

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**World Equestrian Games 2018**  
**PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE**  
*Tryon, NC*  
*September 18-22, 2018*

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an Athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:**

1. **Citizenship:** The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI General Regulations, 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1, January 2009, updates effective 1 January 2017, Article 119, (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games (“the Event”).
  
2. **Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**
  - a. All athletes and horses wishing to compete on the 2018 World Equestrian Games Para-Equestrian Dressage Team (“Team”) must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability between January 1, 2017 and August 13, 2018 (see FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Team Championships [3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1 January 2011 – Updates eff. 1 January 2017], Article 8451). The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found at <http://inside.fei.org/fei/fei-weg/2018>.
  - b. The athlete must have been born before January 1, 2002 (see the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage [3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1 January 2011 – updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8422.2).
  - c. A horse must be a minimum of six (6) years of age (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) (see the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage [3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1 January 2011 – updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8422.7.1).
  - d. The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI.
  - e. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
  - f. The athlete must be internationally classified with either a “Review” or “Confirmed” sport grade status. At the time of nomination an athlete must have an IPC International Classification with an international sport class status of R-Review or C-Confirmed, or if there has been no opportunity for the athlete to be internationally classified, the athlete must be evaluated by international classifiers and determined likely to classify in the sport class in which he/she would be qualified for the Team; provided that athletes with an international sport class status of N-New are allowable for Entries on the official team nomination into the 2018 World Equestrian Games Para-Equestrian Dressage.
  
3. **Other Requirements:**
  - a. The athlete must be an Active member of the USEF.
  - b. At least one of the horse owners listed on the FEI passport must be a USEF member in good standing at the time of application, selection and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - c. The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102.
  - d. Application - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must complete and submit an online application (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Applications submitted online on or before April 1, 2018 will be charged \$70 per Application. Applications submitted online after April 1, 2018 and received by the USEF on or before April 7, 2018 will be charged \$300 per Application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 7, 2018. IF AN APPLICATION IS RECEIVED WITHOUT THE APPLICATION FEE, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THE APPLICABLE FEE IS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 14, 2018.**

- e. Horse Loan Agreement: Owners of horses named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry (See I.C.3) must sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B). A horse owner(s)' failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry.
- f. The athlete and horse owner(s) must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received and read the Selection Procedures for the Team, the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D), and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E) and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

**B. Tryout Events:**

**1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process:**

Athletes are required to complete all three tests (Individual, Team, and Freestyle) in their Classified Grade at a minimum of two (2) CPEDI3\* between January 1, 2017 and May 23, 2018 in order to be eligible for an invitation to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition June 28 – July 8, 2018. In exceptional circumstances where an athlete/horse combination have demonstrated they are highly competitive at the CPEDI3\* level but circumstances beyond the athlete's control prevented them from completing a second CPEDI3\*, the Selectors may recommend to the Para Dressage Sport Committee that an athlete/horse combination receive an invitation to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition. A list of CPEDI3\* competitions can be found on the FEI website at [http://search.fei.org/Search\\_Centre/Calendar/Pages/Search.aspx](http://search.fei.org/Search_Centre/Calendar/Pages/Search.aspx). This information was communicated to potential Event athletes and published on the USEF's website on November 16, 2016 (Attachment F).

Tryout Events/Qualifying competitions include all U.S. and foreign CPEDI3\* or above between January 1, 2017 and May 23, 2018, as well as the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition, June 28 – July 8, 2018, Wheatland Farm, Purcellville, VA.

**2. Provided below are the event names, dates, locations, and description of how athletes qualify for any "preliminary or qualifying" events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed below:**

Wellington CPEDI3\* January 19-22, 2017  
Wellington CPEDI3\* March 9-12, 2017  
Rancho Murieta CPEDI3\* June 15-18, 2017  
Wellington CPEDI3\* January 4-7, 2018  
Wellington CPEDI3\* January 18-21, 2018  
Tryon CPEDI3\* April 19-22, 2018  
All European CPEDI3\* and domestic CPEDI3\* not listed above between January 1, 2017 and May 23, 2018.

**Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition, June 28 – July 8, 2018, Wheatland Farm, Purcellville, VA.**

After the conclusion of the USEF qualifying period, May 23, 2018, the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Para Equestrian High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe, and Team Veterinarian, will recommend to the Para Equestrian Sport Committee eight (8) athlete/horse combinations who have met the following criteria to be invited to participate in the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition. In the event athletes selected to attend the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition have a second horse, then an invitation for the second horse will also be extended. The Training Event is scheduled 4-6 days prior to the Mock Competition and will be held on the grounds

of the Event. In depth training sessions will be conducted with USEF High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe, personal coaches, and team veterinarian.

- 1. Invitation to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition** – See above in Section I.B.2
- 2. Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition:** Eight athlete/horse combinations who have met the requirements outlined in Section I.A. and I.B. of these selection procedures will be invited to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition. Invited athletes/horses must be on the competition grounds of the Invitational Training Event Mock Competition one hour prior to the Veterinary Inspection in order to compete in the Invitational Mock Competition July 4-8, 2018. All horses must remain on the competition grounds from the time that they arrive on the competition grounds until the completion of the Invitational Mock Competition. Exception: Removal of any horse will only be permitted for emergency veterinarian care or observation with the approval of the Team Veterinarian. All USEF Dressage Rules will be enforced while horses are on competition grounds. Please be advised that all horses in the Invitational Mock Competition must adhere to the FEI Veterinary Regulations, Chapter V Equine Treatment & Supportive Therapies during FEI Events and FEI Equine Anti-Doping & Controlled Medication Regulations pursuant to USEF GR409.2 as outlined in Section I.E.1 from the start of the Veterinary Inspection through the conclusion of the Invitational Mock Competition.

The Invitational Mock Competition, July 4-8, 2018 will be judged by an international panel and will be conducted in accordance with the USEF Dressage Rules effective at the time of the Invitational Mock Competition, except the FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1 January 2011 updates eff. 1 January 2017] regarding saddlery, dress, and schooling. The USEF Dressage Rules can be found at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org); (FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1 January 2011 updates eff. 1 January 2017] can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

Competition format will be held in the order of classes to be held at the 2018 World Equestrian Games. The Individual Test will be ridden first, the Team Test ridden second, and the Freestyle Test ridden last. The combinations recommended to the Para Dressage Sport Committee by the Selectors, in consultation with the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian for the Invitational Mock Competition will be selected based upon the following:

- a. An athlete must meet all of the requirements outlined in Section I.A. of these Selection Procedures in order to receive an invitation to participate in the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition, unless an exemption is granted.
- b. Athletes must be eligible to participate in CPEDI3\* Competitions pursuant to the FEI rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).
- c. No athlete may compete on more than two (2) horses at the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition.
- d. Scores will be taken into consideration from CPEDI3\* Team Tests and Individual Tests from January 1, 2017 with the most recent scores being scrutinized more heavily.
- e. International competitiveness within an athlete's grade.
- f. Trend of scores (upward, steady, downward) over the six months prior to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition.
- g. Comprehensive analysis of results from qualifying competitions after the USEF qualifying period is complete, May 23, 2018.
- h. Consistency of scores over 70% in the Team Tests and Individual Tests at Qualifying Competitions. Scores from FEI Freestyle tests will not be taken into consideration.

- i. Previous International experience of athlete and/or horse.
- j. Potential of earning a medal at the Event.
- k. Fitness and soundness of the horse – advice of the U.S. Para Dressage WEG Team Veterinarian, or another appointed veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian, Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, and Para Dressage Chef d’Equipe.
- l. Fitness of the Athlete – advice of the U.S. Equestrian Program Human Sports Science Staff.
- m. Behavior of the athlete and other individuals associated with the athlete (including without limitation, owners, coaches, grooms and family) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
- n. An “exemption” from part or all of the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition will only be granted in exceptional circumstances where it is in the best interests of the group invited to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition and recommended by the Selectors and Para Sport Committee in consultation with the USEF Para Equestrian High Performance Consultant and Chef d’Equipe before competition begins.
- o. If unforeseen circumstances happen during the Invitational Training Event or Mock Competition that preclude an athlete/horse combination from completing the Mock Competition, an exemption may be granted at the discretion of the selectors and approved by the USEF Para Equestrian High Performance Consultant and Chef d’Equipe.
- p. Participation in USEF Para Dressage Symposiums.

