

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2018 FEI World Equestrian Games**  
**DRESSAGE**  
**Tryon, North Carolina, USA**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:**

- 1. Nationality/Passport Requirements** - The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI General Regulations, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Article 119 (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games (“the Event”).
  
- 2. Minimum International Federation (IF) Standards for Participation:**
  - a.** All athletes and horses wishing to compete on the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games Dressage Team (the “Team”) must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability in accordance with the FEI Dressage Regulations [25<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017], Article 450. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website ([www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)).
  - b.** The athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2002 (see the FEI Dressage Regulations [25<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017], Article 422).
  - c.** To be eligible for participation in the Event, Athletes and Horses must comply with all current FEI Regulations.
  - d.** A horse must be born on or before December 31, 2010 (eight (8) years of age) and have height at the withers exceeding 149 cm including shoes (see FEI Dressage Regulations [25<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017], Article 422).
  - e.** The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI.
  
- 3. Other Requirements:**
  - a.** The athlete must be an active member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”).
  - b.** The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102.
  - c.** Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Applications submitted online on or before **February 21, 2018** will be charged \$70 per application. Applications submitted online after **February 21, 2018** and received by USEF on or before **February 28, 2018** will be charged an application fee of \$300 per application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER February 28, 2018.**
  - d.** Horse Loan Agreement: Owners of horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry (See I.C.3 below) must sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B). A horse owner(s)’ failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the FEI Nominated Entry.
  - e.** The athlete and horse owner(s) 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), and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

**B. Tryout Events:**

- 1. Provided below are the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process:** It is anticipated that up to eight athlete/horse combinations will be invited to attend Observation Events between **May 1, 2018 – September 3, 2018**. The designated Observation Events will be published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) no later than January 31, 2018 and may include events in Europe and/or events within the United States. Waivers may be considered for these mandatory outings upon approval by the Selectors.

**2. Provided below are the event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in B.1 (if any):**

- a. Athlete/horse combinations must complete at least three CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions to be eligible to be named to the Short List. CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions will include all U.S. and foreign CDI3\*s, CDI4\*s, CDI5\*s, CDI Os, CDI-W (including CDI-W Final) competitions between September 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018 subject to approval and publication of the FEI calendar. A list of these competitions can be found at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>. This information was communicated to potential Event applicants and published on USEF’s website on August 1, 2017 (Attachment F).

Athletes must be eligible to participate in these Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions pursuant to the FEI Rules for Dressage, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

In exceptional circumstances, the Selectors may grant a waiver for all or part of the requirements if it is in the perceived best interests of the results of the Team.

- b. Applicant athlete/horse combinations must complete the FEI Grand Prix Test and the FEI Grand Prix Special test in combination at two CDI Tryout Event/Qualifying Competitions. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test at a CDI Tryout Event/Qualifying competition during the qualifying period. The scores from all FEI Grand Prix tests completed at CDI Tryout Event/Qualifying Competitions will be counted towards calculation of final average, regardless of whether the FEI Grand Prix Special or FEI Grand Prix Freestyle tests were completed in combination with the FEI Grand Prix test. The Grand Prix Special and Grand Prix Freestyle test scores will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination’s ranking list average.
- c. Applicant athlete/horse combinations must complete two of the three required Grand Prix Test scores after January 1, 2018 and prior to April 30, 2018.
- d. The applicant athlete/horse combinations will be ranked according to the final average of their FEI Grand Prix tests at all CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions. The following will apply to the Rankings:
- i. If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated and/or does not receive a score from any test at any CDI Tryout Event/Qualifying Competition, for purposes of ranking, no score will be shown for that test on the Ranking. Exception: If an athlete or horse has been disqualified by USEF or FEI for a medication rule violation from a sample collected in connection with a Tryout Event/Qualifying Competition, that score may be marked as zero and counted in the ranking.
- ii. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix test at more than three CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions, the lowest FEI Grand Prix test score will be automatically dropped.
- e. **Short List:** After the conclusion of the Qualifying Competition period (April 30, 2018) **up to** eight athletes will be named to a Short List to compete at Observation Events. Each athlete will be selected with a horse (it is possible for an athlete to be selected with an additional horse(s)). There will be no ranking of Short List athlete/horse combinations. The athletes and horses recommended to the Dressage Sport Committee by the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d’Equipe and Team Veterinarian for the Observation Events, will be selected based on the following:
1. Scores from tests [FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle] at any CDI or CDN within the last 12 months;
  2. Ranking from Qualifying Competitions;
  3. Consistency of scores over 73%;
  4. Trend in the scores;
  5. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;

6. Incomplete Qualifying Competitions due to elimination or withdrawal;
7. Potential to contribute to medal winning team; and
8. 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.

