



## **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions Competition Format**

This U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions Competition Format is effective on February 23, 2022, unless stated otherwise. The information published herein is subject to additions or revisions. The Competition Format pertains to the following Championship Divisions:

- USEF Para Dressage National Championship (Page 2)
- USEF Children Dressage National Championship (Page 2)
- USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship (Page 3)
- Adequan® / USEF Junior Dressage National Championship (Page 3)
- Horseware Ireland / USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship (Pages 3-4)
- Adequan® / USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship (Page 4)
- USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship (Pages 4-5)
- USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship (Page 5-6)
- Markel/USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships for Four-, Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Old Horses (Pages 6-7)
- Markel/USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges and Grand Prix Dressage National Championships (Pages 7-8)

### **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 [festival@usef.org](mailto:festival@usef.org). Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc on February 23, 2022. This document may be amended upon approval by the USEF Chief Executive Officer. Reasonable written notice will be provided to affected athletes.***

## **USEF Para Dressage National Championship**

*The Ground Jury for all Championships tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired). Each member of the panel must have the FEI Para Dressage designation.*

- A. DAY 1 – FEI PARA TEAM TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Para Team Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw.
- B. DAY 2 – FEI PARA INDIVIDUAL TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Para Individual Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Para Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating Day 1.
- C. DAY 3 – FEI Para Dressage Freestyle (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 3's FEI Para Dressage Freestyle Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 15% of the 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; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Team Test – 40%, Individual Test – 45%, Para Freestyle – 15%
- E. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- F. The FEI Para Rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.**

## **USEF Children Dressage National Championship**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI CHILDREN TEAM TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Children Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) FEI judges (active or retired).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI CHILDREN INDIVIDUAL TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Children Individual Test. This test will count towards 50% of the 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 in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be judged by a minimum of three (3) FEI judges (active or retired) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating 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.** The complete and current versions of the FEI Children Team and Individual Tests will be used. This includes both the Technical and Quality Marking components of the FEI Team and FEI Individual Tests and will be scored in each class as indicated on the tests.
- E. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- F. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.**

## **USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship**

- G. DAY 1 – FEI PONY RIDER TEAM TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Pony Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired).
- H. DAY 2 – FEI PONY RIDER INDIVIDUAL TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Pony Individual Test. The test will count towards 50% of the 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 in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Pony Rider Team Test.
- I. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average:** Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- J. TIES:** Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- K. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.**

## **Adequan® / USEF Junior Dressage National Championship**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI JUNIOR TEAM TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Junior Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Junior Individual Test. This test will count towards 50% of the 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 in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating 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 DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.**

## **Horseware Ireland / USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI YOUNG RIDER TEAM TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Young Rider Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired).

- B. DAY 2 – FEI YOUNG RIDER INDIVIDUAL TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Young Rider Individual Test. 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 in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. This test will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating 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 DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment and Drug Rules will be followed.**

### **Adequan® / USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI INTERMEDIATE II TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2's FEI Intermediate II Test. This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired).
- B. DAY 2 – FEI GRAND PRIX 16-25 TEST (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 1's FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test. 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 officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) and at least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Intermediate II Test.
- C. DAY 3 – FEI GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE TEST (current test edition will be used):** 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. This test will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired).
- 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 DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Intermediate II Test only.
- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply which includes protective headgear. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.**

### **USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI Prix St. Georges Test (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1's FEI Prix St. Georges Test. This test will count towards 40% of overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a rating of 5\*/4\* and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with a rating of 3\* may be used.
- B. DAY 2 – FEI Intermediate I Test (current test edition will be used):** 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 officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a rating of 5\*/4\* and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with a rating of 3\* may be used. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.

- C. DAY 3 – FEI Intermediate I Freestyle (current test edition will be used):** 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 officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a rating of 5\*/4\* and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) 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 I 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 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.
- G. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply which includes protective headgear. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.**

### **USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI Grand Prix Test (current test edition will be used):** 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 officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a rating of 5\*/4\* and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with a rating of 3\* may be used.
- B. DAY 2 – FEI Grand Prix Special Test (current test edition will be used):** 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 officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a rating of 5\*/4\* and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with a rating of 3\* may be used. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Grand Prix Test.
- C. DAY 3 – FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (current test edition will be used):** 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 officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a rating of 5\*/4\* and a maximum of one (1) FEI judge (active or retired) 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 remains thereafter, it will be broken based upon the score of the President of the Ground Jury using the first the score from the Grand Prix and then the score of the Grand Prix Special.
- H. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply which includes protective headgear. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.**

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

*The Ground Jury for all Championships tests, the panel must have either USEF or FEI Young Horse Designation. 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.*

*For the 4-, 5-, and 6-Year -Old divisions, these tests will be officiated by either four (4) FEI Judges (active or retired) or three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge. 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.*

*For the 7-Year-Old division, these tests will be officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge. Two (2) judges will sit together at B or E scoring only the Quality Marking Sheet and one (1) judge will sit at C scoring the Technical Marking Sheet.*

- A. DAY 1 (current test editions will be used):** All entries in the 4-Year-Old Division will compete in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses on their first day of competition. All entries in the 5-, 6, and 7-Year-Old Divisions will compete in their respective Preliminary Tests on their first day of competition. Starting order will be determined by open draw.
- B. DAY 2 (current test editions will be used):** All entries in the 4-Year-Old Division will compete in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses on their second and final day of competition. All entries in the 5-, 6, and 7-Year-Old Divisions will compete in their respective Final Test on their second and final day of competition. 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. 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), Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group (4) = five (5) athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes. At least two (2) judges must differ from those officiating Day 1 in the 4-, 5-, and 6-Year-Old Championships. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating Day 1 in the 7-Year-Old Championship.
- C.** The complete and current versions of the FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary and Final Tests will be used. This includes both the Technical and Quality Marking components of the FEI Seven-Year-Old Tests and will be scored in each class as indicated on the tests.
- D. 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%.
- E. TIES:** Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for the individual classes will be in accordance with DR123.3. 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

**F. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.**

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

- A. DAY 1 – FEI Prix St. Georges Test (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1’s FEI Prix St. Georges Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge.
- B. DAY 2 – USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 2’s USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test. This test will count towards 60% of the 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; the highest-placing group will draw for the third set of class ride times. 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), 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 officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating 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 DR123.3. 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 Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.**

**Markel/USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championship – Grand Prix**

- A. DAY 1 – FEI Intermediate II Test (current test edition will be used):** All entries in the Championship will compete in Day 1’s FEI Intermediate II Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by open draw. This test will be officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge.
- B. DAY 2 – USEF Developing Grand Prix Test (current test edition will be used):** All entries will compete in Day 2’s USEF Developing Grand Prix Test. This test will count towards 60% of the 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; the highest-placing group will draw for the third set of class ride times. 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), 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 officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating 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 DR123.3. 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 Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.**