

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2024 PARALYMPIC GAMES, PARIS, FRANCE  
(PARA DRESSAGE)  
AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**1.1.** Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2024 Paralympic Games (the Games) team (the Team):

**1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:**

Nationality/Passport Requirements - The athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection. Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

**1.1.2. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC), standards for participation:**

Any competitor in the Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1) or the Americas Paralympic Committee bylaws (Chapter 2.4.12 of the IPC Handbook).

**1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (FEI) Standards for Participation:**

All athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on the Team must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability by having achieved at least one (1) sixty-four percent (64%) score at a FEI Para Equestrian 3\* or above event in an Individual/Grand Prix A or Team/Grand Prix B competition between January 1, 2022 and June 19, 2024 (see FEI Rules for Para Dressage Team Championships [3rd edition, 1 January 2011 - Updates effective 1 January 2022], Article 8451). The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found [Here](#). Athletes must be in compliance with FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119 (see [Here](#)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2024 Paralympic Games (“the Event”).

a. From and including the year in which they reach their 14th birthday, Athletes are eligible to take part in the Para Equestrian Dressage Competitions. (see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Effective for the Paris, France 2024 Paralympic Games, Article 606, 1.1.2.).

b. A horse must have been born before 31 December 2018. (see the FEI Rules for Para Dressage [3rd Edition, 1 January 2011 – updates effective 1 January 2022], Article 8422.7.1).

- c. The athlete and horse both must be registered with the FEI.
- d. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Games.
- e. The athlete must be internationally classified with a Confirmed (C) sport class status or a "Review" (R) sport class status with a fixed review date (FRD) after December 31, 2024 at the time of nomination. A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current international athlete sport class status can be found at the IPC website at [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org).
- f. Per FEI Regulations for the Equestrian Events at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, 2nd Edition, Article 619, the NF of a horse belonging to a partnership or company a syndicate of owners must inform the FEI by the date of the OCPG/IPC Nominated Entries for NPCs: June 19, 2024 of the name of one owner to ensure that it is entered in the Paralympic Accreditation System. FEI General Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Paralympic Games may be found [Here](#).

**1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):**

- a. Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
- b. Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- c. Any athlete aged 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- d. The athlete must be an active Competing member of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) in good standing from the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Games.
- e. At least one of the horse owners listed on the FEI passport must be a USEF fan or senior member in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Games.
- f. The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102 in good standing from the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Games.
- g. Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete and submit an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Applications submitted online on or before 5 p.m. EST January 10, 2024 will be charged seventy dollars (\$70.00) per Application. Applications submitted online after 5 p.m. EST January 10, 2024 and received by the USEF on or before 5 p.m. EST April 15, 2024 will be charged three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per Application. NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5 P.M. April 15, 2024. IF AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE APPLICATION FEE, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY IF THE APPLICABLE FEE IS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 5 P.M. EST April 15, 2024. (The only exception is new Games Forms will likely need to be signed by all.)
- h. Horse Participation Agreement: Owners of horses named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry must sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B). A horse owner(s)' failure to execute the USEF Horse Loan Agreement prior to the FEI Nominated Entry deadline may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry.

- i. The athlete must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received and read the Selection Procedures for the Team, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D), and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E), USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedure (Attachment L), and USOPC online registration, and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

## **1.2. Tryout Events:**

Athletes are required to complete all three tests (Grand Prix A, Grand Prix B, and Grand Prix Freestyle) in their Classified Grade at a minimum of two (2) CPEDI3\* between January 1, 2023 and June 19, 2024. A list of CPEDI3\* competitions can be found on the FEI website at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>. This information was communicated to potential Games athletes and published on the USEF's website on July 1, 2022 (Attachment F).

- 1.2.1.** Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:  
Tryout Events/Qualifying competitions include all U.S. and foreign CPEDI3\* between January 1, 2023 and one week before the date of FEI Nominated Entry, June 19, 2024. Other designated national events may be considered toward selection and these will be posted on the USEF website.

### **Qualifying Events:**

- January 25-29, 2023 – Global Dressage, Wellington, FL
- March 9-12, 2023 – Global Dressage, Wellington, FL
- October 26-29, 2023 - Tryon International Equestrian Center, Mill Spring, NC
- All European and North American CPEDI3\* not listed above between January 1, 2023 and June 19, 2024, as well as the Mandatory Observation Event held Venue and Date TBD, 2024.

