



Dressage Elite Program Requirements

The Aim of the Elite Program is to provide support and resources to those athlete/horse combinations that have been proven they are internationally competitive. The program is overseen by the Technical Advisor and Managing Director with oversight provided by the Selectors and the Dressage Sport Committee.

Criteria for Membership Selection

Open to athlete/horse combinations who in the past 12 months have met at least one of the following criteria at a CDI3*/CDIO3* and above;

- 73%+ in the Grand Prix at two competitions within a 3 month window.
- 73%+ in the Grand Prix and 73%+ in the Grand Prix Special at the same competition and 70%+ at an additional competition within a 3 month window.
- 73%+ in the Grand Prix at one competition and 73%+ in the Grand Prix Special at different competition within a 3 month window.
- An average of 73%+ across the Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special at the same competition and 70%+ at an additional competition within a 3 month window.
- 73%+ in the Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special at a CDI5*, CDIO5*, World Cup Finals, Olympic Games or World Equestrian Games.

Other Criteria

- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report.
- Agreement to Requirements to Maintain Membership.
- Willingness of athlete to buy in to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc) and the Program / Team support staff.

Benefits to Membership

- "Home Visit" Observations by the Technical Advisor at Athlete's home base with personal trainer. Managing Director, Team Vet and/or Selectors may also attend in order to facilitate communication and planning.
- A Training Grant will be paid in 6 month blocks, following athletes' Reviews. The Training Grant will be given in order to assist athletes attain their agreed Targets and KPIs. Athletes are required to submit a brief report at the end of the 6 month period summarizing how the funds were utilized and the impact the funds had: Further Grants will not be paid if a Report is not received.
- Priority Access to educational opportunities offered through the Elite Program.
- Competition Planning (Competition planning toward key Championship events – establish KPI's and strategies for short term and long term).



- Equine and Human Sports Science Medicine Support (Equine and Human SSM).
- Logistical planning and support.
- Upon application, additional financial assistance towards specified competition or training in order to support sustained success at the world and Games level.
- Included on US Equestrian Dressage Elite Program Member List published on www.usequestrian.org as well as issued in Press Releases at least once a year.

Requirements to Maintain Membership

- The Elite Program Members will be reviewed twice annually, those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have the ride on a horse capable of meeting the criteria, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the program.
- Must continue to meet the Minimum Criteria for Selection as outlined above. Must achieve this within 6 months following qualification for the Elite Program unless given an exception by the Technical Advisor and Managing Director, who will also consult with the Selectors.
- Must set targets with Technical Advisor and Managing Director to encourage improved performance and results
- Demonstrate involvement with Human SSM Program as available and appropriate.
- Encourage communication between support staff and US Equestrian Dressage support staff.
- Be of assistance with US Equestrian efforts to promote equestrian sports and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Demonstrate a commitment to the aims of the Program and the Code of Conduct

Other

- The Elite Program List will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Membership is based upon an athlete/horse combination. If an athlete has more than one horse qualified for membership, they may not receive the same financial support with the 2nd horse.
- Those on the Grand Prix A & B List but do not meet the criteria for Elite Program Membership may be eligible to receive some of the benefits of the Elite Program (subject to funds/availability):
 - “Home” Visit by Technical Advisor (and possibly Team Vet, Selectors and/or Managing Director) in order to facilitate communication and planning.
 - Access to educational opportunities offered through the Elite Program.
 - Upon application, possible financial assistance towards specified competition or training
 - Access to US Equestrian Human and Equine SSM education resources.

Additional Information: Questions should be addressed to Hallye Griffin, Managing Director - 859.225.6949 or hgriffin@usef.org.