



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential 2026 FEI World Championships Para Dressage Applicants

Date: December 17, 2024

From: Laureen Johnson, Director of Para Equestrian

Re: Planned Selection Methods & FEI Certificates of Capability / 2026 FEI World Championships Para Dressage Team

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.