



## **2022 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements** **Para Dressage**

*Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on December 6, 2021.*

The 2022 Dressage National Championships (“Championships”) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on December 6, 2021 unless stated otherwise. The qualifying requirements published herein are subject to additions or revisions. These qualifying requirements pertain to the following divisions:

- Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Eligibility and Program Rules, please contact Laureen Johnson at [lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org) or [festival@usef.org](mailto:festival@usef.org).

### **Application, 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 16, 2022. Applications are made available on the USEF website here no later than September 15, 2021.
  - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 12, 2022 will require an application fee of \$50 per horse.
  - b. Applications received between May 13, 2022 and June 16, 2022 will require a fee of \$150 per horse.
  - c. An application of intent is considered complete once the confirmation email is received. If the applicant does not receive the confirmation email; it is the applicant’s responsibility to contact USEF ([lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org) or [festival@usef.org](mailto:festival@usef.org)).
  - d. Additional horses may be added to an existing application(s) of intent until June 16, 2022 and will require a fee of \$50 per horse.
2. No application will be accepted after June 16, 2022 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. Athletes are permitted to compete at this Championship with only those horses named on the athlete’s application.
4. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.

*USEF strongly encourages all athlete, horse, and owner membership requirements be completed by June 9, 2022, or rush fees may be required in order to submit the application of intent by 11:59pm, ET on June 16, 2022.*

#### **Athlete Membership:**

1. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in this Championship. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in this Championship.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF for qualifying scores to count, as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships.
3. Athletes must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CPEDIs.
4. An FEI Rider Registration is not required for this Championship.

### **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. Horses must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CPEDIs.
3. An FEI Horse Registration, FEI passport, or FEI Recognition Card will not be required for this Championship.

### **Horse Owner(s) Membership:**

1. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) in order for the athlete/horse combinations' qualifying scores to count, as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships.
2. Ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championships as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

## **II. Eligibility Requirements for Athlete and Horse.**

*No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses at these Championships. The same athlete/horse combination shall only compete in one division at these Championships. A horse may only be competed in one division at these Championships. Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship. FEI Rules apply in CPEDI competitions. Refer to FEI Para Dressage Article 8422.*

*Exception, a horse that is also competed in the Para Dressage division at these Championships, may also be competed in the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals.*

1. Athletes must be a minimum of 13 years old as of December 1, 2021, to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship. Refer to USEF Chapter 1, GR103.
2. Horses must be six (6) years old or older. *Per DR119.10, the horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year.*
3. Athletes must have a USEF National and/or FEI International Para Equestrian Dressage Classification and be assigned a Grade I-V with confirmed or review, with a fixed review date (FRD), status to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championship. *Please visit the [USEF website here](#) for more information.*
4. Athletes must ride independently and at their classified Grade.

## **III. Qualifying System.**

### **Qualifying Period:**

The qualifying period begins January 1, 2022, and is scheduled to end July 25, 2022, unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2022.

### **Qualifying Competitions:**

*A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#). The 2022 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2022 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2021.*

*Please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar and the USEF Qualifying Calendar as changes to competitions may be posted at any time.*

1. Qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. Athlete/horse combinations must compete in either national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (Qualifying Competitions) and/or CPEDI1\*, CPEDI2\*, and CPEDI3\* events to be eligible for an invitation to the Championship.
2. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if the CDI/CPEDI Report Form is submitted from a CPEDI at the same event. For CPEDI score reporting, see point 'Score Calculation' on page 3 below.

### **Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:**

*USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity, even if they have separate license/recognition numbers. Only one score per respective Test may be earned over the course of a weekend. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF Qualifying. See Section IV for Judging Panels.*

1. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 62% in order to receive an invitation to the Championship.
2. Athlete/horse combinations must obtain at least two (2) scores in their respective Grade Level in an FEI Para Dressage Team Test and at least two (2) scores in an FEI Para Dressage Individual Test. These scores may be earned in a FEI Para Dressage Test of Choice (DR118.5) held at a Qualifying Competition (CDN) or may be earned in individual and team classes held at a CPEDI. The current editions of the FEI Para Dressage Team Test and the FEI Para Dressage Individual Test must be used.
3. Athlete/horse combinations are not required to complete the Team Test or the Individual Test at the same Qualifying Competition.
4. A minimum of one (1) score per Team Test and one (1) score per Individual Test must be completed on the horse(s) that the athlete will compete on at the Championship and the horse(s) must be listed on the athlete's application of intent.
5. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test in their respective Grade Level within the qualifying period. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test or an FEI Test of Choice class held at a Qualifying Competition (CDN) or earned in a FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test held at a CPEDI. The Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.