**This Invitational Mock Competition is NOT A STAND ALONE SELECTION TRIAL. Results of this competition will only be one factor used in determining the Short List/Nominated Entries.**

**An invitation to the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition does not guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry or the Para-Equestrian Dressage Team for the Event.**

**C. Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become WEG team nominees.**

1. **August 13, 2018: FEI Nominated Entries**—After the Invitational Training Event and Mock Competition but no later than August 13, 2018, and based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the U.S. High Performance Consultant, Chef d’Equipe and Team Veterinarian, and USEF High Performance Human Sports Science and Medicine personnel will recommend a WEG Team of at least four (4) athlete/horse combinations and up to the maximum number of horses and athletes able to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Event for the “Short List/FEI Nominated Entry” subject to recommendation of the USEF Para-Equestrian Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Such list will be submitted to the FEI as the Nominated Entry no later than the closing date for the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry.

The Short List/FEI Nominated Entry of at least four athlete/horse combinations will be named as follows in accordance with FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8450 “Each team consists of four Athletes and four (4) Horses, or three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses. One (1) team member must be classified either Grade I, II or III. A Team may not include more than two (2) Athletes from any one (1) Grade. In a team composed of four (4) Athletes the three (3) best total scores only count for the team result.”

**Positions One through Four:** The athlete/horse combinations that will be entered at Nominated Entries, August 13, 2018, will be selected utilizing the following criteria.

- a. Scores from CPEDI3\* Team Tests and Individual Tests from January 1, 2017 with the more recent scores being scrutinized more heavily.
- b. International competitiveness within athlete's grade.
- c. Trend of scores (upward, steady, downward) over the six months prior to Nominated Entry date.
- d. Comprehensive results of all Qualifying Competitions and the Invitational Mock Competition.
- e. Consistency of scores over 70%
- f. Previous International experience of athlete and/or horse.
- g. Potential to contribute to a U.S. Team at the 2018 WEG that would obtain a 2020 Paralympic Games Team Qualification result.
- h. Fitness and soundness of the horse – advice of the Para Dressage Team Veterinarian or another appointed Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian.
- i. Fitness of the athlete – advice of the Program Human Sports Science Staff will be sought.
- j. Behavior of the athlete and individuals associated with the athlete (including without limitation owners, coaches, grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
- k. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the 2018 World Equestrian Games accreditation allocations and restrictions.

**Remaining Positions:** All athletes following the positions one (1) through four (4) will be filled by the discretionary choice of the Selectors recommendation approved by the USEF Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian and USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee up to the maximum number able to be nominated under FEI rules.

**Substitutes:** (See Definitions on page 15) - Athlete/horse combinations listed in position five (5) through the maximum number of athletes and horses permitted under FEI rules for the Event, will be named as "substitute" athlete/horse combinations for the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry for the Event.

Once the FEI Nominated Entry for the Event has been announced but prior to the deadline for the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry (not later than August 13, 2018), FEI Nominated Entry athlete/horse combinations may be substituted with a substitute athlete/horse combination for veterinary or medical reasons, breach of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), breach of Safe Sport Policy, for failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B), or other exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, but only with the approval of the USEF Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe and with the majority vote of the Selectors, USEF Para Dressage Sports Committee, and the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitutions for medical or veterinary reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) or veterinarian(s) and approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council. Please refer to Section IV for further details regarding Substitute/Replacement of athletes.

#### **REQUIRED AGREEMENT OF COMPETITION AND TRAINING PLANS**

Following the submission of Nominated Entry, all athletes named to Nominated Entry must submit and agree to a training and competition plan, as well as a human and equine maintenance

plan with the Para Equestrian High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe, Team Veterinarian and USEF approved Human Sport Science Consultant. Failure to abide by the agreed training and competition plan may result in removal of the athlete/horse combination from the Nominated Entry or from positions one through four.

