

USEF Dressage Program Pathway

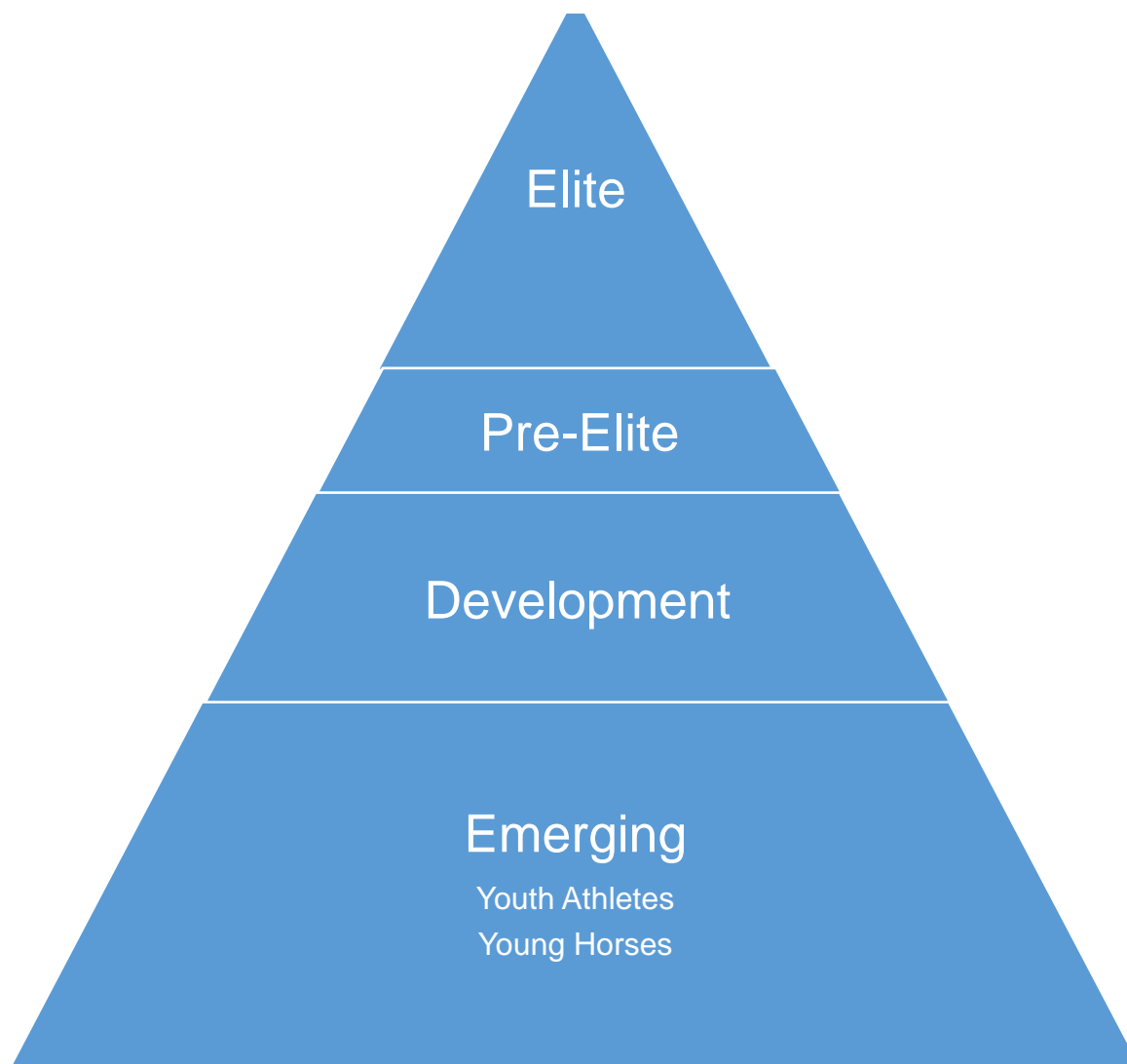


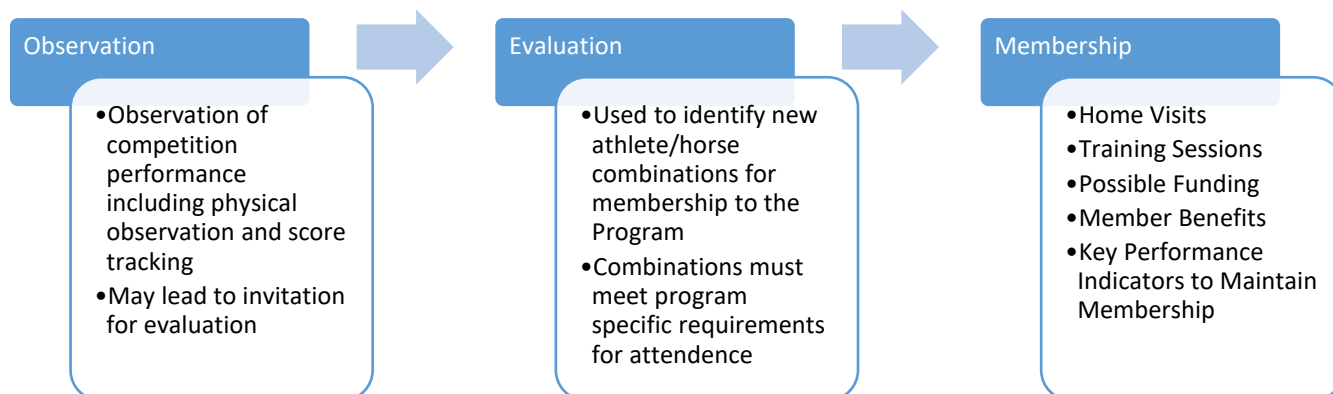
Table of Contents

Overview of USEF Dressage Programs.....	3
Pathway to Membership.....	3
Membership Benefits.....	3
How to Maintain Program Membership.....	3
Terminology	4
USEF Emerging Young Horse Program	5
Overview	5
Evaluation Session Criteria.....	5
Program Membership Criteria	6
USEF/USDF Dressage Emerging Athlete Program.....	8
Overview	8
Evaluation Session Criteria.....	9
Program Membership Criteria	9
USEF Dressage Development Program	11
Overview	11
Evaluation Session Criteria.....	11
Program Membership Criteria	13
Pre-Elite Program	15
Overview	15
Evaluation Session Criteria.....	15
Program Membership Criteria	15
Elite Program.....	17
Overview	17
Evaluation Session Criteria.....	17
Program Membership Criteria	17

Overview of USEF Dressage Programs

Selection to a USEF Dressage Program is a privilege granted to athletes and horses that have the potential to be future U.S. Team Members. Athletes who are named to a program agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, and maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

Pathway to Membership



Membership Benefits

- Opportunity to participate in USEF Training Sessions/Clinics/Coaching Sessions.
- One-on-One Coaching/Home Visits (see below).
- Access to USEF Human and Equine Sports Science Medicine Education Programs and resources when available, appropriate and as funding allows.
- Assistance in transition to the next age bracket or division level (training, strategic planning, setting competition and training targets, data analysis, etc.).
- Included on USEF Program Member List published on www.usef.org.
- Additional horses in addition to those horse(s) associated for membership may be reviewed for comment via video submission.
