



# Para Dressage Criteria to Compete in Foreign CPEDIs

## Revised March, 2024

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Athletes wishing to be considered for any CPEDI event outside of the U.S., including Canada, and Mexico, must submit an online application to the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., (USEF) pursuant to Chapter 8, GR828 of the USEF Rulebook. Applications submitted 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee.

In order to receive permission from the USEF to compete in foreign CPEDIs, the following eligibility requirements must be met:

### **1. ELIGIBILITY OF THE ATHLETE, OWNER, HORSE**

#### **A. The Athlete**

- ✓ Must be a U.S. citizen and designated the U.S. as sport nationality with the FEI General Regulations, Article 119.
- ✓ International Events, including Championships and Games, are open to Athletes from the year in which they reach their 14th birthday in accordance with the FEI Para Dressage Rules, 4th edition, effective 1 January 2024, Article 8426.1.
- ✓ Must be a current member of the USEF, and current on the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- ✓ Must be eligible to compete at respective Grade, as designated by the FEI Classification, in accordance with the FEI Para Dressage Rules, 4th edition, effective 1 January 2024, Article 8429.
- ✓ Must be an Active Member and in good standing of USEF at the time of application and until the conclusion of the Event.
- ✓ Must have a current FEI Rider Registration and be in good standing with the FEI at the time of application and until the conclusion of the competition.

#### **B. Owner:**

- ✓ Must be an active member in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation at the time of application and through the conclusion of the competition and have proof, in English, of membership in good standing of his/her National Federation.

#### **C. Horse:**

- ✓ Must be eligible to compete at its respective level under current FEI Para Dressage Rules



- ✓ Horses must be a minimum of six (6) years of age. The age is counted from the 1st January of the year of birth (1st August for the Southern Hemisphere) in accordance with the FEI Para Dressage Rules, 4th edition, effective 1 January 2024, Article 8430.
- ✓ Must be registered with FEI, have a valid FEI Passport, and in good standing with the FEI, USEF, and/or the owner's National Federation at the time of the application through the conclusion of the event.

## **2. MINIMUM CRITERIA AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION TO COMPETE**

*Copies of complete results/score with Judges may be requested by USEF Athlete Services ([cbarnett@usef.org](mailto:cbarnett@usef.org)).*

### **FOREIGN CPEDIs**

#### **Athlete and Horse:**

Athlete and Horse must have achieved a minimum of 67% or higher from one (1) FEI Grand Prix A test and one (1) FEI Grand Prix B test (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized show and/or a CPEDI3\*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Both tests must be from within six (6) months of the start date of the event.

See Annex C below for CPEDI criteria in detail.

## **3. WAIVERS**

If an athlete or horse does not meet the criteria noted above, under extraordinary circumstances, the USEF Para Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, may grant a waiver to the above criteria to compete at foreign CPEDIs. Athletes must submit the Waiver Request found at [HERE](#). The following criteria will be used to evaluate Waiver Applications:

- Previous international experience of the horse and/or athlete.
- The impact that the event may have on the success at a future Games or Championship event,
- The impact the event may have on the development of the athlete, the horse, or the combination.
- Applicant provides competition records that demonstrate they have an upward trajectory of scores, and the potential of achieving over 70% at athlete's grade.

- Veterinary or Medical circumstances that may have prohibited the athlete and/or horse from competing (additional information may be requested to verify these circumstances).
- Athlete and/or horse have relocated, or are currently training in an area outside of the US.

If a waiver is approved the combination or horse must receive a score greater than or equal to the minimum eligibility score or average (ie. 67% or above) to participate in another event of the same level without resubmitting a waiver request.