- 2. September 10, 2018: FEI Definite Entry** - No later than the closing date for the FEI Definite Entry for the Event, September 10, 2018, four athlete/horse combinations named to the Nominated Entry up to the maximum number of athletes and horses permitted according to the FEI Rules for the Definite Entry for the Event, will be listed on the Definite Entry. In the event that an athlete(s) is named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry on two horses, the determination as to which horse the athlete will be named on the Definite Entry will be made based on the recommendation of the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe considering all qualifying scores and the scores earned at the Invitational Mock Competition at the recommendation of the Selectors, USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The Team will be named in order of athlete/horse combinations listed on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry unless a Substitution is made in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section IV.B.2.

In addition to nominating the Team, based upon the Selectors' evaluation and their recommendation to the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will approve athlete/horse combinations on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry to serve as substitute athlete/horse combinations for the Team in order of their listed order on the Nominated Entry.

- 3. After acceptance of the Definite Entry and until one hour before the First Horse Inspection:** After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until one hour before the First Horse Inspection, the Squad will be the same as originally approved at the time of the FEI Definite Entry unless a Replacement is made in accordance with FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 01 January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8423) (see [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)). and in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section IV.B.3. An earlier deadline for final substitutions may be listed in the WEG Definite Schedule and will be communicated to all athletes.
- 4. 2018 Declaration of Starters:** The declaration of starters (if required) will be done in accordance with FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8424).

**D. Provided below are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.** The USEF Selectors and USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and approved by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, (Attachment I for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members).

**E. Other Considerations:**

- 1. Equine Drug Testing:** All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever

beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker is detected in the sample collected in-competition, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised at least one member of the Para Dressage Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinarian Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on January 1, 2017 following notification to the applicant at least 24 hours prior to collection. Samples collected from horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Panel appointed for selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR 409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

## **USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions**

No horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

2. **Soundness:** Horses that are candidates for the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry or as Substitutes for the Short List/Nominated Entry may be examined by the Team Veterinarian for soundness prior to the FEI Nominated Entry being named so that a report may be made to the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe and Selectors prior to their naming of the Nominated Entry and Substitutes to the Nominated Entry.

All horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry will undergo a baseline exam with the Team Veterinarian. The Team Veterinarian and the athlete's veterinarian must be in communication regarding the soundness and preparation of the horse(s) named to the FEI Nominated Entry.

Horses that are candidates for selection for the FEI Definite Entry/Squad will be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian or a Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian at any time after the FEI Nominated Entry has been named and prior to naming the FEI Definite Entry/Squad.

All horses chosen to be part of the 2018 World Equestrian Games Para-Dressage Squad will also be examined for soundness by the Team Veterinarian prior to traveling to the Event.

Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

3. **Team Veterinarian Request:** Applicants, **at their own expense**, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of veterinary records of horses under consideration for selection. In addition, applicants, **at their own expense**, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses under consideration for selection. Applicants, **at their own expense**, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the selection process by the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors
4. **Veterinary Treatment:** Once a horse(s) is named to the FEI Nominated Entry or FEI Definite Entry all selected athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to their selected horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian. This permission must be obtained by using the official USEF Para-Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form (Attachment I).

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Para-Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of horse and/or athlete from the selection process by the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe, and the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.



5. **Medical Request:** In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant, Chef d'Equipe and Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physicians(s) and with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF-approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process with the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

## **II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

**A. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.

**B. Discretionary criteria and how it will be used:** See Section I.C.3 and 4.

### **C. Discretionary Selection Committee**

1. **Provide the name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.**

- USEF Para-Equestrian Selectors
- USEF Para Dressage High Performance Consultant
- USEF Para-Equestrian Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Para-Equestrian Team Veterinarian
- USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group

2. **Provide a complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their NGB role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:** See Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**Selectors:** (the "Selectors") will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon the recommendation of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies of the USEF (Attachment J), and Safe Sport Policy. The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Para Equestrian community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Para Equestrian at the international level, and include a minimum of one Para Equestrian Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOC (See Definitions on page 16) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the "Eligible Athlete Representative Selector").

A minimum of one Substitute Selector will also be named. A Substitute Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of Selectors.

