



SELECTION PROCEDURE for CDIOs **Effective May 1, 2014 / Updates Approved December 1, 2017**

The United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Dressage Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by an Ad Hoc Selection Group (approved by the USEF Board of Directors).

I. APPLICATION – Athletes wishing to be considered for selection for a CDIO to which the US receives an invitation must submit an application in accordance with the deadlines published for the Event. Applications will be distributed by USEF and will also be available on the USEF website at www.usef.org.

A submitted application may be withdrawn up to 7 days prior to the published date of selection (to be noted on the www.usef.org and subject to change dependent on the FEI Definite Entry dates published by the CDIO Organizers).

The athlete and horse owner(s) must certify, by signing the Application, that they have read the Selection Procedures for the Team, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment C) and the USEF Safe Sport Policies Handbook (Attachment D) and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

II. SELECTION - Unless another method of selection is approved by the USEF Board of Directors, the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List ([Click Here](#)) will be used to select teams and/or individuals to represent the United States at CDIOs in those instances where more athletes have applied than number of invitations issued by the Organizer. If more athletes have indicated a desire to compete than the Organizer can accommodate, entries will be submitted in the order of the athlete/horse combination ranking on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix Ranking List (with the exception of any 'replacement selection' as described below) current at the time of the published date of selection (to be noted on www.usef.org and subject to change dependent on the FEI Definite Entry dates published by the CDIO Organizers). Unless a Horse Substitution Request is made and approved pursuant to the procedure set forth under Section IV, Horse Substitution Request, an athlete will be named with first ranked horse.

For each event, athletes/horse combinations will be named by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

With the approval of the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor shall have the discretion to recommend replacement of up to two athlete/horse combinations that would otherwise have been named to the team or as an alternate due to their ranking on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List. When making the replacement selection, the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor will take into consideration, but not be limited to, the following factors:

1. The potential to produce scores above 70% in the Big Tour (GP, GPS and/or GPF);
2. Trend in the scores;



3. Competition is designated as a Development Tour competition and the combination is considered a Development Combination meaning they are either a Development Program Member or have demonstrated future team potential through recent scores.
4. Previous international experience of the athlete or horse, including the demonstrated ability of the horse and athlete to succeed in CDIs or CDIOs;
5. Recent FEI Grand Prix test scores at CDNs or CDIs including the USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championships.

Exception: Athlete/horse combinations will be selected in accordance with the Selection Procedures for the applicable championship when a CDIO is designated as a “Mandatory Outing” for US Selection purposes.

Communication with Chef d’Equipe and Team Veterinarian: Athletes named to the Team will be in communication with the Chef d’Equipe with regard to the preparation, fitness and competition schedule and agree upon a plan for themselves and their horses. In addition, the Team Veterinarian and the athlete’s veterinarian will be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the horses selected for the Team which will include the completion of the Veterinary Statement of Health and Soundness form.

Veterinary Treatment: Once a horse is named to the Team, all veterinary treatments administered within 30 days prior to the event in question must be reported to the Team Veterinarian. Failure to report a veterinary treatment within the 30 days prior to the event in question may result in the removal of the athlete and/or horse from the Team.

Horse Loan Agreement: Owners of horses selected for the event must sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment A). A horse owner(s)’ failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the approved list of selected athletes and horses.

Athlete Agreement: Athletes named to the Team will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment F) and are requested to sign this document.

III. SUBSTITUTIONS FOR VETERINARY, MEDICAL and/or EXTRAORDINARY REASONS - After a team and alternates have been named, substitutions, if they occur, will be filled by the athlete/horse combinations in the order of their ranking on the list approved by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, and the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

If a selected athlete/horse combination withdraws and all the remaining applicant athletes have declined, an additional athlete/horse combination that did not submit an application in accordance with the deadlines for the subject event may be selected by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, to fill the vacancy subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The method used to select this athlete/horse combination will be at the discretion of the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees. The method used may include, but is not



limited to: ranking on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 12-Month Ranking List; recommendation by the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor; availability.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian, or, if there is a conflict of interest, a conflict-free veterinarian appointed by the Dressage Sport Committee and approved by the International Disciplines Council.

Any substitution for extraordinary circumstances must have the unanimous approval of the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees. and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

IV. HORSE SUBSTITUTION REQUEST - If an athlete's first ranked horse is not available for any reason, an athlete may request to be considered for selection on another horse and the request will be voted on by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees after consultation with the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor and subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final. In reviewing the request, the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees shall evaluate the past performance of the athlete/horse combination.

If the Horse Substitution Request is not granted by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, the athlete remains eligible for selection on his/her first ranked horse. If the athlete declines, the next highest athlete/horse combination will be named. If this athlete's first ranked horse is not available, he/she may request to be considered for selection on another horse, according to the procedure outlined above.

Failure by an athlete to comply with the directives of the Chef d'Equipe/Technical Advisor with regard to naming the team for the Nations Cup for reasons other than veterinary or medical may result in a Code of Conduct violation for the athlete.

Veterinary reasons must be documented by the Team Veterinarian. Medical reasons must be documented by a physician approved by the International Disciplines Council.

VI. ADDITIONAL COMBINATIONS – If the US receives invitation(s) for additional athlete/horse combinations or horses at a CDIO, they will be selected from the USEF Dressage Grand Prix Ranking List.

VII. EQUINE DRUG TESTING - All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.



Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-competition, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised at least one member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinarian Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time once the Team and Substitutes for an event have been named following notification to the applicant at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Panel appointed for selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR 409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions

No horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.



VIII. SOUNDNESS - Horses may be examined for soundness at the athlete's expense by a veterinarian(s) chosen by the Dressage Sport Committee prior to Selection. Horses declared to be unsound may be eliminated from any Selection (See Section III, Substitutions), but only with the approval of the Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

VIII. FUNDING DISCLAIMER - Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a team.

IX. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES - In extraordinary circumstances, these procedures may be modified by the International Disciplines Council at the request of the Dressage Sport Committee.

X. USEF CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY - All persons participating in any decision made pursuant to these Selection Procedures including but not limited to the Selectors, Team Veterinarian, Physicians, members of the Dressage Sport Committee, International Discipline Council, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to execute and abide by the USEF Conflict of Interest Policy (see attached).