



USEF Dressage National Championships Competition Format

Approved by the USEF Ad-Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors on 06.29.2018

This Competition Format is effective for the 2019 USEF Dressage National Championships unless stated otherwise. The information published herein is subject to additions or revisions. The Championships Competition Format pertains to the following Championship Divisions:

- USEF Children Dressage National Championship
- USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship
- USEF Junior Rider Dressage National Championship
- USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship
- USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championship presented by Dressage Today
- USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship
- Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships for Four, Five, and Six Year Old Horses
- Markel/USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix Dressage National Championships

Other

USEF reserves the right to cancel or relocate the Championships if its occurrence is prevented by weather conditions; changes in the management; insufficient entries; outbreaks or threatened outbreaks of equine illnesses; or any alterations of plans whether within or beyond USEF's or management's control. USEF reserves the right to relocate the Championships should the Federation deem the facility and competition management did not adequately meet the standards set forth for a National Championship.

Any questions concerning this Championship Format, please contact the US Equestrian Dressage Department at 859.258.2472.

USEF Children Dressage National Championship

- A. DAY 1 – FEI CHILDREN TEAM TEST:** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's Children Team Test. The FEI Children Team Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI CHILDREN INDIVIDUAL TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2's Children Individual Test. The FEI Children Individual Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Children Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Children Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR127.10. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.

DR 127.10

In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for Champion and/or Reserve Champion in USEF/USDF Championships classes, the collective marks after coefficients have been applied will determine first, second and/or third places (i.e. when a tie for first place is broken by collective marks, tied competitors will receive first and second places, etc.) If collective marks are equal the tie will remain unbroken (i.e., two first places will be awarded, next third place, etc.) Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) occurring in 3rd-8th place will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and total collective marks and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) for Champion, prize money designated for Champion and Reserve Champion will be combined and divided equally between the competitors.

- E. USEF Rules will be followed.**

USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship

- A. DAY 1 – FEI PONY RIDER TEAM TEST:** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's Pony Team Test. The FEI Pony Rider Team Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI PONY RIDER INDIVIDUAL TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2's Pony Individual Test. The FEI Pony Rider Individual Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Pony Rider Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Pony Rider Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR127.10. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.

DR 127.10

In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for Champion and/or Reserve Champion in USEF/USDF Championships classes, the collective marks after coefficients have been applied will determine first, second and/or third places (i.e. when a tie for first place is broken by collective marks, tied competitors will receive first and second places, etc.) If collective marks are equal the tie will remain unbroken (i.e., two first places will be awarded, next third place, etc.) Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) occurring in 3rd-8th place will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and total collective marks and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) for Champion, prize money designated for Champion and Reserve Champion will be combined and divided equally between the competitors.

E. USEF Rules will be followed.

USEF Junior Dressage National Championship

- A. DAY 1 – FEI JUNIOR TEAM TEST:** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's Junior Team Test. The FEI Junior Team Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2's Junior Individual Test. The FEI Junior Individual Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Junior Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Junior Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR127.10. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.

DR 127.10

In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for Champion and/or Reserve Champion in USEF/USDF Championships classes, the collective marks after coefficients have been applied will determine first, second and/or third places (i.e. when a tie for first place is broken by collective marks, tied competitors will receive first and second places, etc.) If collective marks are equal the tie will remain unbroken (i.e., two first places will be awarded, next third place, etc.) Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) occurring in 3rd-8th place will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and total collective marks and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) for Champion, prize money designated for Champion and Reserve Champion will be combined and divided equally between the competitors.

E. USEF Rules will be followed.

USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship

- A. DAY 1 – FEI YOUNG RIDER TEAM TEST:** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's Young Rider Team Test. The FEI Young Rider Team Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI YOUNG RIDER INDIVIDUAL TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2's Young Rider Individual Test. The FEI Young Rider Individual Test (current edition) will be used. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Young Rider Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Young Rider Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR127.10. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.

DR 127.10

In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for Champion and/or Reserve Champion in USEF/USDF Championships classes, the collective marks after coefficients have been applied will determine first, second and/or third places (i.e. when a tie for first place is broken by collective marks, tied competitors will receive first and second places, etc.) If collective marks are equal the tie will remain unbroken (i.e., two first places will be awarded, next third place, etc.) Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) occurring in 3rd-8th place will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and total collective marks and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) for Champion, prize money designated for Champion and Reserve Champion will be combined and divided equally between the competitors.

