



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
SELECTION PROCEDURES
2019 FEI North American Youth Championships
DRESSAGE
July 30 –August 4, 2019 – North Salem, NY (USA)

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to a Team:

- 1. Citizenship:** The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI Article 119 (General Regulations, which can be found on the FEI's website at www.fei.org) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2019 North American Youth Championships ("the Event" or "NAYC").
- 2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**
 - a.** 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.
 - b.** 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.
 - c.** A horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years old to be competed in the Young Rider division. A horse must be a minimum of six (6) years old to be competed in the Junior division. Ponies and mules are ineligible to qualify for or compete in the NAYC. Horses must be over 149 cm with shoes (FEI Rules for Dressage Events, Article 422.1).
 - d.** The athlete and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI prior to being named to the nominated entry and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - e.** The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
- 3. Other Requirements:**
 - a.** The athlete must be a member in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") in order to earn a qualifying score, at the time of application, and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - b.** The athlete must be a Participating Member in good standing of the United States Dressage Federation ("USDF") in order to earn a qualifying score, at the time of application, and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - c.** The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing under USEF rules from the first day of their first qualifying competition, at the time of application, and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - d.** The horse must be Lifetime Registered with USDF in order to earn a qualifying score, at time of application, and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - e.** FEI Rider Registration and FEI Horse Registration must be completed in accordance with FEI rules. The Federation strongly encourages the registrations are complete by the end of the Qualifying period.
 - f.** The FEI passport must also be completed and FEI validated in accordance with FEI rules. It is strongly encouraged for athletes to complete and FEI validate horse passports in the beginning of the qualifying process. Please be reminded that FEI Passports may take at least two business days for processing after they are received by the Federation. The Federation strongly urges all individuals to send the FEI passport with tracking.
 - g.** The owner of the horse must be a member in good standing of the USEF for the horse to earn a qualifying score, at the time of application, and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - h.** The owner of the horse must be a Participating Member or Business Member in good standing of the USDF at the time of application until the conclusion of the Event in order for the horse to earn a qualifying score.

- i. Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a Certificate of Capability as outlined in Section IB.3.
- j. A rider may have only one domicile, which is where the rider has his permanent home and where, whenever he is absent, intends to return. A minor's domicile follows that of the parent or guardian who has lawful custody of the minor (unless the minor is emancipated from their parent/guardian). For purposes of these selection procedures, a minor is any rider that has not yet reached his 18th birthday as of January 1, 2019.

Every rider or parent/guardian if the rider is a minor shall complete and submit a Certificate of Domicile with the Application [link](#). If a rider or legal guardian if the rider is a minor is found to have submitted inaccurate or misinformation or failed to submit the Certificate of Domicile within five (5) business days, the rider may be subject to disqualification from participating in the Event. The Region of each athlete/horse combination is determined by where the athlete is domiciled in the U.S. beginning January 1, 2019, regardless of multiple temporary residences (See definition above. This address must be recorded on the Certificate of Domicile). If a rider's domicile changes between January 1 and April 1, the rider may submit a request to change his Region, which must be received by the USEF, with a copy sent to USDF no later than 5:00PM Eastern Time on April 1. USEF will issue a decision on the change in Region within a reasonable time of the submission of the request. No requests for changes in Region will be accepted after this date.

- k. Applicants domiciled outside of the United States must meet the Citizenship and Minimum International Federation Standards for Participation outlined in Section 1A above.
- l. Application - Athletes wishing to represent a Region at the NAYC must complete an electronic Application, with the appropriate fee per application, to the USDF. If eligible, athletes may apply for both Events but must complete and submit a separate application and appropriate fee for each one. Application and fees submitted online on or prior to March 19, 2019 will be charged \$50 per application. Application and fees submitted online between March 20, 2019 and April 30, 2019 will be charged \$100 per application. Applications and fees submitted online between May 1, 2019 and May 15, 2019 will be charged an application fee of \$300 per application. Athletes are permitted to compete with only those horses named on the athlete's application. Completed applications must be submitted with payment to the USDF office by the above stated deadline. Online applications will be available January 1, 2019 and are found here: <http://www.usdf.org/online-services/fee-reports/najyrc-application.asp>
NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER MAY 15, 2019.
- m. Additional horses may be added to an already received application at no additional fee through April 30, 2019. Between May 1, 2019 and May 31, 2019 the rider will be required to submit a \$50 fee for each added horse. No additional horses may be added to the application after May 31, 2019.
- n. The athlete shall certify by electronically signing the NAYC application that he has received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Selection Procedures for the Event. In addition, the athlete must read and understand the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment A), and the Safe Sport Policy (<http://safesport.usef.org>) and agrees to be bound by them as represented by the athlete's signature on this document.

