



Newsletter: January, 2025

2025 PARA DRESSAGE CPEDI EVENTS

January 22-26 Wellington, FL (Global)

March 6-9 Wellington, FL (Global)

May 1-4 Myakka City, FL (Terra Nova)

August 18-24 Wayne, IL Festival of Champions / Para Dressage National Championships

October 23-26 Mill Spring, NC (Tryon)

November 13-16 Thermal, CA (Thermal)



USDF IS NEW USEF RECOGNIZED AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION FOR PARA DRESSAGE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

USDF and USEF are thrilled to announce the new partnership. Leading up to this transition, representatives from the United States Para Equestrian Association (USPEA), USEF Para-Equestrian Sport Committee, and USDF representatives formed a taskforce that worked in tandem with the USEF executive arm to identify necessary changes, edits, and additions to USDF Policies & Procedures and Bylaws to reflect the assimilation of para dressage into the USDF structure and outline the duties and responsibilities that come with the corresponding affiliate role. With the support of USPEA, USEF approved the USDF request to become the Recognized Affiliate at their fall meeting, and the motion was approved by the USDF Board of Governors at the Adequan®/USDF Annual Convention in Houston.

“The logical combining of para and able-bodied dressage representation under the USDF umbrella is just one more step forward in USDF’s mission and to make even more clear the parallels between both disciplines,” said USDF President George Williams. “We are so grateful to have the support of both USPEA and USEF in this affiliate change and believe it will allow USPEA to shift their focus to fundraising and education efforts related to para-equestrian sport, in accordance with their recently updated mission and vision. USDF is primed to incorporate para dressage fully into the USDF fold, represent its interests with USEF, and fulfill all associated responsibilities with this official designation. We look forward to the opportunity to represent and support para dressage and grow recognition and participation in the sport going forward.”

USPEA President Ellie Brimmer agreed, stating, “USDF taking over the affiliate position has been a goal since the founding of USPEA. We believe that this will be an opportunity to grow para dressage sport on a national level. I’m excited as an athlete to see how para will hold space in such a respected organization as USDF, I think it will be beneficial to both able-bodied and para riders. As an organization, USPEA is excited to be continuing our relationship with USEF as an educational partner. This new role will allow us to provide education about para dressage on an individual and organizational level. We already offer several grants to new athletes, and we are hoping to be able to expand those opportunities in the future with our new focus and see more riders find success and joy in para dressage sport.”

Just as it has in its role as Recognized Affiliate for Dressage, the role of USDF will be to represent para dressage in the same national context, with USEF retaining responsibility for high performance and FEI representation.

Hallye Griffin, Director of FEI Sport at US Equestrian added, “We are very supportive of the United States Dressage Federation taking on the role as the official discipline affiliate for the sport of para dressage. Especially coming off the great success of the 2024 U.S. Para Dressage Team at the Paris Paralympics Games, this is the perfect opportunity to provide further structure, governance, and success for this growing discipline in the United States. Working directly with USDF staff and leadership will be a tremendous benefit to the discipline’s growth

and governance. We believe that this partnership will not only enhance the visibility of para dressage but provide new opportunities and recognition for the para dressage discipline and the athletes and stakeholders committed to ensuring its success here in the U.S.”

As of January 1, 2025, the newly established USDF Para Dressage Committee will begin work on its mission to foster, encourage, and advocate for the full integration of para dressage into the USDF structure and mission in a way that effectively embraces and represents the true ‘parallels’ of dressage and its benefits, as well as serving as a resource to outside entities on para dressage related topics and opportunities.

For more information about USEF Recognized Affiliates and their roles, click [here](#).

About USEF

The United States Equestrian Federation (US Equestrian) is the national governing body for equestrian sport with the mission of providing access and increased participation in equestrian sports at all levels by ensuring fairness, safety, and enjoyment. Since its creation in 2003, US Equestrian has been bringing the joy of horse sports to as many people as possible. US Equestrian also oversees the selection process and funding allocation for all United States Equestrian Teams, with the goal of producing sustained success at the highest international levels of equestrian sport.

About USPEA

The [United States Para-Equestrian Association \(USPEA\)](#) is a network of current and past athletes, owners, officials, event organizers, and equestrian enthusiasts. The Association assists athletes to get involved and expand their knowledge and experience in the disciplines of Para-Equestrian.

About USDF

The [United States Dressage Federation](#) is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to education, recognition of achievement, and promotion of dressage. For more information about USDF membership or programs. For questions, please e-mail usdressage@usdf.org, or call (859) 971-2277.

2026 FEI World Championships Para Dressage Athlete Memo

This preliminary information is provided to assist you with your competition planning and is subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee and is subject to final approval by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee. Therefore, it is subject to change upon the approval of the final Selection Procedures by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee. The 2026 FEI World Championships Para Dressage Team (Event) is scheduled to take place August 19 – 23 in Aachen, Germany. Please be advised that in addition to earning an FEI Certificate of Capability in accordance with the FEI rules (pending publication) for the Event, the proposed Qualifying Competition period for the Event will begin January 1, 2025. It is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be required to complete all three tests in their classified grade: FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A, FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix B, and FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle, at a minimum of two Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions to be eligible for an invitation to the Observation Event(s) or to be named to the Short List. Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions will include all U.S. and foreign CPEDI3* events that begin January 1, 2025 or later. A list of these competitions can be found at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>. It is anticipated that Short List athlete/horse combinations will be required to compete in one or more mandatory outings. These mandatory outings may include one or more of the U.S. or European CPEDI3* events. The designated mandatory outing(s) will be published in the USEF Selection Procedures for the Event. After the conclusion of the Qualifying Competition period, it is anticipated that athlete/horse combinations will be named to the Short List by the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, based upon the below criteria, listed in no order of priority:

- a. Scores from Grand Prix B tests beginning January 1, 2025 with the more recent results being scrutinized and considered more heavily. A record of results from CPEDI competitions will be posted on the USEF Para Dressage web page under the 2026 Para Dressage World Championships page based on scores from the Grand Prix B test ranked overall, regardless of Grade Note: This is only one point in consideration in selection.
- b. International competitiveness, and medal potential within athlete's grade in the FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A, and FEI Grand Prix Freestyle tests

beginning January 1, 2025, with the more recent results being scrutinized and considered more heavily.

c. Trend of scores (upward, steady, downward) over the six months prior to Nominated Entry date.

d. Consistency of scores over 72%.

e. Previous International experience of athlete and/or horse. Both successful & unsuccessful.

f. Fitness and soundness of the horse – advice of the Para Dressage Team Veterinarian or another appointed Veterinarian approved by the Team Veterinarian or USEF.

g. Fitness of the athlete, in consultation with the Program Human Sports Science Staff.

h. Behavior of the athlete and individuals associated with the athlete (including without limitation owners, coaches, grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment. Behavior at previous events may be taken into consideration.

i. Willingness of the athlete to work within the confines of the Event accreditation allocations and restrictions.

If you have any questions regarding the above or the development of the Selection Procedure for the Event, please do not hesitate to contact Laureen Johnson, Director of Para Equestrian at 859-225-7693 or lkjohnson@usef.org.

2025 PARA DRESSAGE RIDER SYMPOSIUMS

ROasis Riding Oasis: March 3-4

U.S. Para Dressage Rider Symposium for athletes listed on the USEF Para Dressage Pathway and Programs with Michel Assouline and Sarah Leitch, FEI 4* Para Dressage Judge at 4560 South Shore Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33414. Applications may be found through your USEF membership portal, Athlete Dashboard, Online Applications. Application deadline is February 21, 2025.

Wheatland Farm: April 26-27

U.S. Para Dressage Rider Symposium with Michel Assouline at Wheatland Farm, Purcellville, VA. Applications may be found through your USEF membership portal, Athlete Dashboard, Online Applications. Application deadline is April 11, 2025.

Future symposiums will be listed on the USEF Para Equestrian Dressage webpage as the calendar is developed.

2025 PARA DRESSAGE COACH PROGRAM

U.S. Para Dressage Coach Program is scheduled for April 25-26 at Wheatland Farm, Purcellville, VA. Applications may be found through your USEF membership portal, Athlete Dashboard, Online Applications. Application deadline is April 4, 2025. You may find all information regarding the Para Dressage Coach Program [HERE](#).

2025 PARA DRESSAGE COACH PROGRAM CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Trainers who have attended the Para Dressage Coach Program Theoretical I and II, may join us at ROasis Riding Oasis, March 3-4 to audit the Para Dressage Symposium's FEI 4* Para Dressage judge, Sarah Leitch. Sarah has been an integral part of the 2024 Paralympic athletes' success providing them with the nuances of what the Paralympic judges would want to see and assisting them alongside Michel Assouline with achieving those goals. Please email the Director of Para Equestrian, Laureen Johnson at lkjohnson@usef.org if you're interested in attending the symposium as an auditor.

INTERMEDIARE PARA DRESSAGE DIVISION ADDED TO THE FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS

USEF is pleased to announce that an Intermediare Para Dressage Division has been added to the format for the 2025 Festival of Champions. Applications are now available through your USEF membership portal for the Grand Prix and Intermediare Divisions. Applications close June 17, 2025. Qualifying criteria may be found [HERE](#).

PRE-ELITE DIVISION ADDED TO THE USEF PARA EQUESTRIAN DRESSAGE PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND PATHWAY

Effective 1/14/2025, a Pre-Elite Division has been added to the USEF Para Equestrian Dressage Program Structure and Pathways along with updates to the Elite, Development and Emerging Divisions. All division structures may be found [HERE](#)

Congratulations to the athletes listed below on your accomplishments in 2024.

PARA DRESSAGE PATHWAYS AND PROGRAMS ATHLETE LIST

Updated 1.14.2025

ELITE

Beatrice de Lavalette / Sixth Sense

Rebecca Hart / El Corona Texel / Floratina

Fiona Howard / Diamond Dunes / Jagger

Kate Shoemaker / Vianne / Quiana

Roxanne Trunnell / Fan Tastico H

DEVELOPMENT

Meghan Bengel / Richard Lowenherz

Eleanor Brimmer / My Moment

Sydney Collier / Bell Bottoms

Hannah Kingsley / Eragon VF / Latina

Laurietta Oakleaf / Nicodemus OSF

Andie Sue Roth / Aniko

Cynthia Screnci / For Memory 4 / Sir Chipoli

Marta White / Aniko

Elle Woolley / Deucalion

Skyler Wroblewski / Clarc

EMERGING

Michelle La Barre

Adalie Tuman

Elizabeth Welch

Shelley White