

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2020 Olympic Games**  
**DRESSAGE**  
**Tokyo, JAPAN**  
**USOPC Review Date: August 7, 2019**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:**

- 1. Nationality/Passport Requirements** - The athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with Federation Equestre Internationale (“FEI”) General Regulations, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Article 119 (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2020 Olympic Games (“the Event”). Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
  
- 2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) for participation:**
  - a.** Any athlete in the Olympic or Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) which is entering such athlete. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 41), or the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).
  
- 3. Minimum International Federation (IF) Standards for Participation:**
  - a.** All athletes and horses wishing to compete on the 2020 United States Olympic Games Dressage Team (the “Team”) must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability in accordance with the FEI Dressage Regulations, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition [25<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019], Article 422.3.7 and FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 607.2.2. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/games/olympic/tokyo-2020>.
  - b.** The athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2004 (FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 606.1.2).
  - c.** To be eligible for participation in the Event, athletes and horses must comply with all current FEI Regulations as well as Rules 40 & 41 of the Olympic Charter and its Bye-Laws pertaining to the IOC Eligibility Code and Nationality.
  - d.** A horse must be born on or before December 31, 2012 (eight (8) years of age) and have height at the withers exceeding 1.48m without shoes (see FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 606.2.1 and Rules for Dressage Events [25<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019], Article 422.1.4).
  - e.** Horses entered for the Event must have been registered with the FEI as property of owners of the same nationality as the Athlete, by 15 January 2020 (see FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 606.2.2.1). Horses, with multinational ownership, must be registered with the FEI by 15 January 2020, under the name of the nation for which the horse will compete during the Event (see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 606.2.2.2).
  - f.** The National Federation (NF) of a horse belonging to a partnership or a syndicate of owners must inform FEI by the date of the OCOG/IOC accreditation date (entry by number) for NOCs: 10 April 2020, of the name of one (1) owner to ensure that they are entered in the Olympic Accreditation system (see the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 620.2).
  - g.** No commercial prefix or suffix will be included with the name of horse on any Olympic participation/entry list, start list or results. The FEI will reserve the right to amend any horse’s name accordingly (see the FEI

Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [24th Edition, Effective for the 2020 Tokyo (JPN) Olympic Games] Article 606.2.5).

- h. The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI.

#### 4. Other Requirements:

- a. The athlete must be an active member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”).
- b. The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR 1102.
- c. Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Applications submitted online on or before **February 12, 2020 at 11:59 EST** will be charged \$70 per application. Applications submitted online after February 12, 2020 and received by USEF on or before February 19, 2020 will be charged an application fee of \$300 per application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 19, 2020 at 11:59 EST.**
- d. Horse Loan Agreement: Owners of horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry (See I.C.3 below) must sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B). A horse owner(s)’ failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the FEI Nominated Entry.
- e. The athlete shall certify by signing the Application that he has received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Selection Procedures for the Event. The athlete and horse owner(s) must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received, understand, and have read the Selection Procedures for the Team; the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C); the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D); and the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Code; the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E), USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievances Procedures (Attachment F), and USOPC online registration, and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.
- f. Athletes must have successfully completed all Games Registration requirements by stated deadline, unless the athlete requests for an extension of the deadline due to an extraordinary circumstance. Any extension must be approved by the USOPC.

#### **B. Tryout Events:**

1. **Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process:** It is anticipated that **up to** eight (8) athlete/horse combinations will be named to a Short List after the conclusion of the initial Qualifying Competition period (April 26, 2020). Athlete/horse combinations named to the Short List are anticipated to be required to compete in Observation Events, which may include a minimum of one mandatory event for all Short List combinations. These Observation Events may take place in Europe and may include CDI and/or CDN events. Further information will be published on this to all Applicants no later than March 1, 2020.

Additionally, “Home Visits” (see definition on page 14) may be conducted with each Short List athlete/horse combination. If a Home Visit is requested, the athlete must comply with the request.

2. **Provided below are the event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in B.1 (if any):**
  - a. **Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions:** Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions will include all U.S. and foreign CDI 3\*/4\*/5\*/CDI-W or CDIO events between September 9, 2019 – April 26, 2020. A list of these competitions can be found at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>.