- If funding permits, it is possible for these athlete/horse combinations to receive some funding to support their agreed upon targets and goals. Priority is given to Program Members for all USEF Program events (except those that may be specially restricted). If an athlete has more than one horse qualified for a Program membership, they may not receive the same financial support with additional horses.
- Additional benefits may be available depending on specific program membership.

How to Maintain Program Membership

- Establish Targets (i.e., Increase of scores, training sessions, competition, and training plan) agreed upon by the Program Coach, the athlete, and their personal trainer.
- Program Members may be reviewed approximately 1-2 times each year. This review may be conducted in-person or via conference call. Those unable to meet their targets, no longer have the ride on a horse capable of meeting the criteria, and/or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.

- The USEF Program Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff make final recommendation on membership evaluation. Members may work with other program coaches or technical advisors when requested or when applicable.
- Must continue to meet the minimum Program Membership Criteria.

Terminology

Scouting Events: Scouting Events may be used for two purposes. The first purpose includes observing athlete/horse combinations who have applied to attend an Evaluation Session or are showing promise and marked aptitude for becoming a potential program member. A schedule will be posted each year of competitions which may be used as Scouting Events.

The second purpose is another means for the USEF Coaching Staff to observe Program Members in the warm-up arena and during a competition test ride to encourage improved performance and results.

