UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
SELECTION PROCEDURES
2027 FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage (Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Olds)
Verden, Germany
August 3-8, 2027

Approved by FEI and WBFSH 11.06.2026

The 2027 FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage ("FEI WBD Championships," "Championships," or "Event") will be organized under the FEI rules with the support of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses ("WBFSH"). These Selection Procedures are subject to change at any time in order to remain in compliance with FEI/WBFSH guidelines for selection for these Championships.

I. APPLICATION:

1. In order to be considered for the Nominated Entry for the FEI WBD Championships, an **Application of Intent** must be completed and submitted to the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. ("USEF"). Application and fees submitted online prior to April 12, 2027, 11:59pm eastern time will be charged seventy-five dollars ($75.00) per application. Application and fees submitted online between April 13, 2027 and May 10, 2027, 11:59pm eastern time will be charged three hundred and twenty-five dollars ($325.00). No Application of intent or payment of application fee will be accepted after May 10, 2027, 11:59pm ET. Each application may include multiple horses. Athletes are permitted to compete only those horses named on the athlete's application. The Application of Intent form will be available on the USEF website after January 1, 2027. A confirmation email will be sent to the athlete once the Application of Intent has been received. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure their application has been received by USEF.

2. It is the responsibility of the athletes and owners of horses to ensure that they know and understand the USEF and FEI Rules and these Selection Procedures. By submitting an Application of Intent, athletes acknowledge and agree that they have received, understand, and have read these Selection Procedure for the Event, the USEF Code of Conduct, the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USEF Safe Sport Policy, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies, the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy, and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy and that they understand these documents and agree to be bound by them.

3. Athlete must hold a valid passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.

4. USEF is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected, or stolen correspondence either electronic, postal, commercially shipped, or voice activated. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that the Application of Intent and all application fees have been received by the published deadline.

II. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY:

FOR ATHLETE:

1. Must be a minimum of sixteen (16) years of age as of January 1, 2027.
2. Must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF from the time of Application of Intent through the conclusion of the Championships.
3. In addition, an athlete must have an active FEI Rider Registration at the time of Application and through the

conclusion of the Championship.

4. Qualification is based on each athlete/horse combination, as submitted on the Application of Intent. Prior to the FEI Nominated Entry, an athlete, meeting the requirements listed above, may be changed at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Selectors, and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad-Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. See Section IV.9 below for information regarding changes to athletes.

*Please Note: The U.S. follows the FEI/WBFSH guidelines for selection for these Championships, athletes who are non-U.S. citizens will be allowed to ride in any CDI-YH via their NF. Entry for these individuals to the FEI WBD Championships will be subject to current FEI/WBFSH rules. Quota places for each age category allotted to the U.S. by the FEI and WBFSH for the FEI WBD Championships are prioritized to home-bred horses qualified by the selection process herein. (FEI WBFSH Dressage Chapter 1.6) If USEF has no horse(s) registered in the member studbook(s) of the USA but the horse(s) has obtained the present FEI minimum eligibility requirements during the selection procedure outlined herein, USEF may be permitted to enter a foreign bred horse on the condition that the foreign studbook of origin gives its approval, and the athlete does not have a foreign sport nationality (FEI Article 119). Final decisions regarding eligibility will be determined by the FEI WBD Championship Organizing Committee and the FEI. The eligibility requirements will be outlined in the Definite Schedule approved by the FEI for the Championships.

FOR HORSE OWNER(S):

1. Must be an Active Member in good standing with USEF from the time of Application of Intent through the conclusion of the Championships.
2. Must be in possession of horse's valid registration papers in the owner's name, per current FEI rules for the Championships. It is the responsibility of the horse owner to verify the horse's eligibility for the Championships through the studbook from which the horse was issued breed registry papers.
3. Qualification goes with the athlete/horse combination; ownership may change during the qualifying period and up to the nominated entry due date for the FEI WBD Championships, as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.
4. Must complete the Horse Participation Agreement and agree that they will adhere to and are bound by the USEF Code of Conduct ; the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification ; the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USEF Safe Sport Policy including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (); USEF's Non-Discrimination Policy; and the USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.
5. All of the above owner requirements apply to all listed owners on file with USEF, including all owners of a partnership, farm, company, corporation, etc. if a horse is recorded as owned by that type of entity.

