



## **2018 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements**

*Approved by the USEF Ad-Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors on 12.7.2017*

2018 Championship Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on December 7, 2017, unless stated otherwise. The qualifying criteria published herein are subject to additions or revisions. This Championship qualifying criteria pertains to the following Championship divisions:

- USEF Children Dressage National Championship
- USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship
- AGCO/USEF Junior Rider Dressage National Championship
- AGCO/USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Qualifying Requirements, please contact Hannah Niebielski, Director of Dressage, National Programs, via email at [hniebielski@usef.org](mailto:hniebielski@usef.org) or via phone at 859.225.6918. These Dressage National Championships will be conducted under USEF Rules except where outlined herein.

### **I. Application and Membership and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.**

Application:

1. In order to be considered for these Championships, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 26, 2018. Applications are made available on the USEF website after December 1<sup>st</sup> of the pertinent competition year
  - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 15, 2018 will require an application fee of \$50.
  - b. Applications received after May 15, 2018 but on or before June 26, 2018 will require a fee of \$150.
  - c. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received.
  - d. Additional horses or ponies may be added to an existing application until June 26, 2018.
2. No applications will be accepted after June 26, 2018 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. The athletes are permitted to compete with only those horse and/or ponies named on the athlete's application

Athlete Membership:

1. Athletes must be US Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championship. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championship.

**Horse/Pony Membership:**

1. Horses/Ponies must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF in order for qualifying scores to count as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.
2. These Championships will be held as part of a USEF Licensed Competition (not a CDI); therefore, an FEI passport will NOT be required for these Championships.

**Horse Owner(s) Membership:**

1. Owners must be an Active Competing member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) per GR202 in order the athlete/horse combinations' scores to count towards qualifying and compete in the National Championships.
2. Qualification is based upon athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination.
3. Qualification goes with the athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination; ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championship as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

**II. Division and Age Requirements for athlete and horse/pony.**

*For all divisions listed below, qualification is based upon athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination. No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses or ponies (when applicable) in the Championship. Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship.*

**Children:**

1. Athletes are eligible as Children from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14.
2. Both horses and ponies are eligible to compete in this division.
3. Horses/Ponies must be six (6) years old or over.
4. The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1). Ponies must have a current and valid Federation Standard or Temporary Measurement Certificate for Dressage/Driving. All ponies may subject to additional measurement at the Championship.
5. Children may also compete in the Pony Rider division, but may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) or Championships with the same mount. Children may compete in National or FEI Championships for the Pony divisions within the same year. Children cannot compete in the Junior Dressage National Championships.

**Pony Rider:**

1. Athletes are eligible as Pony Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 12 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16.
2. Only Ponies are eligible to compete in this division.
3. In order to compete in this division, ponies must be six (6) years old or older.
4. The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1). Ponies must have a current and valid Federation Standard or Temporary Measurement Certificate for Dressage/Driving. All ponies may subject to additional measurement at the Championship.
5. A Pony Rider may also compete in Children division, but may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount. A Pony Rider may compete in National or FEI Championships for the Children divisions within the same year. A Pony Rider may not compete in the Junior Dressage National Championships.

**Junior Rider:**

1. Athletes are eligible as Juniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.
2. Only Horses are eligible to compete in this division. Horses must be six (6) years old or older.
3. A Junior may compete in both Junior and Young Rider divisions, but may not compete in both divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same horse. A Junior may not compete in National or FEI Championships for both the Junior and Young Rider divisions within the same year; a Junior may not compete in the USEF Pony Rider or Children Dressage National Championships in the same year.
4. Once a competitor has taken part in a National or FEI Championship for Young Riders in any discipline, he/she can no longer go back to a National or FEI Championship for Juniors in the same discipline.

**Young Rider:**

1. Athletes are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.
2. Only Horses are eligible to compete in this division. Horses must be seven (7) years old or older.
3. A Young Rider may compete in both Young Rider and Junior divisions, but may not compete in both divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same horse. A Young Rider may not compete in National or FEI Championships for both the Young Rider and Junior divisions within the same year. A Young Rider may compete in both Young Rider and 'Brentina Cup' divisions, but may not compete in both divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same horse. A Young Rider may not compete in National or FEI Championships for both the Young Rider and 'Brentina Cup' divisions within the same year on the same horse, but may do so with different horses.
4. Once a competitor has taken part in a National or FEI Championship for Young Riders in any discipline, he/she can no longer go back to a National or FEI Championship for Juniors in the same discipline.

**III. Qualifying System.****Qualifying Period:**

1. The qualifying period shall begin August 1, 2017 and is scheduled to end July 30, 2018 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2018.

**Qualifying Competitions:**

1. A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the Federation website ([www.usequestrian.org](http://www.usequestrian.org)).
2. Athlete/horse and athlete/pony combinations may also earn qualifying scores at any CDI with their respective division (i.e. CDI-Ch, CDI-P, CDI-J, or CDI-Y) held within the qualifying period. However, an athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if their respective CDI division is also held at the event. See point 6 below.
3. Athletes competing in the Junior Rider or Young Rider division may also earn scores at the FEI North American Junior/Young Rider Dressage Championships if during the qualifying period. For scores to count, see point 7 below.
4. Qualifying scores may only be earned at these designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions or CDIs.
5. Athlete/horse or athlete/pony combinations are limited to one qualifier in the same location in one seven day period; however, CDI-Ch,P,J,Ys are exempt from this requirement.

