



MEMORANDUM

Date: 25 November 2019
To: US Dressage Athletes
From: Hallye Griffin, Managing Director, Dressage
Re: Dressage Criteria to Compete in Foreign CDIs

Athletes wishing to be considered for any CDI event outside of the U.S., including Canada, and Mexico, must submit an online application to the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., (USEF) pursuant to Chapter 8, GR828 of the USEF Rulebook. Applications submitted 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee.

In order to receive permission from the USEF to compete in foreign CDIs, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

1. ELIGIBILITY OF THE ATHLETE, OWNER, HORSE

A. The Athlete:

- ✓ Must be a U.S. citizen and designated the U.S. as sport nationality with the FEI.
- ✓ Must be eligible to compete at its respective level under current FEI Dressage Rules
- ✓ Must be an Active Member and in good standing of USEF at the time of application and until the conclusions of the competition.
- ✓ Must have a current FEI Rider Registration and be in good standing with the FEI at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.

B. Owner:

- ✓ Must be an active member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of application and through the conclusion of the competition and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.

C. Horse:

- ✓ Must be eligible to compete at its respective level under current FEI Dressage Rules
- ✓ Must be registered with FEI, have a valid FEI Passport, and in good standing with the FEI, USEF, and/or the owner's National Federation at the time of the application through the conclusion of the event.



2. MINIMUM CRITERIA AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION TO COMPETE

Copies of complete results/score with Judges may be requested by USEF Athlete Services (cbarnett@usef.org).

CDI EVENTS IN CANADA, CENTRAL/SOUTH AMERICA, ASIA, AUSTRALIA **SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EUROPEAN CDIS**

- A. Big Tour:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 64% in the FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special or FEI Intermediate II at 2 different CDI or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competitions) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.
- B. Small Tour:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 64% in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I at 2 different CDI or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start date of the event.
- C. U-25:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 60% in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and/or the FEI Intermediate II Test at 2 different CDI or CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start date of the event.
- D. Medium Tour:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum of 64% in the FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests at 2 different CDI or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start date of the event.
- E. Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, and Children:** Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved a 60% between their relevant Team/Individual at two different CDI or CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start date of the event.
- F. Young Horse (5, 6 year-old):** Horse must have achieved an average over a 7.5 (75%) in their relevant tests at two different CDI or CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.
- G. Young Horse (7 year-old):** Horse must have achieved a 7.0 (70%) in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks) at two different CDI or CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.



WAIVERS

If an athlete or horse does not meet the criteria noted above, under extraordinary circumstances, the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, may grant a waiver to the above criteria to compete at foreign CDIs. Athletes must submit the Waiver Request found [here](#). The following criteria will be used to evaluate Waiver Applications:

- Previous international experience of the horse and/or athlete.
- The impact that the event may have on the success at a future team event, Championships, etc.
- The impact that the event may have on the development of the athlete, the horse or the combination.
- The athlete and/or horse recently moved up to the level and had success in their more recent level.
- Applicant provides other competition records that demonstrate they have an upward trajectory of scores and likelihood of achieving over 70% at the applicable level.
- Veterinary or Medical circumstances that may have prohibited the athlete and/or horse from competing (additional information may be requested to verify these circumstances)
- Athlete and/or horse have relocated or are currently training in an area outside of the US.

USEF Athlete Services will not request invitations to CDIs until a waiver has been granted.

If a waiver is approved the combination or horse must receive a score greater than or equal to the minimum eligibility score or average (ie. 64% in the FEI Grand Prix for Big Tour) to participate in another event of the same level without resubmitting a waiver request.

CDI EVENTS IN EUROPE

- A. Big Tour:** Athlete/horse combinations must have an average above a 66% on the Grand Prix 12-month ranking list. If the combination resides outside of the U.S., they must have competed in two CDNs in the FEI Grand Prix or FEI Grand Prix Special earning 68% or higher.
- A. Small Tour:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum average of 64% in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I at 2 different CDI or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.
- B. U-25:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum average of 64% in 2 FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Tests or FEI Intermediate II Tests at 2 different CDI-U25 or CDN events within 12 months of the start dates of the event.
- C. Medium Tour:** Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved a minimum average of 64% in the FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests at two different CDI or



66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event.

- D. Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, and Children:** Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved an average of a 64% between their relevant Team/Individual at two different CDI or NAJYRC/USEF Qualifying Competitions within 12 months of the start date of the event. Scores from European CDNs with two more Judges officiating may also be considered.
- E. Young Horse (5 & 6-year old):** Horse must have achieved an average over 8.0 (80%) in their relevant tests (or tests of equivalent level) at two different CDI or CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start of the event.
- F. Young Horse (7-year old):** Horse must have achieved an average over 7.5 (75%) in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks; scores from tests of equivalent levels may also count) at two different CDI or CDN (national competitions) within 12 months of the start of the event.