**Ad Hoc Selection Group:** The Ad Hoc Selection Group will consist of five USEF International Disciplines Council members approved by the USEF Board of Directors. One member must be an Eligible Athlete and one must be a USEF Board member.

### **III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

#### **A. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Nominated Entry for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:**

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF-approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF-approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of the USEF's Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure of the horse owner to sign the Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.
- Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in the out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and/or USADA Rules.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian or with the USEF Para-Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols (Attachment I).
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans and/or directives of the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant and Chef d'Equipe.
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

In these procedures, the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be replaced. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section IV SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETE AND/OR HORSE.

An athlete removed from the FEI Nominated Entry pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605 or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.

#### **B. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Definite Entry, Squad, and/or Team at any time for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF and in accordance with these procedures:**

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti-Doping Agency.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

#### **C. An athlete may be removed from the FEI Nominated Entry, FEI Definite Entry, Squad, or Team, at any time for violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures (See II.A and B above).**

#### **IV. SUBSTITUTION OF HORSE/ATHLETE COMBINATIONS**

**A. Following is the process by which the substitute/replacement pool of athletes will be identified:**

The list of athletes on the Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athletes.

**B. Substitution/replacement athletes and horses will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:**

- 1. Prior to acceptance of Nominated Entry by the FEI:** Once the Squad for the Event has been announced and prior to the submission of the Nominated Entry (by no later than August 13, 2018) Squad Members and alternates may be substituted with substitute horse/athlete combinations for any of the reasons outlined in III.A (reasons for removal). Any substitutions for veterinary reasons must also have the recommendation of the USEF Team Veterinarian. Any substitutions for medical reasons must also be documented by a USEF-approved physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council.
  
- 2. After the naming of the Squad and prior to the acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry:** After Nominated Entries and prior to the closing date for FEI Definite Entries, Squad Members and alternates may be substituted with substitute horse/athlete combinations for any of the reasons outlined in III.A.

Any substitutes for veterinary reasons must also be recommended by the Team Veterinarian. Any substitutes for medical reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council.

- 3. After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until the Day of the Horse Inspection:** After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until the day of the Horse Inspection (unless an earlier date is specified in the WEG Definite Schedule), the USEF has the ability to recommend to the FEI to replace athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Definite Entry for reasons set forth in Section III. B. During this time period, replacements may need to be replaced in accordance with FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage Events, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8450. Each team consists of four Athletes and four (4) Horses, or three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses. One (1) team member must be classified either Grade I, II or III. A Team may not include more than two (2) Athletes from any one (1) Grade. Should a replacement of either Grade I, II or III not be necessary, then replacements may be made by athletes in the Selectors listed order of replacements. Replacements may only be made by the FEI in accordance with FEI Rules for Para-Equestrian Dressage, [3<sup>rd</sup> edition, effective 01 January 2011, updates effective 1 January 2017], Article 8423 for veterinary or medical reasons, or for breach of the USEF Codes of Conduct, upon the recommendation of the Para Dressage High Performance Consultant/Chef d'Equipe, and subject to the recommendation of the Selectors, the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors physically present at the Event venue. If it is not practical (time, physical presence or accreditation restrictions) to consult the Selectors and/or an Ad Hoc Selection Group, the U.S. Chef de Mission will approve a replacement in consultation with the Para Dressage Chef d'Equipe, Para Dressage High Performance Consultant.

Any replacement for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council.

Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council or a medical practitioner accredited as part of the U.S. Team or Tryon 2018 Organizing Committee.

**C. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:**

- 1. Group or committee who determines the substitution/replacement pool:** USEF Para-Equestrian Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian, USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment G).
- 2. Group or committee who determines a substitution/replacement to the team:**
  - a. Prior to acceptance of nominations by the FEI:** USEF Para Equestrian Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian, USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment G).
  - b. After acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry and until the day of the Horse Inspection:** USEF Para-Equestrian Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian, USEF Para-Equestrian High Performance Committee or its designees, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment G) physically present at the Event venue.