FOR HORSE:

1. Horses must have an Annual or Lifetime Recording with USEF and be in good standing in order for the athlete/horse combination's scores to count towards their respective ranking list.
2. Horses must have a Lifetime Recording with USEF to compete in the FEI WBD Championships
3. In addition, horses must have either an FEI or National passport to compete in U.S. CDI-YH events. A FEI Passport and FEI Horse Registration are required at the time of application and to compete in the Championships.
4. Horse Identification Numbers (HID) do not fulfill the above requirements.
5. Horses must have valid registration papers with a member of a national studbook that is recognized by the WBFSH, per current FEI rules for the Championships.
6. Horses must fit into one of the following age categories for competition (FEI Dressage Article 433):
   A. Become five (5) years of age in 2027;
   B. Become six (6) years of age in 2027; or
   C. Become seven (7) years of age in 2027.

   *FEI Dressage Article 433 states: "…The age of horses is counted from 1st January of the year of birth (1st August for Southern Hemisphere)."
7. Neither ponies nor mules will be allowed to qualify for or compete in the Championships.
8. Horses must meet all minimum eligibility requirements and certificate of capability as outlined by the FEI on their website HERE.

III. **BREEDING/REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Owners must submit a copy of the horse's registration papers from a member of a national studbook, which is recognized by the WBFSH with the Application of Intent for the Championships. **Owners must also submit an official letter from the horses' breeding association in the country of the horse registration (member of the WBFSH), which states that the respective horse can represent the U.S. at the Championships. This agreement must be submitted to USEF at least one (1) business day before the Nominated Entry Deadline.**

IV. QUALIFYING PROCEDURE:

1. **QUALIFYING PERIOD:** The qualifying period begins January 1, 2027, and ends June 28, 2027, unless otherwise determined and based on the nominated entry deadline as listed in the FEI Definite Schedule for the event ("Qualifying Period").

2. **QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS:** Competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as national Qualifying Competitions ("Qualifying Competitions") and a list of these competitions can be found on the USEF calendar search which can be found HERE. Qualifying scores may also be earned at any CDI-YH event within the designated qualifying period. If the relevant tests are offered in a CDI-YH class, then national scores from the same competition cannot be used to earn qualifying scores.

   Please note for these qualification purposes, competition(s) held over the course of more than one day count as a single qualifying competition (even if each day has a separate license number) and only the FEI WBC designated qualifying test(s) counts from national Qualifying Competitions. All CDI-YH classes automatically count for qualification purposes.

3. **TESTS AND SCORE REQUIREMENTS:** Athlete/horse combinations must complete their respective age division FEI Preliminary B Test and FEI Final Test in combination in at least two (2) different national Qualifying Competitions or CDI-YH events within the Qualifying Period. If only the FEI Preliminary B Test is completed or the FEI Final Test is completed, the score earned will count towards the combination's respective ranking list; however, does not meet the "in combination" requirement. In exceptional circumstances, the USEF Dressage Selectors may recommend an exception to this requirement. When considering this the USEF Dressage Selectors will provide their recommendation based on the following factors:
   1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated proven ability to succeed at CDI-YH competitions;
   2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
   3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to an athlete, documentation required; and/or
   4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

   In case of an approved athlete change, see Section IV.10 below, the new athlete/horse combination must earn one qualifying score in their respective age FEI Preliminary B Test and FEI Final Test in combination in at least one (1) national Qualifying Competition and/or CDI-YH event. Scores earned with the original athlete/ horse combination applicant will continue to count towards the respective ranking list of the new athlete/ horse combination.

   Current versions of each FEI Test must be used. For the Seven-Year-Old division, both the quality and technical markings of the preliminary and final tests must be scored.

   Dressage Tests for the 5-Year-Old Division:
   "FEI Preliminary B Dressage Test for 5-Year-Old Horses"
   "FEI Dressage Test for 5-Year-Old Horses – Final"

   Dressage Tests for the 6-Year-Old Division:
   "FEI Preliminary B Dressage Test for 6-Year-Old horses"
   "FEI Dressage Test for 6-Year-Old Horses – Final"

Dressage Tests for the 7-Year-Old Division:
"FEI Preliminary B Dressage Test for 7-Year-Old horses" (includes both Technical and Quality Scores) "FEI Dressage Test for 7-Year-Old Horses – Final" (includes both Technical and Quality Scores)

4. **MINIMUM SCORES AND AVERAGE**:

Five- and Six-Year-Old:
Combinations must earn a minimum overall average of 8.2 on their respective USEF FEI World Breeding Championship ranking list.

