

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2024 Olympic Games – Paris, France
Dressage
Review Date: January 14, 2024

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport Requirements - The athlete must be a national of the United States and in compliance with the FEI General Regulations, 24th Edition, Article 119 (see www.fei.org) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2024 Olympic Games (the Event or the Games). Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation - Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the United States. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Olympic Charter (Rule 41).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (FEI) standards for participation -

- 1.1.3.1. All athletes must respect and comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force, including but not limited to Rule 41 (Nationality of Competitors) and Rule 43 (World Anti-Doping Code and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions). Only those athletes who respect and comply with the Olympic Charter, the World Anti-Doping Code, and the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, including the conditions of participation established by the IOC, plus the rules of the FEI, may participate in the Olympic Games Paris 2024.
- 1.1.3.2. All athletes and horses wishing to compete on the 2024 Olympic Games U.S. Dressage Team (Team) must meet the FEI qualification criteria in accordance with the FEI Dressage Rules [26th edition, effective 1 January 2023, updated 7 August 2023], Article 401. The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on the FEI website (www.fei.org).
- 1.1.3.3. To be eligible for participation in the Event, athletes and horses must comply with all current [FEI Rules and Regulations](#).
- 1.1.3.4. The athlete must have been born on or before December 31, 2008 (see the FEI Dressage Rules [26th edition, effective 1 January 2023, updated 7 August 2023], Article 429).
- 1.1.3.5. The horse must be born on or before December 31, 2016 (eight (8) years of age) and have height at the withers exceeding 149 cm including shoes (see FEI Dressage Rules [26th edition, effective 1 January 2023, updated 7 August 2023], Article 433).
- 1.1.3.6. The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI. Horses entered for the Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games must have registered with the FEI as property of Owners of the same nationality as the Athlete, by January 15, 2024. Horses, with multinational ownership, must be registered with the FEI by January 15, 2024, under the name of the nation for which the Horse will compete during the Olympic Games (see the [FEI General Regulations](#), Article 139).
- 1.1.3.7. Horse/athlete combination must have achieved at least: A minimum 67% must be attributed twice to the Athlete/Horse combination by both a L4 judge and as an average from all judges in the competition, and the score must be achieved in a Grand Prix test at two different CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5*/CDI-W/CDIO events. The two L4 judges must be of a nationality other than of the Athlete. Scores achieved Grand Prix classes (Consolation) judged by three Judges do not count towards the minimum eligibility requirement. Athletes and Horses must obtain the MER at events which take place from 1 January 2023 until the MER Deadline of 24 June 2024 included.

The list of Olympic Ranking Events and MER Events (as defined the Appendix) for achieving Olympic ranking points / the minimum eligibility requirements will be published on the FEI website: www.fei.org. The list of Olympic Ranking Events and 2023 MER Events will be published on 15

December 2022 and the 2024 MER Events* will be published on 15 December 2023 at the latest. No additions of Events will be accepted after the publication of the selected Events calendar. Replacement in case of cancellation of Event for force majeure reasons will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

1.1.4 Other requirements:

- 1.1.4.1 The athlete must be an active Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entry through the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.4.2 All horses listed on the application must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 and in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entry through the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.4.3 Owners of the applicant Horse(s) must execute the [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#) by the Nominated Entry Deadline.
- 1.1.4.4 Individual Owners as listed on the FEI Passport of the nominated Horse(s) named to the FEI Nominated Entry must be a Senior Active Member of USEF in good standing from the time of Nominated Entry through the conclusion of the Event. Owners must sign the [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#) prior to the Nominated Entry. An Owner's failure to sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement may result in the removal of the Horse and/or Athlete from the FEI Nominated Entry. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Agreement, that they have received, understand, and have read these Selection Procedures for the Event, the [USEF Code of Conduct](#), the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), and that they agree to be bound by them.
- 1.1.4.5 Athlete must successfully complete the USEF Application by the stated deadline - Athletes wishing to be considered for the Team must successfully complete an [online application](#) with the appropriate application fee at www.usef.org. More than one (1) horse may be listed on the application. Applications submitted online on or before **February 15, 2024** at 11:59 PM Eastern will be charged seventy dollars (\$70.00) per application. Applications submitted online after **February 15, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern** and received by USEF on or before **February 29, 2024** at 11:59 PM Eastern will be charged an application fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per application. Horses may be added to an application at no charge until February 29, 2024 at 11:59PM. **NO APPLICATIONS OR CHANGES TO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER February 29, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern.**
- 1.1.4.6 The athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline of March 10, 2024, unless the Athlete requests for an extension of this deadline due to an extraordinary circumstance. Any extension must be approved by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC).
- 1.1.4.7 Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USOPC Background Check Policy](#).
- 1.1.4.8 Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).
- 1.1.4.9 By signing the Application, the athlete certifies that they have received, read, and understand the Selection Procedures for the Team; the [USEF Code of Conduct](#); the [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#); the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) and the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#) including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#); the [Non-Discrimination Policy](#); and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#) and that they understand these documents, and that they agree to be bound by them.