## **1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size): Athletes and horses who have met all the requirements outlined in 1.1.3., 1.1.4., and 1.2. will receive an invitation from the USEF Director of Para Equestrian to compete in the Mandatory Observation Event (Date/Venue TBD).**

**1.3.1 A Mandatory Observation Event** will take place, Date and Venue TBD, for 2024 Paralympic applicants who have met the criteria outlined in Section 1.2. Confirmed date will be posted on the USEF Para Dressage page, US Equestrian Facebook page and sent to active U.S. Para Dressage athletes no later than January 1, 2024.

Note: An “exemption” from part or all of the Mandatory Observation Event will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the Selectors in consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel prior to the start of competition. A request for exemption must be submitted in writing via email, mail, or fax to the USEF Director of Para Equestrian and the Chef d’Equipe, via email.

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If unforeseen circumstances occur during the Mandatory Observation Event that preclude an athlete/horse combination from completing the Mandatory Observation Event, an exemption may be granted at the recommendation of the selectors and approval of the Chef d'Equipe. This Mandatory Observation Event is not a stand-alone selection trial. Results of the Mandatory Observation Event will only be one factor used in determining the Short List/Nominated Entries. (See Section 1.3.2 for criteria used in the naming of the Short List/Nominated Entries).

Participation in the Mandatory Observation Event does not guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry or the Team.

In extraordinary circumstances, an athlete may request special consideration for competing at less than two (2) CPEDI3\*s, **OR** a designated Mandatory Observation Event (only one waiver request will be granted to an athlete during the selection process) by submitting a written request prior to the start of the Observation Event to the Selectors, in consultation with the Technical Advisor, Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel, and approve or disapprove the request based on the following factors:

1. The athlete/horse combinations scores and consistency of scores at CPEDIs since January 1, 2024;
2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian and/or High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel or physician(s) approved by USEF;
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency; and/or
5. Cancellation of Event(s).

Athletes who are qualified for CPEDI3\* Events in accordance with FEI Para Dressage Rule, Article 8404 (4th Edition, effective 01 January 2023) are eligible to compete in the qualifying Events as listed in 1.2.1.

### **1.3.2 June 19, 2024: Short List/FEI Nominated Entries**

After the Mandatory Observation Event, but no later than June 19, 2024, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the Technical Advisor, Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel will recommend a list of up to a maximum of twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations, to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Games for the "Short List/FEI Nominated Entry," subject to recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad

Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Such list will be submitted to the FEI as the Nominated Entry no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry. The top four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be ranked upon submission of the Short List/FEI Nominated Entries at the recommendation of the selectors and USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The remaining athlete/horse combinations on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entries will not be ranked and will appear in alphabetical order.

The Short List/FEI Nominated Entry of a maximum of twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations will be named as follows in accordance with FEI Rules for Para Dressage Events and the approved FEI Schedule for the Games. [3rd edition, effective 1st January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2022], Article 8450: "Each team consists of four Athletes and four (4) Horses, or three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses. One (1) team member must be classified a Grade I, II, or III. A Team may not include more than two (2) Athletes from any one (1) Grade. In a team composed of four (4) Athletes the three (3) best total scores only count for the team result."

The athlete/horse combinations that will be entered at Nominated Entries, Date TBD, will be selected utilizing a comprehensive analysis of the following criteria (in no priority order):

- a. Scores from CPEDI3\*, including 2022 World Championships, Grand Prix A Tests, Grand Prix B Tests, and Grand Prix Freestyle Tests from January 1, 2023 with the Grand Prix A and Grand Prix B tests and more recent scores from all tests being scrutinized more heavily.
- b. International competitiveness and medal potential within athlete's grade in the Grand Prix A, Grand Prix B, and Grand Prix Freestyle tests.
- c. Trend of scores (upward, steady, downward) over the six months prior to Nominated Entry, June 19, 2024
- d. Comprehensive results of all Qualifying Competitions and the Observation Event.
- e. Consistency of scores over 70%.
- f. Previous International experience of athlete and/or horse.
- g. Fitness and soundness of the horse advice of the Para Dressage Team Veterinarian or another appointed Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian.
- h. Fitness of the athlete –advice of the Program Human Sports Science Staff will be sought.
- i. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Games' accreditation allocations and restrictions.
- j. 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.

