



U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions Competition Format

The U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions (“Championships”) Competition Format (“Championship Format”) is effective February 22, 2022, unless stated otherwise. The information published herein is subject to additions or revisions. **These Championships will be conducted under USEF Rules, except as outlined herein.** Any questions concerning this Championship Format, please contact the US Equestrian Dressage Department at festival@usef.org.

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc on February 22, 2022. This document may be amended upon approval by the USEF Chief Executive Officer. Reasonable written notice will be provided to affected athletes.

USEF reserves the right to cancel or relocate the Championships if its occurrence is prevented by weather conditions; changes in the management; insufficient entries; outbreaks or threatened outbreaks of equine illnesses; or any alterations of plans whether within or beyond USEF’s or management’s control. USEF reserves the right to relocate the Championships should USEF deem the facility and competition management did not adequately meet the standards set forth for a National Championship.

For All Championships:

For all Para Dressage Championship classes, tests must be ridden from memory unless an exemption is listed on the athlete's Dispensation/Classification Certificate. The use of one (1) whip is permitted for all para dressage athletes and the use of two (2) whips is determined through the classification process.

For all Dressage Championship classes, tests must be ridden from memory and the following are considered technical faults and zero-point five percentage points (0.5%) will be deducted per fault by each Judge, but these deductions are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination (including for Freestyle tests). In Children classes and classes for seven-year-old horses, penalty points must be deducted from both judging procedures (technical and quality). It is the responsibility of the Judge at C to decide whether a penalty should be applied, and the other judges' sheets should be marked accordingly to ensure consistency:

Description of Technical Fault	Comments
Entering the space around the arena with a whip or with boots/bandages on the Horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves)	It is not permitted to carry a whip while competing in the arena. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the Competition arena or the Athlete will be penalized per the technical faults.
Entering the Dressage arena with a whip or with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves).	If the test has already started before the discrepancy has been noticed, the Judge at C stops the Athlete and if needed and possible, an assistant may enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete then continues the test from the movement where they were stopped. The marks given before they were stopped are not changed.
Entering the arena before the sound of the bell.	
Not entering the arena within forty-five (45) seconds after the bell, but within ninety (90) seconds.	Exceeding 90 seconds will entail elimination except where a valid reason is accepted by the Judge at "C" (losing a shoe, etc.).
For Freestyle tests, entering the arena after more than thirty (30) seconds of music.	
Using voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly.	
Athletes not taking the reins in one (1) hand at the salute.	

24 Hour / One Athlete Rule: With the exception of the Para Dressage Championships and the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals, for all Dressage Championships, within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse entered in a USEF Dressage National Championship class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse or pony and athlete arrive on the show grounds.

Horse Inspection (Jog): With the exception of the USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals, all horses entered in these Championships will be examined for soundness. A horse inspection will be scheduled prior to the start of the Championship classes, at which time horses must be presented to an FEI Veterinarian and at least one (1) member of the judging panel for examination. Horses shall be evaluated from the side and following consultation with the FEI Veterinarian, the decision of the judge(s) is final and not subject to further protest. If a horse does not pass the horse inspection, the athlete may request to re-present the horse to the judge(s) and FEI Veterinarian. The judge(s) must give an option for reinspection in consultation with Competition Management at any time up to one (1) hour prior to the start of the class. The FEI Veterinarian and the judge(s) from the original panel must be present. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear during the horse inspection.

Adequan® / USEF Grand Prix Para Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for all Championship tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired). Each member of the panel must have the FEI Para Dressage designation.

- A. DAY 1: All entries in the Championship will compete in the current edition of the FEI Para Grand Prix A Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Para Grand Prix B Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Para Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th.
- C. DAY 3: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 15% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th.
- D. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Grand Prix A Test – 40%, Grand Prix B Test – 45%, Para Grand Prix Freestyle – 15%. **Champion and Reserve Champion placings are open to all combinations who successfully complete the Grand Prix A Test, the Grand Prix B Test, and the Para Grand Prix Freestyle.**
- E. TIES: Breaking of ties in Grand Prix A and Grand Prix B Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Grand Prix B Test only.
- F. The FEI Para Rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.

