



## **2021 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements** **Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Young Adult 'Brentina Cup'**

*Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on July 14, 2020.*

The 2021 Championship ("Championships") Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on July 14, 2020 unless stated otherwise. The qualifying requirements published herein are subject to additions or revisions. These qualifying requirements pertain to the following divisions:

- USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championship
- USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

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 Hallye Griffin, Managing Director of Dressage ([hgriffin@usef.org](mailto:hgriffin@usef.org) / 859-225-6949).

### **I. Application, Membership and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.**

#### **Application:**

1. In order to be considered for these Championships, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 16, 2021. Applications are made available on the USEF website no later than September 2, 2020.
  - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 12, 2021 will require an application fee of \$50 per horse.
  - b. Applications received after May 12, 2021 but on or before June 16, 2021 will require a fee of \$150 per horse.
  - c. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received.
  - d. Additional horses added to an existing application will require a fee of \$50 per horse until June 16, 2021.
2. No application will be accepted after June 16, 2021 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. The athletes are permitted to compete with only those horses named on the athlete's application.

#### **Athlete Membership:**

1. Athletes must be US Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championships. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
3. Athletes must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CDIs.

#### **Horse Membership:**

1. Horses must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF in order for qualifying scores to count at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.
2. Intermediaire I and Grand Prix: Horse must have an FEI Passport and be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, and until the conclusion of the Championships.
3. Brentina Cup: An FEI passport or FEI Recognition Card will NOT be required for this Championship.

### **Horse Owner(s) Membership:**

1. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) in order the athlete/horse combinations' scores to count towards qualifying and compete in the Championships (See USEF GR202).
2. Ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championships as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

### **II. Division and Age Requirements for Athlete/Horse.**

*For all divisions listed below, qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses in each Championship division. Ponies and Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in these Championships.*

### **Brentina Cup:**

1. Athletes are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty-five (25).
2. Horses must be at least eight (8) years old or older.

### **Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship at a higher level, the following restrictions apply to competing at a future Dressage National Championship at a lower level:**

- Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship for 'Brentina Cup' (16-25), he/she is no longer eligible to compete at a Dressage National Championship for Pony Rider or Junior.
- If an athlete/horse combination places in the top three (3) in the 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) National or FEI Championship, the same athlete/horse combination is no longer eligible to compete at a National Championship for Young Riders.

### **If the above restrictions do not apply to an athlete, the following rules apply to qualifying and Championship participation for athletes meeting the eligible age requirement:**

- May compete in the Pony Rider (12-16), Junior (14-16), Young Rider (16-21), and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) divisions; however, may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount.
- May compete in the Young Rider and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.

### **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix:**

1. Athletes are eligible to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16).
2. Horses must be eligible to compete at the Intermediaire I and Grand Prix levels under FEI rules.

### **III. Qualifying System.**

#### **Qualifying Period:**

1. The qualifying period begins July 30, 2020 and is scheduled to end July 26, 2021 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2021.

#### **Qualifying Competitions:**

1. Brentina Cup:
  - a. Qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. Athlete/horse combinations must compete in either CDI-U25/CDIO-U25 events or USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (Qualifying Competitions) to be eligible for an invitation to the Championship.
    - The FEI Calendar can be found here (please note that the FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020).
    - A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as Qualifying Competitions and a list of the Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website.

- b. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if a CDI-U25 is also held at the event.
- 2. Intermediaire I
  - a. Qualifying Competitions are considered any CDI1\*, CDI2\*, CDI3\*, CDI4\*, CDI5\*, CDIO, and CDI-Am both within and outside of the USA; athletes will be required to earn qualifying scores at the CDIs. The FEI Calendar can be found here (please note that the FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020).
- 3. Grand Prix
  - a. Qualifying Competitions are considered any CDI3\*, CDI4\*, CDI5\*, CDIO and CDI-W, both within and outside of the USA; athletes will be required to earn qualifying scores at the CDIs. The 2021 FEI World Cup Final are considered qualifying competitions. The FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) (please note that the FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020).
- 4. For all divisions (Brentina Cup, Intermediaire I and Grand Prix): CDI scores earned within the qualifying period in the respective division tests as outlined below will automatically count towards qualifying.

If an athlete does not want the scores from a CDI to count towards their final average, they must submit their request via email to Hallye Griffin, USEF Managing Director of Dressage ([hgriffin@usef.org](mailto:hgriffin@usef.org)) prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection for that event. This request must include the name of the horse(s) they will compete at the Qualifying Competition. If the USEF Managing Director of Dressage has not received the request prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection, the score(s) will count toward their final average. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to confirm with the USEF Managing Director of Dressage that their request has been received.

#### **Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:**

- 1. Brentina Cup
  - a. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 64% in order to receive an invitation for this Championship.
  - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate II Test. The FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and the FEI Intermediate II Test must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF Qualifying.
  - c. Athlete/horse combinations must also earn one FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test score within the qualifying period. The FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Test of Choice class held at a national competition (CDN) designated as a Qualifying Competition or a CDI. The Freestyle score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.
  - d. If an athlete chooses to not count their scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test or FEI Intermediate II Test from a CDI towards their final average, the score earned in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test may still be used to fulfill the requirement as stated above.
  - e. Athlete/horse combinations may also earn qualifying scores at any designated Qualifying Competition within the qualifying period. Combinations are limited to one (1) qualifier in the same location in one seven-day period; however, CDI-U25s are exempt from this requirement.
- 2. Intermediaire I
  - a. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 66% in order to be receive an invitation for these Championships.
  - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate I Test.
  - c. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test at a CDI. The FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.
  - d. If an athlete/horse combination completes only the FEI Prix St. Georges Test or the FEI Intermediate I Test at a CDI, the athlete/horse combination's score from this test will be used in calculating an athlete/horse combination's final average.

