



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential Applicants for the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

Date: May 9, 2023

From: Kristen Brett, Director, Dressage Programs

Copy: Hallye Griffin
Laura Roberts

Re: Qualifying Dates and Competitions for the 2024 USEF Dressage National Championships for the Young Horse and Developing Horse Divisions

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and may be subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the final qualifying requirements are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Date and Location: The 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions is scheduled to take place on August 19-25, 2024 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.

Qualifying Period: The qualifying period for the 2024 USEF Dressage National Championships for the Young and Developing Horse divisions will begin on January 1, 2024, and end on July 22, 2024.

Application of Intent: An Application of Intent must be submitted in order to receive an invitation to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. The Application of Intent will be available [here](#) on the USEF website no later than September 14, 2023. The early submission deadline for the Application of Intent is May 15, 2024, with a \$50 fee. Additionally, a late Application of Intent must be submitted between May 16, 2024 and June 17, 2024, with a \$150 fee. Horses are permitted to be added to an existing Application of Intent with a \$50 fee per horse by June 17, 2024. Qualifying scores are permitted to be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. These deadlines are subject to change.

For the Young Horse division, qualification goes with the horse. Therefore, the athlete may be changed during the qualifying period.

For the Developing Horse Divisions (Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix), qualification is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, the athlete cannot change during the qualifying period.

Qualifying Competitions:

Competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these Competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#).

Qualifying scores may only be earned at these competitions or CDIs. The 2024 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2024 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2023.



For all divisions, scores earned from the 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions are not used towards qualifying for the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival Champions.

Age Requirements for Athlete and Horse:

Athletes must be a minimum of 16 years old by December 31, 2024 to compete at the Young and Developing Horse Championships (refer to DR128.1).

Young Horses must fit into one of the following age categories to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championships (refer to DR119.10):

- a. Become four (4) years of age in 2024;
- b. Become five (5) years of age in 2024;
- c. Become six (6) years of age in 2024;
- d. Become seven (7) years of age in 2024.

For the Developing Horse Prix St. Georges division, horses must be between the age of seven (7) years old and nine (9) years old in 2024 to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championships (refer to DR119.10).

For the Developing Horse Grand Prix division, horses must be between the age of eight (8) years old and ten (10) years old in 2024 to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championships (refer to DR119.10).

Qualifying Tests:

Combinations must obtain at least two (2) qualifying scores in their respective age division.

The current editions of the following Young Horse Tests must be used for qualification:

- Four-Year-Old: USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses
- Five-Year-Old: FEI Dressage Test for 5-Year-Old Horses – Final
- Six-Year-Old: FEI Dressage Test for 6-Year-Old Horses – Final
- Seven-Year-Old: FEI Dressage Test for 7-Year-Old Horses – Final

The current editions of the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test or the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test must be used for qualification.

Questions: If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org.