Evaluation Session: Evaluation Sessions are used to identify new athlete/horse combinations for membership to a Program. Evaluation Sessions are overseen by the Program Coach and supported by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff. Athletes/horse combinations may gain program membership from an evaluation session pending review by the Program Coach and the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff. Program Membership is not guaranteed.

Training Session: This is a 1-3-day training session for Program Members. Program Members may receive up to 45 minutes each day of ring time with the Program Coach and their personal trainer. USEF Staff, USEF Coaching Staff, or members of the Dressage Sport Committee may attend for observation purposes.

Observation/Training Check-In: The Program Coach may schedule a time with a Program Member to observe training to initiate feedback to the athlete and/or personal coach/trainer. The observation/training check-in may be held at the athlete/horse combination's home base or at a competition. This facilitates effective communication and supports the athlete/horse combination and their personal trainer throughout the competition year.

Home Visit: A Home Visit is for Program Members and may include the Program Coach and/or Technical Advisor, USEF Staff Member, personal trainer, Team Veterinarian, and personal veterinarian. Home Visits may include training observation, a veterinary evaluation and planning meetings. This time is meant to serve as an opportunity for your 'team' to meet with the USEF 'team' so we can work together to accomplish our goals.

USEF Emerging Young Horse Program

Overview

USEF Staff Liaison – Laura Roberts, Director, Dressage Performance & Event Support

Email: lroberts@usef.org

Phone: 859-225-6986

The aim of the Markel USEF Dressage Emerging Young Horse Program is to provide strategic guidance and educational opportunities to selected athlete/horse combinations in each young horse division of FEI dressage (Four, Five, Six, and Seven-Year-Olds) with the perceived ability to eventually contribute to the Elite Program and achieve Podium scores within three (3) quadrennials. This program is overseen by the USEF Dressage Young Horse Coach, with the assistance by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff. This program is considered a steppingstone to the Dressage Development Program.

Evaluation Session Criteria

Four, Five, and Six-Year-Old Horses: Horses must compete at a minimum of one (1) USEF Dressage National Championship qualifying competitions and/or CDI-YH events over 12 months and earned:

- At least a 7.2 in the Preliminary or the Final test of their respective division in the current year or the year prior; and/or
- At least 70% in the any USEF test equivalent to the FEI age division test (Note: The Four-Year-Old test is equivalent to First level. The Five-Year-Old test is equivalent to Second level, and the Six-Year-Old test is equivalent to Third level).

Seven-Year-Old Horses: Horses must compete at a minimum of one (1) USEF Dressage National Championship qualifying competitions and/or CDI-YH event over 12 months and earned:

- At least a 68% in the technical component in either the FEI Preliminary or the FEI Final Test for 7-Year-Old horses and at least a 7.2 in the Quality Marking component of the FEI Preliminary or FEI Final Tests for 7-year-old horses; and/or
- At least a 68% in the USEF Developing Horse PSG Test; and/or
- At least a 68% in the any USEF Fourth level test.

Horses may also be considered for Wild Card Invitations if they have participated in the following programs/events* or if they have been recommended for the session by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching staff:

- USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Clinics.
- USDF Breeders Championship Series.
- FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage (applications of intent to compete in the FEI WBCs may meet this requirement).
- Athlete or horse has participated in USEF National Championships.
- Athlete is an Elite, Development or Emerging Program member or on the USEF 12-month Grand Prix Ranking List. Note: Three-Year-Old horses may be considered for a Training and Evaluation Session, as long as the athletes above are members of the Elite, Development, or Emerging Programs.
- *Videos may be requested.

Program Membership Criteria

Horses may be selected for membership through:

A. Training & Evaluation Sessions

B. Scouting Events

C. FEI World Breeding Championships

- Athlete/Horse combinations selected for the FEI World Breeding Championships are automatically eligible for Training and Evaluation Sessions and Emerging Program Membership subject to review by the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

D. Performance at USEF National Championships or CDIs

- Festival of Champions – Young Horse Dressage (4-, 5-, 6, and 7-year-old) and Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Dressage (only if aged 7 years) Champion and Reserve Champion are automatically eligible for Emerging Program Membership subject to review by the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.
- US Dressage Finals – 4, 5, 6-Year-Old Champions and Reserve Champions competing in the Young Horse (or USEF equivalent) divisions are automatically eligible for Emerging Young Horse Program Membership subject to review by the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff
- Athlete/horse combinations competing in CDIs:
 - For 5 and 6-Year-Old horses: CDI-YHs with a score of 8.2 or higher from two different CDI-YHs are automatically eligible for Emerging Program Membership subject to review by the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.
 - For 7-Year-Old horses: CDI-YHs with a score of 8.2 in the quality marking component or higher and a 75% or higher in the technical component from two different CDI-YHs are automatically eligible for Emerging Program Membership subject to review by the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

The Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff will meet to decide whether the combination will be eligible for Emerging Program membership. They will use the following factors in their decisions:

- Likelihood of horse developing into a future Team athlete through evaluation of athlete/horse combination in Training & Evaluation Session.
- Results and the trajectory of these results; (i.e., is the athlete/horse combination showing improvement or has the horse's results plateaued?) Results achieved at CDI-YH events and National Championships will be given greater weight.
- Perceived ability for combination to achieve over 70% at FEI Levels.
- Perceived ability for combination to be an international Grand Prix horse in three (3) quadrennials.
- The soundness record of the horse.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) their contribution to U.S. Dressage.

- Combinations accepted as Wildcards for Training and Evaluation Sessions or in Observation Events, may be considered for membership. The Young Horse Coach is permitted to add up to two (2) Wildcard combinations for membership after each event based on the review and approval of the other Dressage Coaching Staff.

NOTE: Membership to Program is based on athlete/horse combination; if there is a change in athlete, the horse will be subject to review and reevaluation of membership to Young Horse Program.

USEF/USDF Dressage Emerging Athlete Program

Overview

USEF Staff Liaison – Kristen Brett, Director of Dressage Programs

Email: kbrett@usef.org

Phone: 859-225-6919

The aim of the Dressage Emerging Athlete Program is to provide strategic guidance and educational opportunities to selected U.S. athletes under the age of 25 with the perceived ability to eventually contribute to the Elite Program and achieve Podium scores within three (3) quadrennials. While the focus of this program is on the Young Rider and Junior levels, U25 athletes who are not qualified for the Development Program are also eligible for support and membership to the Emerging Athlete Program. Children and Pony Riders may be eligible for educational opportunities offered through the Program. This program is run by the USEF Dressage Youth Coach, with input from the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

Athletes may be selected for membership through these Scouting Events:

- Evaluation Sessions.
- USEF European Young Rider Tour.
- Performance at USEF National Championships, NAYC or CDIs.
- High Intensity Training Session(s).

Following these Scouting Events described above, the Youth Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff will evaluate the athletes for membership. The following factors will be used:

- Likelihood of an athlete developing into a future Team athlete through evaluation of the athlete in an Evaluation Session.
- Ability of combination to consistently meet the score requirements for their respective FEI level.
- Results and the trajectory of these results; (i.e., is the athlete/horse combination showing improvement or has the horse's results plateaued?). Results achieved at CDI and/or CDIO U25/Y/J/P/CH events and National Championships will be given greater weight.

Evaluation sessions may be conducted several times throughout the year. In order to be considered for the Program, athletes must submit an application (found [here](#)). In addition, the USDF/USEF Jr/YR Clinics may be used as Evaluation Sessions, as an Observation/Training Session, or a Scouting Event. Applications submitted to the USDF/USEF JR/YR Clinics by athletes who have met the criteria to attend an Evaluation Session may be considered for Emerging Athlete Program Membership.

Athletes must meet the criteria as described below to participate or receive a Wild Card (Up to 4 Wild Card invitations may be issued per Evaluation Session). Personal trainers are strongly encouraged to attend the sessions. The Evaluation Sessions will be overseen by the Youth Coach and supported by other experts (i.e., other USEF Coaches, FEI Judges, Team Veterinarian, etc.).

The Emerging Program List will be reviewed on an approximately 6-month rolling basis. Membership is based upon an athlete/horse combination.

A complete list of our Youth Events and Calendar can be found on the website [here](#).

Evaluation Session Criteria

Minimum Criteria for Training & Evaluations Sessions:

- Athletes must compete at a minimum of two (2) USEF/NAYC qualifying competitions and/or CDI or CDIO –Y/J/P/Ch events over the past 12 months.
- Athletes (applies for Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider and Children divisions) must earn an overall average of 68% of both Team and Individual Tests (*Freestyles will not count towards this overall average*).

U25 athletes must earn an overall average of a 65% in either the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test or the FEI Intermediate II test (Freestyles will not count towards overall average).

