



# Kundrun USEF Dressage Development Program Program Requirements

Updated June 16, 2020

The Aim of the Kundrun USEF Dressage Development Program is to provide strategic guidance and resources to selected athlete/horse combinations with the perceived ability to make the Podium or contribute to Podium scores, within the following two quadrennials. This program is overseen by the USEF Development Coach with the assistance of the USEF Dressage Youth and Young Horse Coaches as well as the USEF Dressage Technical Advisor.

## **Membership to the Development Program**

The Development Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff will meet and identify athlete/horse combinations who may receive membership to the Development Program. The intention, subject to funding will be that membership is for one-year subject to six-month reviews and subject to meeting targets. Membership may be extended beyond one-year subject to performance trajectory and approval by the Development Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

Athlete/horse combinations may be selected for membership through participation in an Evaluation Session (see below) or through criteria based upon meeting specific score requirements (see below).

## **Evaluation Sessions**

It is anticipated that in each Spring and Fall, there will be Evaluation Sessions. In order to participate, Athletes must submit an application found [here](#). Horses must be a minimum of 8 years old or over.

Following the Evaluation Sessions, the Development Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff will use the following factors in their decisions:

- Performance during the Evaluation Session.
- 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.
- The soundness record of the horse.
- 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.

## **Minimum Criteria for Evaluation Sessions**

### A. Developing Horse Prix St. Georges

- Horses must be between the ages of eight (8) and nine (9) years old.





- Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a minimum of TWO scores of 70% since January 1 of the year prior in the current editions of the following Developing Horse Tests/events:
  - USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Dressage National Championship
  - USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test held at a USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Competition. This test must be held as an individual class which is specifically designated as USEF qualifying (“Test of Choice” classes will not count).

*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.*

#### B. Developing Horse Grand Prix

- Horses must be between the ages of eight (8) and ten (10) years old.
- Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a minimum of TWO scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the current editions of the following Developing Horse Tests/events:
  - USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Dressage National Championship
  - USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test held at a USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Competition. This test must be held as an individual class which is specifically designated as USEF qualifying (“Test of Choice” classes will not count).

#### C. U25 Division

- Maximum age of horse 18 years old.
- Athlete/Horse Combinations must have earned a minimum of TWO scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
  - CDI Grand Prix 16-25
  - CDI Intermediate II
  - USEF Young Adult ‘Brentina Cup’ Dressage National Championship
  - FEI Grand Prix 16-25 or FEI Intermediate II Tests held at a USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Competition. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF qualifying (“Test of Choice” classes will not count).

#### D. Small Tour

- Maximum age of horse 10 years old.
- Athlete/Horse Combinations must have earned a minimum of TWO scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).





- CDI or USDF/GAIG Regional Championship/US Dressage Finals Intermediate II
- CDI or USDF/GAIG Regional Championship/US Dressage Finals Prix St. Georges
- USEF Intermediate I Dressage National Championship

#### E. Medium Tour

- Maximum age of horse 12 years old.
- Athlete/Horse Combinations must have earned a minimum of TWO scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
  - CDI Intermediate A or B
  - CDI or USDF/GAIG Regional Championship/US Dressage Finals Intermediate II

#### F. Big Tour

- Maximum age of horse 12 years old.
- Athlete/Horse Combinations must have earned a minimum of TWO scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
  - CDI Grand Prix or USDF/GAIG Regional Championship/US Dressage Finals Grand Prix
  - CDI Grand Prix Special
  - USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

Other criteria to be considered in addition to the minimum criteria above:

- Participation and performance in the named [Observation Events](#).
- Participation and performance in [National Championships](#).
- Recognition by a USEF Coach as showing promise and marked aptitude for becoming a potential team member.
- Willingness of the athlete and the athlete's personal trainer to buy in to the aims of the Program.

The two to three-day Evaluation Sessions may include a training observation day, a test riding day, interviews with Development Coach, the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Support Staff as well as educational sessions (theory, sport psychology, Human and Equine SSM, etc.). Personal trainers are required to attend the duration of the Evaluation Session with their athletes. Exceptions may be given due to unforeseen or exceptional circumstances by the Development Coach.

The Evaluation Sessions will be overseen by the Development Coach and supported by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Support Staff (who will be named on an annual basis).

*\*An athlete/horse combination not meeting the minimum criteria may request for a Wild Card through the application process. A maximum of five Wild Card Invitations may be given out per Evaluation*





*Session. The Application must be submitted with a video. Wildcard applications are approved by the Development Coach based on the 'Other Criteria' found on page 3 of this document, recent results, and video submitted.*

### **Criteria for Automatic Membership Selection**

Athlete/horse combinations must meet one of the below points for consideration to the Development Program. Within the past 12 months, earned at least one of the following:

- Achieved Champion or Reserve Champion at the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix National Championship
- Achieved 70%+ in at least 2 CDIs (FEI Grand Prix 16-25 or FEI Intermediate II Tests)
- Achieved 70%+ in at least 3 CDIs (FEI Prix St. Georges Test or FEI Intermediate I Test)
- Achieved 71%+ in at least 2 CDIs (FEI Prix St. Georges Test or FEI Intermediate I Test)
- Achieved 70%+ in at least 3 CDs (FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests)
- Achieved 71%+ in at least 2 CDIs (FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests)
- Achieved 72%+ in the PSG or Intermediate I Test at the Pan American Games

Other Criteria for Consideration:

- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report.
- Agreement to Requirements to Maintain Membership.
- Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier, etc.) and the Program / Team Staff.

### **Benefits to Membership**

- Competition Planning (Competition planning toward key Championship events – establish KPI's and strategies for short term and long term)
- Following an invitation to the Program agreed upon targets, an athlete/horse combination may receive a Training Grant. Additional Training Grants may be paid in 6-month blocks following athletes' Reviews. The Training Grant will 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.
- Equine and Human Sports Science Medicine Support (Equine and Human SSM)
- Access to additional education opportunities through the Development Program and space permitting, the Elite Program.
- Upon application, possible financial assistance towards specified competition or training that lie within the transitory period.





- 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 to the Program**

- Undergo a minimum of two annual reviews by the Development Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff at 'Home Visit' Observations, Observation events and/or Training Sessions.
- Age of horse and perceived likelihood to reach Pre-Elite/Elite level.
- An athlete/horse combination may remain in the Development Program for a minimum of two years subject to six-month reviews and targets being achieved. Improvement will be measured against agreed targets.
- Athlete/horse combinations competing in the Small, Medium or Big Tours who do not improve to the Pre-Elite/Elite level within the two (2) years, may be removed unless an exception is granted (for a specified period of time) by the Development Coach, Technical Advisor, Director of Dressage Programs, and Managing Director.
- Establish KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and Targets markers (i.e., increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Development Coach, the athlete, and his/her personal trainer to encourage improved performance and results. Following the initial meeting between the Development Coach, 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.
- Promote and encourage communication between their 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).
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct

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