B. Qualifying Events

The method by which the Region's Final Ranking for NAYC is determined shall be the process outlined below and approved by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USDF Executive Board, USEF International Disciplines Council, and USEF Board of Directors.

1. A series of competitions held throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions. A list of these designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website: <http://www.usef.org/IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/natDressage.aspx> or by contacting the USEF Dressage Department. It can also be found on the USDF website: <http://www.usdf.org/competitions/competitions-championships/najyrc/index.asp>.

The FEI Young Rider Team Test (current edition), FEI Young Rider Individual Test (current edition), and FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test (current edition), must be used for qualification for the NAYC. The FEI Junior Team Test (current edition), FEI Junior Individual Test (current edition), and FEI Junior Freestyle Test (current edition), must be used for qualification for the NAYC.

These tests must be held as individual classes, which are specifically designated as NAYC Qualifying. “Test of Choice” (TOC) classes will not count. For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse combination’s overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the Team and the Individual Test.

Qualifying scores for the Event may only be earned at designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions within the qualifying period beginning August 1, 2018 and ends June 23, 2019. However, it is anticipated that the qualifying period will end a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the Nominated Entry date. Athletes may also earn qualifying scores at any CDI/Y/J, held within the United States or any other country that offers the FEI Young Rider Tests and FEI Junior Tests within the designated qualifying period. CDI/Y/J scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse’s overall average upon receipt of a USEF CDI Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form. Scores submitted late will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that qualifying CDI scores for this program are presented to USEF on time and are accurate. All athletes competing in CDI/Y/J competitions and/or the NAYC will be required to pay International High Performance (IHP) fees per USEF GR207 at the time of entry.

If within the qualifying period, scores earned at the USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship or USEF Junior Dressage National Championship can be used as optional qualifying scores and are reportable under the same rules as a CDI/Y/J.

An applicant athlete/horse combination must earn at least three (3) sets of qualifying scores (three (3) scores in the Team Test and three (3) scores in the Individual Test) in qualifying competitions to be eligible for nomination to a Region’s team. Athlete/horse combinations will not receive a ‘0’ if they choose to not complete the Team or Individual Test in a qualifying competition. One of these qualifying competitions (One (1) Team Test, One (1) Individual Test) must occur during the spring season (January 1, 2019 through June 23, 2019, otherwise determined no later than January 1, 2019. However, it is anticipated that the qualifying period will end a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the Nominated Entry date.).

Please note: for these qualification purposes, competition(s) held over the course of more than one day count(s) as a single qualifying competition (even if each day has a separate license number) and only the designated tests count. An athlete/horse combination is limited to competing in one qualifier in the same location in one seven day period, however CDI-Y/Js are exempt from this requirement. *Please note: 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/NAYC Qualifying Classes for this division at designated Qualifying Competitions in any USDF region at any time during the qualifying period. Judges who do are subject to sanctions.*

2. If an athlete/horse combination competes in more than three (3) designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (must have earned scores in three (3) Team Tests and three (3) Individual Tests) and/or CDI/Y/Js, the lowest score earned in Team Test and the lowest score earned in the Individual Test will be dropped regardless of whether or not these scores were earned in the same competition. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Team Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the Individual Test.
3. In addition to the above outlined qualifying process, athlete/horse combinations will also be required to earn a Certificate of Capability, as described in Section I (SELECTION SYSTEM), within the Qualifying Period which begins August 1, 2018 and ends June 23, 2019, unless otherwise determined by no later than January 1, 2019. However, it is anticipated that the qualifying period will end a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the Nominated Entry date.
 - a. Young Rider Championship – Each athlete/horse combination must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum overall average of 62.000% attributed by a panel of two (2) or more USEF ‘S’ or FEI Judges, in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and FEI Young Rider Individual Test at three (3) different

designated USEF/NAYC qualifying competitions. In addition, they must earn, at least one (1) score of 65.000% in the FEI Young Rider Freestyle during the qualification period at an official qualifying event. Verification that an athlete/horse combination has met the requirements of the Certificate of Capability will be based upon the achievement of the score requirements above, and by the athlete electronically agreeing through the USDF Website (www.usdf.org) that they have been met by the end of the qualifying period.

- b. Junior Championship – Each athlete/horse combination must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum overall average of 62.000% attributed by a panel of two (2) or more USEF ‘S’ or FEI Judges, in the FEI Junior Team Test and FEI Junior Individual Test at three (3) different designated USEF/NAYC qualifying competitions. In addition, they must earn at least one (1) score of 65.000% in the FEI Junior Freestyle during the qualification period at an official qualifying event. Verification that an athlete/horse combination has met the requirements of the Certificate of Capability will be based upon the achievement of the score requirements above, and by the athlete electronically agreeing through the USDF Website (www.usdf.org) that they have been met by the end of the qualifying period.

