



2026 USEF Western Dressage Seat Medal Final Specifications Document

The 2026 USEF Western Dressage Seat Medal Final ("Final") Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on October 1st, 2025 unless stated otherwise.

It is anticipated that the 2026 USEF Western Dressage Seat Medal Final will be hosted at the WDAA World Championship Show, at the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, OK, September 15-19, 2026.

1. Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

- a. The rider and trainer must be current USEF Competing members in good standing at the time of qualification and through the conclusion of the WDAA World Championship Show.
- b. The rider, individual owner(s), and trainer must be current members with the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA) at the time of qualification and through the conclusion of the WDAA World Championship Show.
- c. The horse must have a USEF Horse ID, be in good standing under USEF rules, and shown under the owner of record at the time of qualification and through the conclusion of the WDAA World Championship Show.
- d. The horse must have a valid microchip, per GR1101.1, prior to the Final.
- e. The horse's individual owner(s) must be a current USEF Competing member in good standing at the time of qualification and through the conclusion of the WDAA World Championship Show.
- f. The horse must be registered with WDAA at the time of qualification and through the conclusion of the WDAA World Championship Show.
- g. The rider must complete a USEF Western Dressage Seat Medal Program application before the end of the Qualifying Period (as defined below) in order to obtain a qualifying score.

2. Selection:

- a. **Qualification period** - The qualifying period for the Final will begin on October 1st, 2025, and end August 31st, 2026 ("Qualifying Period"). The start date of a competition is used to determine if a qualifying class falls within the Qualifying Period. For example, if a competition starts on August 31st, and the qualifying class is on September 2nd, the class will be included in the Qualifying Period that ends August 31st.
- b. **Qualifying classes** – Any Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail or Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship class will qualify a rider for the Final.
- c. **Rider Qualification** - To qualify for the Final, riders must successfully complete one (1) Western Dressage Seat Equitation class at a USEF-licensed competition during the Qualifying Period **and** submit a USEF Western Dressage Seat Medal Program application during the Qualifying Period.
- d. **Verification of Results** - It is the responsibility of the rider to verify the accuracy of their results. USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported results. If any errors are detected, riders are encouraged to contact the USEF office immediately.

3. Invitations:

- a. Any rider who competes in and successfully completes one (1) Western Dressage Seat Equitation class during the qualifying period will be qualified for the Final, provided they meet the minimum eligibility requirements.

4. Championship Conduct:

- a. The Final will be run in the format of a Western Dressage Seat Equitation Combined Test – with two rounds that will each count for 50% of the rider's final score.
 - i. The first round will be run as a Western Dressage Seat Equitation on the Rail class.
 - 1. This class will be executed at the walk, jog, and lope.
 - ii. The second round will be run as a Western Dressage Seat Horsemanship Pattern.
 - 1. This class will include maneuvers and gaits found in Level 1.
 - 2. The pattern for this class will be selected from the pattern book and announced at the Final.
- b. Each rider/horse combination must compete in both rounds to receive a final score and be eligible for placement in the Final and awards.
- c. After judging is complete, the top ten combinations will be invited back into the ring to ride for placement and awards.

5. Equine Drug Testing: Horses competing in the Final are subject to all USEF Drug and Medication rules.

6. USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures:

- a. 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 Opportunity to Participate Complaint Form](#). For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

7. Contact:

- a. For questions concerning these specifications, please contact Lexie Stovel at (859)225-2042 or lstovel@usef.org.