



MEMORANDUM

Date: 9 July 2025
To: Potential 2026 FEI Dressage World Championship U.S. Dressage Team Applicants
From: Laura Roberts, USEF Managing Director of Dressage
Re: Initial Qualifying Period – 2026 FEI Dressage World Championships

This memo is intended to provide athletes with notice of the start of the initial qualifying period for the 2026 FEI Dressage World Championship selection process. This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and may be subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Dressage Sport Committee and the final selection procedures are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

The 2026 FEI Dressage World Championships are scheduled to take place in Aachen, Germany August 11-15, 2026.

Please be advised that Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions are anticipated to include all U.S. and foreign CDI 3*/4*/5*/CDI-W or CDIO events beginning September 1, 2025. A list of these competitions can be found [here](#). The initial qualifying period is anticipated to end following the 2026 USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship (anticipated to be between April 20-May 26, 2026).

It is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be required to complete the FEI Grand Prix Test and FEI Grand Prix Special Test at a minimum of two Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions and the 2026 USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship, for a total of three competitions. A minimum of one of the Grand Prix tests at Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions must be completed after January 1, 2026. Athlete/horse combinations are anticipated to be required to complete the FEI Grand Prix Test, FEI Grand Prix Special Test, and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test at the 2026 USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship.

The final selection procedures will include full list of criteria used in the selection process. The USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship ranking list and the USEF Grand Prix Dressage 8-Month Ranking List are anticipated to be included in factors considered for the selection of the Short List. When reviewing scores, greater weight will be given to the trend in scores in the final three months of the initial qualifying period. The USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship ranking list and the USEF Grand Prix Dressage 8-Month Ranking List can be found [here](#). The FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's average on the Ranking.

Following the conclusion of the initial qualifying period, it is anticipated that a Short List will be selected. The Short List is anticipated to be required to compete in a minimum of two European Observation Event(s).

Please also be aware of the FEI requirements (including the FEI Certificate of Capability) which can be found [here](#).

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning. Please remember that this information is subject to change. The complete Selection Procedures are anticipated to be published in due time. More information regarding the application process will be published at that time.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Roberts at (859) 225-6986 or lroberts@usef.org.