



2024 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements **Para Dressage**

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Executive Committee on October 16, 2023.

The 2024 Para Dressage National Championship (“Championship”) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on October 16, 2023 unless stated otherwise. The qualifying requirements published herein are subject to additions or revisions. These qualifying requirements pertain to the Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship for Grades I-V division.

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 of Intent, Membership, and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.

Application of Intent:

1. In order to be considered for this Championship, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 17, 2024 at 11:59pm, ET. The Application of Intent is made available on the USEF website here no later than September 14, 2023.
 - a. Applications of Intent received by USEF on or before May 15, 2024 at 11:59pm, ET will require an application fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per horse.
 - b. Applications received between May 16, 2024 and June 13, 2024 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 13, 2024 at 11:59pm, 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. Combinations without a complete application of intent by the closing date will be removed from the ranking list.
2. No Application of Intent will be accepted after June 13, 2024 at 11:59pm, ET 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. Scores are permitted to be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.

Athlete Membership:

1. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens to earn scores towards the ranking list and compete in this Championship.
2. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn scores and to compete in this Championship.
3. Athletes must be an Active Competing Member in good standing of USEF for scores to count towards the ranking list and at the time of application.
4. Athletes must be an Active Competing Member in good standing of USEF at the time of invitation through the conclusion of the Championships.
5. Athletes must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements to compete in CPEDIs.
6. An FEI Rider Registration is NOT required for this Championship.

Horse Membership:

1. Horses must be Annual or Life Recorded in good standing with USEF for scores to count towards the ranking list and at the time of application.
2. Horses must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF and in good standing at the time of invitation through the conclusion of the Championships.
3. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill the above requirements.
4. Horses must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements to compete in CPEDIs.
5. An FEI Horse Registration, FEI passport, or FEI Recognition Card is NOT required for this Championship.

Horse Owner(s) Membership:

1. Owners must be an Active Competing Member in good standing with USEF for scores to count towards the ranking list and at the time of application.
2. Owners must be an Active Competing Member in good standing with USEF at the time of invitation and through the conclusion of the Championships.
3. Ownership may change during the qualifying period and up to the close of entries for the Championship as long as the new owner(s) meets all of the above criteria.
4. All the above owner requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF, including all owners of a partnership, farm, company, corporation, etc. if a horse is recorded as owned by that type of entity.

USEF strongly encourages all athlete, horse, and owner membership requirements be completed by June 6, 2024, or rush fees may be required in order to submit the application of intent by 11:59pm, ET on June 13, 2024.

II. Eligibility Requirements for Athlete and Horse.

Qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. Athletes are not permitted to compete more than one (1) horse in this Championship. The same combination is only permitted to compete in one division (i.e., Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Para Dressage, etc.) at this Championship. A horse must not be competed by more than one athlete in the Para Dressage division and a horse is permitted to be competed only 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, is permitted to be competed in the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals.

1. Athletes must be a minimum of 13 years old as of December 1, 2023, 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:

Scores for this Championship must be earned within the qualifying period beginning July 25, 2023 and ending on July 22, 2024 at the following competitions:

Qualifying Competitions:

1. Competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (Qualifying Competitions) and a list of these Competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#).
2. Combinations are permitted to also earn 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 2024 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2023.

3. A combination cannot earn a score in a National Qualifying Competition if the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form is submitted from a CPEDI at the same event. For CPEDI score reporting, see 'Score Calculation' 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:

1. 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.
2. Combinations must obtain:
 - At least one (1) score in their respective Grade Level in the FEI Para Grand Prix A Test of Choice class specifically designated as USEF Qualifying held at a Qualifying Competition or in a FEI Para Grand Prix A Test held at a CPEDI.
 - At least one (1) score in their respective Grade Level in the FEI Para Grand Prix B Test of Choice class specifically designated as USEF Qualifying held at a Qualifying Competition or in an FEI Para Grand Prix B Test held at a CPEDI.
 - At least one (1) additional score in their respective Grade level in the FEI Para Grand Prix A Test of Choice class or the FEI Para Grand Prix B Test of Choice class specifically designated as USEF Qualifying held at a Qualifying Competition or in a FEI Para Grand Prix Test held at a CPEDI.
 - Combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test in their respective Grade Level. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test of Choice class specifically designated as USEF Qualifying held at a Qualifying Competition or in an FEI Para Dressage 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.
 - Achieve a minimum overall average of 62% on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to the Championship.
3. Combinations are not required to complete the Grand Prix A, the Grand Prix B, or the Grand Prix Freestyle at the same Qualifying Competition.
4. See Section IV for Judging Panels.

Score Calculation:

For calculation purposes, the 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 a 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 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 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. A 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. Drop Scores:
 - If a 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.
 - Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Grand Prix A Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the Grand Prix B Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.
 3. **Withdrawals:** Withdrawals must be submitted in writing to festival@usef.org. Withdrawals received between June 14, 2024 and July 22, 2024 will be noted as WD on the final ranking list.

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 epratt@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 26, 2024.
2. All 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 ranked third.
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. If an athlete qualifies more than one (1) horse in the top twelve (12) ranked 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. Once entries close for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, additional combinations shall not be invited to participate.

Wild Card Invitations:

1. Combinations qualified through the fulfillment of the criteria listed in Section III – Qualifying System are not eligible to request a wild card invitation.
2. Athletes must have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above.
3. Combinations not qualified as listed above with at least one FEI Para Grand Prix A Test score, one FEI Para Grand Prix B Test score, or one FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle score within the qualifying period may request a wild card invitation.
4. Wild Card requests must be submitted to festival@usef.org no later than 11:59pm, ET on July 22, 2024.
5. Following the end of the qualifying period, the Para Equestrian Sport Committee or its Designees may award wild card invitations, if there is not a maximum of 12 qualified combinations on the Final Ranking List, not to exceed 12 based upon on results of the combination, as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise. The following factors will be considered:
 - Scores earned in the FEI Para Grand Prix A Test or FEI Para Grand Prix B Test during the qualifying period.
 - Consistency of scores over 62% (which is the minimum overall average for the qualifying process).

- The trend in scores if the combination competed in multiple competitions within the qualifying period.
- The combination's ranking on the final ranking list.
- Factors beyond the control of the athlete that led to the combination not earning the required results.
- International experience of the athlete, horse, or combination.

Competition Information:

1. For clarification purposes, the USEF Para Dressage National Championship will serve as one (1) Championship for Grades I-V.
2. This Championship will take place during the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, which is scheduled on August 19-25, 2024 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 7, 2024.

USEF reserves the right to amend this document should there be a need to utilize the Championships as selection events or mandatory outings for Team selection or Championships preparation.

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.