WAIVERS

If an athlete or horse does not meet the criteria noted above, under extraordinary circumstances, the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, may grant a waiver to the above criteria to compete at foreign CDIs. Athletes must submit the Waiver Request found [here](#). The following criteria will be used to evaluate Waiver Applications:

- Previous international experience of the horse and/or athlete.
- Scores earned from CDN events at that level which demonstrate the combination's likelihood of achieving over 70% at the applicable level.
- The impact that the event may have on the success at a future team event, Championships, etc.
- The impact that the event may have on the development of the athlete, the horse or the combination.
- The athlete and/or horse recently moved up to the level and had success in their more recent level.
- Veterinary or Medical circumstances that may have prohibited the athlete and/or horse from competing (additional information may be requested to verify these circumstances)
- Athlete and/or horse have relocated or are currently training in an area outside of the US.

USEF Athlete Services will not request invitations to CDIs until a waiver has been granted. All entries are subject to FEI nominated and definite entry dates listed in applicable FEI Definite Schedules.

If a waiver is approved the combination or horse must receive a score greater than or equal to the minimum eligibility score or average (ie. 64% in the FEI Grand Prix for Big Tour) to participate in another event of the same level without resubmitting a waiver request.



3. OVERSUBSCRIPTION AT CDI EVENTS

Should there be more applications than invitations, on the deadline of FEI Definite Entry for the event; an athlete's ranking on Grand Prix 12-month Ranking List (or for other categories, 12-month ranking of applicants) will be used to determine the invitations.

USEF may designate certain events as selection or observation events as part of selection processes for Games, Championships, Finals, etc. Athletes in contention for these Games, Championships, Finals, etc. may be given priority over other athletes. Additionally, athletes which are part of the Elite Program, Pre-Elite List, Development Program or Emerging Program may receive priority for an invitation if the event is one of their pre-established targets.

4. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

CDI5* Events

Athlete/horse combinations that have achieved the minimum FEI Criteria to compete at CDI5*/CDIO5* events per FEI Rules.

CDIO Events

Applications are required to be considered to compete at a CDIO (Team Competition). All such applications will be subject to approval and selection per the Selection Procedures published for CDIO events. The complete selection procedures for CDIO events can be found [HERE](#) on the USEF website.

5. APPLICATION TO COMPETE IN FOREIGN COMPETITIONS

A. Applications to compete outside of the U.S. are found by:

1. Sign-in to the Athlete's USEF Account [HERE](#).
2. Scroll down to: FEI Competition Entry & Competing Abroad
3. Open Online Application to Compete Abroad

B. Application Fees (Non-refundable):

- ✓ \$75 application fee for each competition
- ✓ \$200 waiver request fee (if applicable)
- ✓ \$750 Prepaid annual application fee (optional): this fee is due when submitting the first application for the competition year. This fee applies to the first ten (10) FEI competitions held outside of the U.S. Athletes competing less than 10 competitions do not receive a refund, credit, or partial credit for the prepaid application fee.
- ✓ \$75 late fee: An athlete who submits an application 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee. The late fee may be applied even if an athlete provides payment for the prepaid annual application fee.



6. WITHDRAWAL FROM CDI EVENTS

Once an athlete has submitted an application to compete and should you need to withdraw, the following steps are to be taken immediately:

REMINDER: USEF fees are non-refundable regardless if you compete or withdraw.

A. Withdrawing from competition before an entry has been submitted on your behalf or before the Organizing Committee has confirmed an invitation:

- ✓ Send an email to USEF Athlete Services (cbarnett@usef.org) and include the reason for the withdrawal.

B. Withdrawing from a competition after an entry has been submitted on your behalf and/or after the Organizing Committee has confirmed your invitation:

- ✓ Concurrently email USEF Athlete Services (cbarnett@usef.org) and the Organizing Committee. The email is to state the reason for the withdrawal and an apology to the Organizing Committee for any inconvenience your withdrawal may have caused. The Organizing Committee's contact information can be found in the schedule for that particular event.

ATHLETE SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION

FEI APPLICATIONS, INVITATIONS AND ENTRIES

Courtney Barnett: cbarnett@usef.org or 859.225.2059

NATIONAL PERMISSION, RESULTS, HORSE & RIDER REGISTRATION

Kristin Richards: krichards@usef.org or 859 225 6989