**Note: Athlete is responsible for all the competition related expenses for the athlete, horse**

**and support personnel including groom, PCA (personal care assistant) and/or coach. It is the athlete's responsibility to secure necessary support personnel.**

#### **4. OVERSUBSCRIPTION AT CPEDI EVENTS**

Should there be an oversubscription of athlete applications, over the number of invitations received, 14 days before the deadline of Nominated entries for CPEDI Events outside of the U.S., the Para-Equestrian Dressage Technical Advisor, in consultation with the Head Selector and Team Veterinarian, and the USEF Para Equestrian Sport Committee may select which combinations shall be nominated based on their record of results.

In addition, USEF Elite athletes may receive priority over other athletes for CPEDI3\* outside of the U.S. when general invitations are issued to USEF and may receive approval to compete in at least two (2) CPEDIs depending upon the circumstances.

#### **5. APPLICATION TO COMPETE IN FOREIGN COMPETITIONS**

**a. Applications to compete outside of the U.S. are found by:**

1. Sign-in to the Athlete's USEF Account [HERE](#).
2. Scroll down to: FEI Competition Entry & Competing Abroad
3. Open Online Application to Compete Abroad

**b. Application Fees (Non-refundable):**

- i. \$75 application fee for each competition
- ii. \$200 waiver request fee (if applicable)
- iii. \$750 Prepaid annual application fee (optional): this fee is due when submitting the first application for the competition year. This fee applies to the first ten (10) FEI competitions held outside of the U.S. Athletes competing less than 10 competitions do not receive a refund, credit, or partial credit for the prepaid application fee.
- iv. \$75 late fee: An athlete who submits an application 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee. The late fee may be applied even if an athlete provides payment for the prepaid annual application fee.

## **6. WITHDRAWAL FROM CPEDI EVENTS**

Once an athlete has submitted an application to compete and should you need to withdraw, the following steps are to be taken immediately:

REMINDER: USEF fees are non-refundable regardless if you compete or withdraw.

**a. Withdrawing from competition before an entry has been submitted on your behalf or before the Organizing Committee has confirmed an invitation:**

- i. Send an email to USEF Athlete Services ([krichards@usef.org](mailto:krichards@usef.org)) and include the reason for the withdrawal.

**Withdrawing from a competition after an entry has been submitted on your**

**behalf and/or after the Organizing Committee has confirmed your invitation:**

- ii. Concurrently email USEF Athlete Services ([cbarnett@usef.org](mailto:cbarnett@usef.org)) and the Organizing Committee. The email is to state the reason for the withdrawal and an apology to the Organizing Committee for any inconvenience your withdrawal may have caused. The Organizing Committee's contact information can be found in the schedule for that particular event.

