



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Potential Applicants for the 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

**Date:** June 17, 2022

**From:** Laureen Johnson, Director, Para Equestrian

**Copy:** Will Connell  
Kristen Brett

**Re:** Qualifying Dates and Competitions for the 2023 USEF Para Dressage National Championship

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***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 USEF Para Equestrian Sport Committee and the final qualifying requirements are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.***

**Date and Location:** The 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions is scheduled to take place on August 21-27, 2023 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.

**Qualifying Period:** It is anticipated that the proposed qualifying period for the 2023 USEF Para Dressage National Championship will begin on July 26, 2022 and end on July 24, 2023.

**Application of Intent:** An Application of Intent is required to be submitted in order to be eligible for an invitation to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. The Application of Intent will be available [here](#) on the USEF website no later than September 15, 2022. It is anticipated that the early submission deadline for the application of intent will be May 15, 2023, with a \$50 fee. Additionally, an application may be submitted between May 16, 2023 and June 15, 2023, with a \$150 fee. It is anticipated that horses may be added to an existing application with a \$50 fee per horse until June 16, 2022. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. These deadlines are subject to change.

**Qualifying Competitions:**

1. A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#).
2. Athlete/horse combinations must compete in either USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (CDNs) or at any CPEDI held within the qualifying period. The 2022 FEI Para Dressage World Championship is considered a qualifying competition. The 2022 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2023 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2022.

**Eligibility Requirements for Athlete and Horse:**

- Athletes must be a minimum of 13 years old as of December 1, 2022.
- Horses must be a minimum of six-years-old in 2023.
- Athletes must have a USEF National and/or FEI International Para Equestrian Dressage Classification and be assigned a Grade I-V with a confirmed or review, with a fixed review date (FRD), status to earn qualifying scores.
- Athletes must ride independently and at their classified Grade.

**Qualifying Tests:**

Athlete/horse combinations must obtain at least two (2) scores in their respective Grade level in the current edition of the FEI Para Dressage Team Test and at least (2) scores in their respective Grade level in the current edition of the FEI Para Dressage Individual Test. These scores may be earned in a FEI Para Dressage Test of Choice class (DR118.5) held at a Qualifying Competition (CDN) specifically designated as USEF Qualifying or may be earned in individual and team classes held at a CPEDI.





A minimum of one (1) score per Team Test and a minimum of one score (1) per Individual Test must be completed on the horse(s) that the athlete will compete on at the Championship and the horse(s) must be listed on the athlete's application of intent. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test in their respective Grade level within the qualifying period. This score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a Qualifying Competition (CDN) or earned in an FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test held at a CPEDI.

#### **Ranking List Score Calculation:**

- a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions (CDNs).
- b. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations and withdrawals will not be penalized.
- c. Percentages are carried out to the third decimal point with numbers of five (5) and above rounded up (63.4555% = 63.456%). USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported scores. If any errors are detected, athletes are required to contact the USEF Dressage Department at [festival@usef.org](mailto:festival@usef.org) immediately.
- d. **Dropped Scores:** If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Team Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Team Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Individual Tests at different designated 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 combination's overall average.
- e. **CPEDI Scores:** CPEDI scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse combination's overall average upon receipt of a 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. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all qualifying CPEDI scores for this Championship are submitted to USEF on time and are accurate.
- f. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a score in a national competition (CDN), if the combination submits the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form from the same event.

#### **General:**

1. An FEI Passport will NOT be required for these Championships.
2. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses/ponies to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), and USEF Code of Conduct.
3. All athletes, horse/pony owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
4. **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 Grievance Form](#). For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, [please](#) contact Emily Pratt at [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org). Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org) or visit [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org) for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process.
5. 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.

**Questions:** If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Para Equestrian Department at [lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org) or [festival@usef.org](mailto:festival@usef.org).

