U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions
August 23-29, 2027
HITS Lamplight Equestrian Center; Wayne, IL.

2027 USEF Para Dressage National Championships Qualifying Requirements

Grand Prix and Intermediate

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Executive Committee on November 17, 2026.

The 2027 Para Dressage National Championships ("Championships") Qualifying Requirements are effective on November 17, 2026 and subject to change. These qualifying requirements pertain to Grades I-V for the following divisions:

- Adequan®/USEF Intermediate Para Dressage National Championship
- Adequan®/USEF Grand Prix Para Dressage National Championship

The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. ("USEF") assumes no liability for errors or omissions in these Qualifying Requirements. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that all applications, application fees, and scores have been received by USEF by the published deadlines.

For questions concerning these Qualifying Requirements, please contact the USEF Dressage and Para Dressage Departments at festival@usef.org or lkjohnson@usef.org. Unless otherwise provided herein, the USEF Rulebook will apply to the Championship and these Qualifying Requirements.

I. Deadlines and Membership Requirements for Application.

For these Championships, qualification is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, any change to the athlete during the qualifying period will result in a new combination for qualifying purposes.

Athletes are permitted to compete at these Championships with only those horses named on the athlete's application (i.e., athlete/horse combination or combination).

Scores are permitted to be earned prior to the submission of the application.

Application Deadlines:

1. Athletes wishing to earn an invitation to these Championships must successfully complete an online application. The online application will be available beginning on December 1, 2026.

2. Applications completed between December 1, 2026 and May 13, 2027, at 11:59pm ET will be assessed a seventy-five dollar ($75.00) fee per horse.

3. Applications completed between May 14, 2027, and June 28, 2027, at 11:59pm ET will be assessed a one hundred fifty-dollar ($150.00) fee per horse.

4. Additional horses must be added to an existing application by June 28, 2027 at 11:59pm ET and will require a seventy-five dollar ($75.00) fee per horse.

5. No application will be accepted after June 28, 2027 at 11:59pm, ET and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
6. An application is considered complete once the confirmation email is received. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that the rider and horse information listed in the confirmation email is correct. If the athlete does not receive the

confirmation email, it is the athlete's responsibility to contact USEF (festival@usef.org) to determine if the application has been received.

7. Following the close of the applications on June 28, 2027 at 11:59pm, ET, only combinations which have completed an application for the Championships will display on the ranking lists.

8. By signing the application, the athlete, parent/guardian and owner(s) certify that they have received, read, and understand the USEF Rules, USEF Code of Conduct; USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification; Qualifying Requirements, U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

Membership Requirements for Application:

Athlete: Athletes must be a U.S. Citizen and a Competing member in good standing with USEF at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships, and for the combination to earn scores towards their respective ranking list.

Athletes who are 13 years old or older as of December 1, 2026 are eligible to qualify and compete in these Championships.

Horse: The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships, and for the combination to earn a score towards their respective ranking list. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill the above requirements.

Mules are not permitted to qualify for or compete in these Championships.

Horses must fit into one of the following age categories for competition. 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. FEI Rules apply in CPEDI competitions.

- **Intermediate:** Horses must be a minimum of six (6) years old in 2027 to earn scores toward the ranking list and to compete in this Championship.
- **Grand Prix:** Horses must be a minimum of seven (7) years old in 2027 to earn scores toward the ranking list and to compete in this Championship.

Horse Owner(s): Owners must be a Competing member in good standing with USEF at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships, and for the combination to earn scores towards their respective ranking list.

Ownership may change during the qualifying period and up to the close of entries for the Championship, as long as the new owner(s) meets all the above criteria.

All the above owner requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF, including all owners of a partnership, farm, company, corporation, etc. if a horse is recorded as owned by that type of entity.

USEF strongly encourages all athlete, horse, and owner membership requirements be completed by June 3, 2027, or rush fees may be required to submit the Application by 11:59pm, ET on June 28, 2027.

II. Additional Eligibility Requirements for Qualifying Competitions and Championships.

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 (FRD), status to earn qualifying scores and to compete in these Championships. Please visit the USEF website here for more information.

Athletes must ride independently and at their classified Grade.

FEI Registration: Athletes are not required to have an FEI Rider Registration to earn scores on their respective ranking list or to compete in these Championships. If an athlete has an FEI Registration (inactive or current), they must have designated the USA as their sport nationality with the FEI to earn scores on their respective ranking list and to compete in these Championships.

An FEI Horse Registration, FEI Passport, or FEI Recognition Card is not required to earn scores on the ranking lists or to compete in these Championships. FEI General and Para Dressage Rules apply in CPEDI events.

III. Qualifying Competition Specifics.

Qualifying Period: The qualifying period shall begin on July 28, 2026, and is scheduled to end July 26, 2027, unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 4, 2027.

