



2023 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements **Para Dressage**

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on October 27, 2022.

The 2023 Para Dressage National Championship (“Championship”) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on October 27, 2022 unless stated otherwise. The qualifying requirements published herein are subject to additions or revisions. These qualifying requirements pertain to the following division:

- USEF Para Dressage National Championship for Grades I-V

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Eligibility and Program Rules, please contact USEF at festival@usef.org.

Application, Membership, and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.

Application:

1. In order to be considered for this Championship, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 15, 2023 at 11:59pm, ET. Applications are made available on the USEF website here no later than September 15, 2022.
 - a. Applications received by USEF on or before May 15, 2023 at 11:59pm, ET will require an application fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per horse.
 - b. Applications received between May 16, 2023 and June 15, 2023 at 11:59pm, ET will require a fee of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per horse.
 - c. Additional horses must be added to an existing application(s) of intent by no later than June 15, 2023 at 11:59, ET and will require a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per horse.
 - d. An application of intent is considered complete once the confirmation email is received. If the athlete does not receive the confirmation email; it is the athlete’s responsibility to contact USEF (festival@usef.org).
 - e. Athlete/horse combinations without a complete application of intent by the closing date will be removed from the ranking list.
2. No application will be accepted after June 15, 2023 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. Athletes are permitted to compete at this Championship with only those horses named on the athlete’s application.
4. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.

Athlete Membership:

1. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in this Championship. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in this Championship.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF for qualifying scores to count, as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.
3. Athletes must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CPEDIs.
4. An FEI Rider Registration is not required for this Championship.

Horse Membership:

1. Horses must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF in good standing 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. Horses must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CPEDIs.
3. An FEI Horse Registration, FEI passport, or FEI Recognition Card will not be required for this Championship.

Horse Owner(s) Membership:

1. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) in order for the athlete/horse combination's qualifying scores to count, as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championship.
2. Ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championship as long as the new owner(s) meet all the above criteria.

USEF strongly encourages all athlete, horse, and owner membership requirements be completed by June 8, 2023, or rush fees may be required in order to submit the application of intent by 11:59pm, ET on June 15, 2023.

II. Eligibility Requirements for Athlete and Horse.

Qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. No athlete may shall compete more than one (1) horse in this Championship. The same athlete/horse combination shall only compete in one division (i.e., Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Para Dressage, etc.) at this Championship. A horse shall not be competed by more than one athlete in the Para Dressage division and a horse shall only be competed in one division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in this Championship. FEI Rules apply in CPEDI competitions.

Exception: a horse that is competed in the Para Dressage division at this Championship, may also be competed in the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals.

1. Athletes must be a minimum of 13 years old as of December 1, 2022, to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship. Refer to USEF Chapter 1, GR103.
2. Horses must be six (6) years old or older. Per DR119.10, the horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year.
3. Athletes must have a USEF National and/or FEI International Para Equestrian Dressage Classification and be assigned a Grade I-V with confirmed or review, with a fixed review date (FRD), status to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championship. Please visit the [USEF website here](#) for more information.
4. Athletes must ride independently and at their classified Grade.

III. Qualifying System.

Qualifying Period:

The qualifying period begins July 26, 2022, and is scheduled to end July 24, 2023, unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2023.

Qualifying Competitions:

1. A series of national 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 may also earn qualifying scores at any CPEDI1*, CPEDI2*, or CPEDI3* in their respective Grade level held within the qualifying period. The 2023 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.
3. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a National Qualifying Competition if the CDI/CPEDI Report Form is submitted from a CPEDI at the same event. For CPEDI score reporting, see 'Score Calculation' on page 3 below.

Please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar and the USEF/NAYC Qualifying Calendar as changes to competitions may be posted at any time.

Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:

USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity, even if they have separate license/recognition numbers. Only one score per respective Test may be earned over the course of a weekend. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF Qualifying. See Section IV for Judging Panels.

1. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 62% in order to receive an invitation to the Championship.
2. Athlete/horse combinations must obtain at least two (2) scores in their respective Grade Level in an **FEI Para Grand Prix A Test** (formerly known as the FEI Para Dressage Team Test) and at least two (2) scores in an **FEI Para Grand Prix B Test** (formerly known as the FEI Para Dressage Individual Test). These scores may be earned in a FEI Para Dressage Test of Choice (DR118.5) held at a National Qualifying Competition or may be earned in **Grand Prix A** and **Grand Prix B** classes held at a CPEDI. The current editions of the **FEI Para Grand Prix A Test** (formerly known as the FEI Para Dressage Team Test) and the **FEI Para Grand Prix B Test** (formerly known as the FEI Para Dressage Individual Test) must be used.
3. Athlete/horse combinations are not required to complete the **Grand Prix A** (Team Test) or the **Grand Prix B** (Individual Test) at the same Qualifying Competition.
4. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) **FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test** (formerly known as the FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test) in their respective Grade Level within the qualifying period. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an **FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test** (formerly known as the FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test), or an FEI Test of Choice class held at a Qualifying Competition or earned in a **FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test** held at a CPEDI. The Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.

Score Calculation:

For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse combination's overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the **Grand Prix A Test** with the scores earned in the **Grand Prix B Test**. The Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average. Eliminations, scratches, and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list.

1. Ranking List:
 - a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations, which are earned at National Qualifying Competitions. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for this Championship unless requested by USEF staff.
 - b. CPEDI Scores, as described above, 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.
 - 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 encouraged to contact USEF at festival@usef.org immediately.
 - d. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a score from a National Qualifying Competition if the combination submits the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form from the same event.
2. Dropped Scores: If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more **Grand Prix A** Tests, the lowest score earned in the **Grand Prix A** Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more **Grand Prix B** Tests, the lowest score earned in the **Grand Prix B** Test will be dropped. If six (6) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned in each respective Test, an additional **Grand Prix A** Test score and **Grand Prix B** Test score of the next lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the **Grand Prix A** Test and a maximum of two (2)

scores may be dropped from the **Grand Prix B** Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.