U25 athletes may also earn an overall average of a 68% in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I Tests (Freestyles will not count towards this overall average).

Young Rider European Tour: Young Riders selected for the Young Rider European Tour are automatically eligible for Training and/or Evaluation Sessions.

Athletes (including those under 25) may also be considered for Wild Card Invitations if they have participated in the following events or if they have been recommended for the session by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching staff. Wild card invitations for the Training and/or Evaluation sessions are approved by the USEF Dressage Youth Coach.

Scouting Events:

- Regional Clinics
- FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC)
- National Championships (Festival)
- USPC National Finals at A Level (East Coast and West Coast)
- Robert Dover Horsemastership Week
- Dressage Seat Medal Finals

Program Membership Criteria

Consideration for Automatic Membership Selection:

Athlete/horse combinations are eligible for consideration to the Program by participating in the following events and subject to review by the Youth Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff:

- USEF European Young Rider Tour
- High Intensity Training Session

Additional Consideration for Membership Selection:

Performance at National Championships (Festival), FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) or CDIs:

- Individual medal winners at NAYC (in Dressage).

- Champion and Reserve Champion in the Brentina Cup, Young Rider, and Junior divisions at the National Championships (Festival).
- Athlete/horse combinations competing in either a CDIY or CDIJ with a score of 70% or higher from two different CDIs (freestyles not included).
- Athlete/horse combinations competing in CDIU25s with a score of 66% or higher from two different CDIs (freestyles not included).

Requirements to Maintain Membership:

- Establish Targets (i.e., Increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Youth Coach, the athlete, and their personal trainer.
- The Emerging Program Members will be reviewed approximately every six months. This review may be conducted in-person or via conference call. Those unable to meet their targets, no longer have the ride on a horse capable of meeting the criteria, and/or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
 - Youth Coach to make final recommendation on membership evaluation. May work with other program coaches or technical advisors when requested or when applicable.
 - U25 athletes may be considered for an exception to remain in the Program if they do not meet their targets per the discretion of Youth Coach with input from the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff. U25 athletes may be required to be training towards the Small Tour or Big Tour levels.
- Must continue to meet the Minimum Criteria for Selection as outlined above (68%).
- Must achieve this minimum criterion and outlined targets, goals, etc. within 6 months following qualification for the Emerging Program unless given an exception by the Youth Coach.
 - Flexible 6-month period and possibility of grace period for the following circumstances:
 - Transition for JR to YR division.
 - Age out of division.
 - Veterinary reasons/horse death.
 - Number of qualifying competitions in the Region.
 - Extraordinary circumstances.
- Encourage communication between USEF Dressage support staff, Dressage Youth Coach, and athletes' personal trainers.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program.
- Athletes named to the Program agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, and maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

USEF Dressage Development Program

Overview

USEF Staff Liaison – Kristen Brett, Director of Dressage Programs

Email: kbrett@usef.org

Phone: 859-225-6919

The Aim of the Kundrun USEF Dressage Development Program is to provide strategic guidance and resources to selected athletes with the perceived ability to make the Podium or contribute to Podium scores, within the following two quadrennials. This program is overseen by the USEF Development Coach with the assistance from the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

The intention, subject to funding, will be that membership is for one-year subject to six-month reviews and subject to meeting targets. Membership may be extended beyond one-year subject to performance trajectory and approval by the Development Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

Evaluation Session Criteria

It is anticipated that in each Spring and Fall, there will be an Evaluation Session. In order to participate, athletes must submit an application found [here](#). Program membership is not guaranteed based upon participation in an Evaluation Session.

Developing Horse Prix St. Georges

- Horses must be between the ages of eight (8) and nine (9) years old.
- Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a minimum of two (2) scores of 70% since January 1 of the year prior in the current editions of the following Developing Horse Tests/events:
 - USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Dressage National Championship.
 - USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test held at a USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Competition. This test must be held as an individual class which is specifically designated as USEF qualifying (“Test of Choice” classes will not count).

Exception: Athletes with 7-year-old horses showing talent for the Grand Prix work, including piaffe/passage, may be considered based upon recommendations by the USEF Young Horse Dressage Coach and supported by the other USEF Dressage Coaches.