**REQUIRED AGREEMENT OF COMPETITION AND TRAINING PLANS:**

Following the submission of Nominated Entry, all athletes named to Short List/FEI Nominated Entry must submit and agree to a training and competition plan, as well as a human and equine maintenance plan with the Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian, and USEF approved Human Sport

Science Medicine personnel. **Failure to abide by the agreed training and competition plan may result in removal of the athlete/horse combination** from the Team.

**Chef d’Equipe Permissions:**

Once athlete/horse combinations have been named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry, they will come under the control of the Chef d’Equipe through the Games. They shall not compete without the permission of the Chef d’Equipe.

**1.3.3 August 5, 2024: USOPC Final Entries –**

By no later than the closing date for the Final Entries, August 5, 2024, for the Games, at least four (4) athlete/horse combinations up to the maximum number of athletes and horses permitted according to the FEI Rules for the Definite Entry for the Games, will be listed on the Definite Entry. In the event that an athlete(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry on two horses, the determination as to which horse the athlete will be named on the Final Entries will be made based on the recommendation of the Selectors considering all qualifying scores and the scores earned at the Mandatory Observation Event with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee and approval the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The Team of four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be named from athletes and horses listed on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry using the criteria enumerated above in Section 1.3.2 at the recommendation of the Selectors and USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

In addition to nominating the Team, athlete/horse combinations on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry may be approved to serve as substitute athlete/horse combinations for the Team, based upon the Selectors’ evaluation and recommendation of the Selectors and USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

**2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

**2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Games.

**2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used:**

Athlete/horse combinations following the top four athlete/horse combinations named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entries will be filled by the horse/athlete combination named by the USEF Para-Equestrian Dressage Selectors (“Selectors” – see Section 2.1.4). Selectors may use the following criteria in making discretionary selections:

- a. Preference will be given to a Grade I or II athlete, if required, to satisfy team composition requirements in accordance with FEI Para Dressage Rules, effective January 1, 2015, Updates effective 1 January 2022– Article 8456.2.1: Each team must have at least one (1) Athlete in Grade I, II, or III and no team may have more than three (3) Athletes from anyone (1) Grade.
- b. The Selectors may use performance related criteria, including previous International experience and/or competition results and any tests completed at the Mandatory Observation Event, in making selections.
- c. Selectors may be advised by the Chef d’Equipe.

- d. Selectors may be advised by the Team Veterinarian and Human Sport Science Medicine Personnel approved by USEF.
- e. Demonstrated ability of the athlete/horse combination to win an individual medal or contribute to a Team medal at the Games.
- f. 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.
- g. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games/USOPC Accreditation allocations and restrictions.

### **2.3 Other discretionary criteria used.**

#### **Soundness:**

Horses that are candidates for the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry or as Substitutes for the Short List/Nominated Entry may be examined by the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian, for soundness prior to the FEI Nominated Entry being named so that a report may be made to the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors prior to their naming of the Nominated Entry and Substitutes to the Nominated Entry.

All horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry will undergo a baseline exam with the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian. The Team Veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the horse(s) named to the FEI Nominated Entry.

Horses that are candidates for selection for the FEI Definite Entry/Squad will be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian or a Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian at any time after the FEI Nominated Entry has been named and prior to naming the FEI Definite Entry/Squad.

All horses chosen to be part of the 2024 Paralympic Games Para Dressage Definite Entry will also be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian prior to traveling to the Games.

Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian, may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

Team Veterinarian Request: Applicants, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of veterinary records of horses under consideration for selection. In addition, applicants, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for

horses under consideration for selection. Applicants, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the horse and/or

athlete from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.

**Veterinary Treatment:**

Once a horse(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry all selected athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their selected horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. This permission must be obtained by using the official USEF Para Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form (Attachment I).