Seven-Year-Old:
Combinations must earn a minimum overall average of 77.500% on the USEF FEI World Breeding Championship Seven-Year-old ranking list.

In circumstances where an athlete/horse combination has an overall average within 0.5% of the required score noted above. The USEF Dressage Selectors, may recommend athlete/horse combinations for selection based on the following factors:

1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated proven ability to succeed at CDI-YH competitions;
2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
3. Athlete/horse combinations have earned a score in the FEI Preliminary B Test or the FEI Final Test which exceeds the minimum required overall average;
4. Recent scores and the trend in scores (i.e. consideration for an athlete/combination showing an upward trajectory in scores);
5. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to an athlete, documentation required; and/or
6. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

5. **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**:
    a. In circumstances where an athlete/horse combination has an overall average within 0.5% of the required score noted above. The USEF Dressage Selectors, may recommend athlete/horse combinations for selection based on the following factors:
        i. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated proven ability to succeed at CDI-YH competitions;
        ii. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
        iii. Athlete/horse combinations have earned a score in the FEI Preliminary B Test or the FEI Final Test which exceeds the minimum required overall average;
        iv. Recent scores and the trend in scores (i.e. consideration for an athlete/combination showing an upward trajectory in scores);
        v. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to an athlete, documentation required; and/or
        vi. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.
    b. Other Discretionary Criteria:
        i. Horse Inspection: Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time following the application deadline and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete and/or horse from the selection process, at the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
        ii. Team Veterinarian Request – Horse owners, at their own expense, must make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of complete veterinary records of horses being considered for selection. In addition, horse owners, at their own expense, will be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for selection. Horse owners, at their own expense, must complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the

horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the Athlete, for horses being considered for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, and approval by the majority of the Selectors, the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.

iii. Medical Request - In the event of illness or injury, athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a USEF-approved physician(s) any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the athlete from the selection process upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physician(s) and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF-approved physician(s) find the athlete to be unfit to compete, the athlete will be removed from the selection process with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

6. **JUDGES:** It is required that all judges on the panel for both USEF and FEI competitions have completed and received credit from a USEF or FEI-recognized Young Horse Judge training session. This Young Horse designation is noted in the Licensed Official roster on the USEF and FEI websites listed HERE and HERE, respectively.

7. **SCORE CALCULATION AND DROPPED SCORES**: Athlete/horse combinations must complete score requirements as defined in section 3 and 4 listed above. For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse combination's overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the FEI Preliminary B Test with the scores earned in the FEI Final Test. Qualifying scores are permitted to be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. Scores are automatically added to the respective ranking list for all relevant FEI Preliminary B Test and FEI Final Test, even if the tests are not completed at the same Qualifying Competition or CDI-YH event. In the case of an approved athlete change, at least one (1) score in combination from each respective FEI Preliminary B Test and FEI Final Test must count towards the overall average.

   Drop Scores for the five and six-year-old divisions: If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Preliminary B Test in three (3) or more national Qualifying Competitions and/or CDI-YH events, the lowest FEI Preliminary B Test score will be automatically dropped (regardless if the FEI Final Test was completed) If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Final Test in three (3) or more national Qualifying Competitions and/or CDI-YH events, the lowest FEI Final Test score will be automatically dropped (regardless if the FEI Preliminary B Test was completed).

   Drop Scores for the seven-year-old division: If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Preliminary B Test in three (3) or more national Qualifying Competitions and/or CDI-YH events, the lowest FEI Preliminary B Test score will be automatically dropped (regardless if the FEI Final Test was completed) If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Final Test in three (3) or more national Qualifying Competitions and/or CDI-YH events, the lowest FEI Final Test score will be automatically dropped (regardless if the FEI Preliminary B Test was completed). The quality and technical markings must be scored for the score earned in the FEI Preliminary Test B or the FEI Final Test to be included on the ranking list.

8. **DRESS AND SADDLERY:** For National young horse classes, refer to the USEF Dressage Rules. For CDI-YH classes, refer to FEI Dressage Dress and Saddlery Rules.

