

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2026 FEI PARA DRESSAGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
AACHEN (GER) AUGUST 18-23, 2026**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

- 1.1.** Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2026 FEI Para Dressage World Championships (the “Event”) U.S. team (the “Team”):

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Nationality/Passport Requirements - The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with the FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119 (see www.fei.org) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (FEI) Standards for Participation:

All athlete/horse combinations wishing to compete on the Team must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability by having achieved at least one (1) sixty-four percent (64%) score at a FEI Para Equestrian 3* or above event in an Individual/Grand Prix A or Team/Grand Prix B competition between January 1, 2025 and the FEI Nominated Entry Date TBD, 2026 (see FEI Rules for Para Dressage Team Championships [4th edition, 1 January 2011 - Updates effective 1 January 2025], Article 8402.6, 8402.7, and 8405.3). The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found [HERE](#).

- a. Beginning the year in which they reach their 14th birthday, Athletes are eligible to take part in the Para Equestrian Dressage Competitions. (see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at FEI Championships Article 8426).
- b. A horse must have been born before 31 December 2020 (see the FEI Rules for Para Dressage [3rd Edition, 1 January 2011 – updates effective 1 January 2025], Article 8430).
- c. The athlete and horse both must be registered and in good standing with the FEI.
- d. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
- e. The athlete must be internationally classified with a Confirmed (C) sport class status or a “Review” (R) sport class status with a fixed review date (FRD) after December 31, 2026, by the Nominated Entry deadline. A description of sport-specific classification requirements and current international athlete sport class status can be found at the IPC website at www.paralympic.org.

1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):

- a. The athlete must be a Competing member of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) in good standing from the time of FEI Nominated Entries, and through the conclusion of the Event.
- b. The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102 in good standing from the time of FEI Nominated Entries, and through the conclusion of the Event.
- c. **Application** - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete and submit an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee at

www.usef.org. Applications submitted online on or before 5 p.m. EST January 10, 2026, will be charged seventy dollars (\$70.00) per Application. Applications submitted online after 5:00 p.m. EST January 10, 2026, and received by the USEF on or before 5:00 p.m. EST April 15, 2026, will be charged three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per Application. All horses with whom the athlete intends to be considered must be included on the application. NO APPLICATIONS OR CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 5:00 P.M. April 15, 2026. IF AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE APPLICATION FEE, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY IF THE APPLICABLE FEE IS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 5:00 P.M. EST April 15, 2026.

- d. The individual owner(s) of the horse named to the FEI Nominated Entry must be a Competing Member in good standing with USEF at the time of FEI Nominated Entry, and through the conclusion of the Event. The individual owner(s) must execute the [USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement](#) by the stated deadline. The Owner must certify, by signing the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, [the USEF Code of Conduct](#), [the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), [the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), [the USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), [the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- e. Each Athlete, and their parent or legal guardian, if applicable, must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, [the USEF Code of Conduct](#), [the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), [the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), [the USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), [the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
- f. Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- g. Any athlete aged 18 or older as of the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USEF Athlete Safety Policy](#).

1.2. Selection Events:

Athletes are required to complete all three tests (FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A, FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix B, and FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle) in their Classified Grade at a minimum of two (2) CPEDI3* between January 1, 2025, and June Date TBD, 2026 ("Qualifying Period"). A list of CPEDI3* competitions can be found on the FEI website at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>. This information was communicated to potential Event athletes and published on the USEF's website on December 17, 2024 (Attachment F).

1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

Selection Events include all U.S. and foreign CPEDI3* during the Qualifying Period. Other designated national events may be considered toward selection and will be posted on the USEF website.

Athletes who are qualified for CPEDI3* Events in accordance with FEI Para Dressage Rule, Article 8404 (4th Edition, effective 01 January 2025) are eligible to compete in the qualifying Events as listed in 1.2.1.

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for this Event (include maximum Team size):

Athletes and horses who have met all the requirements outlined in 1.1.3., 1.1.4., and 1.2. will receive an invitation from the USEF Director of Para Equestrian to compete in the Mandatory Observation Event (Dates/Venues TBD).

1.3.1 A Mandatory Observation Event will take place, Dates and Venues TBD. **Please note: The Mandatory Observation Event(s) does not count as a second qualifying score.** Confirmed date will be posted on the USEF Para Dressage page, US Equestrian Facebook page and sent to active U.S. Para Dressage athletes no later than January 1, 2026.

