

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
SENIOR AND U25 CDIOs, 2025
DRESSAGE**

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Citizenship – The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI Article 119 (General Regulations, which can be found on the FEI’s website at www.fei.org) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the relevant CDIO (“Event”) they are selected for. Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any): Athlete/horse combinations must meet minimum Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) requirements for the relevant CDIO (Event) per Annex 7 of the current [FEI Dressage Regulations](#).

- A horse must be a minimum of eight (8) years old to be able to compete in the Senior and U25 CDIOs. Ponies are not permitted.
- The Athlete and Horse must be registered with the FEI and in good standing with the FEI at time of selection and through the conclusion of the Event.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be an active Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the Event.
- Horses must be recorded in good standing with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 at the time of selection and through the conclusion of the Event.
- The individual owner of the horse listed on the FEI passport must be a Competing Member in good standing with the USEF and must execute the [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#) by the stated deadline. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Agreement, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures 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](#).
- Athlete must successfully complete the USEF Application by the stated deadline in the relevant announcement published on www.usef.org. Each athlete must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures 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](#).

- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).

1.2. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

1.2.1. Senior Team Selection (CDIO3*, CDIO4*, CDIO5*):

1.2.1.1. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to be considered for selection to the Event must achieve the following minimum scores within the eight months preceding date of selection.

- CDIO3* events: combinations must meet the minimum criteria to compete at the relevant FEI level per Annex B of the USEF Dressage Regulations.
- CDIO4* events: combinations must have a minimum overall average of 68% on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 8-month ranking list.
- CDIO5* events: combinations must have a minimum overall average of 70% on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 8-month ranking list.
- In the case where not enough combinations have met the minimum score requirements for the Event to field a team, USEF reserves the right to not send a team to the Event. Qualified combinations may be able to compete as individuals, if USEF elects not to send a team.

1.2.1.2. **DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:** For each Event, the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and/or Chef d'Equipe, will recommend up to four athlete/horse combinations, named in alphabetical order, as well as up to four ranked alternate athlete/horse combinations, to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors for approval. When making their recommendation, the Sport Committee, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors will take into consideration the following factors (in no order of priority):

- Ranking on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 8-Month Ranking List;
- The potential to produce scores above 70% in the Big Tour (GP, GPS and/or GPF);
- Recent scores and indication of an upward trend in the scores;
- Previous international experience of the athlete and/or athlete/horse combination including the demonstrated ability to succeed in CDIs or CDIOs;
- Recent FEI Grand Prix or FEI Short Grand Prix test scores at CDIs. The USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championships may also be considered;
- The age of the horse and thus the perceived likelihood of the horse contributing to future Championship or Games success; and
- The "State of Preparedness" of the athlete/horse combination. Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Dressage Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

1.2.2. U25 Team Selection (CDIOU25):

1.2.2.1. Athlete/horse combinations wishing to be considered for selection to the Event must achieve the following minimum scores within the eight months preceding date of selection.

- CDIO-U25 events outside of Europe (USA, Canada): A minimum of one (1) score of 64% or higher in the FEI Intermediate II Test must be earned in either a CDI since January 1, 2024 or the 2024 USEF Brentina Cup National Championship.
- Minimum Score Requirements, CDIO-U25 events in Europe: A minimum of one (1) score of 66% or higher in the FEI Intermediate II Test must be earned in either a CDI since January 1, 2024 or the 2024 USEF Brentina Cup National Championship.