In exceptional circumstances, athlete/horse combinations may be invited that have not completed the minimum qualifications outlined in section I.B.2a-d.

**Please note that an invitation to the Observation Events is not a guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be named to the Team for the Event.**

**Chef d'Equipe Permissions:** Once athlete/horse combinations have been named to the Short List they will come under the control of the Chef d'Equipe through the completion of the Event. They shall not compete without the permission of the Chef d'Equipe.

**C. Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees:**

1. **Selection of Short List** – See section I.B.2e.
2. **Observation Events** – Athlete/horse combinations named to the Short List will compete in designated Observation Events between May 1, 2018 and September 3, 2018, except as noted below. The designated Observation Events and additional details will be published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) no later than January 31, 2018 and may include events in Europe and/or events within the United States. Waivers may be considered for these mandatory outings upon approval by the Selectors and as described below.

An athlete named to the Short List may request special consideration for Team selection without competing in the required number of Observation Events by submitting a written request prior to or during the Observation Events to the Selectors who will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition on page 12) to succeed at CDI competitions;
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 or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If a named athlete's request is approved by the Selectors, an additional athlete/horse combination may be named to the Short List to compete in the Observation Events.

If USEF does not receive invitations for all combinations named to compete at the Observation Events the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, will recommend athletes for their designated Observation Events subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors including any CDIOs. Additionally, if an Observation Event is found unsuitable for selection purposes following the publication of the FEI Definite Schedule, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, may recommend an additional Observation Event or may recommend athletes for their designated Observation Events subject to approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors including any CDIOs.

In consultation with the athlete, Selectors and Chef d'Equipe, there may be an opportunity for an athlete/horse combination to attend additional Observation Events. If this request is made by the Selectors they will articulate their reasoning for making the request to the athlete.

- 3. FEI Nominated Entry (August 13, 2018)** - After the conclusion of the Qualifying Competition period (April 30, 2018) but no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry (August 13, 2018), and based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, will recommend to the FEI at least four (4) athletes and four (4) horse and up to the maximum number of athletes and horses able to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Event at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and approval of 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 August 13, 2018.

The Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will name up to the maximum number of athletes and horses, to the FEI Nominated Entry on the following:

1. Scores from tests [FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle] from any CDI or CDN scores within the last 12 months;
2. Consistency of scores over 73%;
3. The trend in the scores;
4. The experience and standing of the judges in relevance to the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games;
5. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated "Proven Ability" (see definition of page 12) to succeed at CDI competitions;
6. The FEI rankings and other competitors and individual placings;
7. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
8. Potential to contribute to medal winning team;
9. "State of Preparedness" (see definition of page 12) of athlete and or horse;
10. Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, European Observations Events due to elimination or withdrawal;
11. Meet FEI World Equestrian Games 2018 Qualification Criteria.

**FEI World Equestrian 2018 – Qualification Criteria:** In order to qualify for participation at the 2018 FEI World Dressage Championships, athletes and horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least 66% attributed by the Ground Jury and by any two different FEI 5\* Dressage Judges, of a nationality other than that of the athlete, in a Grand Prix at two different CDI3\*/4\*/5\*/CDI-W or CDIO events during the qualification period (1 January 2017 – 13 August 2018).

Athletes and horses may be named to the FEI Nominated Entry that have not completed the minimum qualifying competitions and/or have been approved for special consideration by the Selectors to not compete in the Observation Events based on the criteria listed above.

- 4. FEI Definite Entry (TBC 2018)** - After the Observation Events but no later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry for the Event, the Chef d'Equipe in consultation with the Selectors will evaluate the athletes and horses submitted on the FEI Nominated Entry and nominate to the FEI as required the Team composed of three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses or four (4) Athletes and four (4) Horses per FEI Dressage Regulations [25<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017], Articles 423 and 449. The Selectors may also name a reserve athlete/horse combination and/or reserve horse which may be required to travel with the Team for the mandatory final training (see Section X).