If unforeseen circumstances occur before or during the Mandatory Observation Event that preclude an athlete/horse combination from completing the Mandatory Observation Event, an exemption may be granted at the recommendation of the selectors and approval of the Chef d'Equipe. This Mandatory Observation Event is not a stand-alone selection trial. Results of the Mandatory Observation Event will only be one factor used in determining the Short List/Nominated Entries (See Section 1.3.2 for criteria used in the naming of the Short List/Nominated Entries).

Participation in the Mandatory Observation Event does not guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry or the Team.

An "exemption" from part or all of the Mandatory Observation Event will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and must be approved by the Selectors in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel prior to the start of the Mandatory Observation Event. A request for exemption must be submitted in writing via email, the USEF Director of Para Equestrian at lkjohnson@usef.org.

1.3.2. Waiver Requests.

In extraordinary circumstances, an athlete may request special consideration for competing at less than two (2) CPEDI3*s, **OR** a designated Mandatory Observation Event (only one waiver request will be granted to an athlete during the selection process) by submitting a written request prior to the start of the Observation Event to the Selectors, in consultation with the Technical Advisor, Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel, and approve or disapprove the request based on the following factors:

1. The athlete/horse combinations scores and consistency of scores at CPEDIs since January 1, 2026;
2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian and / or High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel or physician(s) approved by USEF;
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency; and/or
5. Cancellation of Event(s).

1.3.3 July 6, 2026: FEI Nominated Entries

After the Mandatory Observation Event, but no later than July 6, 2026, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the Technical Advisor, Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel, will recommend a list of up to a maximum of twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations, to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Event for the "FEI Nominated Entry," for approval by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The top four (4) athlete/horse combinations will be ranked for approval by the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors with the remaining athlete/horse combinations appearing in alphabetical order.

The FEI Nominated Entry of a maximum of twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations will be named as follows in accordance with FEI Rules for Para Dressage Events and the approved FEI Schedule for the Event [3rd edition, effective 1st January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2025], Article 8410.2.2 “Each team consists of four Athletes and four (4) Horses, or three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses. One (1) team member must be classified a Grade I, II, or III. A Team may not include more than two (2) Athletes from any one (1) Grade. In a team composed of four (4) Athletes the three (3) best total scores only count for the team result.”

The following criteria will be used in no priority order when selecting athlete/horse combinations for the Team:

- a. Scores from CPEDI3*, including 2024 Paris Paralympic Games, FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A Tests, FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix B Tests, and FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle Tests during the Qualifying Period, with the FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A and FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix B tests and more recent scores from all tests being scrutinized more heavily.
- b. International competitiveness and medal potential to contribute to a Team medal, with FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix B tests being weighed more heavily.
- c. International competitiveness and individual medal potential within athlete’s grade in the FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A, and FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle tests.
- d. Trend of scores (upward, steady, downward) over the six months prior to Nominated Entry, Date TBD, 2026
- e. Comprehensive results of all Qualifying Competitions and the Observation Event.
- f. Consistency of scores over 70%.
- g. Preference will be given to a Grade I or II athlete, if required, to satisfy team composition requirements in accordance with FEI Para Dressage Rules, effective January 1, 2015, Updates effective 1 January 2025– Article 8410.2.2: Each team must have at least one (1) Athlete in Grade I, II, or III and no team may have more than three (3) Athletes from anyone (1) Grade.
- h. Demonstrated ability of the athlete/horse combination to win an individual medal or contribute to a Team medal at the Event.
- i. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the FEI Accreditation allocations and restrictions.
- j. Previous International experience of athlete and/or horse and/or competition results and any tests completed at the Mandatory Observation Event.
- k. Fitness and soundness of the horse advice of the Para Dressage Team Veterinarian or another appointed Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian.
- l. Fitness of the athlete –advice of the Program Human Sports Science Staff will be sought.
- m. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Event’s accreditation allocations and restrictions.
- n. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment. Selectors will be advised by either the Chef d’Equipe, Team Leader,

Human Sport Science Medicine Personnel or the team Veterinarian if there's a breach in behavior by the athlete or anyone associated with the athlete's team.

REQUIRED AGREEMENT OF COMPETITION AND TRAINING PLANS:

Following the submission of Nominated Entry, all athletes named to FEI Nominated Entry must submit and agree to a training and competition plan, as well as a human and equine maintenance plan with the Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian, and USEF approved Human Sport Science Medicine personnel. **Failure to abide by the agreed training and competition plan may result in removal of the athlete/horse combination** from the FEI Nominated Entry.

Chef d'Equipe Permissions:

Once athlete/horse combinations have been named to the FEI Nominated Entry, they will come under the control of the Chef d'Equipe through the conclusion of the Event. They shall not compete without the permission of the Chef d'Equipe.

