U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions
August 23-29, 2027
HITS Lamplight Equestrian Center; Wayne, IL.

2027 USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships Qualifying Requirements

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Executive Committee on November 17, 2026.

The 2027 Young Horse Dressage National Championships ("Championships") Qualifying Requirements are effective on November 17, 2026 and subject to change. The Qualifying Requirements pertain to the following divisions:

USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships for Four, Five, Six, and Seven-Year-Old Horses

The United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. ("USEF") assumes no liability for errors or omissions in these Qualifying Requirements. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that all applications, application fees, and scores have been received by USEF by the published deadlines.

For questions concerning these Qualifying Requirements, please contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org. Unless otherwise provided herein, the USEF Rulebook will apply to the Championships and these Qualifying Requirements.

I. Deadlines and Membership Requirements for Application.

For these Championships, qualification goes with the horse. Therefore, the athlete may be changed during the Qualifying Period without impacting on the horse's qualification. See Sections IV and VI for when there is an athlete change.

Scores are permitted to be earned prior to the submission of the application.

Application Deadlines:

1. Owners or athletes wishing for their horse(s) to earn an invitation to these Championships must successfully complete an online application. The online application will be available beginning December 1, 2026.

2. Applications completed between December 1, 2026 and May 13, 2027, at 11:59pm ET will be assessed a seventy-five dollar ($75.00) fee per horse.

3. Applications completed between May 14, 2027, and June 28, 2027, at 11:59pm ET will be assessed a one hundred fifty-dollar ($150.00) fee per horse.

4. Additional horses must be added to an existing application by June 28, 2027 at 11:59pm ET and will be assessed a seventy-five dollar ($75.00) fee per horse.

5. No application will be accepted after June 28, 2027 at 11:59pm, ET and no refunds will be given after the closing date.

6. An application is considered complete once the confirmation email is received. It is the athlete's or owner's responsibility to ensure that the horse information listed in the confirmation email is correct. If the owner or athlete does not receive the confirmation email, it is the athlete and owner's responsibility to contact USEF (festival@usef.org) to determine if the application has been received.

7. Following the close of the applications on June 28,2027 at 11:59pm, ET, only combinations which have completed an application for the Championships will display on the ranking lists.

8. By signing the application, the owner(s) and athlete certifies that they have received, read, and understand the USEF Rules, USEF Code of Conduct; USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification; Qualifying Requirements, U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies; the Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

Membership Requirements for Application:

Athlete: Athletes are eligible to compete in these Championships from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16).

Athletes must be a Competing member in good standing with USEF at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships, and for the combination to earn a score towards their respective ranking list.

Horse: The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships, and for the combination to earn a score towards their respective ranking list. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill the above requirements.

Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in these Championships.

Ponies are eligible to qualify for and compete in these Championships.

Horses must fit into one of the following age categories for competition. Per DR119.10, the horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year. FEI Rules apply in CDI competition:

a. Become four (4) years of age in 2026.
b. Become five (5) years of age in 2026.
c. Become six (6) years of age in 2026; or
d. Become seven (7) years of age in 2026.

Horse Owner(s): Owners must be a Competing member in good standing with USEF at the time of application and through the conclusion of the Championships, and for the combination to earn scores towards their respective ranking list.

Ownership may change during the Qualifying Period and up to the close of entries for the Championship, as long as the new owner(s) meets all of the above criteria.

All the above owner requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF, including all owners of a partnership, farm, company, corporation, etc. if a horse is recorded as owned by that type of entity.

USEF strongly encourages all athlete, horse, and owner membership requirements be completed by June 3, 2027, or rush fees may be required in order to submit the application of intent by 11:59pm, ET on June 28, 2027.

II. Additional Eligibility Requirements for Qualifying Competitions and Championships.

FEI Registration: Athletes are not required to have an FEI Rider Registration to earn scores on the ranking lists or to compete in these Championships.

An FEI Horse Registration, FEI Passport, or FEI Recognition Card is not required to earn scores on the ranking lists or to compete in this Championship.

For CDI Events, FEI Registration and Passport Rules apply.

Breed Registration: Owners must be in possession of the horse's valid registration papers with a member of a national studbook, which is recognized by the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses (WBFSH), or with a recognized national breed registry. Horse must have registration papers, but entry is NOT limited to WBFSH members (i.e., FEI Passport or Recognition Card, Jockey Club, AQHA papers are accepted). These Registration papers must be submitted

to USEF by end of business (5:00pm ET) via email to festival@usef.org, no later than July 26, 2027, to receive an invitation to these Championships.

