

2026

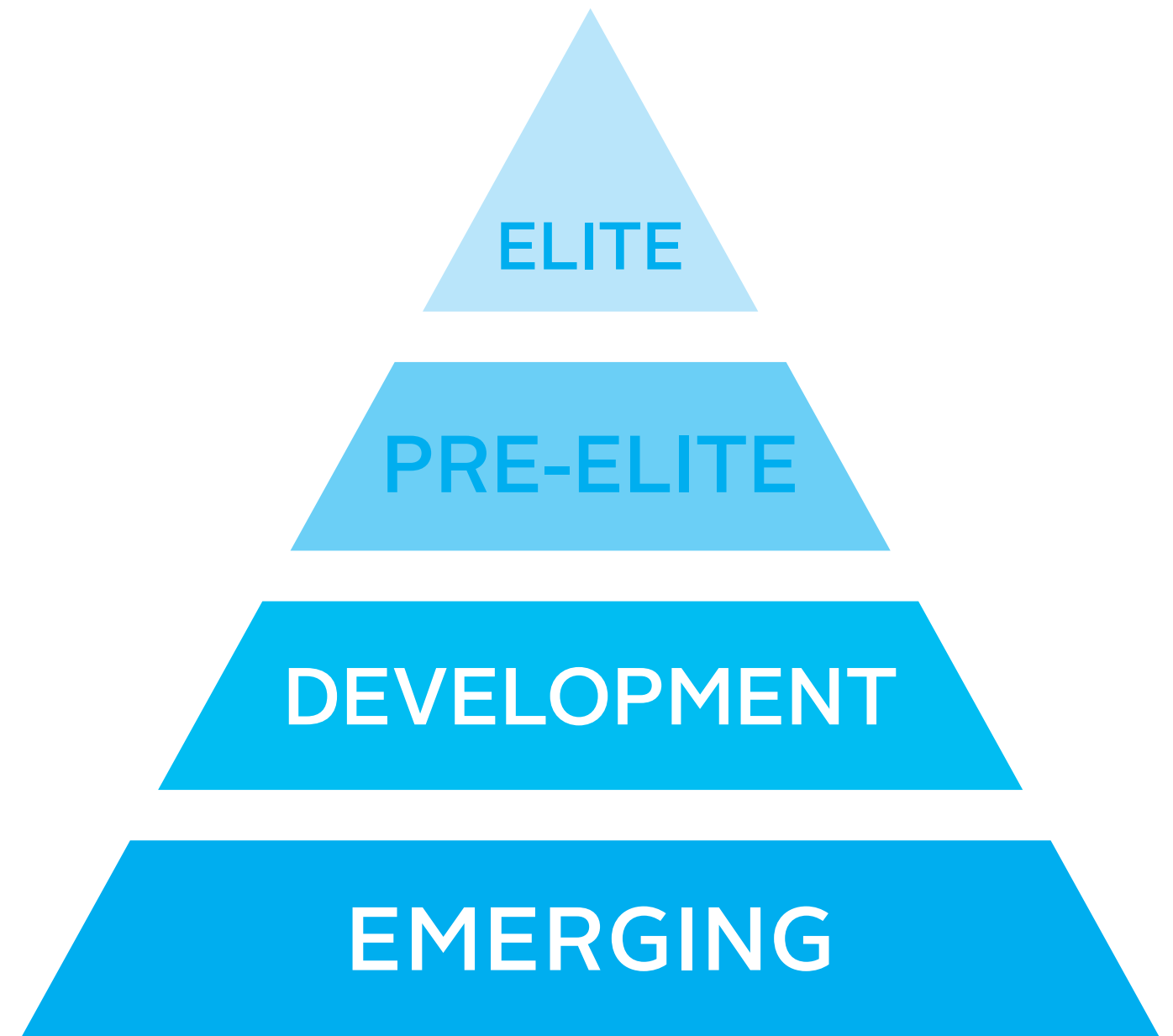
DRESSAGE



PATHWAY
PROGRAM



DRESSAGE PATHWAY PROGRAM



To learn more about the Dressage Pathway Programs, visit the USEF Dressage webpage. In addition to the information included within this booklet, program membership lists, retention criteria, program benefits, and more can be found on the website.

USA DRESSAGE COACHING STAFF

The USA Dressage Coaching Staff is dedicated to the development of USA Dressage performance across all levels of the U.S. Dressage Pathway Programs. The coaching staff works to assess athlete and horse combinations and provide structured and accessible training guidance, as well as identify and communicate areas of performance and home program improvement with participants and their respective coaches and teams. Together, the coaches and program staff, continue to develop and review sustainable performance-driven strategies aiming to foster long-term success and deliver podium results.



Christine Taurig, Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor



George Williams, High Performance Pathway Advisor & Youth Coach



Guenter Seidel, Assistant Pathway Coach



Olivia LaGoy-Weltz, Assistant Pathway Coach



ELITE PROGRAM

Overview

The aim of the Elite Program is to provide support and resources to those athlete/horse combinations that have been proven they are internationally and deliver sustained success at the World and Olympic levels.

Criteria for the Elite Program / List

Athlete/horse combinations must meet one of the below points within the past 12 months earned at a CDI3*/CDIO3* or above.

