



MEMORANDUM

To: 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships

Date: July 17, 2025

From: Sarah Hollander, Director of Dressage Development & Emerging Programs

Re: Qualifying Dates and Competitions for 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships, JR/YR

Dear Potential 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships Applicants:

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning. Please remember that this information is based on the recommendations of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Dressage Sport Committee and United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Executive Board and is subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors and therefore subject to change.

Selection Process Summary: Ranking lists of athlete/horse combinations will be maintained and selection is based on the final rankings of each Region (see more detail below). The 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC) is scheduled to take place on July 27th – August 2nd, 2026, in Traverse City, Michigan.

1. **Qualifying Period**

The proposed qualifying period for NAYC will begin on July 22, 2025 and is anticipated to end at least ten days prior to the Nominated Entry date (TBD).

2. **Qualifying Competitions**

It is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be required to complete at least two Qualifying Competitions during the qualifying period. Qualifying Competitions include:

- **Competitions listed on the NAYC/USEF Qualifying Competitions Calendar:** Scores earned at these competitions within the qualifying period are automatically included in the Ranking List calculations. NAYC/USEF Qualifying Competitions can be found [HERE](#). Please make sure to check the calendar(s) frequently for updates.
- **CDI-J or CDI-Y Events:** Scores earned at CDI-Y/J may be included, at the option of the athlete, and will only be included in the Ranking List calculations upon receipt of a CDI & Championship Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form (form can be found at www.usdf.org). The 2025 and 2026 FEI Calendars can be found on the FEI website [HERE](#) (Please note that the FEI 2026 calendar is not approved until after the FEI General Assembly in November). Please make sure to check the Calendar(s) frequently for updates. NOTE: Scores from the 2025 NAYC will not be counted.
- **2025 Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championship:** Beginning in 2025, the Junior and Young Rider Team tests will no longer be offered as championship classes at Great American/USDF Regional championship competitions. As a result, these competitions are required to hold USEF/NAYC qualifying classes for the Junior and Young Rider divisions, if the competition is not designated as a USEF/NAYC qualifying competition. These classes will fall within the



qualifying period and will automatically be counted towards the Ranking List. For questions on this, please contact Lacy Jinks, ljinks@usdf.org.

- 2025 USEF Young Rider or Junior Dressage National Championships: Scores earned at these National Championships may be included, at the option of the athlete, and will only be computed into the Ranking List upon receipt of a CDI & Championship Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form.

3. Tests Required

It is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be required to achieve **two** scores in the current editions of their respective FEI Junior Team Test/FEI Young Rider Team Test and **two** scores in the current editions of the FEI Junior Individual Test/FEI Young Rider Individual Tests at USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions in USEF/NAYC designated Qualifying Classes.

- Athlete/horse combinations that achieve more than two scores in the relevant Team or Individual test, may drop the lowest score earned in the Team Test and the Individual Test, regardless of whether these scores were earned in the same Qualifying Competition.
- Athletes wishing to qualify for the Junior Championship must qualify with FEI Junior Tests and Athletes wishing to qualify for the Young Rider Championship must qualify with FEI Young Rider Tests.
- Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying Classes.

4. Certificate of Capability

- Each athlete/horse combination must earn a minimum overall average of 64.000% or greater on the final Ranking List. It is anticipated this will be calculated by scores earned from the FEI Team Test and FEI Individual Test at two (2) different USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions from a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' or FEI Judges, in order to be named to the Nominated and Definite Entries.
- In addition to these tests, athlete/horse combinations will be required to earn one score of 65% or higher in the respective FEI Junior Freestyle test or FEI Young Rider Freestyle test at a USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competition in a USEF/NAYC designated Qualifying Class.
- Scores achieved from Test of Choice classes cannot be counted towards the Certificate of Capability.

Additional Information

Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all USOPC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, and may be drug tested. Please contact Christy Hawkins, Special Project Management Analyst, with any questions at (859) 300 3045 / cbhawkins@usef.org.

Grievances: Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

Equipment: Per DR121, snaffle bridles will be permitted for NAYC qualifying classes, USEF Junior qualifying classes and USEF Young Rider qualifying classes. **If you are competing in a CDI and/or at NAYC, FEI Rules apply.**

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the above Qualifying Competitions or the development of the Selection Procedures for the 2026 FEI North American Youth Championships, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Hollander at (859) 225-6914 or shollander@usef.org.