Athlete/horse combinations must complete the FEI Grand Prix test and the FEI Grand Prix Special test in combination at **three (3)** CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions, two of which must be completed after January 1, 2020 per Section I.B.2.c. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete **one (1)** FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test at a CDI Tryout Event/Qualifying Competition during the qualifying period.

**Mandatory Outing:** In addition to the Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions, a Mandatory Outing will be required of the top ten (10) ranked athletes on the USEF Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List as of January 27, 2020. The Mandatory Outing is anticipated to take place in Wellington, Florida in February 2020. The event details will be published by December 16, 2019 here:

<https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/dressage/2020-olympic-games-2>. In the event of a tie in the top ten (10) ranked athletes, USEF may invite eleven (11) athletes to participate in the Mandatory Outing. The Mandatory Outing will also count as a Tryout Event/Qualifying Competition. Invitations will be issued to the top ten (10) ranked athletes on the USEF Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List as of January 27, 2020. An athlete in the top ten (10) of the USEF Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List as of January 27, 2020 may submit a request to the Selectors to not compete in the Mandatory Outing. Requests to not compete in the Mandatory Outing must be received prior to the start of the FEI Grand Prix Test at the Mandatory Outing. The Selectors will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition on page 14) to succeed at CDI competitions;
2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If a request is granted, the next ranked athlete on the USEF Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List as of January 27, 2020 may receive an invitation.

- b. Ranking List for Initial Qualifying Period:** The FEI Grand Prix Special test score will be used to calculate the Ranking List for the Initial Qualifying Period (the “Ranking”). The Ranking can be found here: <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/dressage/2020-olympic-games-2>. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix and the FEI Grand Prix Special test at more than three CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions, the lowest FEI Grand Prix Special test will be automatically dropped from the Ranking. The FEI Grand Prix test and the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination’s average on the Ranking. The Mandatory Outing will count towards the Ranking.

The following will apply to the Ranking: If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated and/or does not receive a score from any test at any Tryout Event/Qualifying Competition, for purposes of ranking, no score will be shown for that test on the Ranking. Exception: If an athlete or horse has been disqualified by USEF or FEI for a medication rule violation from a sample collected in connection with a Tryout Event/Qualifying Competition, that score may be marked as zero and counted in the Ranking.

- c.** Athlete/horse combinations must complete a minimum of two CDI Tryout Event/Qualifying Competitions after January 1, 2020 (may include Mandatory Outing). See Section I.B.2.a for requirements regarding Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions during the initial qualifying period. Athletes must be eligible to participate in these Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions pursuant to the FEI Rules for Dressage, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).
- d. Selection of the Short List:** After the conclusion of the initial Qualifying Competition period (April 26, 2020), **up to** eight (8) athlete/horse combinations may be named to the Short List. Additional combinations (up to four (4) athlete/horse combinations) may be named as Alternates to the Short List. These additional combinations may also be considered for the FEI Nominated Entry on June 1, 2020.

The Short List and Alternate combinations recommended to the Dressage Sport Committee by the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d’Equipe and Team Veterinarian, and will be subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, will be selected based on the following (in no priority order):

1. Scores from tests [FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle] at any CDI or CDN within 2019 or 2020 (Scores from CDNs carry less weight than scores from CDIs);
2. Ranking from Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions (includes Mandatory Outing);
3. Performance in Mandatory Outing (for those required);
4. Consistency of scores over 74%;
5. Trend in the scores;
6. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
7. "Errors of Course" (FEI Dressage Regulations, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition [25<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019], Article 430) or incomplete Qualifying Competitions due to elimination or withdrawal;
8. Potential to contribute to medal winning team; and
9. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

**Special Considerations:** An athlete may request special consideration for selection to the Short List without completing the above requirements listed in Section I.B.2.a-d by submitting a written request no later than April 26, 2020 to the Selectors, who will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated "Proven Ability" (See definition on page 14) to succeed at CDI competitions;
2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

**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. Athlete/horse combinations named to the Short List are anticipated to be required to compete in Observation Events, which may include a minimum of one mandatory event for all Short List combinations. These Observation Events may take place in Europe and may include CDI and/or CDN events. Further information will be published on this to all Applicants no later than March 1, 2020.

Additionally, "Home Visits" (see definition on page 14) may be conducted with each Short List athlete/horse combination. If a Home Visit is requested, the athlete must comply with the request.