Achievement of a competition result, as defined below:

- 74%+ in the Grand Prix* or Grand Prix Special at two competitions within a 3-month window.
- 74%+ in the Grand Prix* or Grand Prix Special at a CDI5*, CDIO5*, World Cup Finals, Olympic Games or World Equestrian Games.

*Short Grand Prix may replace the Grand Prix. National Championship and Special Competition results may be considered as CDI scores.

PRE-ELITE PROGRAM

Overview

The Pre-Elite Program underpins the Elite Program and seeks to provide support and guidance to those combinations in the 71-73% Grand Prix score range, so they can succeed in reaching the Elite List (consistent 74%+ score range).

Criteria for the Pre-Elite Program / List

Athlete/horse combinations must meet one of the below points within the past 12 months earned at a CDI3*/CDIO3* or above:

- Achieved 71%+ in at least 3 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special).
- Achieved 72%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special).
- Achieved 73%+ in at least 1 CDI (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special).



Photos: Devyn Trethewey/US Equestrian, Avery Wallace/US Equestrian

USEF DRESSAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Overview

The aim of the USEF Dressage Development Program is to provide strategic guidance and resources to selected athlete/horse combinations with the perceived talent and ability to reach the Pre-Elite/Elite List within the next two to three years by focusing on developing the skills needed to progress up the Pathway.

Criteria for Development Program

Athlete/horse combination must meet a minimum of one of the following within the past 12 months:

- Achieved Champion or Reserve Champion at the USEF Seven-Year-Old, Developing Horse Prix St. Georges or Developing Horse Grand Prix National Championships.
- Selected to represent the US in the 7-year-olds at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage.
- Achieved a minimum score of 77.500% in a CDI-YH event in the Seven-Year-Olds. National Championship or special competitions may also be considered.
- Achieved a minimum score of 77.500% in the Preliminary and Final in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.
- Achieved a minimum score of 71%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Prix St. Georges or Intermediate I Tests). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- Achieved a minimum score of 70%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Intermediate A, Intermediate B, or Intermediate II Tests). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- Achieved a minimum score of 69% in at least 2 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special Tests). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.





USEF EMERGING YOUNG HORSE PROGRAM

Overview

The aim of the USEF Dressage Emerging Young Horse Program is to provide strategic guidance and educational opportunities to selected athlete/horse combinations in each young horse division of FEI dressage (Four-, Five-, and Six-Year-Olds) with the perceived talent and ability to reach the Pre-Elite/Elite List by focusing on developing the skills needed to progress up the Pathway.

Criteria for Emerging Young Horse Program

Athlete/horse combination must meet a minimum of one of the following within the past 12 months:

- Achieved Champion or Reserve Champion in the Four-, Five-, and Six-Year-Old divisions at the National Championships (Festival).
- Selected to represent the US at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage.
- Achieved a minimum score of 8.2 in a CDI-YH event in the Five- or Six-Year-Olds. National Championship or special competitions may also be considered.
- Achieved a minimum score of 8.2 in the Preliminary and Final in combination at two (2) USEF National Qualifying Competitions.



USEF/USDF DRESSAGE EMERGING ATHLETE PROGRAM

Overview

The aim of the USEF/USDF Dressage Emerging Athlete Program is to provide strategic guidance and educational opportunities to selected athletes 25 years old and under necessary for reaching the Pre-Elite/Elite List. While the focus of this program is on the U25, Young Rider Junior, and Children levels, Pony Riders may be eligible for educational opportunities offered through the Program.

Criteria for Emerging Athlete Program

Athlete/horse combination must meet a minimum of one of the following within the past 12 months:

- Selection to the USEF Young Rider or U25 European Tour.
- Individual medal winners at NAYC in Dressage (not including freestyles).
- Champion and Reserve Champion in the Intermediaire I, Brentina Cup, Young Rider, Junior and Children divisions at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.
- CDICh - minimum quality score of 80% and a minimum technical score of 70% from two different CDIs. National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- Achieved a minimum quality score of 80% or higher and a minimum technical score of 70% or higher in the FEI Children Team and FEI Children Individual tests in combination at two (2) USEF National Qualifying Competitions.
- CDIY or CDIJ - 70% or higher from two different CDIs (freestyles not included). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- 70% or higher in the FEI Junior or Young Rider Team and FEI Junior or Young Rider Individual tests in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.
- CDIU25 or CDI3* or above - 68% or higher from two different CDIs (freestyles not included). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- 68% or higher in the FEI Intermediate II and FEI Grand Prix 16-25 test in combination at two (2) USEF National Qualifying Competitions.
- 68% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special tests in combination at two (2) USEF National Qualifying Competitions.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Opportunity to participate in USEF Training Sessions/Clinics/Coaching Sessions.
- One-on-One Coaching/Home Visits.
- Access to USEF Human and Equine Sports Science Medicine Education Programs and resources when available, appropriate and as funding allows.
- Assistance in transition to the next age bracket or division level (training, strategic planning, setting competition and training targets, data analysis, etc.).
- Included on USEF Program Member List published on www.usef.org.
- Additional horses in addition to those horse(s) associated for membership may be reviewed for comment via video submission.
- If funding permits, it is possible for these athlete/horse combinations to receive some funding to support their agreed upon targets and goals. Priority is given to Program Members for all USEF Program events (except those that may be specially restricted). If an athlete has more than one horse qualified for a Program membership, they may not receive the same financial support with additional horses.
- Additional benefits may be available depending on specific program membership.

