

# ELITE ATHLETE PROGRAM

The Elite Athlete Program is primarily a score-based system with admission also based on podium finishes at World Championships. Score-based entry is determined by the top 15% of each competition phase and overall result at the last two World Championships in either USEF Open Advanced or CAI 3\*. Para-Driving Athletes admittance is based on USEF Intermediate, where the CPEAI Dressage Test is being used, or CPEAI 2\* or above competitions. Athletes will need two qualifying scores in two phases, two overall qualifying scores, or one result from two phases and an overall score to be named to the Elite Athlete Program. By making the Elite list, Athletes gain grant support to remain continuously competitive at the top level.

## Minimum Requirements for Eligibility

- Athlete must be a U.S. Citizen and must be an active competing member of the USEF in good standing.
- Athletes must maintain an active registration with the FEI in good standing.
- All horse(s)/ponies must be FEI registered and/or recorded with USEF in good standing.
- Athletes must have completed and signed the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Athletes must comply with all requirements of the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Athletes must comply with the FEI Clean Sport Policy (WADA).

## Minimum Requirements for Qualification

The qualifying period for the Elite program runs from December 1 to November 30 of the following year. Podium finish qualifications: Athlete/equine combinations that earn an overall team or individual medal at the following events within the qualifying period will earn a qualification to the Elite Athlete list for two years following the championship:

- FEI Driving World Championship for Single Horses
- FEI Driving World Championship for Pair Horses
- FEI Driving World Championship for Four-in-Hand Horses
- FEI Driving World Championship for Combined Ponies
- FEI Para-Driving World Championship for Singles

Score-based qualifications: Athlete/equine combinations must obtain the following results at the USEF Open Advanced or FEI CAI 3\*, or above competitions within the qualification period to be named to the Elite Athlete program list. Para-Driving Athlete/equine combinations must obtain the following results at the USEF Intermediate or equivalent Foreign National Competition, where the CPEAI Dressage Test is being used, or CPEAI 2\* or above competitions:

- Two competition phase results or
- Two overall results or
- One two phase result and one overall result

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Athlete/equine combinations are defined as two of the same horses/ponies in the turnout for pairs or three of the same horses/ponies in the turnout for Four-in-Hands. Qualifying results for competition phases will only be considered successful when obtained together at the same event. Marathon results for all divisions are determined by seven obstacles, and where applicable, athlete results are calculated to an average of seven obstacles.

## SCORE QUALIFICATIONS

### HORSE FOUR-IN-HAND

DRESSAGE	44 OR BETTER
MARATHON	104 OR BETTER
CONES	5 OR BETTER
OVERALL	168 OR BETTER

### HORSE PAIR

DRESSAGE	54 OR BETTER
MARATHON	98 OR BETTER
CONES	7 OR BETTER
OVERALL	163 OR BETTER

### HORSE SINGLE

DRESSAGE	53 OR BETTER
MARATHON	81 OR BETTER
CONES	2 OR BETTER
OVERALL	141 OR BETTER

### PONY FOUR-IN-HAND

DRESSAGE	48 OR BETTER
MARATHON	93 OR BETTER
CONES	8 OR BETTER
OVERALL	157 OR BETTER

### PONY PAIR

DRESSAGE	49 OR BETTER
MARATHON	89 OR BETTER
CONES	4 OR BETTER
OVERALL	149 OR BETTER

### PONY SINGLE

DRESSAGE	55 OR BETTER
MARATHON	83 OR BETTER
CONES	4 OR BETTER
OVERALL	145 OR BETTER

### PARA-DRIVING GRADE I

DRESSAGE	50 OR BETTER
MARATHON	47 OR BETTER
CONES	0 OR BETTER
OVERALL	155 OR BETTER

### PARA-DRIVING GRADE II

DRESSAGE	49 OR BETTER
MARATHON	96 OR BETTER
CONES	0 OR BETTER
OVERALL	149 OR BETTER

Program Benefits: Upon acceptance, Elite Athletes gain access to a one-time up to \$5,000 grant per qualification period to support the Athlete/Equine combinations training and growth in the sport.