The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when evaluating the athlete/horse combinations for the Team and the reserve athlete/horse combination will base their evaluations on the following:

1. Scores from tests [FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle] from any CDI or CDN scores within the last 12 months;
2. Consistency of scores over 73%;
3. The trend in the scores;
4. The experience and standing of the judges in relevance to the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games;

5. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (see definition of page 12) to succeed at CDI competitions;
  6. The FEI rankings and other competitors and individual placings;
  7. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
  8. Potential to contribute to medal winning team;
  9. “State of Preparedness” (see definition of page 12) of athlete and or horse;
  10. Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, European Observations Events due to elimination or withdrawal;
  11. The physical conditions in which the Games will be held, including the travel to the Games, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combinations’ performance; and
  12. 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.
- 5. State of Preparedness (see definition on page 12):** In consultation with the athlete, Selectors and Chef d’Equipe, there may be an opportunity for an athlete/horse combination to attend additional competitions after being named to the Team or the reserve position. If this request is made by the Selectors they will articulate their reasoning for making the request to the athlete.
- 6. Replacements/Substitutions** per FEI Dressage Regulations [25<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017], Article 449. See section IV.B for the method in which substitute athletes and horses should be selected, should a vacancy occur.
- 7. Declaration of Starters** per FEI Dressage Regulations [25<sup>th</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017], Article 424.

**D. 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 Dressage Selectors and USEF Dressage Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by the USEF Board of Directors 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).

**E. 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 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 of 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 Veterinary 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 throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on March 1, 2018 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](http://www.fei.org).

2. **Soundness** - Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process and through the conclusion of the event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian and/or a member of the Veterinarian Panel and/or a Selector upon the request of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, or USEF Dressage Sport Committee. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Veterinarian Panel may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
3. **Team Veterinarian Request** – Applicants, *at their own expense*, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of complete veterinary records of horses considered 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 athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
4. **Veterinary Treatment** - Once the Athletes are named to compete in the European Observation Events (including any athlete with permission not to compete), by no later than date of FEI Nominated Entry, and prior to the departure of the horses for the Event venue for the purpose of competing in the Event, athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to treatment of "invited" horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian or Veterinary Panel. This permission must be obtained by using an official USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form (Attachment H).

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

- 5. Medical Request** - In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s) and with the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF 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 pending review by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

## **II. 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.C.

### **C. Discretionary Selection Committee:**

**1. Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.**

- USEF Dressage Selectors
- USEF Dressage Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Dressage Veterinary Panel
- USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian
- USEF Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group

**2. Provide a complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their NGB role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:** See Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**Selectors:** Five (5) individuals (the "Selectors") will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest and Safe Sport Policy of the USEF (Attachment G). The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Dressage community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Dressage at the international level, and include a minimum of one Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOC (See Definitions) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the "Eligible Athlete Representative Selector").

The Selectors will make recommendations to the Dressage Sport Committee based on consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel.

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of Selectors.

**Ad Hoc Selection Group:** The Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

**3. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.**

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national 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 the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

### **III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

#### **A. An athlete may be removed from the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:**

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- 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 Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure of an owner to sign the Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by a majority of the Veterinary Panel and/or Team Veterinarian. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, 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, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- 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 out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA Rules.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or any member of the Veterinary Panel or with the USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols.
- Failure to comply with reasonable requests regarding Logistical information and deadlines.
- Failure to comply with USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).
- 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 team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.

In these procedures the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted.

Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section IV.

**SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE/HORSE COMBINATIONS AND/OR HORSE.**

An athlete removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaw, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR605 or USOC Bylaw, Section 9.

#### **B. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Definite Entry/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 CEO.
- 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 United States Anti-Doping Agency.
- 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 (and majority of the members of the Veterinary Panel if requested).
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure to comply with USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

#### **C. An athlete may be removed from the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry/Team at any time for 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 United States Anti-Doping Agency.**



#### **IV. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES/HORSE COMBINATIONS AND/OR HORSE**

**A. Following is the process by which the substitution/replacement pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** The list of athletes on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athlete/horse combinations.

**B. Substitution/Replacement athletes and horses will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:**

- 1. Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry:** Once the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry for the event has been announced and prior to the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry (no later than August 13, 2018) Short/FEI Nominated Entry athlete/horse combinations may be substituted in accordance with the process cited in Section I.C.2-4 above. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, will evaluate the athletes and horses and will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.C.2-4. Any substitution other than voluntary withdrawal must be upon the recommendation of the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, and at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate the Veterinary Panel. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF.
- 2. Prior to acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry:** Once the Team for the Event has been announced and prior to the closing date of the FEI Definite Entry, Team members may be replaced with an athlete/horse combination on the FEI Nominated Entry for reasons set forth in Section III.B. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Selectors, and in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Dressage Events and/or for reasons set forth in Section III.B and subject to approval by the USEF Chef de Mission. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Team and the FEI Nominated Entries and may recommend that a replacement be made. The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when evaluating athletes and horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.C.2-4. Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate the Veterinary Panel. Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF.
- 3. After acceptance of FEI Definite Entry and up to two hours prior to the Horse Inspection (per FEI Dressage Regulations Article 423).**