An athlete named to the Short List may request special consideration for selection without competing in the designated Observation Events by submitting a written request to the Selectors no later than the start of an Observation Event, who will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated "Proven Ability" (See definition on page 14) to succeed at CDI competitions;
2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If the Selectors approve the above exception for the athlete to whom the exception was granted, they may also require additional Home Visits (see definition on page 14) to ensure ongoing "State of Preparedness." If a Home Visit is requested, the athlete must comply with the request.

2. **June 1, 2020: FEI Nominated Entry** - After the initial Qualifying Competition period ends on April 26, 2020 but no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry (June 1, 2020), and based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, will recommend to the USOPC and/or the FEI, as required, at least three (3) athlete/horse combinations and up to the maximum number

of horses and athletes able to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Event for (the “FEI Nominated Entry”) at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The FEI Nominated Entry will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than June 1, 2020. The Selectors’ recommendation will be based on the following criteria (in no priority order):

1. Scores from tests [FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special, and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle] from any CDI and CDN within 2019 and 2020 (Scores from CDNs carry less weight than scores from CDIs);
2. Consistency of scores over 74%;
3. The trend in the scores;
4. The experience and standing of the judges in relevance to the 2020 Olympic Games;
5. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (see definition on page 14) to succeed at CDI competitions;
6. The competition format of the Olympic Games;
7. The athlete’s FEI rankings compared with the other athletes’ and individual placings;
8. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
9. Potential to contribute to medal winning team;
10. “State of Preparedness” (see definition on page 14) of athlete and or horse;
11. “Errors of Course” (FEI Dressage Regulations, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition [25<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019], Article 430) or Incomplete Qualifying Competitions due to elimination or withdrawal; and
12. Met the requirements outlined in the Qualification System for the 2020 Olympic Games (found [HERE](#)).

An athlete/horse combination may be named to the FEI Nominated Entry that has not completed the minimum qualifying competitions/Tryout Events and has been approved for special consideration by the Selectors to not compete based on the criteria listed above.

**Chef d’Equipe Permissions:** Once athlete/horse combinations have been named to the FEI Nominated Entry they will come under the control of the Chef d’Equipe through the conclusion of the Event. They shall not compete without the permission of the Chef d’Equipe.

- 3. June 16, 2020: USOPC Final Entries** - By no later than the closing date for the USOPC Final Entries for the Event, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d’Equipe and Team Veterinarian, and upon the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, and the USOPC, will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations submitted on the FEI Nominated Entry and nominate to the USOPC and/or FEI as required the Team of three (3) athlete/horse combinations and one (1) reserve athlete/horse combination per FEI Rules.

The Selectors when evaluating the athlete/horse combinations named to the Nominated Entries for the Team base their evaluations on the following criteria (in no priority order):

1. Scores from tests [FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special, and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle] from any CDI and CDN within 2019 and 2020 (Scores from CDNs carry less weight than scores from CDIs);
2. Consistency of scores over 74%;
3. The trend in the scores;
4. The overall performance and soundness of the athlete/horse combination and likelihood of horse’s ability to remain fit to compete through the 2020 Olympic Games as determined through the “Final Veterinary Evaluation” (see definition on page 14) of all Short List horses.
5. The experience and standing of the judges in relevance to the 2020 Olympic Games;
6. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (see definition on page 14) to succeed at CDI competitions;
7. The competition format of the Olympic Games;
8. The athlete’s FEI rankings compared with the other athletes’ and individual placings;

9. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
10. Potential to contribute to medal winning team;
11. "State of Preparedness" (see definition on page 14) of athlete and or horse;
12. "Errors of Course" (FEI Dressage Regulations, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition [25<sup>th</sup> Edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, Including updates effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019], Article 430) or incomplete Qualifying Competitions due to elimination or withdrawal;
13. The physical conditions in which the Games will be held, including Pre Export Quarantine requirements and the travel to the Games, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combinations' performance; and
14. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

