



Dressage Pre-Elite List

The Dressage Pre-Elite List underpins the Elite Program and seeks to provide support and guidance to those combinations in the 69-73% Grand Prix score range so they are able to succeed in reaching Elite Member status (consistent 73%+ score range).

Score Requirements

Athlete/Horse combinations must meet one of the below points. Within the past 12 months, earned at least one of the following at a CDI3*/CDIO3* or above:

- Achieved 69-70%+ in at least 3 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special)
- Achieved 71%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special)
- Achieved 73%+ in at least 1 CDI (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special)

Combinations may request to be included on the Pre-Elite list and be specially approved without meeting the score requirements above for the following reasons:

- *Previous international experience of the horse and/or athlete (pre-observation required by the Technical Advisor or a USEF Coach).*
- *A current Elite Member or Pre-Elite Listed athlete with a horse showing likelihood to succeed (pre-observation required by the Technical Advisor or a USEF Coach).*

Upon being named to the Pre-Elite list, one agrees to the following:

- Attend one Strategic Planning/Training Observation session approximately every 6 months with the Technical Advisor where competitions and training plans are discussed and targets are set.
- Horse to be evaluated by Team Veterinarian or another designated Veterinarian.
- Assessment through Human Sport Science Medicine Program.
- Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc) and the Program / Team support staff.
- Agreement to abide by USEF Code of Conduct.

Benefits of being on the Pre-Elite List

- Eligible for grants for agreed upon targets and goals.
- Eligible for continued Human and Equine Sports Science Medicine Support (Human and Equine SSM).
- Eligible for continued Veterinary support.
- Ongoing ability to train with the Technical Advisor.
- Ongoing support with competition planning.



A combination may remain on the Pre-Elite list for up to a maximum of two years but must demonstrate an improvement in scores on an annual basis. Improvement will be measured against agreed targets. Failure to meet annual targets could result in the combination being removed. If scores do not improve to Elite Program level within the two years, they will be removed unless an exception is granted (for a specified period of time) by the Technical Advisor and Managing Director for at least one of the following reasons:

- An injury to the horse but the Team Veterinarian has agreed to treatment/rehabilitation plan to have horse back in training and competition within 12 months. Note any funding linked to training or competing will be withheld while the horse is injured and not in full training.
- Age of the horse and perceived likelihood to reach Elite level
- Impending Games (within 6 months) where there is a likelihood the horse will be on the Short List (defined as a maximum of 8 athlete / horse combinations)
- Unforeseen circumstances which create an extraordinary situation.

A combination may be removed from the Pre-Elite list at any time for the following reasons:

- Failure to meet annual targets.
- Combination (horse and/or rider) no longer actively competing due to change in ownership, prolonged injury, etc.
- USEF Code of Conduct Violation.
- Unwillingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc) and the Program/Team support staff.

Additional Information: Questions should be addressed to Hallye Griffin, Managing Director - 859.225.6949 or hgriffin@usef.org.