Developing Horse Grand Prix

- Horses must be between the ages of eight (8) and ten (10) years old.
- Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a minimum of two (2) scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the current editions of the following Developing Horse Tests/events:
 - USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Dressage National Championship.
 - USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test held at a USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Competition. This test must be held as an individual class which is specifically designated as USEF qualifying (“Test of Choice” classes will not count).

U25 Division

- Maximum age of horse - 18 years old.
- Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a minimum of two (2) scores of 68% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
 - CDI Grand Prix 16-25.

- CDI Intermediate II.
- USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship.
- FEI Grand Prix 16-25 or FEI Intermediate II Tests held at a USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Competition. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF qualifying (“Test of Choice” classes will not count).

Small Tour

- Maximum age of horse – 10 years old.
- Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a minimum of two (2) scores of 70% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
 - CDI Prix St. Georges or Intermediate I.
 - CDI or GAIG/USDF Regional Championships/US Dressage Finals - Intermediate I.
 - CDI or GAIG/USDF Regional Championships/US Dressage Finals Prix St. Georges.
 - USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship.

Medium Tour

- Maximum age of horse - 11 years old.
- Athlete/Horse Combinations must have earned a minimum of two (2) scores of 69% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
 - CDI Intermediate A or B.
 - CDI Intermediate II.
 - GAIG/USDF Regional Championships/US Dressage Finals - Intermediate II.

Big Tour

- Maximum age of horse - 12 years old.
- Athlete/Horse Combinations must have earned a minimum of two (2) scores of 69% since January 1 of the year prior in the below tests/events (may be a combination of the points below).
 - CDI Grand Prix, Short GP or Grand Prix Special.
 - GAIG/USDF Regional Championships/US Dressage Finals - Grand Prix.
 - USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship.

Other criteria to be considered in addition to the minimum criteria above:

- Participation and performance in FEI and/or USEF National Qualifying Competitions
- Participation and performance in [National Championships \(Festival\)](#).
- Recognition by a USEF Coach as showing promise and marked aptitude for becoming a potential team member.
- Willingness of the athlete and the athlete’s personal trainer to buy in to the aims of the Program.

Wild Card Invitation to an Evaluation Session: Up to two (2) Wild Card Invitations may be given out per Evaluation Session to athlete/horse combinations who do not meet the score requirements as mentioned above. An athlete/horse combination may be considered for a Wild Card Invitation if they have participated in the following programs/events* or if they have been recommended for the session by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching staff:

- Athlete or horse participated in the USEF National Championships.

- Athlete is a current Pre-Elite/Elite, Development or Emerging Program member or on the USEF 12-month Grand Prix Ranking List with a horse showing the likelihood to succeed (pre-observation may be required by the Development Program Coach or a USEF Coach).
- Observed by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff at a USEF Qualifying Competition or FEI Event.
- *Videos may be requested.

Program Membership Criteria

Following the Evaluation Sessions, the Development Program Coach in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff will use the following factors in their decisions to consider an athlete/horse combination for Membership Selection:

- Performance during the Evaluation Session.
- Results and the trajectory of results (i.e., Is the athlete/horse combination showing improvement or has the horse's results plateaued?). Results achieved at CDIs will carry the greatest weight.
- The age of the horse and the length of time the horse has been competing; thus, the perceived likelihood of the horse becoming a Team horse.
- Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) their contribution to the U.S. Dressage.

Additional Consideration for Membership Selection:

Athlete/horse combinations must meet one of the below points for consideration to the Development Program without attending an Evaluation Session. Within the past 12 months, observed by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff at an FEI event, scores earned at a USEF National Qualifying Competition(s) and/or the National Championships and earned at least one of the following:

- Age of horse and likelihood of moving into the Pre-Elite/Elite Program.
- Achieved Champion or Reserve Champion at the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges or Developing Horse Grand Prix National Championship.
- Achieved a minimum score of 70%+ in at least 2 CDIs (FEI Grand Prix 16-25 or FEI Intermediate II Tests).
- Achieved a minimum score of 71%+ in at least 2 CDIs (FEI Prix St. Georges Test or FEI Intermediate I Test).
- Achieved a minimum score of 70%+ in at least 2 CDIs (FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests).
- Achieved a minimum score of 72%+ in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I Test at the Pan American Games.

Other Criteria for Consideration:

- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report (if applicable).
- Agreement to Maintain Membership Requirements (see below).
- Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier, etc.) and the Program / Team Staff.