For clarification purposes to the above, the USEF Grand Prix Para Dressage National Championship will serve as one (1) Championship for Grades I-V.

Adequan® / USEF Intermediaire I Para Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for all Championship tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired). Each member of the panel must have the FEI Para Dressage designation.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Para Intermediate A Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- G. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Para Intermediate B Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Para Team Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th.
- C. DAY 3: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle Test relevant to the athlete's grade level. This test will count towards 15% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th.
- D. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Intermediate A Test – 40%, Intermediate B Test – 45%, Para Intermediate Freestyle – 15%. Champion and Reserve Champion placings are open to all combinations who successfully complete the Intermediate A Test, the Intermediate B Test, and the Para Intermediate Freestyle.
- E. TIES: Breaking of ties in Intermediate A and Intermediate B Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Intermediate B Test only.
- F. The FEI Para Rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.

For clarification purposes to the above, the USEF Intermediaire I Para Dressage National Championship will serve as one (1) Championship for Grades I-V.

USEF Children Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF S Judge.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Children Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Children Individual Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Children Team Test; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Children Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. The complete and current versions of the FEI Children Team and Individual Tests will be used. This includes both the Technical and Quality Marking components of the FEI Team and FEI Individual Tests and will be scored in each class as indicated on the tests.
- E. TIES: Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- F. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.

USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF S Judge.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of FEI Pony Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete current edition of FEI Pony Individual Test. The test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Pony Rider Team Test; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Pony Rider Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES: Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.

Adequan® / USEF Junior Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF S Judge.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Junior Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Junior Individual Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Junior Team Test; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Junior Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES: Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.

USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by a minimum of three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired).

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Young Rider Team Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Young Rider Individual Test. This test will count towards 50% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Young Rider Team Test; first drawn in a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Young Rider Team Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Team Test – 50%, Individual Test – 50%.
- D. TIES: Breaking of ties in Team and Individual Tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the Individual Test only.
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment and Drug Rules will be followed.

Adequan® / USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired).

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate II Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five conducted in reverse order of placing from the FEI Intermediate II Test; first drawn a group of two (2), placed 11th and 12th. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Intermediate II Test.
- C. DAY 3: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test utilizing the FEI Freestyle System (Degree of Difficulty / DoD). Information regarding the FEI Freestyle System will be published in the official prize list and in the invitation to this Championship. This test will count towards 15% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing.
- D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion will be determined based upon overall average: Intermediate II – 40%, Grand Prix 16-25 – 45%, Grand Prix Freestyle – 15%.
- E. TIES: Breaking of ties in individual tests will be in accordance with DR123.3. Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test only.
- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests. USEF Drug Rules will be followed.

USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a Level 3 or 4 and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with Level 2 may be used.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate I Test. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1 = three (3) Athletes, Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group 4 = five (5) Athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.
- C. DAY 3: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate Freestyle Test. This test will count towards 15% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1 = three (3) Athletes, Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group 4 = five (5) Athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes.
- D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion will be determined based upon overall average: Prix St. Georges – 40%, Intermediate I – 45%, Intermediate I Freestyle – 15%.
- E. TIES: Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Intermediate I Test only
- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply which includes protective headgear. FEI Drug Rules will be followed.

USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by five (5) FEI Judges (active or retired) with a Level 3 or 4 and a maximum of one (1) FEI Judge (active or retired) with Level 2 may be used.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Test. This test will count towards 45% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Special Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group 4 = five (5) Athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes.
- C. DAY 3: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test utilizing the FEI Freestyle System (Degree of Difficulty / DoD). Information regarding the FEI Freestyle System will be published in the official prize list and in the invitation to this Championship. This test will count towards 15% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 2's placing. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1= three (3) Athletes, Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group 4 = five (5) Athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes.
- D. Placing including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Grand Prix – 45%, Grand Prix Special – 40%, Grand Prix Freestyle – 15%.
- E. TIES: Ties for overall Championship placings will be determined by scores in the FEI Grand Prix Special Test only.
- F. The FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests will apply which includes protective headgear. FEI Drug Rules will be followed.

Markel / USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships – Four-, Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year-Old

The Ground Jury for all Championships tests, the panel must have either USEF or FEI Young Horse Designation. Competition Management shall provide a sound system and a microphone for the judges to give the audience a short summary after each ride.