1.2 Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions:

- 1.2.1 **Event names, dates, and locations of all Selection Trials to be used as part of the selection process:** Tryout Events will include all U.S. and foreign CDI 3*/4*/5*/CDI-W or CDIO events between September 11, 2023 – May 6, 2024. This includes the 2023 Pan American Games and 2024 FEI World Cup Final. A list of these competitions can be found at <https://data.fei.org/Calendar/Search.aspx>.

Athlete/horse combinations must complete the FEI Grand Prix test and the FEI Grand Prix Special test in combination at least at two Tryout Events. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test at a Tryout Event during the qualifying period; however, the Grand Prix Freestyle test score will

not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average on the ranking list. Each FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special test will count as half (50%) of an athlete/horse combination's overall average from each Tryout Event (i.e. GP 50% + GPS 50% = 100%) on the ranking list. The FEI Short Grand Prix test may also count towards the ranking list in place of the FEI Grand Prix test. Athlete/horse combinations must complete a minimum of one Tryout Event after January 1, 2024.

The ranking list can be found [here](#) and will be updated each week on Monday. Prior to February 29, 2024, all athlete/horse combinations that have completed at least one Tryout Event will be displayed on the ranking list. Following the close of applications on February 29, 2024, at 11:59pm ET, only athlete/horse combinations which have completed an application for the Event will display on the ranking list.

If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix test at two or more Tryout Events, the lowest FEI Grand Prix test score will be automatically dropped (regardless of whether the FEI Grand Prix Special or FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test was ridden) on the ranking list. If an athlete/horse combination completes the FEI Grand Prix Special test at two or more Tryout Events, the lowest FEI Grand Prix Special test score will be automatically dropped (regardless of whether the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle test was ridden).

If an athlete/horse combination is eliminated and/or does not receive a score from any test at any Tryout Event, for purposes of the ranking list, no score will be shown for that test on the Ranking list. Exception: If an athlete or horse has been disqualified by USEF or the FEI for a medication rule violation from a sample collected in connection with a Tryout Event, that score may be marked as zero and cannot serve as a drop score in the ranking list.

See Section 1.3.3 for information regarding special considerations and waivers to the above requirements.

1.2.2 Short List: After the conclusion of the Qualifying Competition period (May 6, 2024) athlete/horse combinations will be named to a Short List and required to compete at Observation Event(s). The Short List will include athlete/horse combinations but will not exceed eight athletes. Athletes may be named to the Short List with more than one horse listed on their application (it is possible for an athlete to be selected with an additional horse(s)). There will be no ranking of Short List athlete/horse combinations. The athlete/horse combinations recommended to the Dressage Sport Committee by the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian for the Observation Events and approved by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors, will be selected based on the following (in no priority order):

1. Scores from tests from any 2023 and 2024 FEI Dressage events*;
2. Overall ranking from Tryout Events*;
3. Overall average from the FEI Grand Prix Special at Tryout Events;
4. Potential of the athlete and/or horse to contribute to a medal winning team in 2024 and/or future teams meaning that consideration may be given to a talented athlete in order to provide experience for potential future teams;
5. Consistency of scores over 77%;
6. Recent scores and the trend in the scores;
7. The competition format of the 2024 Olympic Games;
8. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
9. "Errors of Course" (FEI Dressage Rules [26th edition, effective 1 January 2023, updated 7 August 2023], Article 424) or Incomplete Qualifying Competitions due to elimination or withdrawal; and
10. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

*For all combinations, the FEI Short Grand Prix may be considered by the Selectors as a lesser importance as this test will not be used at the Event.

In exceptional circumstances, an additional athlete/horse combination may be added to the Short List (possibly exceeding eight (8) athletes) if the scores are reflective of a combination that could assist in the overall Team performance. In reviewing the possibility of adding the combination to the Short List, Selectors will use the criteria cited above, in addition to the combination's scores achieved over the last six (6) months in FEI Dressage Events.