### **Score Calculation:**

*For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse combination's overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the Team Test with the scores earned in the Individual Test. The Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average. Eliminations, scratches, and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list.*

1. Ranking List:
  - a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations, which are earned at Qualifying Competitions (CDNs). Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF staff.
  - b. CPEDI Scores as described above are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse combination's overall average upon receipt of a USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form to the USEF Dressage Department. Scores submitted late will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all qualifying CPEDI scores for this Championship are submitted to USEF on time and are accurate.
  - c. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a score in a Qualifying Competition (CDN), if the combination submits the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form from the same event.
2. Dropped Scores: If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Team Tests, the lowest score earned in the Team Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Individual Tests, the lowest score earned in the Individual Test will be dropped. If six (6) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned in each respective Test, an additional Team Test score and Individual Test score of the next lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Team Test and a maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Individual Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.

### **IV. Additional Rules and Requirements.**

1. Grade I, Grade II, and Grade III Athletes:
  - a. Horses may be ridden and/or schooled for up to thirty (30) minutes per day by the trainer/coach/groom. They should wear an armband to identify them. The total time allowed for the above training will be carefully observed and regulated by Stewards. Horses may not be schooled unless an Official Steward is present.

- b. Horses may not be trained/schooled by anyone other than the Athlete for the fifteen (15) minutes before they enter the Competition arena to perform their Dressage Test. Horses may however be led around with or without the Athlete during the fifteen (15) minutes prior to this but may not be schooled from the ground.
2. Grade IV and Grade V Athletes:
  - a. Horses may only be schooled by the Athlete competing on that horse after arrival at the venue under penalty of elimination. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein or lungeing and verbal assistance from the ground from the trainer is permitted.
  - b. For these Championships, within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse entered by a Grade IV or Grade V athlete shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein or lungeing and verbal assistance from the ground from the trainer is permitted.
3. For CPEDI Events, FEI Para Dressage Rules apply.

#### **Judging Panels for Qualifying Competitions:**

- For all divisions, qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' and/or FEI Judges (at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge) held at a CDN designated as a Qualifying Competition. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per Qualifying Competition.
- Freestyle Tests completed at a CDN designated as a Qualifying Competition must be judged by a minimum of one (1) USEF 'S' or FEI judge.

#### **Conflict of Interest:**

- Judging Panels at CPEDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.
- Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304, and Chapter 10, GR1040.
- All competitors and officials are subject to the conflict of interest rules at USEF Licensed Competitions as outlined in the [USEF General and Dressage Rules](#).

#### **Dress and Saddlery:**

1. Please refer to [DR308](#) for dress and saddlery rules for qualifiers held at CDNs.
2. If competing in a CPEDI event, all [FEI Para Dressage](#) and [General Regulations](#) must be followed.
3. See Section V regarding Dress and Saddlery rules at the Championships.

#### **General:**

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), and the USEF Code of Conduct.
2. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
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.

#### **Clean Sport**

1. [Equine Anti-Doping](#): All horses/ponies shall be subject to drug and medication testing during qualifying and 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/ponies will be tested for the presence of all substances forbidden and/or controlled by USEF. Any horse/pony 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.

2. [Human Anti-Doping](#): 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, USEF, and/or USADA rules, if applicable.

#### **Grievance Procedures:**

Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the [Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form](#) and [Opportunity to Participate Complaint Form](#). For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org).

Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org) or visit [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org) for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process.

#### **V. Championship Competition.**

##### **Invitations for the Championships:**

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 unless there is a tie.
2. In the case of a tie, the athlete/horse combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up to two (2) places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete/horse combination shall be #3.
3. If there is a tie for 12<sup>th</sup> place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries accepted (i.e., 13 entries accepted).
4. No athlete may compete more than two horses in each division at these Championships. The same athlete/horse combination shall only participate in one division at these Championships. A horse may only be competed in one division at these Championships.

##### **Competition Information:**

1. It is anticipated that the 2022 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions will take place on August 22-28, 2022 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.
2. The [FEI Para Rules for Dressage, Saddlery, and Execution of Tests](#) will apply. USEF drug rules will be followed.
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 an FEI veterinarian and a member of the judging panel for examination. All individuals aged twenty-five (25) and under must wear protective headgear during the Horse Inspection. Please refer to the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#) on Horse Inspection Procedures.
4. The Championship Format for each division will be available on the USEF Website by March 1, 2022.

*These Qualifying Requirements are based on the USEF and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Qualifying Requirements caused by a change in USEF or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The Qualifying Requirements are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the Qualifying Requirements are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.*