Requirements to Maintain Membership to the Program:

- Undergo a minimum of two annual reviews by the Development Coach in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff, at 'Home Visit' Observations, Observation events and/or Training Sessions.
- Age of horse and perceived likelihood to reach the Pre-Elite/Elite level.
- An athlete/horse combination may remain in the Development Program for a minimum of two years subject to six-month reviews and targets being achieved. Improvement will be measured against agreed targets.
- Athlete/horse combinations competing in the Small, Medium or Big Tours who do not improve to the Pre-Elite/Elite level within the two (2) years, may be removed unless an exception is granted (for a specified period of time) by the Development Coach, Technical Advisor, Director of Dressage Programs, and Managing Director.
- Establish KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and target markers (i.e., increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Development Coach, the athlete, and their personal trainer to encourage improved performance and results. Following the initial meeting between the Development Coach, the athlete, and personal trainer, a personalized performance enhancing plan will be established to aid in meeting the agreed upon markers. This will allow the Development Coach to support the athlete/horse combination and their personal trainer throughout the competition year. Markers should include future goals of meeting Elite Program minimum criteria.
- Athletes continue to participate in the Human SSM program and abide by the agreed follow-up action (when available).
- Promote and encourage communication between the athlete's support staff and the USEF support staff.
- Be of assistance with US Equestrian efforts to promote equestrian sports and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Athletes named to the Program agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, and maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

Pre-Elite Program

Overview

USEF Staff Liaison – Hallye Griffin, Managing Director of Dressage

Email: hgriffin@usef.org

Phone: 859-225-6949

The Dressage Pre-Elite List underpins the Elite Program and seeks to provide support and guidance to those combinations in the 70-73% Grand Prix score range so they are able to succeed in reaching Elite Member status (consistent 73%+ score range).

Evaluation Session Criteria

Not applicable - Program membership is based on the below Program Membership Criteria.

Program Membership Criteria

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 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.

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.

Elite Program

Overview

USEF Staff Liaison – Hallye Griffin, Managing Director of Dressage

Email: hgriffin@usef.org

Phone: 859-225-6949

The Aim of the Elite Program is to provide support and resources to those athlete/horse combinations that have been proven they are internationally competitive. The program is overseen by the Technical Advisor and Managing Director with oversight provided by the Dressage Sport Committee.

Evaluation Session Criteria

Not applicable - Program membership is based on the below Program Membership Criteria.

Program Membership Criteria

Open to athlete/horse combinations who in the past 12 months have met at least one of the following criteria at a CDI3*/CDIO3* and above:

- 73%+ in the Grand Prix* or Grand Prix Special at two competitions within a 3-month window.
- 73%+ in the Grand Prix and 73%+ in the Grand Prix Special at the same competition and 70%+ in the Grand Prix* or Grand Prix Special at an additional competition within a 3-month window.
- 73%+ in the Grand Prix* or Grand Prix Special at a CDI5*, CDIO5*, World Cup Finals, Olympic Games or World Equestrian Games.

*Short Grand Prix may replace the Grand Prix. National Championship and Special Competition results may be considered as CDI scores.

Other Criteria

- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report.
- Agreement to Requirements to Maintain Membership.
- Age of the horse and thus the perceived likelihood of the horse contributing to podium scores at Games and Championships
- 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.

Requirements to Maintain Membership

- The Elite Program Members will be reviewed twice annually. Those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have the ride on the horse, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
- Combinations will not be eligible for Pre-Elite membership for two years following being removed from the Elite Program.
- If combinations meet the Minimum Criteria set above for the Elite program within two years of being removed from the program, they may be added back after review by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Managing Director, who will consult with the Director of FEI/High-Performance Sport Programs.
- Must continue to meet the Minimum Criteria for Selection as outlined above. Must achieve this within 6 months following qualification for the Elite Program unless given an exception by the

USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Managing Director, who will also consult with the Director of FEI/High-Performance Sport Programs

- Must set targets with Technical Advisor and Managing Director to encourage improved performance and results.
- Demonstrate involvement with Human SSM Program as available and appropriate.
- Encourage communication between athlete's support staff and US Equestrian Dressage support staff.
- Be of assistance with US Equestrian efforts to promote equestrian sports and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct.

Other

- The Elite Program List will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Membership is based upon athlete/horse combination. If an athlete has more than one horse qualified for membership, they may not receive the same financial support with the 2nd horse.