- E. USEF Rules will be followed.**

USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championship

- A. DAY 1 – FEI INTERMEDIATE II TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 1's FEI Intermediate II Test (current edition). This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by five (5) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI GRAND PRIX 16-25 TEST:** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test (current edition). This test will count towards 45% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Intermediate II Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be judged by five (5) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Intermediate II Test.
- C. DAY 3 – FEI GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE TEST -** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 3's FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test (current edition). This test will count towards 15% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. This test will be judged by five (5) judges (all of which must be active or retired FEI judges).

D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion will be determined based upon overall average: FEI Intermediate II – 40%, FEI Grand Prix 16-25 – 45%, FEI Grand Prix Freestyle – 15%.

E. TIES: Breaking of ties in individual tests will be in accordance with DR127.10. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Intermediate II Test only.

DR 127.10

In the event of a tie (equality of total points) for Champion and/or Reserve Champion in USEF/USDF Championships classes, the collective marks after coefficients have been applied will determine first, second and/or third places (i.e. when a tie for first place is broken by collective marks, tied competitors will receive first and second places, etc.) If collective marks are equal the tie will remain unbroken (i.e., two first places will be awarded, next third place, etc.) Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) after second place will be broken by collective marks. Ties (equality of total points and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) occurring in 3rd-8th place will remain unbroken. In the case of a tie (equality of total points and total collective marks and total collective marks after coefficients have been applied) for Champion, prize money designated for Champion and Reserve Champion will be combined and divided equally between the competitors.

F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply with the exception that protective headgear is mandatory per USEF Dressage Rule 120.

USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship

A. DAY 1 – FEI Prix St. Georges Test (current edition): All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Prix St. Georges. This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by five (5) active or retired FEI officials with a rating of 5*/4* and a maximum of one (1) FEI official with a rating of 3* may be used.

B. DAY 2 – FEI Intermediate I Test (current edition): All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 2's FEI Intermediate I Test. This test will count towards 45% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e. for twenty three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2= five (5) Athletes, Group 3= five (5) Athletes, Group 4= five (5) Athletes and Group 5= five (5) Athletes. This test will be judged by five (5) active or retired FEI officials with a rating of 5*/4* and a maximum of one (1) FEI official with a rating of 3* may be used. At least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.

C. DAY 3 – FEI Intermediate Freestyle (current edition): All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 3's FEI Intermediate Freestyle Test. This test will count towards 15% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e. for twenty three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2= five (5) Athletes, Group 3= five (5) Athletes, Group 4= five (5) Athletes and Group 5= five (5) Athletes. This test will be judged by five (5) active or retired FEI officials with a rating of 5*/4* and a maximum of one (1) FEI official with a rating of 3* may be used

D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion will be determined based upon overall average: Prix St. Georges – 40%, Intermediate I – 45%, Intermediate Freestyle – 15%.

E. TIES: If there is a tie in the final placing of the Championship, the tie will be broken based upon the test scores earned by athlete/horse combinations in the FEI Prix St. Georges class of the Championship. If a tie remains thereafter it will be broken based upon the test scores earned by athlete/horse combinations in the FEI Intermediate I class of the Championship. If a tie still remains thereafter it will be broken based

upon the score of the President of the Ground Jury using first the score from the Prix St. Georges and then the score of the Intermediate I.

- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply with the exception that protective headgear is mandatory per USEF Dressage Rule 120.**

USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

- A. DAY 1 – FEI Grand Prix Test (current edition):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Grand Prix Test. This test will count towards 45% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by five (5) active or retired FEI officials with a rating of 5*/4* and a maximum of one (1) FEI official with a rating of 3* may be used.
- B. DAY 2 – FEI Grand Prix Special Test (current edition):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 2's FEI Grand Prix Special Test. This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e. for twenty three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2= five (5) Athletes, Group 3= five (5) Athletes, Group 4= five (5) Athletes and Group 5= five (5) Athletes. This test will be judged by five (5) active or retired FEI officials with a rating of 5*/4* and a maximum of one (1) FEI official with a rating of 3* may be used. At least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Grand Prix Test.
- C. DAY 3 – FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (current edition):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 3's FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test. This test will count towards 15% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e. for twenty three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2= five (5) Athletes, Group 3= five (5) Athletes, Group 4= five (5) Athletes and Group 5= five (5) Athletes. This test will be judged by five (5) active or retired FEI officials with a rating of 5*/4* and a maximum of one (1) FEI official with a rating of 3* may be used.
- D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Grand Prix – 45%, Grand Prix Special – 40%, Grand Prix Freestyle – 15%.
- E. TIES:** If there is a tie in the final placing of the Championship, the tie will be broken based upon the test scores earned by athlete/horse combinations in the Grand Prix class of the Championship. If a tie remains thereafter it will be broken based upon the test scores earned by athlete/horse combinations in the Grand Prix Special class of the Championship. If a tie still remains thereafter it will be broken based upon the score of the President of the Ground Jury using first the score from the Grand Prix and then the score of the Grand Prix Special.
- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply with the exception that protective headgear is mandatory per USEF Dressage Rule 120.**

Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships **Four, Five, and Six Year Old Divisions**

The Ground Jury for all Championships tests will be either four (4) FEI Judges (active or retired) or three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge. The panel must have either USEF or FEI Young Horse Designation. Two (2) judges will sit together at C and two (2) Judges will sit together at either B or E. Judges shall give one score, and fill out general comments on one Marking Sheet. Competition Management shall provide a sound system and a microphone in order for the judges to give the audience a short summary after each ride.

A. DAY 1: All entries in the 4-Year-Old Division will compete in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses (current edition) on their first day of competition. All entries in the 5- and 6-Year-Old Divisions will compete in their respective Preliminary Tests on their first day of competition. Starting order will be determined by open draw. These tests will count towards 40% of the overall average.

B. DAY 2: All entries in the 4-Year-Old Division will compete in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses (current edition) on their second and final day of competition. All entries in the 5- and 6-Year-Old Divisions will compete in their respective Final Test on their second and final day of competition.

These tests will count towards 60% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by draw in three (3) groups of five (5) horses, based upon the scores from Day 1; the highest-placing group will draw for the third set of class ride times. At least two (2) Judges must differ from those judging Day 1 of each respective Championship.

C. Complete placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion for each age division (4, 5 & 6), will be determined based upon overall average: Day 1 – 40%, Day 2 – 60%.

D. TIES: Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for the individual Championship classes will be based on the General Impression score. For the overall Championship placing:

- i. In the case of a tie, the United States bred horse shall prevail (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.).
- ii. If two or more U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing or two or more non U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing, breaking of ties will be at the judging panel's discretion

E. USEF Rules will be followed.

Markel/USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championship – Prix St. Georges

A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the FEI Prix St. Georges Test (current edition) for Day 1 of the Championship. This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by either three (3) FEI Judges or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge.

B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges (current edition) for Day 2 of the Championship. This test will count towards 60% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e. for fifteen (15) athletes Group 1= five (5) Athletes, and Group 2= five (5) Athletes, and Group 3= five (5) Athletes. This test will be judged by either three (3) FEI Judges or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge. At least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.

C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Day 1 – 40%, Day 2 – 60%.

- D. TIES:** Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for individual classes will be in accordance with DR127.10. For the overall Championship placing:
- i. In the case of a tie, the United States bred horse shall prevail (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.).
 - ii. If two or more U.S.–bred horses are tied for the same placing or two or more non U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing, breaking of ties will be at the judging panel’s discretion
- E. USEF Rules will be followed.**

Markel/USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championship – Grand Prix

- A. DAY 1:** All entries will compete in the FEI Intermediate II Test (current edition) for Day 1 of the Championship. This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by either three (3) active or retired FEI Judges or two (2) active or retired FEI Judges and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge.
- B. DAY 2:** All entries will compete in the USEF Developing Grand Prix Test (current edition) for Day 2 of the Championship. This test will count towards 60% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1’s placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e. for fifteen (15) athletes Group 1= five (5) Athletes, and Group 2= five (5) Athletes, and Group 3= five (5) Athletes. This test will be judged by either three (3) active or retired FEI Judges or two (2) active or retired FEI Judges and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge. At least one (1) judge must differ from those judging the FEI Intermediate II Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Day 1 – 40%, Day 2 – 60%.
- D. TIES:** Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for individual classes will be in accordance with DR127.10. For the overall Championship placing:
- i. In the case of a tie, the United States bred horse shall prevail (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.).
 - ii. If two or more U.S.–bred horses are tied for the same placing or two or more non U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing, breaking of ties will be at the judging panel’s discretion.
- E. USEF Rules will be followed.**