- 1.2.3 **Observation Events:** At the conclusion of the initial qualifying period (September 11, 2023 – May 6, 2024), it is anticipated that up to eight (8) athletes will be selected to a Short List and will be required to compete in Observation Events. Additional athletes may be added to the Short List (see Section 1.2.2). Selected Short List athlete/horse combinations are anticipated to be required to compete in Observation Events between May 13, 2024, and July 7, 2024. The details regarding the Observation Events will be published www.usef.org no later than April 15, 2024, and may include events in Europe and/or events within the United States. Waivers may be considered for the Observation Events upon approval by the Selectors (see section 1.3.5).

The memo regarding the start of the initial qualifying period can be found [here](#).

Please note that an invitation to the Observation Events or being named to the Short List is not a guarantee that an athlete/horse combination will be named to the Team for the Event.

Chef d'Equipe Permissions: Once athlete/horse combinations have been named to the Short List they will come under the leadership of the Chef d'Equipe through the completion of the Event. They shall not compete without the permission of the Chef d'Equipe.

1.3 Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

1.3.3 Selection of Short List – See section 1.2.3

- 1.3.4 **Observation Events** – The Short List athlete/horse combinations may be required to compete in Observation Events. Selected Short List athlete/horse combinations are anticipated to be required to compete in Observation Events between May 13, 2024 and July 7, 2024. The details regarding the Observation Events will be published www.usef.org no later than April 15, 2024 and may include events in Europe and/or events within the United States. Waivers may be considered for the Observation Events upon approval by the Selectors (see Section 1.3.5).

1.3.5 Special Considerations and Waivers

In exceptional circumstances, athlete/horse combinations that have not completed the minimum qualifications outlined in section 1.2.2 may be selected to the Short List and invited to compete at the Observation Events subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors and based on the factors enumerated below (no priority order).

Additionally, an athlete named to the Short List may request special consideration for Team selection without competing in the required number of Observation Events by submitting a written request prior to or during the Observation Events to the Selectors who will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors (no priority order):

- An athlete/horse combination that has demonstrated "Proven Ability" (See attachment A - definitions) to succeed at CDI competitions;
- Previous international experience of the athlete and/or horse;
- The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
- Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If a named athlete's request is approved by the Selectors, an additional athlete/horse combination may be named to the Short List to compete in the Observation Events. If an athlete's request is denied, they must

participate in the Observation Event. Failure to do so, may result in the removal of the athlete and/or horse from consideration for selection to the Team.

If USEF does not receive invitations for all combinations named to compete at the Observation Events, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, will recommend athlete/horse combinations for their designated Observation Events subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors including any CDIOs. Additionally, if an Observation Event is found unsuitable for selection purposes following the publication of the FEI Definite Schedule, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors, may recommend an additional Observation Event or may recommend athlete/horse combinations for their designated Observation Events subject to approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors including any CDIOs.

In consultation with the athlete, the Selectors and Chef d'Equipe may request that the athlete/horse combination attend additional Observation Events. If this request is made by the Selectors, they will articulate their reasoning for making the request to the athlete.

1.3.6 FEI Nominated Entry (June 24, 2024) - By no later than the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry (June 24, 2024), and based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarian, will recommend up to the maximum number of athletes/horse combinations able to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Event to the USEF Dressage Sport Committee subject for approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. The FEI Nominated Entry will be forwarded to the FEI by no later than the FEI Nominated Entry date. Recommendations to the FEI Nominated Entry will be based on the following (no priority order):

1. Scores from tests from any 2023 and 2024 FEI Dressage events*;
2. Overall ranking from CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions*;
3. Overall average from the FEI Grand Prix Special at CDI Tryout Events/Qualifying Competitions;
4. Scores from Observation Events (if applicable);
5. Potential of the athlete and/or horse to contribute to a medal winning team in 2024 and/or future teams meaning that consideration may be given to a talented athlete in order to provide experience for potential future teams;
6. Consistency of scores over 77%;
7. Recent scores and the trend in the scores;
8. The competition format of the 2024 Olympic Games;
9. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
10. The experience and standing of the judges during Tryout Events and/or observation events in relevance to the 2024 Olympic Games;
11. The FEI rankings and other competitors and individual placings;
12. "State of Preparedness" (see attachment A - definitions) of athlete and or horse;
13. "Errors of Course" (FEI Dressage Rules [26th edition, effective 1 January 2023, updated 7 August 2023], Article 424) or Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, Observations Events due to elimination or withdrawal; and
14. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

*For all combinations, the FEI Short Grand Prix may be considered by the Selectors as a lesser importance as this test will not be used at the Event.

