



## Kundrun USEF Dressage Development Program *Pathway for Established Athletes* Program Requirements

While the main focus of the Dressage Development Program must be the athletes coming up through the pipeline, it must also be recognized that many of the established High Performance athletes also have developing horses. For this reason, in addition to the Development Program outlined [here](#), there will be an athlete/horse pathway for “established” athletes within the Development Program. This Pathway will be for those athletes on the Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List with developing horses. Horses will be identified through observation (i.e., home visits, competitions, scouting events, or evaluation sessions) conducted by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff. Athlete/horse combinations selected through this branch of the Development Program will be recognized as Development Program members and may receive other benefits such as access to additional educational opportunities and funding however priority may be given to Development Program Members identified and selected through the criteria found [here](#).

### Selection

The following minimum criteria must be met:

- Athlete must be on the USEF Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking list.
- Potential horse must be schooling Developing PSG / 4<sup>th</sup> level movements or higher.  
*Exception: Athletes with 7-year-old horses showing talent for the Grand Prix work, including piaffe/passage, may be considered based upon recommendations by the USEF Young Horse Dressage Coach and supported by the other USEF Dressage Coaches.*

Other criteria to be considered:

- Age of the horse.
- Participation and performance in FEI and/or USEF National Qualifying Competitions
- Participation and performance in [National Championships](#).
- Willingness of the athlete and the athlete’s own Trainer to buy in to the aims of the Program.

### Membership to the Development Program

Following the observation, the Development Program Coach in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff will meet to decide whether the athlete/horse combination will be invited for Development Program membership. They will use the following factors in their decisions:

- Likelihood of horse developing into a Team Horse through observation conducted.
- Results and the trajectory of these results; (i.e., is the athlete/horse combination showing improvement or has the horse’s results plateaued?) Results achieved at CDIs will carry the greatest weight.
- The age of the horse and the length of time the horse has been competing; thus, the perceived likelihood of the horse becoming a Team horse.
- Satisfactory veterinary inspection (if applicable).



- 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) their contribution to U.S. Dressage.

### **Benefits to Membership**

- Competition Planning (Competition planning toward key Championship events – establish KPI's and strategies for short term and long term).
- Access to additional education opportunities through the Development Program and space permitting, the Elite Program.
- If funding permits, Training Grants may be given in order to assist athletes attain their agreed Targets and KPIs. Athletes are required to submit a brief report at the end of the 6-month period summarizing how the funds were utilized and the impact the funds had: Further Grants will not be paid if a Report is not received. Grant eligibility will be re-evaluated based on meeting the agreed upon markers. If the markers are not met, this may result in a loss of a grant or reduction in monetary assistance.
- Included on USEF Dressage Development Program Member List published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) as well as issued in Press Releases at least once a year.

### **Requirements to Maintain Membership**

- Undergo a minimum of two annual reviews by the Development Coach and/or a member of the Dressage Coaching Staff at home visits, competitions, observation events, and/or training sessions.
- Establish KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and Targets markers (i.e., increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Development Program Manager, the athlete, and his/her personal trainer. Following the initial meeting between the Development Program Manager, the athlete, and personal trainer, a personalized performance enhancing plan will be established to aid in meeting the agreed upon markers. This will allow the Development Coach to support the athlete/horse combination and their personal trainer throughout the competition year. Markers should include future goals of meeting Elite Program minimum criteria.
- Athletes continue to participate in the Human SSM program and abide by the agreed follow-up action (when available).
- Promote and encourage communication between the athlete's support staff and the USEF support staff.
- Be of assistance with US Equestrian efforts to promote equestrian sports and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Athletes named to the Program agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, and maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

**Additional Information:** Questions should be addressed to Kristen Brett, Director, Dressage Programs 859.225.6919 or [kbrett@usef.org](mailto:kbrett@usef.org).