



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential Applicants for the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

Date: May 9, 2023

From: Kristen Brett, Director, Dressage Programs

Copy: Hallye Griffin
Laura Roberts

Re: Qualifying Dates and Competitions for the 2024 USEF Dressage National Championships for the Children, Pony Rider, Junior, and Young Rider Divisions.

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and may be subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the final qualifying requirements are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Date and Location: The 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions is scheduled to take place on August 19-25, 2024 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.

Qualifying Period: The qualifying period for the 2024 USEF Dressage National Championships for the Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, and Children divisions will begin on July 25, 2023, and end on July 22, 2024.

Application of Intent: An Application of Intent must be submitted in order to receive an invitation to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. The Application of Intent will be available [here](#) on the USEF website no later than September 14, 2023. The early submission deadline for the Application of Intent is May 15, 2024, with a \$50 fee. Additionally, a late Application of Intent must be submitted between May 16, 2024 and June 17, 2024, with a \$150 fee. Horses are permitted to be added to an existing Application of Intent with a \$50 fee per horse by June 17, 2024. Qualifying scores are permitted to be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. These deadlines are subject to change.

For these Championships, qualification is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, the athlete cannot change during the qualifying period.

Qualifying Competitions:

Competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#).

Qualifying scores may only be earned at these competitions or at any CDI within their respective division (i.e., CDI-Ch, CDI-P, CDI-J, or CDI-Y). However, a combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national Qualifying Competition if their respective CDI division is also held at the event. See Ranking List Score Calculation below. The 2023 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2024 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2023.



For all divisions, scores earned from the 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions are not used towards qualifying for the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival Champions.

Junior and Young Rider:

- a. For combinations qualified to compete in GAIG/USDF Regional Championship classes, FEI Junior and FEI Young Riders may also earn qualifying scores in their respective FEI division in GAIG/USDF Championship classes. Qualifying information for GAIG/USDF Regional Championships can be found on the USDF website [here](#). In order for these scores to be counted, scores must be reported by athletes via the USEF CDI, CPEDI and Championships Report form by the deadlines indicated on the form.
- b. In cases where USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes are held in addition to a GAIG/USDF Regional Championships, scores earned in FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider Qualifying classes are automatically recorded. This means that an athlete may report their scores from the GAIG/USDF Regional Championship Jr and YR Team Championship class(es) as an additional team score.
- c. Combinations competing in the Junior or Young Rider divisions may also earn scores at the FEI North American Youth Championships if held during the qualifying period (see Ranking List Score Calculation below).

Age Requirements for Athlete and Horse:

For all divisions listed below, a combination must fit into one of the following age categories to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championships (refer to DR119.1 and DR119.4):

- a. Children:
 - Athletes must be between the age of twelve (12) and fourteen (14) by December 31, 2024.
 - Horses/Ponies must be six (6) years old or over.
 - Both horses and ponies are eligible to compete in this division.
- b. Pony Rider:
 - Athletes must be between the age of twelve (12) and sixteen (16) by December 31, 2024.
 - Ponies must be six (6) years old or over.
 - Only ponies are eligible to compete in this division.
- c. Junior:
 - Athletes must be between the age of fourteen (14) and eighteen (18) by December 31, 2024.
 - Horses must be six (6) years old or older.
- d. Young Rider:
 - Athletes must be between the age of sixteen (16) and twenty-one (21) by December 31, 2024.
 - Horses must be seven (7) years old or older.

Qualifying Tests:

For all divisions: Qualifying tests at national 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 Qualifying Competition.

Combinations must obtain at least two (2) qualifying scores from the current editions of the FEI Team Test and the FEI Individual Test in their respective age division.



Ranking List Score Calculation:

- a. USEF will automatically track scores for combinations which are earned at national Qualifying Competitions.
- b. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations, and withdrawals will not be penalized.
- c. **CDI Scores:** CDI scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the combination's overall average upon receipt of a USEF CDI, CPEDI and Championships Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form to the USEF Dressage Department. Scores submitted late will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all qualifying CDI scores for this program are submitted to USEF on time and are accurate.

Questions: If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org.