#### **4. Replacements/Substitutions (See section IV).**

The Last Date for Replacements is the last date at which an athlete or horse, selected to travel to the Event can be subject to Pre Competition Substitution with an athlete or horse not previously selected to travel. For the avoidance of doubt, only four horses can travel to the Event. The Last Date for Replacements will be based on when the U.S. horses fly to the Event, where they fly from, the number of athlete/horses taking part in Pre Export Quarantine prior to departing to the Event, the availability of space on the Official Tokyo Horse flights departing at a later date and the practicality of a horse travelling at a later date. The date will be decided by the USEF Director of Sport in consultation with the designated horse shipping company, Peden Bloodstock, the Managing Director of Dressage, Chef d'Equipe, and Team Veterinarian. The date will be published to all athletes selected to the FEI Nominated Entry List as soon as it can be decided upon. To clarify, horses will only be allowed to travel to the Event on the Official Horse flights as organized by the designated horse shipping company, Peden Bloodstock.

See Section IV.B for the method in which substitution athletes and horses should be selected, should a vacancy occur.

5. **Declaration of Starters** – The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Dressage Regulations, 25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 424.

**D. Provided below are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.** The USEF Dressage Selectors and USEF Dressage Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members).

#### **E. Other Considerations:**

1. **Equine Drug Testing:** All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

**In-Competition.** All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

**Positive Finding.** At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-competition, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one member of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing

Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on February 20, 2020 following notification to the applicant at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Panel appointed for selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR 409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

### **USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions**

No horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

2. **Soundness** - Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process, which commences on February 20, 2020, for soundness by the Team Veterinarian along with a member of the Veterinarian Panel, and/or a Selector upon the request of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, or USEF Dressage Sport Committee. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Veterinarian Panel may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, upon the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, but only with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
3. **Team Veterinarian Request** – Applicants, *at their own expense*, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of complete veterinary records of horses considered for selection. In addition, applicants, *at their own expense*, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses under consideration for selection. Applicants, *at their own expense*, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian, if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

- 4. Veterinary Treatment** - Once the Athletes are named to the Short List (including any athlete with permission not to compete), by no later date of FEI Nominated Entry, and prior to the departure of the horses for the Event venue for the purpose of competing in the Event, athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to treatment of “invited” horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian or Veterinary Panel. This permission must be obtained by using an official USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form (Attachment H).  
Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- 5. Medical Request** - In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant’s ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s) and the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant will be removed from the selection process upon the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

## **II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

**A. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.

**B. Discretionary criteria and how it will be used:** See Section I.C.

### **C. Discretionary Selection Committee:**

- 1. Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.**

  - USEF Dressage Selectors
  - USEF Dressage Chef d’Equipe
  - USEF Dressage Veterinary Panel
  - USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian
  - USEF Dressage Sport Committee
  - USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group
- 2. Provide a complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their NGB role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:** See Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**Selectors:** Five (5) individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy, the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Code (“SafeSport Code”), Safe Sport Policy of the USEF (Attachment E). The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Dressage community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Dressage at the international level, and include a minimum of one Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC (See Definitions) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the “Eligible Athlete Representative Selector”).

The Selectors will make recommendations to the Dressage Sport Committee based on consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and, when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel.



A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors may also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of Selectors.

**Ad Hoc Selection Group:** The Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

**3. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.**

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

**III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

**A. Prior to the acceptance of the nomination by the USOPC, USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees:**

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Violation of the USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures (Attachment F).
- Failure of an owner to sign the Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by a majority of the Veterinary Panel and/or Team Veterinarian. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, but only with the approval of the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.
- Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA, anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA Rules.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or any member of the Veterinary Panel or with the USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols.
- Failure to submit a written request not to attend the mandatory training session prior to the start of the mandatory training session, if possible, but no later than the conclusion of the mandatory training session to the Selectors.
- Failure to comply with USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E) or SafeSport Code.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.

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 IV.

**SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE/HORSE COMBINATIONS AND/OR HORSE.**

An athlete removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaw, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR605 or USOPC Bylaw, Section 9.

**B. After acceptance of nomination by the USOPC:**

Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USEF Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
<https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

An athlete may be removed from the Final Entry or Team at any time for the following reasons:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, USADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian (and majority of the members of the Veterinary Panel if requested).
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Violation of the USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures (Attachment F).
- Failure to comply with USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E) or SafeSport Code.

**C. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Nominated Entries, Team or USOPC Final Entry at any time for violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.**

**IV. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES/HORSE COMBINATIONS AND/OR HORSE**

**A. Following is the process by which the substitution/replacement pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** The list of athletes on the FEI Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athlete/horse combinations.