1.2.2.2. **Selection Method:** For each Event, the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, in consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and/or Chef d’Equipe, will recommend up to four athlete/horse combinations, named in alphabetical order, as well as up to four ranked alternate athlete/horse combinations, to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors for approval. When making their recommendation, the Sport Committee, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors will take into consideration the following factors (in no order of priority):

- Scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test, FEI Intermediate II Test and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test from the 12 months preceding the start date of the event up to the published date of selection. FEI Grand Prix, FEI Short Grand Prix, and FEI Grand Prix Special scores will also be considered;
- Recent scores and indication of an upward trend in the scores;
- Results from CDIs will carry a greater weight than results from national competitions, including National Championships;
- Previous international experience of the athlete and/or athlete/horse combination including the demonstrated ability to succeed in CDIs or CDIOs;
- The age of the horse and thus the perceived likelihood of the horse contributing to future Championship or Games success; and
- The “State of Preparedness” of the athlete/horse combination. Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Dressage Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

1.2.3. **Exception:** Athlete/horse combinations will be selected in accordance with the Selection Procedures for the applicable championship if a CDIO is designated as a “Mandatory Outing”, “Observation Event”, or “Development Tour” for US Selection purposes.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):** Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.

2.2. **Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):** See section 1.2.2. for Discretionary criteria used for Senior Team Selection: See Section 1.2.1.

2.3. **Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members’ titles:**

- USEF Dressage Selections Working Group
- USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and/or Chef d’Equipe
- USEF Dressage Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Selection Group

2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All Athletes involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#).

Any person involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to January 6, 2025 (the "Application" date). Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an Athlete has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No Athlete shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

At any time during the selection process through the conclusion of the Event, USEF has jurisdiction over Athletes. An athlete or horse may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the Laura Roberts (lroberts@usef.org).
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
- 3.1.4. Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- 3.1.5. Failure of the horse owner to timely sign the [Horse Participation Agreement](#).
- 3.1.6. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the 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.
- 3.1.7. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- 3.1.8. Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding Athletes and Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.9. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1 of these selection procedures.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & HORSES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) & Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1. **After a team and alternates have been named to the relevant CDIO Event:**

After a Team and alternates have been named, substitutions, if they occur, will be filled by the athlete/horse combinations in the order of their ranking on the list at the recommendation of the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

If a selected athlete/horse combination withdraws and all the remaining applicant athletes have declined, an additional athlete/horse combination that did not submit an application in accordance with the deadlines of the Event may be recommended by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, to fill the vacancy, subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The method used to select this athlete/horse combination will be at the discretion of the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. The method used may include: ranking on the USEF Dressage Grand Prix 8-Month Ranking List; recommendation by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and/or Chef d'Equipe; and availability.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian, or, if there is a conflict of interest, a conflict-free veterinarian recommended by the Dressage Sport Committee and approved by the USEF CEO.

Any substitution for extraordinary circumstances must have the unanimous approval of the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

- 4.1.2. **Horse Substitution Request:** If an athlete's first ranked horse is not available for any reason, an athlete may request to be considered for selection on another horse and the request will be voted on by the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees after consultation with the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff, and/or Chef d'Equipe and subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final. In reviewing the request, the Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees will evaluate the past performance of the athlete/horse combination.

If the Horse Substitution Request is not granted, the athlete remains eligible for selection on their first ranked horse. If the athlete declines, the next highest athlete/horse combination will be named. If this athlete's first ranked horse is not available, they may request to be considered for selection on another horse, according to the procedure outlined above.

5. **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the conclusion of the relevant Event.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and/or Horse owner following selection to the Event:

- [Application](#)
- [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

7.1. USEF Web site: www.usef.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors.

7.2. Other: These procedures will also be available by email upon request.

8. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USADA, and USEF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA and USEF rules, as applicable.

B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
 - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
 - b. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
 - c. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
 - d. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours

prior to collection of samples. 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.

a. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite 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 or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the 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.

3. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

4. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: 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 an Event 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 Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

9. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors

10. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in USEF Bylaws Part VII and in the Supplemental Procedures for Complaints and Grievances. See www.usef.org.

11. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

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.

12. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Selection to the team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event.

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in 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 selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

14. 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	<i>William J. Moroney</i>	1/25/2025
USEF Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		
TEAM USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Sydney Elliott		