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

2027 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements

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

These 2027 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship ("Championship") Qualifying Requirements are effective on November 17, 2026 and are subject to change.

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 Department at festival@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 this Championship, qualification is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, any change to the athlete during the Qualifying Period (defined below) will result in a new combination for qualifying purposes.

Athletes are permitted to compete in this Championship with only those horses named on the athlete's application.

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

Application Deadlines:

1. Athletes wishing to earn an invitation to the Championship 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 Championship will display on the ranking lists.

8. By signing the application, the athlete 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 Championship, and for the combination to earn a scores towards their respective ranking list.

Athletes are eligible to earn scores towards the ranking list and compete in this Championship from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty-five (25).

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.

Horses must be a minimum of eight (8) years old to compete in this Championship per FEI Dressage Rules.

Ponies and mules are not permitted to qualify for or compete in the 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 Championship, 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.

The above owner's requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF, including all owners of a partnership, syndicate, 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 to 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.

FEI Registration: If an athlete has an FEI Registration (inactive or active), they must have designated the USA as their sport nationality with the FEI to earn scores towards the ranking list and to compete in this Championship.

Athletes are NOT required to have an FEI Rider Registration to earn scores or to compete in this Championship. An FEI Horse Registration, FEI Passport, or FEI Recognition is NOT required to earn scores towards the ranking list or to compete in this Championship.

Once an athlete has taken part in a U25 National or FEI Dressage Championship, they are no longer eligible to compete in a Dressage National Championship for Pony Rider or Junior beginning January 1 of the following year.

If a combination places in the top three (3) of a U25 National or FEI Championship, the same combination is no longer eligible to compete in a Young Rider National Championship beginning January 1 of the following year.

If the above restrictions do not apply to an athlete, the following rules apply to qualifying and Championship participation for athletes meeting the eligible age requirement:

- An athlete is permitted to compete in the Pony Rider, Junior, Young Rider, and Brentina Cup divisions; however, they are not permitted to compete in more than one of these divisions at the same Qualifying Competition(s) (defined below) with the same mount.
- An athlete is permitted to compete in the Young Rider and Brentina Cup National Championships within the same year; however, they are not permitted to compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.

III. Qualifying Competition Specifics.

Qualifying Period: The Qualifying Period shall begin on July 28, 2026, and is scheduled to end June 28, 2027, unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 4, 2027 (the "Qualifying Period").

Qualifying Competitions: Qualifying Competitions include national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions as well as U.S. and foreign CDI events (CDI2*, CDIO-U25, CDI-U25). 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.

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.

Scores from the 2026 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions are not permitted to be used towards qualifying for the 2027 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.

Scores earned from the 2026 FEI NAYC can be used towards qualifying for the 2027 U.S. Dressage Festival of Championships if held during the Qualifying Period (See below for CDI Scores).

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 CDI Events, FEI 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.

One Athlete Rule: Please refer to DR128 for national Qualifying Competitions. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply.

Dress and Saddlery: A snaffle or double bridle is permitted for national Qualifying Competitions. The use of a whip will be permitted at national Qualifying Competitions. If competing in a CDI event, all FEI 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 individual classes specifically designated as USEF Qualifying, USEF/NAYC Qualifying, Markel/USEF/NAYC Qualifying, or Markel/USEF Qualifying in the prize list. Test of Choice (TOC) classes will not count. Hors de Concours (HC) entries are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes. Only one score per respective Test may be earned over the course of weekend.

Combinations must achieve a minimum overall average of 65% on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to this Championship by earning at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate II Test and/or the FEI Intermediate II A Test effective January 1, 2027.

Additionally, combinations must attain a Certificate of Capability by earning a minimum score of 65% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test, or an FEI Freestyle Test of

Choice class held at a national Qualifying Competition or a CDI. Freestyle scores will automatically be noted on the final ranking list and are not used in the calculation of a combination's overall average. When more than one Freestyle score is earned at a national Qualifying Competition, the highest score will be noted on the Final Ranking List.

For all divisions, a combination cannot earn a score in a national Qualifying Competition if a CDI is also offered at the same event. Exception, if a CDIO-U25 is held a combination may earn scores from the CDI-U25 or national qualifying classes if offered by the competition.

Calculation of the Overall Average on the Ranking Lists: Submission of score sheets to USEF are not necessary for these Championships unless requested by the USEF Dressage Department. 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 CDI 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 on June 9, 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, including those earned at GAIG/USDF Regional Championships. See below for CDI Scores.

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

A combination's overall average will be calculated by averaging the scores in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test with the scores earned in the FEI Intermediate II Test and/or the FEI Intermediate II A Test effective January 1, 2027.

If a combination earns three (3) or more scores in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If a combination earns three (3) or more scores in the FEI Intermediate II Test and/or the FEI Intermediate II A Test, the lowest score in this Test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Grand Prix 16-25 Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the Intermediate II Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each combination's overall average.

CDI Scores: CDI scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the combination's overall average upon receipt of the 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 USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form 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.

Combinations may also earn scores from the FEI North American Youth Championships if held during the Qualifying Period. For these scores to count, scores must be reported by athletes via the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report form by the deadlines as indicated on the form.

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 CDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.

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

Clean Sport: Equine Anti-Doping**:** All horses/ponies shall be subject to drug and medication testing during qualifying and at 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.

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 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.

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.

VI. Final Ranking List and Invitations to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.

Final Ranking List: After the conclusion of the Qualifying Period (June 28, 2027), combinations will be ranked according to their overall average and be accepted up to the number of invitations 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 List will be posted here no later than Friday, July 2, 2027.

Invitations are anticipated to be sent via email no later than Friday, July 2, 2027. Combinations on the Final Ranking List will be invited to the Championship up until the close of the entry deadline published in the official prize list and in the invitation to the Championship. Once entries close for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, additional combinations shall not be invited to participate.

For this Championship,

- Athletes are permitted to compete with a maximum of two (2) horses in each Championship division.
- 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 in one (1) division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. Exception, a horse which also competed in the Brentina Cup division 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.

Combinations not qualified as listed above will be invited to participate in the Championship if there is not a maximum of 12 combinations on the Final Ranking List, not to exceed 12 unless there is a tie, if the following criteria is obtained:

a. The combination obtained at least two (2) scores in the FEI Intermediate II Test and/or the FEI Intermediate II A Test and at least two (2) scores in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test within the Qualifying Period.
b. The combination's final overall average is within 1% of the minimum overall average of 65% and is the next highest overall average on the Final Ranking List.

c. For clarification purposes to the above, the additional invitations are based upon the Final Ranking List posted no later Friday, July 2, 2027 and not on the final entry list for this Championship.

VII. <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.

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.