



2018 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements

Approved by the USEF Ad-Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors on 12.7.2017

2018 Championship Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on December 7, 2017, unless stated otherwise. The qualifying requirements published herein are subject to additions or revisions. These qualifying requirements pertain to the following Championship divisions:

- USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championship
- USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

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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 26, 2018. Applications are made available on the USEF website no later than December 1st of the pertinent competition year.
 - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 15, 2018 will require an application fee of \$50.
 - b. Applications received after May 15, 2018 but on or before June 26, 2018 will require a fee of \$150.
 - c. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received.
 - d. Additional horses may be added to an existing application until June 26, 2018.
2. No applications will be accepted after June 26, 2018 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. The athletes are permitted to compete with only those horse named on the athlete's application.

Athlete Membership:

1. Athletes must be US Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championship. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championship.
3. Athletes must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CDIs.

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. Horse must have an FEI Passport and be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.

Horse Owner(s) Membership:

1. Owners must be an Active Competing member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) in order the athlete/horse combinations' scores to count towards qualifying and compete in the National Championships (See USEF GR 202).
2. Qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination.
3. Qualification goes with the athlete/horse; 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/Horse

For all divisions listed below, qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses in the Championships. Ponies and Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship.

Brentina Cup:

1. Athletes are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 25.
2. Horses must be at least eight (8) years old or older.
3. Athletes aged 16 to 21 may compete in both Young Rider (16-21) and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) divisions, but may not compete in both divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same horse. A Young Rider may not compete in National or FEI Championships for both the Young Rider and 'Brentina Cup' divisions within the same year on the same horse, but may do so with different horses.

Intermediaire I:

1. Athletes are eligible to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship as long as they reached their 16th birthday in the year in which the competitions occur.
2. Horse must be eligible to compete at the Intermediaire I level under FEI rules.

Grand Prix:

1. Athletes are eligible to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship as long as they reached their 16th birthday in the year in which the competitions occur.
2. Horse must be eligible to compete at the Grand Prix level under FEI rules.

III. Qualifying System.**Qualifying Period:**

1. Intermediaire I and Brentina Cup: The qualifying period begins September 1, 2017 and is scheduled to end July 30, 2018 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2018. This information was communicated to potential applicants and published on USEF's website on August 30, 2017.
2. Grand Prix: The qualifying period begins January 1, 2018 and is scheduled to end July 30, 2018 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2018.

Qualifying Competitions:

1. Brentina Cup:
 - a. Qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. Athlete/horse combinations must compete in either CDI-U25/CDIO-U25 events or NAJYRC/USEF Qualifying Competitions to be eligible for an invitation to the Championships.
 - The FEI Calendar can be found [HERE](#).
 - USEF Qualifying Competitions scheduled to take place beginning September 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017 can be found [HERE](#). The 2018 NAJYRC/USEF Qualifying Competitions Calendar will be posted on the above link by November 1, 2017.
 - b. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if a CDI-U25 is also held at the event.

2. Intermediaire I
 - a. Qualifying competitions are considered any CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-W and CDI-Am both within and outside of the USA; athletes will be required to earn qualifying scores at the CDIs. The FEI Calendar can be found [HERE](#).
3. Grand Prix
 - a. Qualifying competitions are considered any CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO and CDI-W, both within and outside of the USA; athletes will be required to earn qualifying scores at the CDIs. The FEI Calendar can be found [HERE](#).
4. For all divisions (Brentina Cup, Intermediaire I and Grand Prix): CDI scores earned within the qualifying period in the respective division tests as outlined below will automatically count towards qualifying.

If an athlete does not want the scores from a CDI to count towards their final average, they must submit their request in writing (mail, email, fax, or hand delivered) to Hallye Griffin, USEF Managing Director of Dressage prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection for that event. This request must include the name of the horses they will compete at the qualifying competition. If the USEF Managing Director of Dressage has not received the request prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection, the score(s) will count toward their final average. It is the responsibility of the athlete to confirm with the USEF Managing Director of Dressage that their request has been received.

Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:

1. Brentina Cup
 - a. A minimum overall average of 62% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
 - b. At least three (3) qualifying scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test.
 - c. The only score to be used for calculating the ranking list will be the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test (See "Score Calculation" below).
 - d. Athletes must also earn at least one FEI Intermediate II Test Score and one FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test Score within the qualifying period as stated above.
 - i. Current editions of tests must be used.
 - ii. These additional scores will not count for the ranking list or an athlete/horse combination's overall average.
 - iii. The FEI Intermediate II Test and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test scores may be earned at the same national competition where a qualifying score in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test is earned and may also be earned in an FEI Test of Choice class.
2. Intermediaire I
 - a. A minimum overall average of 66% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
 - b. The FEI Prix St. Georges (current test editions must be used), FEI Intermediate I (current test editions must be used) and FEI Intermediate I Freestyle (current test editions must be used) will be used.
 - c. Athlete/horse combinations must complete the Prix St. Georges test and the Intermediate I test in combination at two (2) CDI's. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Intermediate I Freestyle test at a CDI; however, the Intermediate I Freestyle test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.
 - d. The only scores to be used for calculating the ranking list will be the FEI Prix St. Georges and FEI Intermediate I test (See "Score Calculation" below).
 - e. If an athlete/horse combination completes only the FEI Prix St Georges or the FEI Intermediate I test at a CDI, the athlete/horse combination's score from this test will be used in calculating an athlete/horse combination's final average.