**V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** – USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.

**VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** - The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and horse owners as a condition of nomination for the Event and are included as attachments:

- Application (Attachment A)
- Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D)

Applicants and horse owners will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and the Safe Sport Policy and that they understand them and agree to be bound by them.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to the Selectors, Team Veterinarian, Physicians, members of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, and the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies (Attachment J) and the Safe Sport Policy.

Reference is made to the attached USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies for a full and accurate statement of the requirements of that policy. In particular, however, no individual may participate in a particular phase of the selection process if, after full disclosure, the individual is found by the applicable committee to have a disqualifying conflict of interest in the particular phase of the selection process in question per the attached USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy.

**VII. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS** - Applicants will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment K) and are requested to sign this document.

**VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES** - The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date when known:

- USEF website: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF.
- Other: The Selection Procedures and Application Packet will also be available by mail or email upon request.

**IX. DATE OF NOMINATION** - The FEI Nominated Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than August 13, 2017. The FEI Definite Entry will be submitted to the FEI no later than September 10, 2018.

**X. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION** – It is tentatively planned that the final preparation for the Event will consist of Training and/or Competitions. The relevant details will be posted on the USEF website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) and communicated to athletes named to the FEI Nominated Entry no later than 30 days before the first day of training and/or competition.

**XI. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS** - Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and/or USADA Rules, if applicable.

**XII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES** - The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, USEF International Disciplines Committee, Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Committee approved by the Board of Directors. See Attachment G for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**XIII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES** - The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**XIV. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER** - These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancelation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USEF.

**XV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN** - Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: Kacie Wallace by:

- Telephone at (719)866-5000
- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.Wallace@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

**XVI. FUNDING DISCLAIMER** - Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a team.

**XVII. DISCLAIMER** - See Attachment D – USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification.

**XVIII. NGB SIGNATURES** - I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding these Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Equestrian Federation.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
USEF President	Murray Kessler		
USEF Para- Equestrian Director	Laureen Johnson		

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Laureen Johnson, USEF Director, Para Equestrian Programs, United States Equestrian Federation, PO Box 83, Gladstone, NJ 07934, Phone (859) 225-7693, Email: lkjohnson@usef.org.

Approved by the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee on August 29, 2017  
Approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council on December 5, 2017  
Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on December 7, 2017

## DEFINITIONS

**USEF PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE SELECTORS** - Five individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the USEF Para-Equestrian Sport Committee and the USEF International Discipline Council. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy of the USEF (Attachment J). The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Para Equestrian community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Para Equestrian at the international level, and include a minimum of one Para Equestrian Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOC but who is not an applicant for the Team (the "Eligible Athlete Representative Selector"). In making their decisions, the Selectors will consult with the Chef d'Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel. A minimum of one Replacement Selector will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of the Selectors.

**PARA-EQUESTRIAN ELIGIBLE ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE** – An athlete will be considered a Para-Equestrian Eligible Athlete Representative if they meet the following criteria as defined by the USEF in Part IV-Athletes, Bylaw 401 of its Bylaws and the United States Olympic Committee in Article XVII.17.7, B.3 of its Bylaws as eligible for membership on a “designated committee”:

- i) within the past ten (10) years, represented the United States in the Paralympic, Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by the United States Olympic Committee for which a competitive selection process was administered by the USEF/USET and/or
- ii) within the past twenty-four (24) months, demonstrated that they are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the NGB’s national championship or a team selection competition for the events specified in paragraph (i) above.

**SUBSTITUTE** –Substituting an athlete/horse combination prior to the submittal of the Final Entry.

**REPLACEMENT** – Replacing an athlete/horse combination after the Final Entry has been submitted.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A	2018 World Equestrian Games Para-Dressage Application
Attachment B	USEF Horse Loan Agreement
Attachment C	USEF Code of Conduct
Attachment D	USEF Release, Assumption of Risk Waiver and Indemnification
Attachment E	Safe Sport Policy
Attachment F	Athlete Memo
Attachment G	USEF Committee Members
Attachment H	FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the World Equestrian Games
Attachment I	Veterinary Treatment Request Form
Attachment J	USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy
Attachment K	USEF Athlete Agreement
Attachment L	Disclosure and Affirmation Statement