



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships

Date: July 17, 2025

**From:** Sarah Hollander, Director of Dressage Development & Emerging Programs

**Re:** Qualifying Dates & Competitions for 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships, Children

---

Dear Potential 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships Applicants:

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning. Please remember that this information is based on the recommendations of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Dressage Sport Committee and United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Executive Board and is subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors and therefore subject to change.

**Selection Process Summary:** Ranking lists of athlete/horse combinations will be maintained and selection will be based on the final rankings of each Region (see more detail below). The 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) is scheduled to take place on July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, in Traverse City, Michigan.

### 1. **Qualifying Period**

The proposed qualifying period for NAYC begins July 22, 2025 and is anticipated to end at least ten days prior to the Nominated Entry date (TBD).

### 2. **Qualifying Competitions**

It is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be required to complete at least two Qualifying Competitions during the qualifying period. Qualifying Competitions include:

- **Competitions listed on the NAYC/USEF Qualifying Competitions Calendar:** Scores earned at these competitions within the qualifying period will be automatically included in the Ranking List calculations. NAYC/USEF Qualifying Competitions can be found [HERE](#). Please make sure to check the calendar(s) frequently for updates.
- **CDI-Ch Events:** Scores earned at CDI-Ch may be included, at the option of the athlete, and will only be included in the Ranking List calculations upon receipt of a CDI & Championship Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form (form can be found at [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)). The 2025 and 2026 FEI Calendars can be found on the FEI website [HERE](#) (Please note that the FEI 2026 calendar is not approved until after the FEI General Assembly in November). Please make sure to check the Calendar(s) frequently for updates. NOTE: Scores from the 2025 NAYC will not be counted.
- **2025 USEF Children Dressage National Championship:** Scores earned at this National Championship may be included, at the option of the athlete, and will only be computed into the Ranking List upon receipt of a CDI & Championship Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form.



### 3. **Tests Required**

It is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be required to achieve **two** scores in the current edition of the FEI Children Team Test and **two** scores in the current edition of the FEI Children Individual Test at USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions in USEF/NAYC designated Qualifying Classes.

- The Technical Test scoresheet and Quality Marking sheet will be averaged, and the average will serve as the final score on the Ranking List.
- Athlete/horse combinations that achieve more than two scores in the relevant team or individual test, may drop the lowest score earned in the Team Test and the Individual Test, regardless of whether these scores were earned in the same Qualifying Competition.
- Athletes wishing to qualify for the Children Championship must qualify with FEI Children Tests.
- In addition to these tests, athlete/horse combinations will be required to complete the FEI Children Preliminary B Test at one USEF/NAYC designated Qualifying Competition.
- Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying Classes.

### 4. **Certificate of Capability**

- Each athlete/horse combination must earn a minimum overall average of 62.000% or greater on the final Ranking List. It is anticipated this will be calculated by scores earned from the FEI Children Team Test and FEI Children Individual Test at two (2) different USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions from a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' or FEI Judges, in order to be named to the Nominated and Definite Entries.
- Only scores earned at USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions in USEF/NAYC designated Qualifying Classes will count towards the Certificate of Capability. The technical score is given by the judge at C, and the quality score is given by the judge at E (or B).
- In addition to these tests, athlete/horse combinations will be required to earn one score of 62.000% or higher in the FEI Children Preliminary B Test at a USEF/NAYC designated Qualifying Competition.
- The FEI Children Preliminary B Test must be earned in an FEI Children Preliminary B class or an FEI Test of Choice class. The class must be judged by a minimum of one (1) judge. For the placement of judges for the FEI Children Tests, please review the memo [here](#).

#### **Additional Information**

**Anti-Doping:** Athletes must adhere to all USOPC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, and may be drug tested. Please contact Christy Hawkins, Special Project Management Analyst, with any questions at (859) 300 3045 / [cbhawkins@usef.org](mailto:cbhawkins@usef.org).

**Grievances:** 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. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org).

**Equipment:** Per DR121, only snaffle bridles will be permitted for FEI Tests for Children. If you are competing in a CDI and/or NAYC, FEI Rules apply.

**Horse Requirements:** Horses and ponies are both eligible to compete in the FEI Children's Championship.

#### **QUESTIONS**

If you have any questions regarding the above Qualifying Competitions or the development of the Selection Procedures for the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Hollander at (859) 225-6914 or [shollander@usef.org](mailto:shollander@usef.org).