete may request a waiver in writing prior to or on the day of the observation period through the USEF Director of Para-Equestrian and/or the USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe, to be present during the observation period, for extraordinary circumstances only. Approval or denial will be decided by the USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe.
   Please note: Observation times may change due to extraordinary circumstances, such as severe weather. If such changes are necessary, the new observation times will be posted in the USEF Event's WhatsApp page if such adjustments are required.
5. FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Grand Prix A Test and Grand Prix B Test Scores or results from most recent FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Intermediate A Test and Intermediate B Test will be taken into consideration from CPEDI3* or CPEDI2* Events and USEF licensed competitions with consideration of the judge's qualification, USEF S judge or FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage 3* or above judge, from within the six months prior to the current CPEDI3* Event, with the most recent CPEDI3* or CPEDI2* scores being scrutinized more heavily.
6. International competitiveness of an athlete/horse combination within an athlete's grade.
7. Trend of scores (upward, steady, downward) over the six months prior to the CPEDI3* Event.
8. Consistency of scores toward and/or over 70% in the Grand Prix A Tests and Grand Prix B or Intermediate A and Intermediate B Tests. Scores from FEI Freestyle tests will not be taken into consideration. Note: In the event scores from Grand Prix A and Grand Prix B are close to scores from Intermediate A and Intermediate B, the scores from the Grand Prix tests would be given higher consideration.
9. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse. An athlete and/or horse that have previously achieved a medal at a FEI Para-Equestrian Dressage Championship or Paralympics may be given priority consideration.
10. Potential to contribute to the U.S. Para-Dressage Team.
11. Fitness and soundness of the horse – advice of the USEF Para-Dressage Team Veterinarian, if present, and USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe.
12. Fitness of the Athlete – advice of the USEF Equestrian Program Human Sports Science Staff, if available.

13. Behavior of the athlete and other individuals associated with the athlete (including without limitation, owners, coaches, family and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

Selection is contingent upon horse being accepted at the First Inspection.
Exception: If competition is being run in the FEI Championship or Paralympic format under FEI General Regulations for Championships and Paralympic Games, Article 116will take precedence to the team selection criteria outlined above.

Utilizing the above criteria, the USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe will provide their recommendations of the USEF Para-Dressage Selector present, if any, , USEF Para-Equestrian Director and USEF Para-Dressage Team Veterinarian that are present will relay their observations to the chair of the USEF Para-Dressage Selectors Committee. These recommendations and observations can be made in person and/or by conference call to the Chair of the USEF Para-Dressage Selector Committee (or an alternate appointed by the Chair of the Selector Committee , if Chair is not available**)** and other available Selectors for final approval.

In the event of low attendance at a CPEDI and no USEF staff are present, a team will be named based on the criteria listed above in 1.A and 1B.

In accordance with FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events, [4th edition, effective January 2020], Article 8410.1.4., a Team of four athlete/horse combinations and up to two (2) Alternates/substitutes will be approved by USEF Chair of the Para-Dressage Selectors. The teams must consist of a maximum of four (4) and a minimum of three (3) Athletes of the same nationality. A Grade I, Grade II or Grade III Athlete must be included in each team, riding the relevant Test. The three (3) highest placed Athletes, determined by their percentage scores in the Individual Test and the Team Test combined, shall be totaled to determine the final team placings. A team may not include more than two (2) Athletes from any one (1) Grade.

Substitution/Replacement of Athlete and/or Horse for Veterinary, Medical and/or Extraordinary Reasons –
After a team and alternates have been named, substitution if it occurs, will be filled by the athlete/horse combinations in the order on the list approved by the USEF Para Dressage Selectors available, a minimum of two (2), and in accordance to above FEI rules regarding team composition, Article 8410.14.

Horse Substitution - If an athlete's first selected horse is not available for any reason, an athlete may be considered for selection on another horse if they meet all the criteria in Section I A & B at that Event and are listed as a substitute/alternate.

II. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. **Equine Drug Testing**: All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances

prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker is detected in the sample collected in-competition, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised at least one member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinarian Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time six months prior to Event. Samples collected from horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Panel appointed for selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR 409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions No horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

III. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES - In extraordinary circumstances, these procedures may be modified by the USEF Para-Equestrian Sport Committee.

IV. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

A. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.
B. Discretionary criteria and how it will be used: See Section I.B.
C. Discretionary Selection Committee
   Provide the name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.
   1. USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe
   2. USEF Para-Dressage Selector(s)

V. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

An athlete may be removed from the Team at any time for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF and in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF Director of Para-Equestrian.
- Violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the USADA.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian or FEI Veterinarian.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

VI. USEF CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY All persons participating in any decision made pursuant to these Selection Procedures including but not limited to USEF Para-Dressage Team Veterinarian, Physicians, USEF Human Sports Science Staff, USEF Para-Dressage Chef d'Equipe, USEF Para-Dressage Selectors, members of the USEF Para-Equestrian Sport Committee, USEF International Discipline Council, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to execute and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy (see attached), and Safe Sport Policy.