Para-Equestrian Dressage Program Structure and Programs

Development Athlete Program

(Revised and effective January 1, 2020)

The Aim of the Development Athlete Program is to identify athlete / horse combinations with the perceived ability to reach Elite status. This will include developing athletes who have not yet reached Elite status and athletes who have, previously reached Elite status but who currently have a horse that has not yet reached Elite status but is on a trajectory to do so.

Principles

• Identification of developing athlete/horse combinations and developing Athletes is a key component of the Development Athlete Program in order to manage expectations, facilitate direct communication and foster the talent effectively.
• The Development Athlete Program is not a centrally based clinic driven program but a communication-based system that provides opportunities. Educational and training opportunities will be offered.
• Ensure Technical Advisor is briefed on combinations moving up the Pathway.
• Empower Development Athletes to remain with their own trainers within their own programs but challenge them to move up the Pathway and provide opportunities where possible or requested. Identify certain KPIs and requirements to stay in the Development Athlete Program.
• Work with Development Athletes’ trainers to better involve them and help them (where necessary) to understand what is required to be internationally competitive within each Grade.

Competition

• North American CPEDIs
• European CPEDIs

Development Athlete Program - Criteria for Selection

Open to current athlete / horse combinations who have met the criteria within the previous 24 months:

The athlete / horse combination have earned one (1) 62% or above score in each of the three (3) tests at Athletes’ classified Grade (Team, Individual, and Freestyle) for a total three (3) scores at CPEDI3* events. Scores do not have to be obtained from the same CPEDI3*.

Athlete / Horse combination must compete in a minimum of two (2) separate USEF licensed competitions in FEI Para Team Test or Individual Test at their Grade OR through the USEF virtual judging program.

In addition, meet these proficiencies:

A. Technical skills
B. Trainability
C. Strategy & Planning
D. Commitment
E. Mind set
F. Management
G. Fitness (athlete / equine)
H. Competition record
I. The length of time the athlete/horse combination has been on the Program and their progression up the Pathway in conjunction with what the Program can still offer
J. Demonstrate Potential for Elite Program
K. Quality of the athlete’s horse and their perceived ability to progress up the competition levels. As an indication a minimum score may be required.

In extenuating circumstances, the Technical Advisor may request the Selectors select an athlete / horse combination to the Development Athlete Program for a set period of time (maximum 24 months).

**Additional Development Athlete Criteria (Applicable to All)**
- FEI Classification or interim Classification with a status of Confirmed or Review with a fixed review date (FRD) by a USEF approved Classifier (all FEI Approved Classifiers are automatically USEF Approved).
- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report if requested by Selectors.
- Agreement to Requirements of Program.
- Willingness of athlete to agree to the aims of the Program including facilitating effect communication between the athlete’s support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program.

**Benefits to Membership:**

**Support:**
- Communication with Technical Advisor.
- Competition Planning.
- Prioritized access to Development A Athlete Program Educational opportunities.
- Establish KPI's (not necessarily competition-based).
- Review of KPIs.
- Competition Opportunities.
- Access to Equine and Human Sports Science Medicine support and advice as available.
- Funding may be available to the athletes selected for membership to the Development Athlete Program. Funding is tied to meeting the agreed upon markers, evaluations, and with consideration of the athlete/horse combination to reach Elite status. It is intended to be used towards additional development opportunities such as training sessions and / or competitions. Distribution of funds will be done two times per year as budget allows. Grant eligibility will be re-evaluated based on meeting the agreed upon markers. If the markers are not met, this may result in a loss of a grant or reduction in monetary assistance. **Funding will be allocated on a sliding scale based on the Athlete / Horse combination record of results.**

**Training and Evaluation Sessions**
Training and evaluation sessions will be run as funding allows. These will be open to members of the Development Athlete Program and those that are seeking selection to the Elite Program and meet the minimum criteria.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS NOT REQUIRED AND WILL NOT BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SELECTION**
APPLICATION
PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND PATHWAYS

DIVISION (Please check one)  ELITE________  DEVELOPING:________  EMERGING:________  

| RIDER | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| Name: | First | Last | USEF # |
| Date of Birth: | | | |
| Address: | Street Address | City/State/ZIP | |
| Cell Phone: | | | |
| Email Address: | | | |
| Is email a reliable way to reach you? | □ Yes | □ No | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HORSES (Athlete/Horse Combination Required for Elite and Developing Divisions)</th>
<th>Horse I</th>
<th>Horse II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USEF#</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner (1) Name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner (2) Name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach Name</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach Phone:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BINDING AGREEMENT (The rider is required to sign the following Agreement.)

I have read and understand the Para-Equestrian Dressage Program Structure and Pathway plan and requirements for each Division. I have completed the application and submitted required scores for the Division in which I am applying. By providing my handwritten or electronic signature below, I acknowledge the aforementioned and agree to accept my role and responsibilities as a participant in the Para-Equestrian Dressage Program Structure and Pathway.

Rider Electronic Signature – Type Rider Name
Rider Email Address

Parent Electronic Signature – If Rider is a minor
Parent 1 Email Address

In order to be considered for the Para-Equestrian Dressage Program Structure and Pathway, an Application must be completed and submitted to USEF along with qualifying scores for the Division for which I am applying. Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please contact Laureen Johnson at lkjohnson@usef.org or 859-225-7693.

Please return completed application and applicable scores, if any, to Laureen Johnson, Director of Para-Equestrian and Vaulting, lkjohnson@usef.org, or via fax to 908-234-9417.