



Para Dressage Emerging Athlete Program Structure and Pathways

(Updated and Effective 1/1/2025)

The Aim of the Emerging Athlete Program is to reinforce the Development Athlete Program and will be comprised of “recognized” programs that could be run by the USEF, United States Para Equestrian Association (USPEA), and/or individual Centers of Excellence (COEs).

Emerging Athlete Program – Criteria for Selection

- Obtained a USEF National or FEI International Para Dressage classification with a confirmed or review status with a fixed review date (FRD), and
- Track 1: Received two (2) scores of 64% or greater from the FEI Para Dressage Novice A and B tests OR 62% or greater in the FEI Para Dressage Intermediate A and B tests OR 60% or greater in the FEI Para Dressage Grand Prix A and Grand Prix B tests, at the athlete’s classified grade at a USEF recognized show or through the USPEA Virtual judging program within 12 months of the application.
- Track 2: Received a 60% or greater from the FEI Para Dressage Novice A and B tests at a CPEDI1* within 12 months of application.

Emerging athletes who have not produced the minimum scores as outlined above in the previous 12 months, will be removed from the Pathway Program, until the athlete has achieved the required scores for regaining the Emerging Pathway tier.

Each COE that runs a recognized Emerging Athlete Program will develop a program which includes:

- A Coach nominated for approval or approved by the USEF / USPEA.
- A roadmap to Classification, ideally to FEI standard (USEF Classification meets criteria).
- Quarterly written updates on athletes’ progress.
- A yearly review system of the program, trainer, venue, athlete and USEF/USPEA support.

USEF will provide:

- A structure and template for Reviews.
- Learning materials regarding the international standards in each Grade.

USPEA will provide:

- Jonathan Wentz Memorial, Hope Hand Memorial and Meg Mullin Memorial Grants for Emerging athletes that meet the criteria as stated in each grant.
- USPEA Virtual Judging Program for the FEI Para Dressage Introductory A and B tests. Criteria and details of the above may be found at www.uspea.org

Emerging Athletes who have successfully obtained a classification and required results as listed above must complete and submit an application in order to be added to the USEF Emerging Athlete List.

Athletes who have not achieved scores within 12 months will be removed from the Program, until scores are secured and athlete re-applies to the Program.

Athlete List will be reviewed and edited quarterly by the USEF Director of Para Equestrian.

Staffing

- Discipline Director – Laureen Johnson
- USPEA President – Eleanor Brimmer