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Para Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of horse and/or athlete from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe, and the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

**Medical Request:**

In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Games. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physician(s) and with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF-approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

**2.1.2 Provided below are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.**

- The USEF Selectors
- Team Veterinarian
- USEF High Performance Sport Science Medicine Personnel
- USEF Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors

(Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members).



**2.1.3 Discretionary Selection Committee**

- i. USEF Para Dressage Selectors
- ii. USEF Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe
- iii. USEF Para Dressage Team Veterinarian
- iv. USEF High Performance Sport Science Medicine Personnel
- v. USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee
- vi. USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Selection Group

**2.1.4 Selectors: (the "Selectors")**

Four Selectors and one alternate Selector will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, and Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy of the USEF (Attachment J), and the USEF Safe Sport Policy. The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Para Dressage community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Para Dressage at the international level and include a minimum of one Para Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC (See Definitions on page 16) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the "Eligible Athlete Representative Selector").

In making their decisions, the Selectors will consult with the Chef d'Equipe, and/or the Team Veterinarian and USEF High Performance Human Sport Science Medicine personnel.

A minimum of one Substitute Selector will also be named. A Substitute Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest.

**2.1.5. Ad Hoc Selection Group:**

The Ad Hoc Selection Group will consist of five USEF International Disciplines Council members approved by the USEF Board of Directors, or Executive Committee. One member of the Ad Hoc Selection Group, or Executive Committee must be an Eligible Athlete and one must be a USEF Board member.

**2.1.6. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:**

All members of the selection committee must comply with the USEF's [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an

Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, owner, or coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or the USEF Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USEF selection committee appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1.** Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees.
- 3.2.** An Athlete who is nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF:
  - 3.2.1.** Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
  - 3.2.2.** Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
  - 3.2.3.** Injury or illness as certified by a veterinarian (or vet staff) approved by the USEF. If an Athlete or owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the veterinarian approved by USEF, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
  - 3.2.4.** Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 1.3 of these procedures.
  - 3.2.5.** Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
  - 3.2.6.** Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
  - 3.2.7.** Failure of an owner to timely sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement
  - 3.2.8.** Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the horse (see below).

- 3.2.9. Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), FEI, USEF, IPC, or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) anti-doping protocol, policies or procedures regarding athletes and horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.2.10. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.2.11. Re-classification by the IPC such that the Athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified Athlete for the Team.
- 3.2.12. Removal by the IPC of the event in which the Athlete qualified for the Team from the program of the 2024 Paralympic Games.
- 3.2.13. Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Panel.
- 3.2.14. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- 3.2.15. Loss of competitive form. Defined as being unable to compete at the standard the athlete and horse were selected. Removal would require unanimous recommendation of Selectors and Chef d'Equipe and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

An Athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII, and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.3. Once Athlete entries have been submitted to the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USEF Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.
- 3.4. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IPC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA, USEF, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USEF Safe Sport Policy, as applicable.

#### 4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) & Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:
  - 4.1.1 **Prior to acceptance of the Short List/Nominated Entry by the FEI:**  
Athlete/horse combinations listed outside of the top four athlete/horse combinations on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entries, will be named as "substitute" athlete/horse combinations for the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry for the Games.

Once the FEI Nominated Entry for the Games has been announced but prior to the deadline for the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry (not later than June 19, 2024), FEI Nominated Entry athlete/horse combinations may be substituted with a substitute athlete/horse combination for veterinary or medical reasons, breach of the USEF Code

of Conduct (Attachment C), breach of Safe Sport Policy, for failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B), or other exceptional circumstances, such as negative behavior of individuals associated with the athlete, having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Games, but only with the approval of the Chef d'Equipe and with the majority vote of the Selectors, USEF Para Dressage Sports Committee, and the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitutions for medical or veterinary reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) or veterinarian(s) and approved by the USEF CEO. Please refer to Section 3 for further details regarding Substitute/Replacement of athletes.

**4.1.2 Prior to acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries:**

After Nominated Entries and prior to the closing date for USOPC Final Entries, Team Members and alternates may be substituted with substitute horse/athlete combinations for any of the reasons outlined in Section 3 above.

Any substitutes for veterinary reasons must also be recommended by the Team Veterinarian. Any substitutes for medical reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO.

