



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential Applicants for the 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

Date: June 17, 2022

From: Kristen, Director, Dressage Programs

Copy: Will Connell
Hallye Griffin

Re: Qualifying Dates and Competitions for the 2023 Dressage National Championships for the Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Young Adult Brentina Cup 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 or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Date and Location: The 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions is scheduled to take place on August 21-27, 2023 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.

Qualifying Period: It is anticipated that the proposed qualifying period for the 2023 USEF Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Young Adult Brentina Cup National Championships will begin on July 26, 2022, and end on July 24, 2023.

Application of Intent: An Application of Intent is required to be submitted in order to be eligible for 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 15, 2022. It is anticipated that the early submission deadline for the application of intent will be May 15, 2023, with a \$50 fee. Additionally, an application may be submitted between May 16, 2023 and June 15, 2023, with a \$150 fee. It is anticipated that horses may be added to an existing application with a \$50 fee per horse until June 16, 2022. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. These deadlines are subject to change.

Qualifying Competitions:

A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#). Qualifying scores for the Festival of Champions may only be earned at these designated USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions or CDIs. The 2022 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2023 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2022. **PLEASE NOTE: For Intermediaire I and Grand Prix: The following may be amended if the 2023 USEF Dressage Festival of Champions are designated selection events or mandatory outings for Team selection or Championships and Games preparation.**

- a. Brentina Cup: Athlete/horse combinations must compete in either USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (CDNs), CDI-U25/CDIO-U25 events or CDI1*, CDI2*, or CDI3* events. See Qualifying Tests below.
- b. Intermediaire I: Athlete/horse combinations must compete in a minimum of one (1) CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, or CDI-Am event. Athlete/horse combinations may also compete in USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (CDNs).
- c. Grand Prix: Athlete/horse combinations must compete in a minimum of one (1) CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am, or CDI-W event. The 2022 FEI Dressage World Championship and the 2023 FEI World Cup Final are considered qualifying competitions. Athlete/horse combinations may also compete in USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (CDNs).



- d. For all divisions: An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a CDN, if a CDI is also held at the same event (Exception: a CDI2* event may offer the FEI Grand Prix Special Test as a qualifying class in the national portion of their event; however, it must be scheduled on the day(s) following the conclusion of the CDI Grand Prix).
- e. For all divisions: Qualifying tests at Qualifying Competitions (CDNs) 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.
- f. Dress and Saddlery:
 - Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Brentina Cup: Snaffle bridles and the use of a whip will be permitted at a CDN designated as a qualifying competition. *Please note that this memo takes precedence over USEF Dressage Rule DR121.3.j.4 regarding the use of a snaffle bridle in tests held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF Qualifying at USEF/NAYC National Qualifying Competitions.*
 - If competing in a CDI event, all FEI Dressage and General Regulations must be followed.

Age Requirements for Athlete and Horse in 2023:

- a. **Brentina Cup:** Athletes must be between the age of sixteen (16) and twenty-five (25) years old by December 31, 2023. Horses must be eight (8) years old or over.
- b. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix:** Athletes must be a minimum of 16 years old by December 31, 2023. Horses must be eligible to compete in the Intermediaire I and Grand Prix levels under FEI rules.

Qualifying Tests:

- a. **Brentina Cup:** Athlete/horse combinations must obtain at least two (2) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and at least two (2) qualifying scores from the current edition of FEI Intermediate II Test.
- b. **Intermediaire I:** Athlete/horse combinations must obtain at least three (3) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and three (3) scores from the current edition of the FEI Intermediate I Test.
- c. **Grand Prix:** Athlete/horse combinations must obtain at least three (3) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Test or FEI Short Grand Prix Test and three (3) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Special Test.
- d. **Freestyle:**
 - a. **Brentina Cup:** Athlete/horse combinations are not required to earn a score in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test within the qualifying period.
 - b. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix:** Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Freestyle Test in their respective division within the qualifying period. This score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test, FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a Qualifying Competition (CDN) or a CDI.

Certificate of Capability:

- a. **Brentina Cup:** A Certificate of Capability is not required for this Championship.
- b. **Intermediaire I:** Athlete/horse combinations must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum score of 67% in the FEI Intermediate I Test completed at a CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, or CDI-Am event. The Certificate of Capability will be noted on the ranking list.
- c. **Grand Prix:** Athlete/horse combinations must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum score of 67% in either the FEI Grand Prix Test, FEI Short Grand Prix Test, or the FEI Grand Prix Special Test completed at a CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am, or CDI-W event. The Certificate of Capability will be noted on the ranking list.

Ranking List Score Calculation:

- a. Scores from FEI Consolation Competitions, if scheduled, will not count towards calculation of the ranking list.
- b. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions (CDNs).
- c. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations, and withdrawals will not be penalized.
- d. 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 the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org immediately.
- e. **Brentina Cup (CDI Scores):** Scores earned in a CDI will automatically count towards an athlete/horse combination's final average with the following exception: 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 the USEF Dressage Department at (festival@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 CDI. If the USEF Dressage Staff 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 Dressage Staff that their request has been received.
- f. **Brentina Cup Drop Scores:** If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more of either of their respective Test, the lowest scored earned in this Test will be dropped. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from either Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless of whether the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test was ridden.
- g. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix (CDI Scores):** Scores earned in a CDI will automatically count towards an athlete/horse combination's final average and will be tracked by USEF. A minimum of one CDI score must be earned (see information on the Certificate of Capability and Drop Score).
- h. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix Drop Scores:** If an athlete/horse combination completes four (4) or more of either of their respective Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. The score earned for the Certificate of Capability may serve as a drop score. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from either Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless of whether the respective Freestyle Test was ridden. Exception: if an athlete/horse combination competes in only one CDI, this score(s) will not serve as a drop score and will automatically count towards the athlete/horse combination's overall average.

General:

1. Intermediaire I and Grand Prix: Horses must meet the FEI General and Dressage Rules when competing at a CDI.
2. Brentina Cup: An FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card will NOT be required for this Championship.
3. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), and USEF Code of Conduct.
4. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
5. **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. Please contact the [USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office](#) at (719) 866-5000, or ombudsman@usathlete.org or visit www.athleteombudsman.org for guidance as to the USOPC grievance process.
6. 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.



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.

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

