



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 27, 2019
To: U.S. FEI Young Rider Dressage Athletes
From: Hannah Niebielski, Director of Dressage National Programs
Re: 2020 European Tour for U.S. Young Riders

Giving U.S. combinations the opportunity to compete in Europe, if they have reached a required level is considered an important part of the Dressage Pathway. It is intended to send three U.S. Young Rider athlete/horse combinations to either a CDI-Y or European national competition and to also send them to a CDIO-Y. The level of funding will depend on the resources available and will be prioritized against other calls on resources. Below is the list of competitions where USEF may send U.S. Young Riders to compete in 2020, pending invitations from the OCs and Tour scheduling. It should be noted that there is no intention to compete in competitions on consecutive weekends.

Table with 2 columns: Event*, Date*. Rows include CDI-Y Compiegne (FRA) May 14-17, 2020; CDI-Y or other TBD Comp TBD; CDIO-Y Hagen (GER) June 9-14, 2020.

*Locations and dates of Tour to be confirmed at a later date

APPLICATION – Athletes wishing to be considered for selection for this Tour must submit an application by 5:00PM ET, Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The application for the Young Rider European Tour is available on our website HERE.

SELECTION – Athlete/horse combinations are required to earn at least two scores from the FEI Young Rider Team Test and two scores from the FEI Young Rider Individual Test in CDI-Y Events between January 1, 2020 and April 26, 2020, with the following exception: Scores earned in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and FEI Young Rider Individual Test from the 2019 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships or from the 2019 FEI North American Youth Championships (young rider division) may be submitted to serve as one of the Team Test scores and/or one of the Individual Test scores required. As a part of FEI CDI-Y events, at least two FEI Young Rider Freestyle test scores must also be earned. However, the athlete/horse combination’s FEI Young Rider Freestyle test score from the 2019 FEI North American Youth Championships (young rider division) may be submitted to serve as one of the two FEI Young Rider Freestyle scores. These Freestyle scores will be verified by the Dressage Department and will not be counted for the ranking lists or an athlete/horse combination’s overall average.

CDI-Y scores will be automatically tracked by USEF on the USEF Young Rider Ranking List. Any scores being used from the 2019 NAYC or the 2019 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships to fulfill the required number of scores must be submitted via e-mail to USEF (Hannah Niebielski, Director of Dressage, National Programs) no later than 5:00PM ET, Tuesday, March 3, 2020.





Athlete/horse combinations will be recommended for the Young Rider European Tour by the designees of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and approved by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad/Hoc Selection Group. The following factors may be used to make their recommendation:

1. Athlete/horse combination meets all FEI Regulations to compete in CDI-Y events.
2. Ranking on USEF Young Rider Ranking List.
3. Athlete/horse combinations' scores in the FEI Young Rider Team Test, FEI Young Rider Individual Test, and the FEI Young Rider Freestyle earned in CDI-Y events between January 1, 2020 and April 226, 2020 as outlined above.
4. Athlete/horse combinations' score(s) at the 2019 North American Youth Championships (young rider division) or at the 2019 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships.
5. Consistency of Scores.
6. The potential to succeed at CDIYs.
7. Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the Young Rider European Tour.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – Once selected, athlete/horse combinations may be required to participate in an observation session by one of the USEF Dressage Coaches.

In addition, a veterinarian statement regarding overall health and soundness of horse(s) named/selected to the Young Rider European Tour is required to be submitted two weeks prior to departing the U.S. For those horse(s) named/selected residing outside of the U.S., the veterinarian statement must be submitted to the USEF three weeks prior to the first competition named as part of the European Tour.

EOUINE 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 the 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 Dressage 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 once the Team and Substitutes for an event have been named following notification to the applicant 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.

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 the 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.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

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.

SOUNDNESS – Horses may be examined for soundness at the athlete's expense by a veterinarian(s) chosen by the Dressage Sport Committee prior to or after selection. Horses declared to be unsound may be eliminated from any Selection (See Substitutions sections), but only at the recommendation of the U.S. Dressage Youth Coach/Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

REMOVAL OF ATHLETES- An athlete may be removed from this Tour for any of the following reasons:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a withdrawal in writing to the USEF Director of Dressage, National Programs.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.



- Violation of the USEF's Code of Conduct.
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Veterinarian approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Veterinarian approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the event, but only at the recommendation of the U.S Dressage Youth Coach or Chef d'Equipe.
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.
- Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in the out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and/or USADA Rules.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans of the U.S. Dressage Youth Coach or Chef d'Equipe.
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy.

An athlete removed from the Tour or Team or as a Substitute pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605 or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.

SUBSTITUTIONS FOR VETERINARY, MEDICAL and/or EXTRAORDINARY REASONS - After athletes and/or team and alternates have been named, substitutions, if they occur, will be filled by the athlete/horse combinations in the order of their ranking on the list approved by the Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. If a selected athlete/horse combination withdraws and all the remaining applicant athletes have declined, an additional athlete/horse combination that did not submit an application in accordance with the deadlines for the subject event may be selected by the Dressage Sport Committee to fill the vacancy subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The method used to select this athlete/horse combination will be at the discretion of the Dressage Sport Committee. The method used may include, but is not limited to: ranking on the USEF Young Rider Ranking List; recommendation by the US Dressage Youth Coach/Chef d'Equipe; availability. Any substitution for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian, or, if there is a conflict of interest, a conflict-free veterinarian appointed by the Dressage Sport Committee and approved by the International Disciplines Council. Any substitution for extraordinary circumstances must have the unanimous approval of the Dressage High Performance Committee and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

HORSE SUBSTITUTION REQUEST – If an athlete's first ranked horse is not available for any reason after being selected to participate in this Tour, an athlete may request to be considered for selection on another horse and the request will be voted on by the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees after consultation with the U.S. Dressage Youth Coach/Chef d'Equipe and subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final. In reviewing the request, the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees shall evaluate the past performance of the athlete/horse combination. If the Horse Substitution Request is not granted by the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees, the athlete remains eligible for selection on his/her first ranked horse.



If the athlete declines, the next highest athlete/horse combination will be named. If this athlete's first ranked horse is not available, he/she may request to be considered for selection on another horse, according to the memo outlined above.

OTHER - The following documents are required to be properly executed by athletes named on this Tour and horse owners as a condition of nomination for a CDI/CDIO and are included on our website:

- USEF Code of Conduct
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification
- USEF Safe Sport Policy

FUNDING- Selection to the Young Rider European Tour does not guarantee that grant funds will be available. However, if funds are available, grants may be considered for those Athlete/horse combinations who have met a minimum of one of the below requirements*:

- Athlete is an Emerging and/or Development Program member
- Athlete/Horse combination has earned two scores above 68% in two different CDI-Y events.

*Exceptions may be made to the above requirements for the following reasons:

- Trend in scores shows an upward trajectory.
- If there is not an eligible combination for the grant ranked above the athlete and the combination has demonstrated scores within 1% of the minimum criteria above, a special exception may be granted; however the funding amount may be lower than other combinations which met the criteria.
- Note: The amount of the grant may differ for those athletes and/or horses based in Europe.

QUESTIONS – Questions regarding the 2020 Young Rider European Tour should be directed to Hannah Niebielski, Director of Dressage, National Programs, at hniebielski@usef.org or 859-225-6918.