For the 4-, 5-, and 6-Year -Old divisions, these tests will be officiated by either four (4) FEI Judges (active or retired) or three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge. Two (2) judges will sit together at C and two (2) Judges will sit together at either B or E. Judges shall give one score and fill out general comments on one Marking Sheet.

For the 7-Year-Old division, these tests will be officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges (active or retired) or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge. Two (2) judges will sit together at B or E scoring only the Quality Marking Sheet and one (1) judge will sit at C scoring the Technical Marking Sheet.

- A. DAY 1 (current test editions will be used): All entries in the 4-Year-Old Division will compete in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses. All entries in the 5-, 6, and 7-Year-Old Divisions will compete in their respective Preliminary Tests. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2 (current test editions will be used): All entries in the 4-Year-Old Division will compete in the USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses. All entries in the 5-, 6, and 7-Year-Old Divisions will compete in their respective Final Test. Starting order will be determined by a draw in three (3) groups of five (5) horses, based upon the scores from Day 1; the highest-placing group will draw for the third set of class ride times. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1 = three (3), Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group (4) = five (5) athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes.

At least two (2) judges must differ from those officiating Day 1 in the 4-, 5-, and 6-Year-Old Championships. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating Day 1 in the 7-Year-Old Championship.

- C. The complete and current versions of the FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary and Final Tests will be used. This includes both the Technical and Quality Marking components of the FEI Seven-Year-Old Tests and will be scored in each class as indicated on the tests.
- D. Complete placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion for each age division (4, 5, 6, & 7), will be determined based upon overall average: Day 1 – 40%, Day 2 – 60%.
- E. TIES: Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for the individual classes will be in accordance with DR123.3. For the overall Championship placing:
 - i. In the case of a tie, the United States bred horse shall prevail (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.).
 - ii. If two or more U.S. bred horses are tied for the same placing or two or more non-U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing, breaking of ties will be at the judging panel's discretion.
- F. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.

Markel / USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championship – Prix St. Georges

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test. This test will count towards 60% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing; the highest-placing group will draw for the third set of class ride times. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1 = three (3), Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group (4) = five (5) athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Prix St. Georges Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Day 1 – 40%, Day 2 – 60%.
- D. TIES: Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for individual classes will be in accordance with DR123.3. For the overall Championship placing:
 - i. In the case of a tie, the United States bred horse shall prevail (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.).
 - ii. If two or more U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing or two or more non-U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing, breaking of ties will be at the judging panel's discretion
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.

Markel / USEF Developing Horse Dressage National Championship – Grand Prix

The Ground Jury for these Championship tests will be officiated by either three (3) FEI Judges or two (2) FEI Judges (active or retired) and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge.

- A. DAY 1: All entries will compete in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate II Test. This test will count towards 40% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by an open draw.
- B. DAY 2: All entries will compete in the current edition of the USEF Developing Grand Prix Test. This test will count towards 60% of the overall average. Starting order will be determined by a draw in groups of five (5) in reverse order of placing from Day 1's placing; the highest-placing group will draw for the third set of class ride times. If the numbers are not evenly divided by five (5), the first group shall be the smallest group i.e., for twenty-three (23) Athletes: Group 1 = three (3), Group 2 = five (5) Athletes, Group 3 = five (5) Athletes, Group (4) = five (5) athletes and Group 5 = five (5) Athletes. At least one (1) judge must differ from those officiating the FEI Intermediate II Test.
- C. Placings, including National Champion and Reserve Champion, will be determined based upon overall average: Day 1 – 40%, Day 2 – 60%.
- D. TIES: Horses will be ranked in order of their scores in each test. Breaking of ties for individual classes will be in accordance with DR123.3. For the overall Championship placing:
 - i. In the case of a tie, the United States bred horse shall prevail (U.S. bred is defined as a horse that is foaled in the U.S.).
 - ii. If two or more U.S.–bred horses are tied for the same placing or two or more non-U.S.-bred horses are tied for the same placing, breaking of ties will be at the judging panel's discretion.
- E. USEF Saddlery, Equipment, and Drug Rules will be followed.