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

2027 USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championships Qualifying Requirements

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

The 2027 Developing 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 Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Dressage National Championship
- USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

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 is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, any change to the athlete during the qualifying Period (defined below) will result in a new combination for qualification purposes.

Athletes are permitted to compete at these Championships with only those horses named on the athlete's application.

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

Application Deadlines:

1. Athletes wishing to earn an invitation to the 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 responsibility to ensure that the rider and horse information listed in the confirmation email is correct. If the athlete does not receive the confirmation email, it is the athlete'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 athlete and owner(s) certify 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 must be a U.S. Citizen and 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 on their respective ranking list.

Athletes are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) for scores to count towards these ranking lists and to compete in these Championships.

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 scores on their respective ranking list. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill the above requirements.

Ponies or mules are not permitted to qualify for or 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:

- **Prix St. Georges:** Horses must be between the age of seven (7) years old and nine (9) years old in 2027 to earn scores toward the ranking list and to compete in this Championship.
- **Grand Prix:** Horses must be between the age of eight (8) years old and ten (10) years old in 2027 to earn scores toward the ranking list and to compete in this Championship.

Horse Owner(s): A horse owner(s) 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 on 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 the above criteria.

The above owner requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF, including all owners of a partnership, syndicate, 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 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 respective ranking lists or to compete in these Championships. If an athlete has an FEI Registration (inactive or active), they must have designated the USA as their sport nationality with the FEI to earn scores on their respective ranking list and 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 these Championships.

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.

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 events (CDI1*, CDI2*, CDIO, CDI-U25, CDI-Am). 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.

Scores earned from the 2026 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions cannot be used towards qualifying for the 2027 U.S. Dressage Festival Champions.

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 Qualifying Competitions: Qualifying tests must be officiated by a panel of at least two (2) USEF 'S' and/or FEI judges. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply. See Section V 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 and received by the USEF Dressage Department (festival@usef.org) no later than 5pm, ET at the end of the Qualifying Period for consideration.

One Athlete Rule: When qualifying for these Championships, 24 hours prior to the start of the competition through the conclusion of the competition, any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class must not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes. 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. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply.

Dress and Saddlery: A snaffle or double bridle is permitted for national Qualifying Competitions. 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 classes specifically designated as USEF Qualifying, Markel/USEF Qualifying or Markel/USEF/NAYC Qualifying in the prize list. 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.

Athletes of any age are eligible to compete in the qualifying tests below. However, athletes are eligible from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) for scores to count towards the ranking lists and to compete in these Championships.

Prix St. Georges: Combinations must achieve a minimum overall average of 68% 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 Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test and at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.

Combinations cannot earn an FEI Prix St. Georges Test score in a national Qualifying Competition if completed in a CDI1* at the same event. See below for CDI scores.

Combinations are not required to complete the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test at the same Qualifying Competition.

Grand Prix: Combinations must achieve a minimum overall average of 66% 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 Developing Horse Grand Prix Test and at least two (2) scores in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate II A Test.

Combinations cannot earn an FEI Intermediate II A Test score in a national Qualifying Competition if completed in a CDI2* or CDI-U25 at the same event. See below for CDI scores.

Combinations are not required to complete the FEI Intermediate II A Test and the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test at the same Qualifying Competition.

Calculation of the Overall Average on the Ranking Lists: Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by the USEF Dressage Department. 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 CDI 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 CDI Scores.

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

Prix St. Georges: Each FEI Prix St. Georges Test and USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test will count as 50% of a combination's overall average from each Qualifying Competition (i.e., PSG 50% + Dev PSG 50% = 100%) on the ranking list.

If a combination earns three (3) or more scores in the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If a combination earns three (3) or more scores in the FEI Prix St. Georges Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate a combination's overall average.

Grand Prix: Each FEI Intermediate II A Test and USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test will count as 50% of a combination's overall average from each Qualifying Competition (i.e., Int. II A 50% + Dev GP 50% = 100%) on the ranking list.

If a combination earns three (3) or more scores in the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. If a combination earns three (3) or more scores in the FEI

Intermediate II A Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the FEI Intermediate II A Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate a combination's overall average.

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 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. Changes to a submitted USEF CDI/CPEDI Report Form will not be accepted following the specified deadline stated on the form to the USEF Dressage Department.

It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all CDI scores for these Championships are submitted to USEF on time and are accurate.

Withdrawals: Withdrawals must be submitted in writing to festival@usef.org. Withdrawals received after 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 the qualifying Period 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 List: 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 entries 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 to the Championships until the close of the entry deadline published in the official prize list and in the invitation to the Championships. Once entries close for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, additional combinations shall not be invited to participate.

For these Championships,

- 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 is also competed in the Developing Horse divisions is permitted to be competed 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 the 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 Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test and in the FEI Prix St. Georges Test or at least two (2) scores in the USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test and, in the FEI Intermediate II Test 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 ranked on the Final Ranking List.
- 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. <u>Championship Information</u>.

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.