



MEMORANDUM

To: Applicants for 2020 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team
From: Hallye Griffin, Managing Director of Dressage
Re: Observation Events for the 2020 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Short List
Date: February 29, 2020
Copy: Debbie McDonald
Will Connell

Dear 2020 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team Applicants,

Per the Selection Procedures for the 2020 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team (click [here](#)), after the conclusion of the initial Qualifying Competition period (April 26, 2020) **up to** eight athlete/horse combinations will be named to a Short List. Athlete/horse combinations named to the Short List will be required to compete in Observation Events.

Short List combinations will be required to submit a competition plan to the Selectors for approval. The Selectors will consult with the Chef d’ Equipe when reviewing competition plans. Competition plans must include a minimum of (1) one of the following designated Observation Events listed below^:

Compiegne CDIO5*/CDI3* (FRA)	14 May – 17 May 2020
Aachen CDIO5*/CDI4* (GER)	2 June – 7 June 2020

Additional CDI or CDN competitions may be approved as build-up or follow-up competitions to the above events and must be included in the submitted competition plan. Competition plans may be amended with the approval of the Selectors.

“Home Visits” (see definition below) may be conducted with each Short List athlete/horse combination. If a Home Visit is requested, the athlete must comply with the request.

^An athlete named to the Short List may request special consideration for selection without competing in the designated Observation Events by submitting a written request to the Selectors no later than the start of an Observation Event, who will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

- 1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition below) to succeed at CDI competitions;*
- 2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;*
- 3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or*
- 4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.*

If the Selectors approve the above exception for the athlete to whom the exception was granted, they may also require additional “Home Visits” (see definition below) to ensure ongoing “State of Preparedness” (see definition below). If a Home Visit is requested, the athlete must comply with the request.

HOME VISITS – *Visits with the Technical Advisor/Chef d’Equipe, Team Veterinarian (or a member of the Veterinary Panel), and the USEF Managing Director, Dressage where veterinary evaluations are conducted and training is observed. Additionally, key performance indicators and targets are agreed upon. Selectors, the USEF Dressage Development Coach, and/or guest trainers may be invited to attend to Home Visits.*

PROVEN ABILITY – *An athlete/horse combination that has met at least one of the following criteria:*

- i) Represented the US at the 2019 or 2020 FEI World Cup Final earning a minimum of a 77% in the FEI Grand Prix Test.*
- ii) Earned recent results (minimum of a 77% in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special Tests and a minimum of 80% in the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test) in 2019 or 2020 CDI4*, CDI5*, CDI-W or CDIO3*/4*/5* events.*

STATE OF PREPAREDNESS – Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Dressage Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

If USEF does not receive invitations for all combinations named to compete at the Observation Events, the Selectors, in consultation with the athlete and the Chef d'Equipe, may amend the agreed upon competition plan. Additionally, if an Observation Event is found unsuitable for selection purposes following the publication of the FEI Definite Schedule, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, may recommend an additional Observation Event or may recommend athletes for their designated Observation Events.

FEI Nominated Entry: By no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry (June 1, 2020), the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, will recommend to the USOPC and/or the FEI, as required, at least three (3) 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 "FEI Nominated Entry") at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The FEI Nominated Entry will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than June 1, 2020.

USOPC Final Entry: By no later than the closing date for the USOPC Final Entries (June 16, 2020) for the Event, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, and upon the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, and the USOPC, will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations submitted on the FEI Nominated Entry and nominate to the USOPC and/or FEI as required the Team of three (3) athlete/horse combinations and one (1) reserve athlete/horse combination per FEI Rules.

The Selectors may also name alternates and these alternates may be required to travel with the Team for the mandatory final training.

USEF will assist Short List athletes in finding training bases in Europe for the Observation Event period. Clear guidelines regarding funding/logistical support for Short List will be published at a later date. Additionally, details regarding the mandatory veterinary evaluation (for all Short List horses) and the final training camp/pre-export (required for Team & Reserve(s)) will be published to Short List athletes per the Selection Procedures.

The schedule for the Dressage portion of the 2020 Olympic Games is as follows (subject to change):

- July 8-16, 2020 – Pre-Export Quarantine in Gladstone, New Jersey
- July 16, 2020 – Horses ship JFK (New York) to NRT (Narita)
- July 24, 2020 – Horse Inspection
- July 25-26, 2020 – FEI Grand Prix Test (Qualifier for the Team and Individual Finals)
- July 28, 2020 – FEI Grand Prix Special (Team Final)
- July 29, 2020 – Second Horse Inspection & FEI Grand Prix Freestyle (Individual Final)
- July 31, 2020 – Horses ship NRT (Narita) to ORD (Chicago)

If you have any questions regarding the above information or the development of the Selection Procedure for the 2020 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team, please do not hesitate to contact Hallye Griffin at (859) 225-6949 or hgriffin@usef.org.