



MEMORANDUM

To: 2024 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team Applicants
Date: April 12, 2024
From: Laura Roberts, Managing Director of Dressage
Re: Observation Events – 2024 Olympic Games (Dressage)

Per the USEF Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2024 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team, at the conclusion of the initial qualifying period (September 11, 2023 – May 6, 2024), it is anticipated that up to eight (8) athletes will be selected to a Short List and will be required to compete in Observation Events. USEF anticipates that the Short List will be named no later than May 8, 2024.

Athlete/horse combinations named to the Short List are required to maintain a “State of Preparedness” (see definition below). A competition plan to ensure “State of Preparedness” will be agreed upon between each Short List athlete and the Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors. Additionally, “Home Visits” (see definition below) may be conducted with each Short List athlete/horse combination.

Competition plans must include a minimum of two CDIs between May 8, 2024 – June 25, 2024, and must include at least one of the following Observation Events:

- Le Mans CDI4* (FRA); May 30 – June 2, 2024
Or
- Hagen CDI3* (GER); June 6-9, 2024
Or
- Rotterdam CDIO5*-NC (NED); June 20-23, 2024

If USEF does not receive invitations for all combinations named to compete at the Observation Events, the Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, will recommend athlete/horse combinations for their designated Observation Events subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors including any CDIOs. Additionally, if an Observation Event is found unsuitable for selection purposes following the publication of the FEI Definite Schedule, the Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, may recommend an additional Observation Event or may recommend athlete/horse combinations for their designated Observation Events subject to approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors including any CDIOs.

In addition to the above, competition plans for individual combinations may include additional CDIs between May 8, 2024, and July 7, 2024, as agreed upon between each Short List athlete and the Chef d’Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors.

Per section 1.3.7 of the selection procedures, in consultation with the athlete, the Selectors and Chef d’Equipe may request that the athlete/horse combination attend additional competitions after being named to the Team or a reserve position. If this request is made by the Selectors, they will articulate their reasoning for making the request to the athlete. This may include Aachen CDIO5*/CDI4* which falls after the USOPC Final Entry Date (June 25, 2024).

In exceptional circumstances, athlete/horse combinations that have not completed the minimum qualifications outlined in section 1.2.2 of the selection procedures may be selected to the Short List and invited to compete at

the Observation Events subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors and based on the factors enumerated below (no priority order).

Additionally, an athlete named to the Short List may request special consideration for Team selection without competing in the required number of Observation Events by submitting a written request prior to or during the Observation Events to the Selectors who will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors (no priority order):

- An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See attachment A of selection procedures - definitions) to succeed at CDI competitions;
- Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
- 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
- Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If a named athlete’s request is approved by the Selectors, an additional athlete/horse combination may be named to the Short List to compete in the Observation Events. If an athlete’s request is denied, they must participate in the Observation Event. Failure to do so may result in the removal of the athlete and/or horse from consideration for selection to the Team.

The 2024 Olympic Games are scheduled to take place in Paris, France July 26 – August 11, 2024.

22-26 July	USA Final Training Gathering (Grosrouvre, France)
26 July	Paris 2024 Move In Day
28 July	Horse Inspection
30-31 July	FEI Grand Prix Test
3 August	FEI Grand Prix Special Test (Team Final)
	Medal Ceremony
4 August	2 nd Horse Inspection
	FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test (Individual Final)
	Medal Ceremony

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.

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 Home Visits.

PROVEN ABILITY

Athlete/horse combination has consistently earned 77% or higher in CDI Grand Prix or CDI Grand Prix Special in 2023 or 2024 at a CDI3* or above, or the 2020 Olympic Games, 2022 FEI World Championships, 2023 Pan American Games.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Roberts at (859) 225-6986 or lroberts@usef.org.