- e. If an athlete chooses to not count their scores earned in the FEI Prix St. Georges Test or FEI Intermediate I Test from a CDI towards their final average, the score earned in the Freestyle Test may still be used to fulfill the requirement as stated above.
3. Grand Prix
- a. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 66% in order to be receive an invitation for this Championship. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Special Test.
  - b. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test at a CDI. The Grand Prix Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.
  - c. If an athlete/horse combination completes only the FEI Grand Prix Test at a CDI, the athlete/horse combination's score from this test will be used in calculating an athlete/horse combination's final average.
  - d. If an athlete chooses to not count the scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix or FEI Intermediate II Test from a CDI towards their final average, the score earned in the Freestyle Test may still be used to fulfill the requirement as stated above.
  - e. Scores from Consolation Competitions, if scheduled, will not count towards calculation of the ranking list.
4. Judging Panels for Qualifying Competitions
- a. Brentina Cup
    - i. Qualifying tests at Qualifying Competitions must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF "S" judges. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per panel per Qualifying Competition.
  - b. Brentina Cup, Intermediaire I and Grand Prix at CDI Events
    - i. Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.
  - c. Brentina Cup at USEF National Licensed Competitions
    - i. Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304.

### **Score Calculation:**

1. Ranking List
- a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations, which are earned at Qualifying Competitions/CDIs. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF staff.
  - b. If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated from a Qualifying Test, they will not receive a '0' for that score on the ranking list. Scratches and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list.
  - c. For the Brentina Cup division, only the scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and FEI Intermediate II Test (each counting as 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
  - d. For the Intermediaire I division, only the scores earned in the FEI Prix St. Georges and FEI Intermediate I (each counting as 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
  - e. For the Grand Prix division, only the scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special (each counting as 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
  - f. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent.
2. Dropped Scores
- a. For the Brentina Cup division –
    - i. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions or CDIs, the lowest scored earned in this Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more FEI Intermediate II Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions or CDI-U25, the lowest score in this Test will be dropped. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and a maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from the FEI

Intermediate II Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless if the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test was ridden.

b. For the Intermediare I division –

- ii. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Prix St. Georges Tests at three (3) or more CDIs, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Intermediate I Tests at three (3) or more CDIs, the lowest score from this Test will be dropped. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and a maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from the FEI Intermediate I Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless if the FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test was ridden.

c. For the Grand Prix division –

- ii. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix Tests at three (3) or more CDIs, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix Special Tests at three (3) or more CDIs, the lowest score from this Test will be dropped. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from the FEI Grand Prix Test and a maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from the FEI Grand Prix Special Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless if the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test was ridden.

#### **IV. Additional Rules and Requirements.**

##### **One Athlete Rule:**

1. For USEF qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and through the conclusions of the competition, any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds. This rule also applies for NAYC and USEF High Performance (HP) qualifying competitions and classes.
2. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply.

##### **Dress and Saddlery:**

1. Please refer to [DR120-121](#) for dress and saddlery rules for national level competition for Brentina Cup qualifiers.
2. If competing in a CDI event, all [FEI Dressage](#) and [General Regulations](#) must be followed.

##### **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](#), USEF Code of Conduct, and [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
2. Athletes, horse owners and trainers will be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct with entry to the Championship.
3. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
4. 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.

#### **V. Championship Competition.**

##### **Invitations for the Championships:**

1. All athlete/horse 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 12. Exceptions: Wildcard invitations.

2. No athlete may qualify more than two horses for each Championship. If an athlete qualifies more than two horses in the top twelve (12) ranked athlete/horse combinations, the next athlete/horse combination may be invited to attend up to a maximum of fifteen (15) athletes.
3. In the event of ties, there may be more than fifteen athletes invited to the Championships.
4. Athlete/horse combinations shall only participate in one National Championship division level within the same year.

#### **Wild Card Invitations:**

1. Grand Prix
  - a. In addition to the combinations who have received an invitation to compete in the Championships through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above; athlete/horse combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one FEI Grand Prix CDI score after January 1, 2021 may request a wild card invitation.
  - b. Wild Card requests must be submitted no later than July 6, 2021.
  - c. The Dressage Sport Committee or its designees may award up to three Wild Card invitations based upon on results of the combination as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise.
2. Intermediaire I
  - a. In addition to the combinations who have received an invitation to compete in the Championships through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above; athlete/horse combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one FEI Prix St. Georges Test and one FEI Intermediate I Test earned at a CDI1\*, 2\*, 3\*, 4\*, 5\* CDIO or CDI-Am after January 1, 2021 may request a wild card invitation.
  - b. Wild Card requests must be submitted no later than July 6, 2021.
  - c. The Dressage Sport Committee or its Designees may award up to three Wild Card invitations based upon on results of the combination as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise.
3. Brentina Cup is not eligible for Wild Card invitations.

#### **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 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](#). For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org).

Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org) or visit [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org) for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process.

#### **Competition information:**

1. It is anticipated that the 2021 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions will take place on August 17-22, 2021 at HITS Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.
2. 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.
3. Horses will be examined for soundness. A horse inspection will be scheduled prior to the Championship classes, at which time all horses must be presented to a FEI veterinarian and at least two members of the judging panel for examination. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear

during the Horse Inspection. Please refer to the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#) on Horse Inspection Procedures.

4. Championship Format for each division will be available on the USEF Website by February 1, 2021.

***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.*