



2021 USEF Dressage National Championships Qualifying Requirements

Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, and Children

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on July 14, 2020.

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on September 18, 2020.

The 2021 Championship (Championships) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on July 14, 2020, unless stated otherwise. The qualifying criteria published herein are subject to additions or revisions. This Championship qualifying criteria pertains to the following divisions:

- USEF Children Dressage National Championship
- USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship
- USEF Junior Dressage National Championship
- USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Qualifying Requirements, please contact Hallye Griffin, Managing Director of Dressage (hgriffin@usef.org / 859.225.6949). These Championships will be conducted under USEF Rules except where outlined herein.

I. Application, Membership, and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.

Application:

1. In order to be considered for these Championships, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 16, 2021. Applications are made available on the USEF website after September 2, 2020.
 - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 12, 2021 will require an application fee of \$50 per horse.
 - b. Applications received after May 12, 2021 but on or before June 16, 2021 will require a fee of \$150 per horse.
 - c. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the application has been received.
 - d. Additional horses/ponies added to an existing application will require a fee of \$50 per horse/pony until June 16, 2021.
2. No applications will be accepted after June 16, 2021 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. The athletes are permitted to compete with only those horse and/or ponies named on the athlete's application

Athlete Membership:

1. Athletes must be US Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championships. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.

Horse/Pony Membership:

1. Horses/Ponies must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF in order for qualifying scores to count as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.
2. These Championships will be held as part of a USEF Licensed Competition (not a CDI); therefore, an FEI passport will NOT be required for these Championships.

Horse Owner(s) Membership:

1. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) per GR202 in order for the athlete/horse combinations' scores to count towards qualifying and compete in the National Championships.
2. Ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championships as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

II. Division and Age Requirements for athlete and horse/pony.

For all divisions listed below, qualification is based upon athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination. No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses or ponies (when applicable) in each Championship. Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in these Championships.

Children:

1. Athletes are eligible as Children from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twelve (12) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of fourteen (14).
2. Both horses and ponies are eligible to compete in this division.
3. Horses/Ponies must be six (6) years old or over.
4. The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1). Ponies must have a current and valid USEF Standard or Temporary Measurement Certificate for Dressage/Driving. All ponies may subject to additional measurement at the Championships.

Pony Rider:

1. Athletes are eligible as Pony Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twelve (12) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16).
2. Only ponies are eligible to compete in this division.
3. In order to compete in this division, ponies must be six (6) years old or older.
4. The height of ponies must not exceed 148cm without shoes, and 149cm with shoes (DR119.1). Ponies must have a current and valid USEF Standard or Temporary Measurement Certificate for Dressage/Driving. All ponies may subject to additional measurement at the Championship.

Junior:

1. Athletes are eligible as Juniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of fourteen (14) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of eighteen (18).
2. Only Horses are eligible to compete in this division. Horses must be six (6) years old or older

Young Rider:

1. Athletes are eligible as Young Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty-one (21).
2. Only Horses are eligible to compete in this division. Horses must be seven (7) years old or older.

Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship at a higher level, the following restrictions apply to competing at a future Dressage National Championship at a lower level:

- Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship for Juniors (i.e., NAYC) he/she is no longer eligible to compete at a Dressage National Championship for Children or Pony Rider.

- Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship for Young Riders (i.e., NAYC) he/she is no longer eligible to compete at a Dressage National Championship for Pony Rider or Junior.
- Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship for 'Brentina Cup' (16-25), he/she is no longer eligible to compete at a Dressage National Championship for Pony Rider or Junior.
- If an athlete/horse combination places in the top three (3) in the 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) National or FEI Championship, the same athlete/horse combination is no longer eligible to compete at a National Championship for Young Riders.

If the above restrictions do not apply to an athlete, the following rules apply to qualifying and Championship participation for athletes meeting the eligible age requirement:

CHILDREN

- May compete in the Children, Pony Rider, and Junior divisions; however, may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount.
- May compete in the Children and Pony Rider National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.
- May not compete in National Championships for the Children and Junior divisions in the same year.

PONY RIDER

- May compete in the Pony Rider, Children, Junior, Young Rider, and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) divisions; however, may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount.
- May compete in the Pony Rider, Children, Junior, Young Rider, and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.

JUNIOR

- May compete in the Children, Pony Rider, Young Rider, or 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) divisions, however, may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount.
- May compete in the Pony Rider and Junior National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.
- May compete in the Junior, Young Rider and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.
- May not compete in National Championships for the Children and Junior divisions in the same year.

YOUNG RIDER

- May compete in the Pony Rider, Junior, Young Rider, and 'Brentina Cup' (16-25) divisions; however, may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount.
- May compete in the Pony Rider, Junior, and Young Rider, National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.

III. Qualifying System.

Qualifying Period:

1. The qualifying period shall begin July 30, 2020 and is scheduled to end July 26, 2021 unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2021.