4. Special Rules pertaining to Dress, Saddlery, Schooling & Warm-up at Qualifying Events:

- a. DRESS & SADDLERY: Please refer to USEF Rules for dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120-121) if competing in a USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competition or FEI Dressage Regulations if competing in CDI/Y/J competitions and/or the NAYC. **Snaffle bridles will be permitted for NAYC qualifying classes, USEF Junior qualifying classes and USEF Young Rider qualifying classes. Double bridles will still be mandatory for NAYC and USEF Junior and Young Rider Dressage National championships.** One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried in designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions. However, when riding in a CDI/Y/J, FEI whip and bridle rules supersede USEF rules.
- b. SCHOOLING & WARMUP: Under penalty of disqualification for NAYC qualifying purposes, at no time during a competition offering FEI Young Rider or FEI Junior Qualifying classes at a designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying competition, may any horse entered in an FEI Young Rider or FEI Junior Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in the class on that horse. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For NAYC Qualifying Competitions held at USEF licensed Dressage Competitions, the competition starts when horse and/or athlete arrive on the show grounds and ends at the conclusion of the USEF licensed Dressage Competition. For NAYC qualifying classes which are included in a CDI/Y/J, per FEI Art. 422.3.6., no one other than the Athlete may ride the Horse he/she is entered with, after arrival on the show ground and official opening of the stables according to the FEI approved schedule as well as for the duration of the whole Event under penalty of disqualification (also see FEI DR Art. 429.10.4). Upon arrival on the show grounds, only the athlete when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed), is allowed to carry a whip (maximum 120 cm) anywhere on the showground. The groom may also walk, lead, and lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse. Under no circumstances is the whip allowed to be used to school the horse in the stables.

For CDI-Y/Js, horses may not leave the stables, the competition area, or the areas supervised by Stewards for any purpose unless authorized by a recognized FEI Official of the event or a Veterinarian acting in the interest of the health and welfare of the horse.

C. Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees

1. USDF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations that are earned at designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions. CDI/Y/J scores will NOT be automatically calculated into the athlete/horse’s overall average without receipt of a CDI/Y/J Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form.
 1. Percentages are carried out to the third decimal point with numbers of five (5) and above rounded up (63.4555%=63.456%). It is the responsibility of the athlete to verify the accuracy of the standings posted on the USDF website. USDF is not responsible for inaccurately reported or illegible scores. If any errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USDF office immediately at (859) 971-2277 or

nayc@usdf.org. Errors must be reported no less than five (5) business days prior to the NAYC nominated entry deadline.

At the end of the qualifying period, any ties in overall averages on the final ranking list will be broken according to the athlete/horse combination that achieved the highest average of the FEI Team Test scores.

U.S. Citizens wishing to earn qualifying scores in CDN competitions outside the United States (national competitions outside the United States) must submit a written request to nayc@usdf.org. This request should be received at least two (2) weeks prior to the first day of competition and requires approval by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee or its designees. If approved, athletes are responsible for reporting scores to nayc@usdf.org using the CDI Report Form within five (5) days of the conclusion of the competition.

Regions may not impose additional requirements upon declared athletes or horses without appropriate approval.

2. TBD Nominated Entry:

By no later than TBD, each Region shall submit a ranked list of applicant athlete/horse combinations (“Final Ranking”) up to eight (8) athletes and horses for each Event (eight (8) for the Young Rider division and eight (8) for the Junior division) (“Nominated Entry”) to USDF. It is anticipated that the Nominated Entry date will be set a minimum of seven (7) days following the end of the qualifying period.

3. TBD Definite Entries:

After submission of the Nominated Entry but no later than the closing date for the Definite Entries, each Region shall submit their Definite Entries for both the Young Rider and the Junior divisions to USDF in order of the Region’s Final Ranking for each Event.

Each Region’s Definite Entries for the Young Rider and the Junior divisions will consist of the three (3) or four (4) applicant athlete/horse combinations named to the “Team.” Reserve athlete/horse combinations are not allowed. In the case of a Region unable to field a complete team for either the Young Rider or the Junior divisions, the Region may send a maximum of two (2) athlete/horse combinations that will compete as Individuals. Regions may not submit individuals in additions to the Team.

ANY ATHLETES WHO ARE LISTED ON BOTH THE JUNIOR AND YOUNG RIDER NOMINATED ENTRY OF A REGION MUST DECLARE IN WHICH EVENT THEY WILL PARTICIPATE BY THE DEFINITE ENTRY DEADLINE.