6. CDI scores as described above are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse or pony's overall average upon receipt of a USEF CDI Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form to the US Equestrian Dressage Department. Scores submitted late will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all qualifying CDI scores for this program have been presented to USEF on time and are accurate.

#### Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:

*For all divisions, qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' or FEI Judges. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF qualifying ("Test of Choice" classes will not count).*

1. Children
  - a. A minimum overall average of 58% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
  - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Children Team Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the FEI Children Individual Test.
2. Pony Rider
  - a. A minimum overall average of 58% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
  - b. At least three (3) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Pony Team Test and at least three (3) scores must be earned in the FEI Pony Individual Test
3. Junior Rider
  - a. A minimum overall average of 62% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
  - b. At least three (3) qualifying scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Junior Team Test and at least three (3) scores must be earned in the FEI Junior Individual Test.
4. Young Rider
  - a. A minimum overall average of 62% must be maintained for consideration to this Championship.
  - b. At least three (3) qualifying scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Young Rider Team Test and at least three (3) qualifying scores must be earned in the FEI Young Rider Individual Test.

#### Score Calculation:

*For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination's overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the Team Test with the scores earned in the Individual Test. If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated from either the Team or Individual Test, they will not receive a '0' for that score on the ranking list. Scratches and withdrawals will not be penalized.*

1. Ranking List
  - a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for this Championship unless requested by USEF staff.

- b. As stated above, CDI scores must be reported to the USEF by the deadline as indicated on the form in order to be counted.
- c. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of Application of Intent. However, **Scores will not show on the applicable division ranking list until an application of intent is submitted.**

## 2. Dropped Scores

- a. For the Children Division -
  - i. If an athlete/horse or pony combination completes three (3) or more Team Tests at different designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Team Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse or pony combination completes three (3) or more Individual Tests at different designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Individual Test will be dropped. If six (6) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned in each respective Test, an additional Team Test score and Individual Test score of the next lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Team Test and a maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Individual Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination's overall average.
- b. For the Pony, Junior, and Young Rider Divisions –
  - i. If an athlete/horse combination completes four (4) or more Team Tests at different designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Team Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes four (4) or more Individual Tests at different designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Individual Test will be dropped. If seven (7) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned in each respective Test, an additional Team Test score and Individual Test score of the next lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Team Test and a maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Individual Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.

## IV. Additional Rules and Requirements

### One Athlete Rule:

1. For USEF qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes.
2. For USEF championships for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Championship class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds.

**Dress and Saddlery:**

1. Please refer to DR120-121 for dress and saddlery rules.
2. For Juniors and Young Riders - Per DR121.4, snaffle bridles will be permitted for NAJYRC qualifying classes, USEF Junior qualifying classes and USEF Young Rider qualifying classes. Double bridles will still be mandatory for NAJYRC and USEF Junior and Young Rider championships.
3. If competing in a CDI event, all FEI Dressage Regulations must be followed.

**Conflict of Interest:**

1. Judges who are an owner of a horse or parent of an athlete or coach of an athlete competing in this division shall NOT officiate for any USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Classes for this division at designated Qualifying Competitions in any USDF region at any time during the qualifying period. Judges who do so are subject to sanctions.
2. All competitors and officials are subject to the conflict of interest rules as outlined in the USEF General and Dressage Rules.

**Drug Testing:**

1. 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.

**General:**

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses/ponies to ensure that they know and understand the USEF Rules and Selection Procedures, USEF Code of Conduct, and USEF Safe Sport Policy (see [https://www.usef.org/\\_Iframes/safety/general.aspx](https://www.usef.org/_Iframes/safety/general.aspx)).
2. Athletes, horse owners and trainers will be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct with entry to the Championship.
3. USEF is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected, or stolen correspondence either electronic, postal, commercially shipped, or voice activated. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that all application, application fees, and qualifying competition scores have been received by published deadlines.

**V. Championship Competition.****Invitations to the Championship:**

1. All athlete/horse or pony combinations that have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see "Application") and have qualified by the method outlined above (see "Qualifying System") will be ranked according to scores and be accepted up to the numbers of entries available, not to exceed 12.
2. In the case of a tie, the athlete/horse or pony combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete/horse or pony combination shall be #3.

**Competition information:**

1. The date and location of the Dressage National Championships will be announced on the USEF website no later than April 1, 2018.
2. USEF Championship Rules will be followed.
3. Horses will be examined for soundness. A Horse Inspection will be scheduled prior to the Championship classes, at which time all horses must be presented to the treating

veterinarian and a member of the judging panel for examination. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear during the Horse Inspection Policy and Procedures on the Horse Inspection can be found on the USEF website.

4. Tests shall be ridden from memory and WHIPS ARE FORBIDDEN. Please refer to USEF Dressage Division Rules for complete dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120-DR121).
5. Double bridles are mandatory for the AGCO/USEF Junior and Young Rider Dressage National Championships.
6. Championship Format for each division is available on the USEF Website.