Qualifying Competitions:

1. A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (Qualifying Competitions) and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website.
2. Athlete/horse and athlete/pony combinations may also earn qualifying scores at any CDI with their respective division (i.e. CDI-Ch, CDI-P, CDI-J, or CDI-Y) held within the qualifying period. However,

- an athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if their respective CDI division is also held at the event. See point 6 below.
3. Athletes competing in the Junior or Young Rider divisions may also earn scores at the FEI North American Youth Championships if during the qualifying period. For scores to count, see point 6 below.
 4. Qualifying scores may only be earned at these designated Qualifying Competitions or CDIs. The FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) (please note that the 2021 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2020).
 5. Athlete/horse or athlete/pony combinations are limited to one qualifier in the same location in one seven day period; however, CDI-Ch,P,J,Ys are exempt from this requirement.
 6. CDI scores as described above are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse or pony's overall average upon receipt of a USEF CDI 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 these Championships are presented to USEF on time and are accurate.

For all divisions (Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, and Children), please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar and the USEF Qualifying Calendar as changes to competitions may be posted at any time.

Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:

For all divisions, qualifying tests must be judged by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' or FEI Judges. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF qualifying ("Test of Choice" classes will not count).

1. Children
 - a. Combinations must have a minimum overall average of 58% in order to receive an invitation for these Championships.
 - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Children Team Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Children Individual Test. **The Technical Test and Quality Marking will be averaged and the average will serve as the final score on the ranking list. Only the 'Technical Component' score will be used from the FEI Children Team Tests and FEI Children Individual Tests for qualification. The 'Quality Marking' component will not be used.**
2. Pony Rider
 - a. Combinations must have a minimum overall average of 58% in order to receive an invitation for these Championships.
 - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Pony Team Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Pony Individual Test.
3. Junior
 - a. Combinations must have a minimum overall average of 64% in order to receive an invitation for these Championships.
 - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Junior Team Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Junior Individual Test.
4. Young Rider
 - a. Combinations must have a minimum overall average of 66% in order to receive an invitation for these Championships.
 - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Young Rider Team Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current editions of the FEI Young Rider Individual Test.

Score Calculation:

For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse or athlete/pony combination's overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the Team Test with the scores earned in the Individual Test. If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated from either the Team or Individual Test, they will not receive a '0' for that score on the ranking list. Scratches and withdrawals will not be penalized.

1. Ranking List
 - a. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at designated Qualifying Competitions. Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF staff.
 - b. As stated above, CDI scores must be reported to the USEF by the deadline as indicated on the form in order to be counted.
 - c. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to submission of Application of Intent.
2. Dropped Scores: If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Team Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Team Test will be dropped. If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more Individual Tests at different designated Qualifying Competitions, the lowest score earned in Individual Test will be dropped. If six (6) or more sets of qualifying scores are earned in each respective Test, an additional Team Test score and Individual Test score of the next lowest percentage will be dropped. A maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Team Test and a maximum of two (2) scores may be dropped from the Individual Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate each athlete/horse combination's overall average.

IV. Additional Rules and Requirements.

One Athlete Rule:

1. For USEF qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, and Brentina Cup (Young Adults) within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse/pony entered in a USEF Qualifying class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse/pony, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes.
2. For USEF championships for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse/pony entered in a USEF Championship class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse/pony under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse or pony and athlete arrive on the show grounds.

Dress and Saddlery:

1. Please refer to [DR120-121](#) for dress and saddlery rules.
2. For Juniors and Young Riders - Per DR121.4, snaffle bridles will be permitted for NAYC qualifying classes, USEF Junior qualifying classes and USEF Young Rider qualifying classes. Snaffle and Double bridles are permitted for NAYC and USEF Junior and Young Rider Championships.
3. If competing in a CDI event, all [FEI Dressage](#) and [General Regulations](#) must be followed.

Conflict of Interest:

1. Judging Panels at CDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.
2. Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304.
3. All competitors and officials are subject to the conflict of interest rules as outlined in the [USEF General and Dressage Rules](#).

Clean Sport

1. [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.

2. **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 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.

General:

1. 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](#), USEF Code of Conduct, and [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
2. Athletes, horse owners and trainers will be required to sign and abide by the USEF Code of Conduct with entry to the Championships.
3. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
4. 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.

V. Championship Competition.

Invitations to the Championship:

1. All athlete/horse or pony combinations that have submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see "Application") and have qualified by the method outlined above (see "Qualifying System") will be ranked according to scores and be accepted up to the numbers of entries available, not to exceed 12 unless there is a tie.
2. In the case of a tie, the athlete/horse or pony combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete/horse or pony combination shall be #3.
3. If there is a tie for 12th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries accepted (i.e. 13 entries accepted).
4. Athlete/horse combinations shall only participate in one National Championship division level within the same year.

Competition information:

1. It is anticipated that the 2021 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions will take place on August 17-22, 2021 at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.
2. USEF Championship Rules will be followed.
3. Horses will be examined for soundness. A Horse Inspection will be scheduled prior to the Championship classes, at which time all horses must be presented to the treating veterinarian and a member of the judging panel for examination. All individuals aged twenty-five (25) and under must wear protective headgear during the Horse Inspection. Please refer to the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#) on Horse Inspection Procedures.
4. Tests shall be ridden from memory and WHIPS ARE FORBIDDEN. Please refer to USEF Dressage Division Rules for complete dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120-DR121).

5. Double bridles are mandatory for the USEF Junior and Young Rider Dressage National Championships.
6. Championship Format for each division is available on the [USEF website](#) by February 1, 2021.

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.