After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until two (2) hours before the First Horse Inspection unless an earlier date is specified in the Approved Schedule or is required due to logistical restrictions (this date will be communicated to all athletes named to the FEI Nominated Entry), USEF has the ability to replace athletes and/or horses on the FEI Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section III.B. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with an athlete/horse combination from the FEI Nominated Entry. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either, the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Dressage Team Leader and USEF Chef de Mission, and in accordance with the FEI Dressage Regulations or for reasons set forth in Section III.B. Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue approved by the USEF.

**C. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:**

1. **Group or committee who determines the substitution/replacement pool:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USEF Board or Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **Group or committee who determines a substitution/replacement to the team:**
  - a. **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
  - b. **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry:** By the USEF Chef de Mission, USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Dressage Chef d'Equipe, and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian.
  - c. **After acceptance of FEI Definite Entry and up to two hours prior to the Horse Inspection (or earlier date if determined):** By the USEF Chef de Mission, Dressage Team Leader, USEF Dressage Chef d'Equipe, and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian.

**V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.

**VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and horse owners as a condition of nomination for the Event and are included as attachments:

- Application (Attachment A)
- Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D)

Applicants and horse owners will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and USEF Safe Sport Policy and that they understand them and agree to be bound by them.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to Selectors, Team Veterinarian, members of the Veterinary Panel, Physicians, members of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies (Attachment I).

**VII. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:** Applicants will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment J) and are requested to sign this document.

**VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:** The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations:

- USEF Website - [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF.
- Other: The Selection Procedures and Application Packet will also be available on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) and by mail upon request.

**IX. DATE OF NOMINATION:** The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than August 13, 2018. The FEI Definite Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than TBC 2018.

**X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION:** There will not be mandatory training sessions or competitions in addition to the Observation Events but athletes and horses may be required to meet in one location prior to traveling to the Event. This information will be communicated to those athletes named to the FEI Nominated Entry.

**XI. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:** Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF, and USADA protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, USADA and USOC Rules as applicable.

**XII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES:** The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment G for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

**XIII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**XIV. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER:** These procedures are based on USEF and/or FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in USEF and/or 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 selection procedures are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

In any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause alteration or cancelation of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their submission to the USEF.

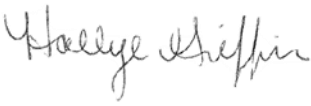
**XV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN:** Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, office, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at [athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org](mailto:athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org)
- <http://www.teamusa.org/For-Athletes/Athlete-Ombudsman.aspx>

**XVI. FUNDING DISCLAIMER:** Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a team.

**XVII. DISCLAIMER:** Please see Attachment D – USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification.

**XVIII. NGB SIGNATURES:** I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding these Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Equestrian Federation.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF President	Murray Kessler		11 December 2017
USEF Dressage Managing Director	Hallye Griffin		11 December 2017

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Hallye Griffin, USEF Managing Director of Dressage, United States Equestrian Federation, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511, Phone (859) 225-6949, Email: [hgriffin@usef.org](mailto:hgriffin@usef.org).

Approved by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee on December 1, 2017

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on December 7, 2017

## **DEFINITIONS**

**USEF DRESSAGE SELECTORS** - Five (5) individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policies of the USEF (Attachment G). The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Dressage community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Dressage at the international level, and include a minimum of one Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOC (See Definitions) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the “Eligible Athlete Representative Selector”).

The Selector will make recommendations to the Dressage Sport Committee based on consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel.

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of Selectors.

**SUBSTITUTE** –Substituting an athlete/horse combination after submittal of the FEI Definite Entries.

**STATE OF PREPAREDNESS** – Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Dressage Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

**PROVEN ABILITY** – An athlete/horse combination that has met at least one of the following criteria:

- i) Represented the US at the 2018 FEI World Cup Final earning a minimum of a 75% in the FEI Grand Prix Test.
- ii) Earned recent results (minimum of a 75% in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special Tests and a minimum of 80% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test) in 2017/2018 at CDI4\*, CDI5\*, CDI-W or CDIO3\*/4\*/5\* events.

**CDI** - Concourse de Dressage International

**EVENT** – The 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games

**TEAM** – The 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games Team