1.3.7 USOPC Final Entry (June 25, 2024 at 5:00pm mountain time) - After the Observation Events but no later than the closing date for the USOPC Final Entry for the Event, the Selectors in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe will evaluate the athlete/horse combinations submitted on the FEI Nominated Entry and nominate to the FEI as required, the Team, composed of three (3) Athletes and three (3) Horses and (1) Alternate

Athlete and (1) Reserve Horse per FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games [25th Edition, Effective for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, approved at the FEI Hybrid General Assembly 2022, update effective 11 October 2023] Article 604, at the recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

Athlete/horse combinations in consideration for the Team and the reserve athlete/horse combination will be evaluated based on the following (in no priority order):

1. Scores from tests from any 2023 and 2024 FEI Dressage events;
 2. Scores from Observation Events;
 3. Ranking from Tryout Events *;
 4. Overall average from the FEI Grand Prix Special at Tryout Events;
 5. Potential of the athlete and/or horse to contribute to a medal winning team in 2024 and/or future teams meaning that consideration may be given to a talented athlete in order to provide experience for potential future teams;
 6. Consistency of scores over 77%;
 7. Recent scores and the trend in the scores;
 8. The competition format of the 2024 Olympic Games;
 9. Previous international experience of athlete and/or horse;
 10. The experience and standing of the judges in relevance to the 2024 Olympic Games;
 11. The FEI rankings and other competitors and individual placings;
 12. "State of Preparedness" (see attachment A - definitions) of athlete and or horse;
 13. "Errors of Course" (FEI Dressage Rules [26th edition, effective 1 January 2023, updated 7 August 2023], Article 424) or Incomplete Qualifying Competitions, Observations Events due to elimination or withdrawal;
 14. Behavior of athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment; and
 15. The physical conditions in which the Games will be held, including the travel to the Games, and the potential impact of those conditions on the athlete/horse combinations' performance; and
- *For all combinations, the FEI Short Grand Prix may be considered by the Selectors as a lesser importance as this test will not be used at the Event.

State of Preparedness (see attachment A - definitions): In consultation with the athlete, the Selectors and Chef d'Equipe may request that the athlete/horse combination attend additional competitions after being named to the Team or a reserve position. If this request is made by the Selectors, they will articulate their reasoning for making the request to the athlete.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1 Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.

2.2 Discretionary criteria and how it will be used: See Section 1.2.2 and 1.3.

2.3 Other Discretionary Criteria Used:

2.3.1 Soundness - Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian and a member of the Veterinarian Panel and/or a Selector upon the request of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, or USEF Dressage Sport Committee. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian or Veterinarian Panel may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.3.2 Team Veterinarian Request – Athletes, at their own expense, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of complete veterinary records of horses considered for selection. In addition, athletes, at their own expense, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic

information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses under consideration for selection. Athletes, at their own expense, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses under consideration for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and with the recommendation of the Selectors, Chef d'Equipe, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.3.3 Veterinary Treatment - Once the athletes are named to the Short List and have been provided an opportunity to compete in the Observation Events (including any athlete with permission not to compete), by no later than the date of FEI Nominated Entry, and prior to the departure of the horses for the Event venue for the purpose of competing in the Event, athletes will be required to obtain written permission from the Team Veterinarian prior to treatment of "invited" horses being treated by any person other than the Team Veterinarian or Veterinary Panel. This permission must be obtained by using an official [USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form](#).

Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Dressage Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.3.4 Medical Request - In the event of illness or injury, athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO at any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process by the Selectors upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s), and approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant may be removed from the selection process pending approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.

2.4 Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles (See Attachment B for the complete list).