IV. Additional Rules and Requirements.

Judging Panels for National Qualifying Competitions:

1. For all divisions, qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' and/or FEI Judges (at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge) held at a National Qualifying Competition. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per Qualifying Competition.
2. Freestyle Tests completed at a Qualifying Competition must be judged by a minimum of one (1) USEF 'S' or FEI judge.

Conflict of Interest:

1. Judging Panels at CPEDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.
2. Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304, and Chapter 10, GR1040.
3. All competitors and officials are subject to the conflict of interest rules at USEF Licensed Competitions as outlined in the [USEF General and Dressage Rules](#).

Dress and Saddlery:

1. Please refer to [DR308](#) for dress and saddlery rules for qualifiers held at CDNs.
2. If competing in a CPEDI event, all [FEI Para Dressage](#) and [General Regulations](#) must be followed.
3. See Section V regarding Dress and Saddlery rules at the Championships.

General:

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), and the USEF Code of Conduct.
2. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
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.

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.

Clean Sport:

1. [Equine Anti-Doping](#): 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.
2. [Human Anti-Doping](#): Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and USADA protocols, policies, and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA rules, if applicable.

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](#) and

[Opportunity to Participate Complaint Form](#). For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at opratt@usef.org.

Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or ombudsman@usathlete.org or visit www.athleteombudsman.org for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process.

V. Championship Competition.

Invitations for the Championships:

1. Invitations to this Championship will be sent via email no later than Friday, July 28, 2023.
2. All athlete/horse 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 twelve (12) unless there is a tie.
3. In the case of a tie, the athlete/horse combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up to two (2) places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete/horse combination shall be #3.
4. If there is a tie for 12th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries accepted (i.e., 13 entries accepted).
5. Following the end of the qualifying period, athlete/horse combinations not qualified (as listed in Section III – Qualifying System) may be invited to participate in the Championship if there is not a maximum of twelve (12) athlete/horse combinations on the Final Ranking List, not to exceed twelve (12) unless there is a tie, if the following criteria is obtained:
 - a. The athlete/horse combination obtained at least two (2) scores in an **FEI Para Grand Prix A Test**, at least two (2) scores in an **FEI Para Grand Prix B Test** and completed one (1) **FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test** in their respective Grade Level within the qualifying period at Qualifying Competitions.
 - b. The athlete/horse combination's final overall average is within 1% of the minimum overall average of 62% and is the next highest overall average on the Final Ranking List.

For clarification purposes to the above, the additional invitations are based upon the Final Ranking List at the end of the qualifying period and not on the final entry list for this Championship.

6. If an athlete qualifies more than one (1) horse in the top twelve (12) ranked athlete/horse combinations, the second horse may serve as the athlete's direct reserve if the higher ranked horse is unable to compete at this Championship and USEF is notified prior to the close of the entry deadline. The deadline to submit an entry will be published in the official prize list and in the invitation to these Championships.
7. Once entries close for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, additional athlete/horse combinations shall not be invited to participate.

Competition Information:

1. For clarification purposes, the USEF Para Dressage National Championship will serve as one (1) Championship for Grades I-V.
2. It is anticipated that this Championship will take place during the 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, which is scheduled to take place on August 21-27, 2023 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.
3. The [FEI Para Rules for Dressage, Saddlery, and Execution of Tests](#) will apply. USEF drug rules will be followed.
4. With the exception of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal finals, all horses entered in this Championship will be examined for soundness. A horse inspection will be scheduled prior to the start of the Championship class, at which time horses must be presented to an FEI Veterinarian and at least one (1) member of the judging panel for examination. Horses may be evaluated from the side and following consultation with the FEI Veterinarian, the decision of the judge(s) is final and not subject to further protest. If a horse does not pass the horse inspection, the athlete may request to re-present the horse to the judge(s) and FEI Veterinarian. The judge(s) must give an option for reinspection in consultation with Competition Management at any time up to one (1) hour prior to the start of the class. The FEI Veterinarian and the

judge(s) from the original panel must be present. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear during the horse inspection.

5. Grade I, Grade II, and Grade III Athletes:
 - a. Horses may be ridden and/or schooled for up to thirty (30) minutes per day by the trainer/coach/groom. They should wear an armband to identify them. The total time allowed for the above training will be carefully observed and regulated by ring stewards. Horses may not be schooled unless a ring steward is present.
 - b. Horses may not be trained/schooled by anyone other than the athlete for the fifteen (15) minutes before they enter the competition arena to perform their Dressage Test. Horses may however be led around with or without the Athlete during the fifteen (15) minutes before they enter the Competition arena but may not be schooled from the ground.
6. Grade IV and Grade V Athletes:
 - a. For this Championship, within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition after arrival to the venue, any horse entered by a Grade IV or Grade V athlete may only be schooled or ridden by the athlete competing on that horse under penalty of elimination. This means, for instance, that a groom mounted in the saddle may walk the horse on a long, safe rein and that lungeing and verbal assistance from the ground from the trainer or their representative is permitted.
7. The Championship Format for each division will be available on the USEF Website by March 1, 2023.

These Qualifying Requirements are based on the USEF and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Qualifying Requirements caused by a change in USEF or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The Qualifying Requirements are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the Qualifying Requirements are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. Changes in Qualifying Requirements are subject to approval by USEF.