1.3.4 July 27, 2026: FEI Definite Entries –

By no later than the closing date for the Definite Entries, July 27, 2026, for the Event, at least four (4) athlete/horse combinations up to the maximum number of athletes and horses permitted according to the FEI Rules for the FEI Definite Entry for the Event, will be listed on the FEI Definite Entry. The top four ranked athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entries will make up the Team named to the Definite Entry, except in instances of removal (See Section 3). In the event that an athlete(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry on two or more horses, the determination as to which horse the athlete will be named on the Definite Entries will be made based on the recommendation of the Selectors considering all qualifying scores and the scores earned at the Mandatory Observation Event with the approval the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

In addition to nominating the Team, athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entry may be approved to serve as substitute athlete/horse combinations for the Team, based upon the Selectors' evaluation and recommendation of the Selectors and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Substitute athlete/horse combinations may be invited to the pre-Event training camp.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: Discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible for the Event.

2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used: Athlete/horse combinations named to the FEI Nominated Entries and Definite Entries will be selected using the criteria in Section 1.3.3.

2.3 Other discretionary criteria used.

Soundness:

Horses that are candidates for the FEI Nominated Entry or as Substitutes for the Nominated Entry may be examined by the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian, for soundness prior to the FEI Nominated Entry being named so that a report may be made to the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors prior to their naming of the Nominated Entry and Substitutes to the Nominated Entry.

All horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry will undergo a baseline exam with the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian. The Team Veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the horse(s) named to the FEI Nominated Entry.

Horses that are candidates for selection for the FEI Definite Entry will be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian or a Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian at any time after the FEI Nominated Entry has been named and prior to naming the FEI Definite Entry.

All horses chosen to be part of the 2026 FEI Para Dressage World Championships Definite Entry will also be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian prior to traveling to the Event.

Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian, may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

Team Veterinarian Request: Applicants, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of veterinary records of horses under consideration for selection. In addition, applicants, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses under consideration for selection. Applicants, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.

Veterinary Treatment:

Once a horse(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry all selected athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their selected horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. This permission must be obtained by using the official USEF Para Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form (Attachment I).

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Para Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of horse and/or athlete from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe, and the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

Medical Request:

In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO at any time during the selection

process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physician(s) and with the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF-approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process with the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

2.1.2 Provided below are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.

- USEF Selectors
- Team Veterinarian
- USEF High Performance Sport Science Medicine Personnel
- USEF Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors

(Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members).

2.1.3 Discretionary Selection Committee

- i. USEF Para Dressage Selectors
- ii. USEF Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe
- iii. USEF Para Dressage Team Veterinarian
- iv. USEF High Performance Sport Science Medicine Personnel
- v. USEF Para Dressage Human Physiotherapist
- vi. USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Selection Group

2.1.4. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

Any person involved in the selection of the Event must comply with the [USEF Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#).

Any person involved in the selection for the Event who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to March 3, 2026. Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an Athlete has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No Athlete shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. At all times USEF has jurisdiction over Team applicants and athletes. An athlete or horse that is selected to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.

- 3.1.2.** Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF. If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3.** Injury or illness as certified by a veterinarian (or vet staff) approved by the USEF. If an athlete or owner refuses to have the horse examined by the veterinarian approved by USEF, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 3.1.4.** Failure to participate in Mandatory Training as defined in Section 1.3 of these procedures.
- 3.1.5.** Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- 3.1.6.** Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
- 3.1.7.** Failure of an owner to timely sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement
- 3.1.8.** Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the horse (see below).
- 3.1.9.** Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), FEI, USEF, IPC, or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) anti-doping protocol, policies or procedures regarding athletes and horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.10.** Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.11.** Re-classification by the IPC such that the Athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified Athlete for the Team.
- 3.1.12.** Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Panel.
- 3.1.13.** Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- 3.1.14.** Loss of competitive form. Defined as being unable to compete at the standard the athlete and horse were selected. Removal would require unanimous recommendation of Selectors and Chef d'Equipe and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1.** Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) & Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:
 - 4.1.1 Prior to acceptance of the Nominated Entry:**
Athlete/horse combinations listed outside of the top four athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entries, will be named as "substitute" athlete/horse combinations for the FEI Nominated Entry for the Event.

Once the FEI Nominated Entry for the Event has been announced but prior to the deadline for the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry (not later than Date TBD, 2026), FEI Nominated Entry athlete/horse combinations may be substituted with a substitute athlete/horse combination at the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and the majority of the Selectors and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitutions for medical or veterinary reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) or veterinarian(s) and approved by the USEF

CEO. Please refer to Section 3 for further details regarding Substitute/Replacement of athletes.