Qualifying Competitions: Qualifying Competitions include national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions, as well as U.S. and foreign CPEDI events. However, a combination cannot earn a score in a national Qualifying Competition if the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form is submitted from a CPEDI at the same event. For CPEDI score reporting, see Section V. Qualifying Competitions held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity, even if they have separate license/recognition numbers.

The list of USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website here. The 2026 FEI Calendar can be found here and please note that the 2027 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2026.

Scores earned from the 2026 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions cannot be used towards qualifying for the 2027 U.S. Dressage Festival Champions.

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

Judging Panels for National Qualifying Competitions: Qualifying tests must be officiated by a panel of at least two (2) USEF 'S' and/or FEI Judges. For CPDEI Events, FEI Para Dressage Rules apply. See Section V for Conflicts of Interest.

Freestyle Tests completed at a national Qualifying Competition must be officiated by a minimum of one (1) USEF 'S' or FEI judge.

Dress and Saddlery: Please refer to DR308 for dress and saddlery rules for qualifiers held at national Qualifying Competitions. If competing in a CPEDI event, all FEI Para Dressage and General Regulations must be followed.

IV. Qualifying Tests and Minimum Overall Average Specifics:

All tests listed below and completed at a national Qualifying Competition must be in a Test of Choice (TOC) classes specifically designated as USEF Qualifying in the prize list. Hors de Concours (HC) entries are not permitted in USEF Qualifying classes. Only one score per respective Test may be earned over the course of weekend.

Intermediate: Combinations must achieve a minimum overall average of 60% on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to this Championship by earning at least one (1) score in their respective Grade Level in the current edition of the FEI Para Intermediate A Test and a minimum of one (1) score in the FEI Para Intermediate B Test offered at a national Qualifying Competition or at a CPEDI.

Additionally, combinations must also earn at least one (1) score in the FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle Test. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle Test of Choice class or in an FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle Test offered at a national Qualifying Competition, CPEDI, or through the USEF Virtual Judging Program. If an athlete completes their freestyle through the USEF Virtual Judging Program, a copy of the entire score sheet(s) must be submitted to and received by the USEF Dressage Department (festival@usef.org) no later than 5pm, ET on July 26, 2027 for consideration. Freestyle scores will automatically be noted on the final ranking list and are not used in the calculation of a combination's overall average.

Combinations are not required to complete the Para Intermediate A, the Para Intermediate B, or the Para Intermediate Freestyle at the same Qualifying Competition.

Grand Prix: Combinations must achieve a minimum overall average of 62% on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to this Championship by earning at least one (1) score in their respective Grade Level in the current edition of the FEI Para Grand Prix A Test and a minimum of one (1) score in the FEI Para Grand Prix B Test offered at a national Qualifying Competition or at a CPEDI.

Additionally, combinations must also earn at least one (1) score in the FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test of Choice class or in an FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test offered at a national Qualifying Competition, CPEDI, or through the USEF Virtual Judging Program. If an athlete completes their freestyle through the USEF Virtual Judging Program, a copy of the entire score sheet(s) must be submitted to and received by the USEF Dressage Department (festival@usef.org) no later than 5pm, ET on July 26, 2027 for consideration. Freestyle scores will automatically be noted on the final ranking list and are not used in the calculation of a combination's overall average.

Combinations are not required to complete the Para Grand Prix A, the Para Grand Prix B, or the Para Grand Prix Freestyle at the same Qualifying Competition.

Calculation of the Overall Average on the Ranking Lists: Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF Staff. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations, and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list.

The ranking lists can be found here and will be updated as results are processed from national Qualifying Competitions and CPEDI events. It can take up to a minimum of 10 business days from the completion of a competition for results to reflect on the ranking lists. The ranking lists can be found here starting July 8, 2027.

USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported scores. If errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org immediately.

For calculation purposes: USEF will automatically track scores for combinations which are earned at national Qualifying Competitions. See below for CPEDI Scores.

Percentages are carried out to the third decimal point with numbers of five (5) and above rounded up (63.4555% = 63.456%).

Intermediate: A combination's overall average will be calculated by averaging the scores earned in the Para Intermediate A Test with the scores earned in the Para Intermediate B Test.

If a combination earns two (2) or more scores in in the Para Intermediate A Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If a combination earns two (2) or more scores in the Para Intermediate B Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Para Intermediate A Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the Para Intermediate B Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate the combination's overall average.

Grand Prix: A combination's overall average will be calculated by averaging the scores earned in the Grand Prix A Test with the scores earned in the Para Grand Prix B Test.

If a combination earns two (2) or more scores in in the Para Grand Prix A Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If a combination earns two (2) or more scores in the Para Grand Prix B Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Para Grand Prix A Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the Para Grand Prix B Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate the combination's overall average.