Foreign-bred horses must be owned or co-owned by a U.S. citizen(s). The addition of a co-owner who is a U.S. citizen must be on file with USEF by end of business (5:00pm ET), no later than July 26, 2027.

Pony Measurement: The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1 and DR135). Ponies must have a current and valid Federation Standard or Temporary Measurement card. A current, valid Federation Hunter/Jumper measurement card may also be acceptable as long as it is otherwise valid according to Dressage measurement requirements. All ponies may be subject to additional measurement at the Championships.

III. Qualifying Competition Specifics.

Qualifying Period: The Qualifying Period shall begin January 1, 2027 and end July 26, 2027 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 4, 2027 ("the Qualifying Period").

Qualifying Competitions: Qualifying Competitions include national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions, as well as U.S. and foreign CDI-YH events. Qualifying Competitions held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity, even if they have separate license/recognition numbers.

The list of USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website here. The 2027 FEI Calendar can be found here and please note that the 2027 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2026.

Please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar and the USEF/NAYC Qualifying Calendar as changes to competitions may be posted at any time.

Judging Panels for National Qualifying Competitions: Qualifying tests must be officiated by a panel of at least two (2) USEF 'S' and/or FEI judges. It is required that all judges on the panel have completed and received credit from a USEF or FEI-recognized Young Horse Judge training session. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply. See Section IV for Conflicts of Interest.

National Level Competitions Outside of the U.S.: Horses that meet all age, registration, and ownership qualifications may qualify by competing at either FEI competitions or national level competitions in a foreign country. The applicable division tests must be used. However, all foreign national level competitions must be approved by the USEF Dressage Sport Committee or its designees prior to the start of the competition. All other requirements as outlined above including application, eligibility, qualification period, judges, scores, etc. will apply for this method of qualification. Copies of the entire score sheet(s) must be submitted to the USEF Dressage Department (festival@usef.org) no later than 5pm, ET at the end of the Qualifying Period for consideration.

One Athlete Rule: The one athlete rule (DR128) does not apply during the qualifying period for these Championships. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply.

Dress and Saddlery: Please refer to DR120-121 for dress and saddlery rules for national Qualifying Competitions and for these Championships.

The use of a whip will be permitted at national Qualifying Competitions.

If competing in a CDI event, all FEI Dressage and General Regulations must be followed.

IV. Qualifying Tests and Minimum Overall Average Specifics:

All tests listed below and completed at a national Qualifying Competition must be in individual classes specifically designated as USEF Qualifying, Markel/USEF Qualifying or Markel/USEF/WBC Qualifying. Only one score per respective Test may be earned over the course of weekend.

Test of Choice (TOC) classes will not count. Hors de Concours (HC) entries are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes.

Four-Year-Old: Horses must achieve a minimum overall average of 7.5 on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to this Championship by earning at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the USEF Four-Year-Old Test.

Five-Year-Old: Horses must achieve a minimum overall average of 7.5 on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to these Championships by earning at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Five-Year-Old Preliminary B Test and at least two (2) scores in the FEI Five-Year-Old Final Test.

Six-Year-Old: Horses must achieve a minimum overall average of 7.5 on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to these Championships by earning at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Six-Year-Old Preliminary B Test and at least two (2) scores in the FEI Six-Year-Old Final Test.

Seven-Year-Old: Horses must achieve a minimum overall average of 68% on the final ranking list to receive an invitation to these Championships by earning at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary B Test and at least two (2) scores in the FEI Seven-Year-Old Final Test. The quality and technical markings must be scored on the FEI Seven-Year-Old Final Dressage Test to be included on the ranking list.

Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds: Combinations are not required to complete their Preliminary B Test and their Final Test at the same Qualifying Competition.

Change of Athlete for these Championships:

Four-Year-Old: When there is a change of athlete, the new combination must earn a minimum of one (1) score in the current edition of the USEF Four-Year-Old Test at a national Qualifying Competition by the end of the Qualifying Period to be eligible to compete in these Championships.

Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds: When there is a change of athlete, the new combination must earn a minimum of one (1) score in their respective FEI Preliminary Test and a minimum of one (1) score in their respective FEI Final Test at a national Qualifying Competition and/or CDI-YH event by the end of the Qualifying Period to be eligible to compete in these Championships.

Calculation of the Overall Average on the Ranking Lists: Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF Staff. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations, and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list. International Qualification procedures as stated above must also be adhered to for scores to be counted.

