



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** 2024 USEF Para Dressage Athlete of Honor Awards Program

**From:** Laureen Johnson, Director, Para Equestrian

**Date:** July 25, 2023

**Re:** Qualifying Dates and Competitions for the 2024 USEF Para Dressage Athlete of Honor Awards

---

USEF is pleased to announce the USEF Para Dressage Athlete of Honor Awards Program. The Program celebrates excellence and strives to develop a solid foundation for future success in the international para dressage arena. This program is considered a stepping-stone to the USEF Para Dressage Program Pathway.

The Athlete Honor Awards are presented to the highest ranked Para Dressage athlete competing in the FEI Intermediate A & B Tests for a maximum of five (5) awards, one per Grade. Athletes will automatically be invited to the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions found [HERE](#) to receive their award.

**Qualifying Period:** The qualifying period for the 2024 USEF Para Dressage Athlete of Honor Awards Program begins on July 25, 2023 and ends on July 22, 2024.

**Application of Intent:** An Application of Intent is required to be submitted in order to be eligible for the Program. The Application of Intent will be available [HERE](#) on the USEF website no later than September 14, 2023. The submission deadline for the application of intent is June 17, 2024. Additional horses must be added to an existing application up until June 17, 2024. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. These deadlines are subject to change.

**Qualifying Competitions:**

1. A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website [HERE](#)
2. Athlete/horse combinations must compete in national USEF Qualifying Competitions held within the qualifying period.

**Eligibility Requirements for Athlete and Horse:**

- Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 62% in order to be eligible for an Athlete of Honor Award in their respective Grade level.
- Athletes must be a minimum of 13 years old as of December 1, 2023.
- Horses must be a minimum of six-years-old in 2024.
- Athletes must have a USEF National and/or FEI International Para Equestrian Dressage Classification and be assigned a Grade I-V with a confirmed or review, with a fixed review date (FRD), status to earn qualifying scores.
- Athletes must ride independently and at their classified Grade.
- Once a Para Dressage athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Para Dressage Championship or a CPEDI3\*, the athlete is no longer eligible for this Program.

**Qualifying Tests:**

- Athletes must obtain at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Para Dressage Intermediate A test and at least two (2) scores from the Intermediate B test (total 4 scores) in their respective Grade level. These scores may be earned in a FEI Para Dressage Test of Choice class (DR118.5) held at a national Qualifying Competition (CDN) specifically designated as USEF Qualifying Events.



#### **Ranking List Score Calculation:**

- a. USEF will automatically track scores for athletes which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions.
- b. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations and withdrawals will not be penalized.
- c. Percentages are carried out to the third decimal point with numbers of five (5) and above rounded up (63.4555% = 63.456%). USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported scores. If any errors are detected, athletes are required to contact Laureen Johnson at [lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org) immediately.
- d. **Dropped Scores:** If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Intermediate A Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in the Intermediate A Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Intermediate B Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in the Intermediate B Test will be dropped. If six (6) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned in each respective Test, an additional Intermediate Test A score and Intermediate B Test score of the next lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Intermediate B Tests and a maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Intermediate B Tests. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.

#### **General:**

1. An FEI Passport will NOT be required for these qualifying competitions.
2. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses/ponies to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), and USEF Code of Conduct.
3. All athletes, horse/pony owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
4. **Grievance Procedures:** Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging 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.
5. 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.

**Questions:** If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Para Equestrian Department at [lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org).