CPEDI Scores: CPEDI scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the 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. Changes to a submitted CDI/CPEDI Report will not be accepted following the specified deadline stated on the form to the USEF Dressage Department.

It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all CDI scores for these Championships are submitted to USEF on time and are accurate.

Withdrawals: Withdrawals must be submitted in writing to festival@usef.org. Withdrawals received after the close of the application will be noted as WD on the final ranking list.

V. Additional Rules and Requirements.

Conflict of Interest: Judging Panels at CPEDI Events: Refer to FEI Para Dressage Rules for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.

Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304.

Selectors must comply with the USEF's Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy including completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee. Any committee member who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee members' ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee members must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that a Selector who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the committee members, provide such information to the committee members so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other committee members in the selection process. Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, owner, or coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or the USEF Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USEF selection committee appointment process.

Clean Sport Equine Anti-Doping**:** All horses/ponies shall be subject to drug and medication testing during qualifying and 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. When competing in a CPEDI event, all FEI General Regulations, Para Dressage Rules and Anti-Doping Rules must be followed.

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 wising 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.

Non-Discrimination Policy: USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

V. Final Ranking Lists and Invitations to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.

Final Ranking List: After the conclusion of the qualifying period (July 26, 2027) and for these Championships, combinations will be ranked according to their overall average and be accepted up to the number of entries available, not to exceed 12 combinations.

In the case of a tie, the combinations shall remain tied but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked combination shall be ranked third.

If there is a tie for 12th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries (i.e., 13 entries accepted).

The Final Ranking Lists will be posted here no later than Friday, July 30, 2027.

Invitations are anticipated to be sent via email no later than Friday, July 30, 2027. Combinations on the Final Ranking List will be invited to the Championships up until the close of the entry deadline published in the official prize list and in the invitation to these Championships.

For these Championships,

- Athletes are permitted to compete with one (1) horse in each Para Dressage Championship.
- The same combination is permitted to participate in one (1) division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.
- A horse is permitted to be competed by one (1) athlete in the Para Dressage Championships.
- A horse is permitted to be competed in one (1) division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. Exception, a horse that has also competed in the Para Dressage Championships is permitted to be competed in the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals pending confirmation of the final timetable.
- Once entries close for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, additional combinations shall not be invited to participate.

Grand Prix and Intermediate: Athletes are permitted to compete with a maximum of one (1) horse in these Championships. If an athlete qualifies more than one (1) horse/pony in the top 12 ranked combinations, the second horse/pony may serve as the athlete's direct reserve if the higher ranked horse is unable to compete in their respective Championship. If an athlete is invited to compete with a second horse that is ranked on the Final Ranking List, the second horse may serve as the athlete's direct reserve if the higher ranked horse is unable to compete in their respective Championship. Substitutions must be made up to two (2) hours before the horse inspection (jog) upon notification to USEF Staff and the Show Office.

Wild Card Invitations:

The Para Equestrian Sport Committee or its Designees may award wild card invitations, if there is not a maximum of 12 qualified combinations on the Para Intermediate Final Ranking List or a maximum of 12 qualified combinations on the Para Grand Prix Final Ranking List, not to exceed 12 for each Championship.

Combinations qualified through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above are not eligible to request a wild card invitation.

Wild Card requests must be submitted to festival@usef.org no later than 11:59pm, ET on July 26, 2027.

The following factors will be considered based upon results of the combination, as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise:

Intermediate:

- A combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one Para Intermediate A Test score, one Para Intermediate B Test score, or one Para Intermediate Freestyle score within the qualifying period, may request a wild card invitation.
- Scores earned in the Para Intermediate A Test and the Para Intermediate B Test.
- Consistency of scores over 60% (which is the minimum overall average for the qualifying process).
- The trend in scores if the combination competed in multiple competitions within the qualifying period.
- The combination's ranking on the final ranking list.
- Factors beyond the control of the athlete that led to the combination not earning the required results.
- International experience of the athlete, horse, or combination.

Grand Prix:

- A combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one Para Grand Prix A Test score, one Para Grand Prix B Test score, or one Para Grand Prix Freestyle score within the qualifying period, may request a wild card invitation.
- Scores earned in the Para Grand Prix A Test and the Para Grand Prix B Test.
- Consistency of scores over 62% (which is the minimum overall average for the qualifying process).
- The trend in scores if the combination competed in multiple competitions within the qualifying period.
- The combination's ranking on the final ranking list.
- Factors beyond the control of the athlete that led to the combination not earning the required results.
- International experience of the athlete, horse, or combination.

VI. <u>Championship Information</u>.

USEF Championship Rules will be followed and the Championship Format for each division will be available on the USEF website by March 4, 2027.

USEF reserves the right to amend this document should there be a need to utilize the Championships as an observation event for Team selection or other championship preparation.

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. Changes in Qualifying Requirements are subject to approval by USEF.