The ranking lists can be found here and will be updated as results are processed from national Qualifying Competitions and CDIYH events. It can take up to a minimum of 10 business days from the completion of a competition for results to reflect on the ranking lists. The ranking lists can be found here starting on July 8, 2027.

USEF is not responsible for inaccurately reported scores. If errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org immediately.

For calculation purposes: USEF will automatically track scores for combinations which are earned at national Qualifying Competitions. See below for scores earned at CDI events.

Percentages are carried out to the third decimal point with numbers of five (5) and above rounded up (63.4555% = 63.456%).

Four-Year-Old: Only those scores earned in the USEF Four-Year-Old Test will be used to calculate the overall average.

If a combination completes three (3) or more of the USEF Four-Year-Old Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. A maximum of one (1) score will be dropped. All remaining scores will be used to calculate a combination's overall average.

Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds: Each respective age group Preliminary B Test and Final Test will count as 50% of a combination's overall average from each Qualifying Competition (i.e., Preliminary 50% + Final 50% = 100%) on the ranking list.

If a combination earns three (3) or more Preliminary B Tests, the lowest score in the Preliminary Test will be dropped. If a combination earns three (3) or more Final Tests, the lowest score in the Final Test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Preliminary B Test and only one (1) score in the Final test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Preliminary B Test and only one (1) score from the Final Test will be dropped. All remaining scores will be used to calculate a combination's overall average.

CDI Scores (Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds): CDIYH Preliminary B and Final Test scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the combination's overall average upon receipt of the USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form to the USEF Dressage Department. Scores submitted late will not be accepted.

A horse cannot earn a Preliminary B Test Score or a Final Test score from a national Qualifying Competition if the CDI/CPEDI Report Form is submitted from a CDIYH at the same event.

It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all CDI scores for this Championship are submitted to USEF on time.

Withdrawals: Withdrawals from these Championships must be submitted in writing to festival@usef.org. Withdrawals received following the close of the application will be noted as WD on the final ranking list.

V. Additional Rules and Requirements

Conflict of Interest: Judging Panels at CDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.

Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304.

Clean Sport: 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. When competing in a CDI event, FEI Drug Rules must be followed.

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 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 Opportunity to Participate Complaint Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

Non-Discrimination Policy: USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

VI. Final Ranking Lists and Invitations to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.

Final Ranking Lists: After the conclusion of the Qualifying Period (July 26, 2027), combinations will be ranked according to their overall average and be accepted up to the number of invitations available, not to exceed 15 combinations.

In the case of a tie, the combinations shall remain tied but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked combination shall be ranked third.

If there is a tie for 15th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries (i.e., 16 entries accepted).

The Final Ranking Lists will be posted here no later than Friday, July 30, 2027.

Invitations are anticipated to be sent via email no later than Friday, July 30, 2027. Combinations on the Final Ranking List will be invited until the close of the entry deadline published in the official prize list and in the invitation to these Championships. Once the entries close for these Championships, the athlete is not permitted to change from the athlete submitted on the entry for the Young Horse Championships. The deadline for submitting an entry will be published in the official prize list and in the invitation to the Championships.

For these Championships,

- Athletes submitted on the entry for the Young Horse Championships must be eligible through the fulfillment of the criteria in Section IV.
- Athletes are permitted to compete with a maximum of two (2) horses in each of these Championship divisions.
- The same combination is permitted to participate in one (1) division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.
- A horse is permitted to be competed in one (1) division at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. Exception, a horse that also competes in the Young Horse divisions is permitted to compete in the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals pending confirmation of the final timetable.

Combinations not qualified as listed above may be invited to participate in these Championships if there is not a maximum of 15 qualified combinations on the Final Ranking List for a respective age group, not to exceed 15 unless there is a tie, if the following criteria is obtained:

- The combination obtained at least two (2) scores in the USEF Four-Year-Old Test, FEI Five-, Six, or Seven-Year-Old Preliminary and Final Tests within the Qualifying Period.
- The combination's final overall average is within 1% of the minimum overall average as required per their respective age group and is the next highest overall average on the Final Ranking List.
- There are no additional combinations noted on the Final Ranking List for a particular age group.
- For clarification purposes to the above, the additional invitations are based upon the Final Ranking List posted no later than Friday, July 30, 2027, and not on the final entry list for these Championships.

VII. Championship Information.

USEF Championship Rules will be followed and the Championship Format for each division will be available on the USEF website by March 4, 2027.

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. Changes in Qualifying Requirements are subject to approval by USEF.