### **ATHLETE SERVICES CONTACT INFORMATION**

**FEI APPLICATIONS, INVITATIONS AND ENTRIES, NATIONAL PERMISSION, RESULTS,  
HORSE & RIDER REGISTRATION**

**Kristen Richards: [krichards@usef.org](mailto:krichards@usef.org) or 859.225.6989**

**Annex C of USEF Para Dressage rules  
USA Para Dressage requirements for CPEDI3s EFFECTIVE May 10, 2023**

	<b>Central/South America, Asia, Australia (Revised May 9, 2023)</b>	<b>Europe (Revised May 9, 2023)</b>	<b>North America – USA &amp; Canada (Revised 02.14.24)</b>
<b>Big Tour/CPEDI3*</b>	<p><b>Athletes must complete all requirements from sections A and B as follows for a total of five (5) tests:</b></p> <p><b>A. Athlete Qualification</b>  <b>Within the previous 12 months.</b>  <b>Athletes must earn a minimum 67% in each of the following tests at a CPEDI3*:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. FEI Para Grand Prix Test A</b></li> <li><b>2. FEI Para Grand Prix Test B</b></li> <li><b>3. FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test</b></li> </ol> <p><b>B. Athlete/Horse combination Qualification</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Within the previous 6 months, athlete/horse combination must earn a minimum 67% in both FEI Para Grand Prix A &amp; B tests.</b></li> <li><b>2. Scores must be earned from one of the following options:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. CPEDI3*</b></li> <li><b>b. USEF Para Dressage National Championship</b></li> <li><b>c. Virtual judging</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Athletes must complete all requirements from sections A and B as follows for a total of five (5) tests:</b></p> <p><b>A. Athlete Qualification</b>  <b>Within the previous 12 months.</b>  <b>Athletes must earn a minimum 67% in each of the following tests at a CPEDI3*:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. FEI Para Grand Prix Test A</b></li> <li><b>2. FEI Para Grand Prix Test B</b></li> <li><b>3. FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test</b></li> </ol> <p><b>B. Athlete/Horse combination Qualification</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Within the previous 6 months, athlete/horse combination must earn a minimum 67% in both FEI Para Grand Prix A &amp; B tests.</b></li> <li><b>2. Scores must be earned from one of the following options:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. CPEDI3*</b></li> <li><b>b. USEF Para Dressage National Championship</b></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Athlete must have achieved a 64% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Para Grand Prix Test A, one (1) Para Grand Prix Test B, and one (1) Para Grand Prix Freestyle Test. (minimum three tests). Two tests must be from a USEF recognized show or CPEDI3*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. (Ridden offsite). All tests must be from within twenty four (24) months of the start date of the event. (Exception for athletes that have achieved a 68% or greater within the past forty-eight (48) months at a Paralympics or World Championships)</b></p>



	<b>program (Ridden offsite, but onsite considered under exceptional circumstances and in agreement from the USEF Director of Para Equestrian and the Para Dressage Technical Advisor in consultation with the Para Dressage Head Selector).</b>	<b>c. Virtual judging program (Ridden offsite, but onsite considered under exceptional circumstances and in agreement from the USEF Director of Para Equestrian and the Para Dressage Technical Advisor, in consultation with the Para Dressage Head Selector).</b>	
<b>Medium Tour/ CPEDI2*</b>	<b>Athlete and Horse, individually, must have achieved a 64% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Intermediate Test A and one (1) Intermediate Test B (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized</b>	<b>Athlete and Horse, individually must have achieved a 64% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Intermediate Test A and one (1) Intermediate Test B (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized</b>	<b>Athlete must have achieved a 60% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Intermediate Test A and one (1) Intermediate Test B or Grand Prix Tests A &amp; B (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized show or CPEDI2*,</b>
	<b>show or CPEDI2*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Ridden offsite) Both tests must be from within six (6) months of the start date of the event.</b>	<b>show or CPEDI2*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Ridden offsite) Both tests must be from within six (6) months of the start date of the event.</b>	<b>one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Ridden offsite) Both tests must be from within twelve (12) months of the start date of the event.</b>

<p><b>Small Tour/ CPEDI1*</b></p>	<p><b><i>Athlete and Horse, individually, must have achieved a 64% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Novice A and one (1) Novice B test (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized show or CPEDI1*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Ridden offsite) Both tests must be from within six (6) months of the start date of the event.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Athlete and Horse, individually, must have achieved a 64% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Novice A and one (1) Novice B test (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized show or CPEDI1*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Ridden offsite) Both tests must be from within six (6) months of the start date of the event.</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Athlete must have achieved a 60% or higher from FEI Para Dressage tests, one (1) Novice A and one (1) Novice B test Or Intermediate Tests A &amp; B or Grand Prix Tests A &amp; B (minimum two tests) Tests must be from a USEF recognized show or CPEDI1*, one (1) test may be from the USEF Virtual Judging program. Ridden offsite) Both tests must be from within twelve (12) months of the start date of the event.</i></b></p>
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**Waiver: A request for a waiver from part of the qualifying criteria listed above may be granted in exceptional circumstances. Waivers will be reviewed and approved / disapproved by the Para Dressage Technical Advisor in consultation with the Director of Para Equestrian and the Head Selector, who may consult with the Selection Panel. If an athlete's attendance would cause the US to have a Team (3+athletes) at the requested competition, greater scrutiny may be given to tests scores going toward the US Team score. Waiver requests may be found [HERE](#)**