4.1.2 Prior to acceptance of the FEI Definite Entries:

After Nominated Entries and prior to the closing date for FEI Definite Entries, Team athlete/horse combinations and alternates may be substituted with substitute horse/athlete combinations from the Nominated Entry for any of the reasons outlined in Section 3 above, at the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and the majority of the Selectors and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

Any substitutes for veterinary reasons must also be recommended by the Team Veterinarian. Any substitutes for medical reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO.

4.1.3 After the Acceptance of nomination by the FEI and until the Day of the Horse Inspection:

After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until the day of the Horse Inspection or the Last Date of Replacements (unless an earlier date is specified in the Events' Definite Schedule), the USEF has the ability to recommend to the FEI to replace athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section 3. During this time period, replacements may need to be replaced in accordance with FEI Rules for Para Dressage Events, [3rd edition, effective 1st January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2025], Article 8411.2.1. Following receipt of Definite Entries, substitution of horse(s) and athlete(s) from the Nominated Entries, may be made with the agreement of the OC. The OC must print in the schedule the latest date for substitution of horse(s) and athlete(s), which may never be later than two (2) hours before the Horse inspection. Substitutions and replacements will be at the Chef d'Equipe's discretion, in consultation with the Team Veterinarian and the U.S. Chef de Mission.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian approved by the USEF CEO. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) approved by USEF.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Event.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and horse owner as a condition of nomination to the FEI:

- a. Application of Intent (Attachment A)
- b. USEF Horse Consent Participation Agreement (Attachment B)
- c. USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- d. USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement (Attachment D)

Athletes are required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement and are requested, but not required, to sign it.

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

- 7.1.** USEF Web site: www.usef.org. These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.
- 7.2.** Other: These procedures will be available by mail or email upon request.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The FEI Nominated Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than **Date TBD, 2026**. The FEI Definite Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than Date TBD, 2026.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

It is anticipated there will be a final training camp pre-Event for final preparation for the Event. The relevant details will be posted on the USEF website www.usef.org and communicated to athletes named to the FEI Nominated Entry no later than 30 days before the first day of training and/or competition.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all IPC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IPC, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA.
- B. Equine Anti-Doping - All applicant Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

- a. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the event begins until the event ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the event until the event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
 - i. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
 - ii. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
 - iii. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
 - iv. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
- b. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on January 1, 2025 (*the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period*) following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of

samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

- i. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.
 - ii. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the Selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
- c. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed events, including events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
 - d. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors

12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website www.usef.org. Athletes wishing to file a grievance, 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.

13. 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.

14. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Selection to the team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event.

15. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC, APC, as applicable, and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, APC, as applicable, and the FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Committee approved by the Board of Directors.

16. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds for independent and confidential advice on a variety of sport related matters, including their rights, applicable rules, policies or processes, and questions related to resolving disputes and grievances.

The Athlete Ombuds can also help Team USA athletes connect with legal, mental health, and other support resources. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing at the masters, recreational, or youth level) are welcome to visit the Athlete Ombuds website to review informational resources and should work directly with their NGB to understand additional resources and options available to them.

Phone: [719-866-5000](tel:719-866-5000)

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: usathlete.org

Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy:

(A) In general--The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

(B) Exception--The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved.

(C) Judicial and administrative proceedings--

- i. In general--The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.
- ii. Work product--Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds--
 - I. shall be confidential; and
 - II. shall not be--

- a. subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or
- b. admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding.

(D) Applicability: The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to:

- i. applicable federally mandated reporting requirements;
- ii. a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds;
- iii. a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or
- iv. a congressional subpoena.

Anti-retaliation Statement

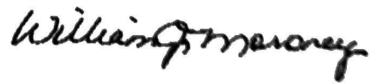

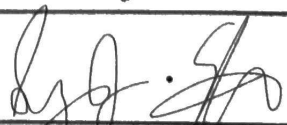
No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF or the USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

17. DEFINITIONS

- a. Fitness and soundness of the horse – a condition in which a horse is able to do the work asked of it without undue stress or risk of injury.
- b. Fitness of the athlete – one's ability to execute daily activities/sport with optimal performance, endurance, and strength with the management of disease, fatigue, and stress.

18. USEF SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		9/29/2025
Director of Para Equestrian	Laureen Johnson		10/7/2025
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Sydney Elliott		

* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection

Procedures being submitted by USEF, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, USEF must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.