**B. Substitution/Replacement athletes and horses will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:**

- 1. Prior to acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries:** To fill openings, if they occur, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Team, or as alternates named to the FEI Nominated Entries and may recommend that a substitution be made. These recommendations are upon the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, if available within a practical timeframe. The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when evaluating athletes and horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.C.2-3. Any substitutions must be upon the recommendation of the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, and the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitutions for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate the Veterinary Panel. Any substitutions for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.
- 2. After the acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the Last Date for Replacements (see Section I.C.4):** FEI Olympic Regulations 24<sup>th</sup> Edition Article 609 *Pre-Competition Change* applies. After acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the Last Date for Replacements, USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC to replace athletes and/or horses on the USOPC Final Entries for reasons set forth in Section III.B. During this time period, athlete/horse combinations on the Team may be replaced with a Reserve athlete/horse combination or a horse on the FEI Nominated Entries; and the Reserve may be replaced with athletes and horses on the FEI Nominated Entries. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Selectors, and in accordance with the FEI Rules and/or for reasons set forth in Section III.B and subject to approval by the USEF Chef de Mission and the USOPC. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Team and the FEI Nominated Entries and may

recommend that a replacement be made. The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when evaluating athletes and horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section I.C.3. Any substitution for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.

**3. After the Last Date for Replacements (see Section I.C.5) and until two (2) hours before the scheduled starting time of the Grand Prix test:**

During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with the Reserve as outlined in FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 609 – Pre-Competition Changes. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because either, the athlete is unfit to compete **due to injury or illness** or there is a strong veterinary case for substitution or the performance of the Team member has dropped off to such an extent that for the success of the Team a substitution is vital. The latter situation will almost certainly occur as a result of a veterinary problem which it may or may not be possible to define given the time/resources available at the time. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Dressage Team Leader and USEF Chef de Mission, and in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 609 or for reasons set forth in Section III.B and subject to approval by the USOPC Chef de Mission. Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue approved by the USOPC.

**4. After the Grand Prix test and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix Special (in accordance with FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24<sup>th</sup> Edition, Article 609 and Article 627):**

Up to two hours before the start of the Team Competition (Grand Prix Special), USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC to substitute an Athlete/Horse combination as follows:

Substitution can only happen if either;

- a. The athlete agrees in writing to the substitution and the substitution is supported by the Chef d'Equipe, Team Leader and either the Team Veterinarian and/or an USOPC approved Physician.
- b. The horse is unfit to continue competing. The reason for this must be documented and supported by the Team Veterinarian and by a second US Team Veterinarian or an OCOG appointed, FEI approved, Treating Veterinarian. The decision must be supported by the Chef d'Equipe and Team Leader.
- c. The athlete is unfit to compete. The decision must be supported by two USOPC approved Physicians, the Chef d'Equipe and Team Leader

All substitutions must be validated by OCOG Competition Management, the FEI and IOC according to the Late Replacement Policy.

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

1. **Group or committee who determines the substitution/replacement pool:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Dressage Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian, USEF Dressage Veterinary Panel, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **Group or committee who determines a substitution/replacement to the team:**
  - a. **Prior to acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
  - b. **After the acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the Last Date for Replacements:** By the USOPC upon recommendation of the USEF Chef de Mission, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Selectors and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician.
  - c. **After the Last Date of Replacements and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix (in accordance with FEI Rules):** By the USOPC upon recommendation of the USEF Chef de Mission, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Selectors and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician.
  - d. **After the Grand Prix test and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix Special (in accordance with FEI rules):** By the USOPC upon recommendation of the USEF Chef de Mission, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Selectors and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician.

**V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.

**VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:** The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and horse owners as a condition of nomination for the Event and are included as attachments:

- Application (Attachment A)
- Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D)
- USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures (Attachment F)

Applicants and horse owners will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and USEF Safe Sport Policy and that they understand them 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 Selectors, Team Veterinarian, members of the Veterinary Panel, Physicians, members of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies (Attachment I).

**VII. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS:** Applicants will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment J) and are requested to sign this document.

**VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES:** The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations:

- USEF Website - [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF.
- Other: The Selection Procedures and Application Packet will also be available on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**IX. DATE OF NOMINATION:** The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than June 1, 2020. The USOPC Final Entries will be submitted to the USOPC no later than **June 16, 2020**.

**X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION:** Short list athletes and horses may be required to meet in one location for the final Veterinary Evaluation (see definition on page 14). Date and time of final Veterinary Evaluation will be communicated to Short List Athletes no later than May 25, 2020. The Team and reserve(s) athletes/horses may be required to meet in one location for a mandatory final training camp. These dates will be communicated by June 1, 2020.

**XI. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:**

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.

**XII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES:** The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment G for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

**XIII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**XIV. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER:** These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, as applicable, and/or FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, as applicable, and/or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are

based on the latest information available to the USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.



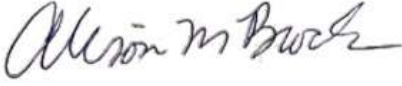
**XV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN:** Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman, office, by:

- Telephone at 888-ATHLETE
- Email at [athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org](mailto:athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org)
- Kacie Wallace, Athlete Ombudsman ([Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org))
- <https://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

**XVI. FUNDING DISCLAIMER:** Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a team.

**XVII. DISCLAIMER:** Please see Attachment D – USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification.

**XVIII. NGB 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 these Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Equestrian Federation.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF President	Murray Kessler		14 August 2019
USEF Dressage Managing Director	Hallye Griffin		14 August 2019
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Allison Brock		14 August 2019

\* If USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the AAC Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures and certifies that the Selection Procedures submitted represent the method approved by the NGB/PSO. If the AAC Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB/PSO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team representative.

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Hallye Griffin, USEF Managing Director of Dressage, United States Equestrian Federation, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511, Phone (859) 225-6949, Email: [hgriffin@usef.org](mailto:hgriffin@usef.org).

Approved by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee on August 6, 2019.

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on August 9, 2019.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**USEF DRESSAGE SELECTORS** - Five (5) individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policies of the USEF (Attachment G). The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Dressage community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Dressage at the international level, and include a minimum of one Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC (See Definitions) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the “Eligible Athlete Representative Selector”).

The Selector will make recommendations to the Dressage Sport Committee based on consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel.

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of Selectors.

**DRESSAGE ELIGIBLE ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE** – An athlete will be considered a Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative if they meet the following criteria as defined by the USEF in Part IV-Athletes, Bylaw 401 of its Bylaws and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee in Article XVII.17.7, B.3 of its Bylaws as eligible for membership on a “designated committee”:

- i) within the past ten (10) years, represented the United States in the Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by the United States Olympic Committee for which a competitive selection process was administered by the USEF
- and/or**
- ii) within the past twenty-four (24) months, demonstrated that they are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the NGB’s national championship or a team selection competition for the events specified in paragraph (i) above.

**SUBSTITUTE** –Substituting an athlete/horse combination after submittal of the USOPC Final Entries.

**STATE OF PREPAREDNESS** – Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Dressage Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

**HOME VISITS** – Visits with the Technical Advisor/Chef d’Equipe, Team Veterinarian (or a member of the Veterinary Panel), and the USEF Managing Director, Dressage where veterinary evaluations are conducted and training is observed. Additionally, key performance indicators and targets are agreed upon. Selectors may be invited to attend to Home Visits.

**PROVEN ABILITY** – An athlete/horse combination that has met at least one of the following criteria:

- i) Represented the US at the 2019 or 2020 FEI World Cup Final earning a minimum of a 77% in the FEI Grand Prix Test.
- ii) Earned recent results (minimum of a 77% in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special Tests and a minimum of 80% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test) in 2019 or 2020 CDI4\*, CDI5\*, CDI-W or CDIO3\*/4\*/5\* events.

**VETERINARY EVALUATIONS** – To be conducted on all Short List horses prior to final Team Selection. Date and time of final Veterinary Evaluation will be communicated to Short List Athletes no later than May 25, 2020. Veterinary Evaluations will be led by the Team Veterinarian and may additionally involve members of the Veterinary Panel.

**CDI** - Concourse de Dressage International

**CDN** – National Event

**EVENT** – The 2020 Olympic Games

**TEAM** – The 2020 Olympic Games Dressage Team