**4.1.3 After the Acceptance of nomination by the USOPC and until the Day of the Horse Inspection:**

After acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries Entry and until the day of the Horse Inspection or the Last Date of Replacements (unless an earlier date is specified in the Games' Definite Schedule), the USEF has the ability to recommend to the FEI to replace athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3. During this time period, replacements may need to be replaced in accordance with FEI Rules for Para Dressage Events, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2022], Article 8450. Each team consists of four Athletes and four (4) Horses, or three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses. One (1) team member must be classified either Grade I, II or III. A Team may not include more than two (2) Athletes from any one (1) Grade. Should a replacement of either Grade I, II or III not be necessary, then replacements may be made by athletes in the Selectors listed order of replacements. Replacements may only be made by the FEI in accordance with FEI Rules for Para Dressage, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 01 January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2022], Article 8423 for veterinary or medical reasons, or for breach of the USEF Codes of Conduct, upon the recommendation of the Selectors, who will consult with the Technical Advisor, the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors physically present at the Games venue. If it is not practical (time, physical presence, or accreditation restrictions) to consult the Selectors and/or an Ad Hoc Selection Group, the U.S. Chef de Mission will approve a replacement in consultation with the Technical Advisor.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian approved by the USEF CEO.

Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO or a medical practitioner accredited as part of the U.S. Team or 2024 Organizing Committee.

**5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

**6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and horse owner as a condition of nomination to the Paralympic Games:

- a. Application of Intent (Attachment A)
- b. USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B)
- c. USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- d. USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement (Attachment D)
- e. USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures (Attachment X)

Athletes are required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement and are requested, but not required, to sign it.

**7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

- 7.1.** USEF Web site: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

- 7.2.** Other: These procedures will be available by mail or email upon request.

**8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The FEI Nominated Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than **June 19, 2024**. The FEI Definite Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than **August 5, 2024**.

Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all Athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: **June 19, 2024**

**9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

It is tentatively planned that the final preparation for the Games will consist of Training and/or Competitions. The relevant details will be posted on the USEF website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) and communicated to athletes named to the FEI Nominated Entry no later than 30 days before the first day of training and/or competition.

## 10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all IPC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.
- B. Equine Anti-Doping - All applicant Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.
- a. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the event begins until the event ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the event until the event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
    - i. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
    - ii. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
    - iii. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
    - iv. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
  - b. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on August 1, 2022 (*the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period*) following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. 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.
    - i. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite 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 the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

- ii. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the 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.
- c. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed events, including events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
- d. 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 an event 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 Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

#### **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

The USEF Selectors and USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, (Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members).

#### **12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found [Here](#).

Contact information for the USOPC Athlete Ombuds can be found below.

#### **13. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

#### **14. FUNDING DISCLAIMER**

Selection to the team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Games.

#### **FUNDING OF INDIVIDUALS:**

The USEF will only provide funding, if funding is available, if the athlete/horse combination achieves scores of 72% or higher from a minimum of two different CPEDI3\* between January 1, 2023 and June 19, 2024 from Individual or Team Para Dressage tests. This restriction does not impact the right for an athlete to be

FEI qualified for an Individual slot and entered in accordance with the FEI Regulations for the Equestrian events at the Games, 2nd Edition, Annex C, subject to approval of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The FEI Nominated Entry will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than midnight, Swiss Time on June 19, 2024.

**15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

These procedures are based on IPC, APC, as applicable, and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, APC, as applicable, and the FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

**16. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE**

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent, and confidential advice regarding Athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between Athletes and USEF.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

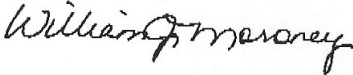

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

**17. DEFINITIONS**

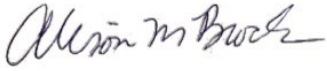
- a. Fitness and soundness of the horse – a condition in which a horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.
- b. Fitness of the athlete – one's ability to execute daily activities/sport with optimal performance, endurance, and strength with the management of disease, fatigue, and stress.

**18. USEF SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		2/13/2023
Director of Para Equestrian Sport	Laureen Johnson		2/13/2023



USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Allison Brock		2/13/2023
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\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USEF, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, USEF must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.