- f. If the athlete/horse combination completes only the FEI Intermediate I and FEI Intermediate I Freestyle at a competition, they may request that only the FEI Intermediate I Freestyle will count for qualification purposes.
3. Grand Prix
 - a. A minimum overall average of 66% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
 - b. The FEI Grand Prix Test (current test editions must be used), FEI Grand Prix Special (current test editions must be used) and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (current test editions must be used) will be used.
 - c. Athlete/horse combinations must complete the FEI Grand Prix and the FEI Grand Prix Special in combination at two (2) CDI's. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle in at least one (1) CDI.
 - d. The only scores to be used for calculating the ranking list will be the FEI Grand Prix test and FEI Grand Prix Special test (See "Score Calculation").
 - e. Scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test will not be used to calculate the ranking list.
 - f. Scores from Consolation Competitions, if scheduled, will not count towards calculation of the ranking list.
 4. Judging Panels for Qualifying Competitions
 - a. Brentina Cup
 - i. Qualifying tests at NAJYRC/USEF Qualifying Competitions must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF "S" judges. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per panel.
 - ii. Judges who are an owner of a horse or parent of an athlete or coach of an athlete competing in this division shall NOT officiate for any USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Classes for this division at designated Qualifying Competitions in any USDF region at any time during the qualifying period. Judges who do so are subject to sanctions.
 - b. Intermediaire I and Grand Prix
 - i. Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.

Score Calculation:

1. Ranking List
 - a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at Qualifying Competitions/CDIs. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for this Championship unless requested by USEF staff.
 - b. If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated from a Qualifying Test, they will not receive a '0' for that score on the ranking list. Scratches and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list.
 - c. For the Intermediaire I division, only the scores earned in the FEI Prix St. Georges and FEI Intermediate I (each counting as 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
 - d. For the Grand Prix division, only the scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special (each counting as 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
 - e. For all divisions and as stated above, if an athlete does not want the scores from a CDI to count towards their final average, they must submit their request in writing (mail, email, fax or hand delivered) to Hallye Griffin, USEF Managing Director of Dressage prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection for that event. Please see additional details as outlined above.
 - f. Scores will not show on the applicable division ranking list until an application of intent is submitted.
2. Dropped Scores
 - a. Brentina Cup – If four (4) or more qualifying scores are earned at designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the score from the one (1) competition that has the lowest score will be dropped. If seven (7) or more qualifying scores are earned, an additional score of the next-lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.

- b. Intermediaire I – If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Prix St. George and FEI Intermediate I in combination at three or more CDIs, the athlete/horse combination's lowest FEI Prix St. Georges test and lowest FEI Intermediate I test will each be automatically dropped, respectively (regardless if the Intermediate I Freestyle test was ridden).
- c. Grand Prix - If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix and the FEI Grand Prix Special at three or more CDIs, the athlete/horse combination's lowest FEI Grand Prix and lowest FEI Grand Prix Special will each be automatically dropped, respectively (regardless if the Grand Prix Freestyle was ridden).

IV. Additional Rules and Requirements

One Athlete Rule:

1. Brentina Cup – National Level Competition
 - a. For USEF qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes.
2. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply.

Dress and Saddlery:

1. Please refer to DR120-121 for dress and saddlery rules for national level competition for Brentina Cup qualifiers.
2. If competing in a CDI event, all FEI Dressage and General Regulations must be followed.

General:

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses to ensure that they know and understand the USEF Rules and Selection Procedures, USEF Code of Conduct, and USEF Safe Sport Policy (see <https://www.usef.org/lframes/safety/general.aspx>).
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. 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 of the Championship:

1. All athlete/horse 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 12. It is possible that up to eight invitations for the Grand Prix division could be reserved for 2018 WEG Short Listed combinations which would decrease the number of entries available. Exceptions: Wildcard invitations.
2. No athlete may qualify more than two horses for the Championship. If an athlete qualifies more than two horses in the top twelve (12) ranked athlete/horse combinations, the next athlete/horse combination may be invited to attend up to a maximum of fifteen (15) athletes.
3. In the event of ties, there may be more than fifteen athletes invited to the Championships.

Wild Card Invitations:

1. Grand Prix
 - a. In addition to the combinations who have received an invitation to compete in the Championship through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above; athlete/horse combination(s) not qualified (as

listed above) with at least one FEI Grand Prix CDI score after January 1, 2018 may request a wild card invitation.

- b. Wild Card requests must be submitted no later than July 1, 2018.
 - c. The Dressage Sport Committee or its designees will award up to three Wild Card invitations based upon on results of the combination as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise.
2. Intermediaire I
 - a. In addition to the combinations who have received an invitation to compete in the Championship through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above; athlete/horse combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one FEI Prix St. Georges and one FEI Intermediate I CDI scores at a CDI1*, 2*, 3*, 4*, 5* CDIO or CDI-Am after January 1, 2018 may request a wild card invitation.
 - b. Wild Card requests must be submitted no later than July 1, 2018.
 - c. The Dressage Sport Committee or its Designees will award up to three Wild Card invitations based upon on results of the combination as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise.
 3. Brentina Cup is not eligible for Wild Card invitations.

Drug Testing:

All horses shall be subject to drug and medication testing 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 will be tested for the presence of all substances forbidden and/or controlled by USEF. Any horse 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 and GR409.2.

2018 WEG Short Listed Horses (Team / Reserve Horses) may be subject to FEI rules per the published Selection Procedures for the 2018 World Equestrian Games.

Competition information:

1. The date and location of the Dressage National Championships will be announced on the USEF website no later than April 1, 2018.
2. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply with the exception that protective headgear is mandatory per USEF Dressage Rule 120.
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 a FEI veterinarian and at least two members of the judging panel for examination. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear during the Horse Inspection Policy and Procedures on the Horse Inspection can be found on the USEF website.
4. Championship Format for Each Division will be available on the USEF Website by January 31, 2018.

USEF reserves the right to amend this document should there be a need to utilize the Championships as selection events or mandatory outings for Team selection or Championships preparation.