9. **INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATION:** Horses that meet all age, registration, and ownership qualifications (see "Minimum Eligibility" above) may also qualify by competing at either FEI competitions or National Level competitions in a foreign country, however, foreign National Level Competitions must be approved by the USEF Dressage Selectors prior to the start of the competition (**except as noted below)*. FEI Young Horse Preliminary and Final tests for their age group or equivalent National test for the same age group may be used.

Horses must obtain scores as described above in Section 3. A panel of at least two (2) judges must officiate. Copies of the entire qualifying score sheet(s) must be submitted to and received by the USEF Dressage Department no later than June 22, 2027.

*In the event USEF was not notified of the request for scores earned in foreign National Level Competitions to count towards qualifying and an 8.2 or higher was earned, a request may be submitted to the USEF Dressage Selectors for consideration. **These requests must be submitted and received no later than June 22, 2027**.

10. **CHANGE TO ATHLETE**: Any change to the athlete must be submitted to the USEF Dressage Department no later than the last day of the qualifying period, June 28, 2027. In order to show continued competitiveness (when circumstances permit), any athlete change will be required to produce a minimum of one set of qualifying scores in combination as outlined in Section IV below, if the horse has already earned the minimum qualifying scores. If the horse has not earned the minimum qualifying scores, the new athlete/horse combination will be required to obtain the scores as outlined in Section IV below. The request for a change in athlete will be reviewed based on the following factors:
    1. An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated proven ability to succeed at CDI-YH competitions;
    2. Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
    3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to an athlete, documentation required; and/or
    4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

V. FEI NOMINATED ENTRY: After the Qualifying Period ends on June 28, 2027, but no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry (per the FEI Definite Schedule), USEF will name the maximum number of combinations permitted for FEI Nominated Entry. The USEF Dressage Selectors, when reviewing the athlete/horse combinations for the Nominated Entry and list of ranked alternates, will consider the following factors (in no order of priority):

1. Scores and trend of scores earned during the Qualifying Period from tests [FEI Dressage Tests for the 5 or 6- or 7-Year-Old divisions – Preliminary B and Final] from any CDI or CDN; greater weight will be given to CDI-YH events;
2. Ability to perform the FEI Preliminary B and FEI Final tests at Qualifying Competitions in combination;
3. Consistency of scores at and/or above minimum requirements during the Qualifying Period;
4. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
5. The experience of the judges at Qualifying Competitions in relevance to the FEI World Breeding Championships;
6. "State of Preparedness" of athlete and horse at time of selection. State of Preparedness is defined as an athlete/horse combination's overall state of readiness to perform successfully at international Dressage competitions, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse; and
7. Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, due to elimination or withdrawal.

The maximum number of invitations for representatives of the U.S. to the FEI WBD Championships is determined by the FEI and WBFSH and will be identified in the approved FEI Definite Schedule. The FEI Nominated Entry is subject to the approval by the USEF Board of Directors, or an Ad-Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

VI. FEI DEFINITE ENTRY: No later than the closing date of the FEI Definite Entry, the USEF Dressage Selectors will review the athlete/horse combinations on the FEI Nominated Entry and recommend the maximum number of combinations permitted for the FEI Definite Entry. The USEF Dressage Selectors may also recommend a list of ranked alternates. The USEF Dressage Selectors, when reviewing the athlete/horse combinations for the Definite Entry and list of ranked alternates, will consider the following factors:

1. Scores and trend of scores earned during the Qualifying Period from tests [FEI Dressage Tests for the 5-, 6- or 7-Year-Old divisions – Preliminary B and Final] from any CDI or CDN; greater weight will be given to CDI-YH events;
2. Ability to perform the FEI Preliminary B and FEI Final tests at Qualifying Competitions in combination;
3. Performance at USEF Young Horse Training Session(s);

4. Consistency of scores at and/or above minimum requirements during the Qualifying Period;
5. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
6. The experience of the judges at Qualifying Competitions in relevance to the FEI World Breeding Championships;
7. "State of Preparedness" of athlete and horse at time of selection. State of Preparedness is defined as an athlete/horse combination's overall state of readiness to perform successfully at international Dressage competitions, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse;
8. Whether the horse is U.S. bred, which is preferable; U.S. bred is defined as a horse foaled in the United States;
9. Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, due to elimination, or withdrawal;
10. The physical conditions in which the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage will be held, including the travel to these FEI World Breeding Championships, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combinations' performance; and
11. Ability of athlete and his team (including, without limitation, owners, coaches, and grooms) to contribute to a positive team environment.