4. Combining of Regions to Form Teams – If a Region is unable to field a team of at least three (3) athlete/horse combinations, the Region may apply to USDF to combine with another Region to complete a Team. Once all Definite Entries have been submitted, USEF will make the final decision to combine athlete/horse combinations no later than the Declaration of Starters (FEI Dressage Article 424.1).

5. Declaration of Starters – Once at the Event site, and after the horse inspection, each Region’s Chef d’Equipe will declare the starting order of the athlete/horse combinations on the Team of three (3) or four (4) athlete/horse combinations in the Team Test for each of the Young Rider and the Junior divisions, as well as the Individuals (maximum of two (2) per Region unable to field a complete team) in accordance with FEI Dressage Article 424.1.

D. Provided in Attachment B are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members. See Attachment B for the list of USDF and USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

II. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

A. Prior to and after the Definite Entries Deadline, USEF has jurisdiction over athlete/horse combinations who might participate at the Event: An athlete/horse combination whose name is included on a Region’s Final Ranking and/or submitted on Nominated Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures.

- Voluntary withdrawal. The athlete must advise USEF (Hannah Niebielski, Director of Dressage, and National Programs – hniebielski@usef.org) of their withdrawal in writing.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- Violation of the Safe Sport Policy.
- Failure to adhere to all USOC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA, and/or WADA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including, if applicable, participation in the out-of-competition testing as required by the FEI and/or WADA Rules.

In these procedures, the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section III. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES.

An athlete removed from the Region’s Final Ranking and/or Nominated Entry pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF’s Bylaw 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR605 or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.

B. An athlete may be removed at any time for violation of FEI and/or WADA anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the FEI - Athletes must adhere to all USOC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, and may be drug tested. Please contact Steven Morrissey with any questions at (859) 225 7686 / smorrissey@usef.org.

III. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES

A. Following is the process by which the substitute pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified: Each Region’s Final Ranking and/or ranked list of athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athletes for that Region.

B. Substitute athlete/horse combinations will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method in accordance with the FEI Definite Schedule for the Event

1. **Prior to the Definite Entries:** Prior to Definite Entries, USEF has the discretion to substitute athlete/horse combinations for the reasons set forth in Section II.A.
 - a. Openings, if they occur, whether by voluntary withdrawal or removal, will be filled according to the Region’s Final Ranking and/or ranked list of athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entry.
 - b. Any substitution for reasons set forth in Section II.A **except by voluntary withdrawal**, must have the approval of the USDF Executive Board or its designees, the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **After the Definite Entries and until two (2) hours before the Horse Inspection:** After the Definite Entries and until two (2) hours before the Horse Inspection, USEF has the discretion to substitute athlete/horse combinations on the Definite Entries for reasons set forth in Section II.A **except by voluntary withdrawal**, upon the approval of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with a substitute athlete/horse combination in order of their ranking. Substitutions may only be made in accordance with Article 449.1.2 of the FEI Rules for Dressage Events [25th Edition, Effective 1 January 2014- updated 1 January 2015].

C. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete/horse combination substitution determinations:

1. Group or committee that determines the substitution list:
 - The USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
2. Group or committee that determines a substitution prior to and after the Definite Entries:
 - The USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

IV. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS – USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six (6) months past the final day of the Event.

V. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – The following are required to be properly executed by applicants:

- Application - <http://www.usdf.org/online-services/fee-reports/najyrc-application.asp>
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment A)
- Certificate of Domicile

Applicants will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and the Safe Sport Policy and that they understand these and agree to be bound by them.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures, including but not limited to the USDF FEI Jr/YR Committee, the USDF Executive Board, members of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USEF Board of Directors, and the USEF International Disciplines Council will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies.

VI. SAFE SPORT

- Every member of NAYC Team Staff, including Chef d'Equipe and Coach, shall successfully complete a criminal background check and Safe Sport training as required by the Safe Sport Policy prior to the start of the Event.

VI. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES – The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date:

- USEF website: www.usef.org - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USEF.
- USDF website: www.usdf.org – These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following notice of approval by the USEF.

VII. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS - Athletes must adhere to all USOC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA, and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES – The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USDF FEI Jr/YR Committee, USDF Executive Board, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USEF International Disciplines Council, and USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment B for list of USDF and USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

IX. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES – The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website www.usef.org.

X. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER – These procedures are based on the FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in 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.

XI. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN – Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman's Office by:

- Telephone at (719)866-5000
- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at Kacie.wallace@usoc.org
- www.athleteombudsman.org

XII. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USDF and USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF President	Murray S. Kessler		
USDF President	George Williams		

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to:

USEF, Attn: Hannah Niebielski, Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or via e-mail at hniebielski@usef.org.

USDF, Attn: NAYC, 4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or via e-mail at NAYC@usdf.org.