The maximum number of invitations for representatives of the U.S. to the Championships is determined by the FEI and WBFSH and will be identified in the approved FEI Definite Schedule. The FEI Definite Entry is subject to the approval by the USEF Board of Directors, or an Ad-Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

In the case that an invited athlete/horse combination is not able to accept the invitation to represent the U.S. in the Championships, the next alternate athlete/horse combination may be invited to represent the U.S. at the Championships following the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Selectors and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

As FEI Regulations provide that the National Federation (NF) has responsibility for the selection of all athletes and horses to represent the U.S. at an international Championship, only horses who have met and completed the specific criteria set forth in these Selection Procedures will be eligible to compete in the 2027 Championships (see FEI Art.117).

VII. CODE OF CONDUCT: Athletes and horse owners will be required to sign the USEF Code of Conduct prior to competing in the Championships.

VIII. FUNDING DISCLAIMER: Selection to the Definite Entry for the Championships does not guarantee that any funds will be available to assist with the expenses associated with travel or entry to the Event.

IX. DRUG TESTING:

Equine Drug Testing: All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-competition, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before

elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised at least one member of the Dressage Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinarian Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time after submission of an application of intent, following notification to the applicant at least 24 hours prior to collection. Samples collected from horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Panel appointed for selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR409 is invoked.

USEF GR409 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions

1. This paragraph applies only to FEI Banned Substances and Methods.
   For all Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) recognized disciplines, Articles 2 (what constitutes a violation), 3 [proof of violations (except 3.1 and 3.2.3)], 4 (banned substances and methods), and 8.2 (principles of fair hearing) of the FEI Equine Anti-Doping rules govern. Those Articles are incorporated by reference as if fully set out herein and can be found at www.fei.org or the Drugs & Medications tab at www.usef.org.

2. No horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at a competition licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

3. EXHIBITORS, OWNERS, TRAINERS, AND VETERINARIANS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS MANY OF THEM NO DOUBT CONTAIN ONE OR MORE FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES.

PLEASE NOTE: ***The Championships are conducted under FEI Drug and Medication Rules.***

X. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES AND/OR HORSES

A. An athlete and/or horses may be removed from selection for the Championships at any time for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF Managing Director of Dressage.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- Failure of an owner to sign the Horse Participation Agreement by the stated deadline.
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by a majority of the Veterinary Panel and/or Team Veterinarian. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.
- Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA, anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USEF and/or USADA Rules.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or any member of the Veterinary Panel or with the USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols.
- Failure to comply with reasonable requests regarding Logistical information and deadlines.
- Failure to comply with the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- 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 team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.
- Failure to satisfy the requirements contained in these procedures.

An athlete removed from selection pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaw, Article 703. or applicable SafeSport or Anti-Doping Regulations.

XI. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES/HORSE COMBINATIONS AND/OR HORSE

A. **Following is the process by which the substitution/replacement pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** The list of athletes and/or horses on the FEI Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athlete/horse combinations. Substitution/replacement athletes and horses will be selected, should vacancy occur, according to the approved ranked list of alternates per section VI above.

B. **Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian, USEF Board or Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

XII. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the conclusion of the Event.

XIII. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and horse owners as a condition of nomination for the Event:

- Application
- Horse Participation Agreement
- USEF Code of Conduct
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification

Applicants and horse owners will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and USEF Safe Sport Policy and that they understand them and agree to be bound by them.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to Selectors, Team Veterinarian, members of the Veterinary Panel, Physicians, members of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies.

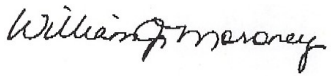
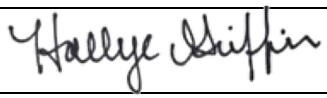
XIV. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES: The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USEF Board of Directors, FEI, and WBFSH.

XV. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES: 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.

XVI. NON-DISCRIMATION CLAUSE - USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

XVII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER: These procedures are based on USEF and/or FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in USEF and/or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selection procedures are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

XVIII. USEF SIGNATURES: I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		10/26/26
USEF Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		11/05/2026
USEF Managing Director, Dressage	Laura Roberts		11/05/2026

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE PROCEDURES PLEASE CONTACT:

Laura Roberts
Managing Director of Dressage
lroberts@usef.org; 859-225-6986
4001 Wing Commander Way
Lexington, KY 40511