- USEF Dressage Selectors (see attachment A - definitions)
- USEF Dressage Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Dressage Veterinary Panel
- USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian
- USEF Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc

2.4.1 Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee: All individuals involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any individual involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process. Additionally, the individual may be required to recuse themselves from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If

a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the individual's level of involvement (e.g., whether that individual must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that an individual who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by individuals involved in the selection of the Team, provide such information to the other individuals involved in the selection process so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the individual with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision (See the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#)). The individual must not otherwise influence other individuals involved in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, Owner, or Coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that an individual has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No individual shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the relevant USEF appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. Prior to submission of the nomination by the USOPC to the Local Organizing Committee, USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees:

An Athlete or Horse may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the USEF:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Observation Event(s) as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- 3.1.5. Violation of the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) or [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
- 3.1.6. Failure of the horse owner to sign the [Horse Participation Agreement](#) by the stated deadline.
- 3.1.7. Injury or illness as certified by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an Athlete or owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the veterinarian approved by USEF, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- 3.1.8. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- 3.1.9. Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse (see below).
- 3.1.10. Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding Athletes and Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.11. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.12. Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian and/or member of the Veterinary Panel.
- 3.1.13. Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and Selectors.
- 3.1.14. Failure to comply with reasonable requests, as determined by the Director of FEI Sport and the Managing Director of Dressage, from the USEF Dressage Department regarding logistical information and deadlines.
- 3.1.15. Behavior of the athlete and people associated with the athlete (including, without limitation, accredited owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) the ability to win a team medal.

An Athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII, and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

3.2. **After acceptance of nomination by the USOPC:**

Once Athlete entries have been submitted to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USEF Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOPC's Code of Conduct is included in the Games Forms made available prior to the respective Games; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures can be found at: www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents.

An athlete may be removed from the Team at any time for the following reasons:

- 3.2.1. Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written to the USEF CEO.
- 3.2.2. Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- 3.2.3. Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian.
- 3.2.4. Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct.
- 3.2.5. Violation of the USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USEF Safe Sport Policy, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES AND HORSES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) AND Horses(s) should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1. **Prior to the acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries:** Any substitutions must be upon the recommendation of the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe, and the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors. Any substitutions for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate the Veterinary Panel. Any substitutions for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.

4.1.2. **After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee and until the Last Date for Replacements (See attachment A - definitions):** After acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the Last Date for Replacements, USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC to replace athletes and/or horses on the USOPC Final Entries for reasons set forth in Section III.B. During this time period, athlete/horse combinations on the Team may be replaced with an athlete/horse combination or a horse on the FEI Nominated Entries. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Selectors, and in accordance with the FEI Rules and/or for reasons set forth in Section III.B and subject to approval by the USEF Chef de Mission and the USOPC. To fill openings, if they occur, the Chef d'Equipe, in consultation with the Selectors and Team Veterinarian will evaluate the athletes and horses named to the Team and the FEI Nominated Entries and may recommend that a replacement be made. The Chef d'Equipe and Selectors when evaluating athletes and horses will base their evaluations on the factors outlined in Section 1.3.7. Any substitution for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any substitution for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF or USOPC.

4.1.3 **After the Last Date for Replacements (see Section I.C.5) and until two (2) hours before the scheduled starting time of the Grand Prix test:** During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with the Reserve as outlined in FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24th Edition, Article 609 – Pre-Competition Changes. However, the reason for a substitution must only be because the athlete is unfit to compete due to injury or illness for substitution. Replacements may only be made by recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, with approval of the Dressage Team Leader and USEF Chef de Mission, and in accordance with the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24th

Edition, Article 609 or for reasons set forth in Section III.B and subject to approval by the USOPC Chef de Mission. Any replacement for veterinary reasons must be upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian. Any replacement for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) physically present at the Event venue approved by the USOPC.

4.1.4 After the Grand Prix test and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix Special (in accordance with FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the Olympic Games 24th Edition, Article 609 and Article 627):

Up to two hours before the start of the Team Competition (Grand Prix Special), USEF has the ability to recommend to the USOPC to substitute an Athlete/Horse combination as follows:

Substitution can only happen if either;

- a. The horse is unfit to continue competing. The reason for this must be documented and supported by the Team Veterinarian and by a second US Team Veterinarian or an Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games (OCOG) appointed, FEI approved, Treating Veterinarian. The decision must be supported by the Chef d'Equipe and Team Leader.
- b. The athlete is unfit to compete. The decision must be supported by two USOPC approved Physicians, the Chef d'Equipe and Team Leader.

All substitutions must be validated by OCOG Competition Management, the FEI and IOC according to the Late Replacement Policy.

5. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:

1. **Group or committee who determines the substitution/replacement pool:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Dressage Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian, USEF Dressage Veterinary Panel, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **Group or committee who determines a substitution/replacement to the team:**
 - a. **Prior to acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries:** USEF Dressage Selectors, USEF Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc approved by the Board of Directors.
 - b. **After the acceptance of the USOPC Final Entries and until the Last Date for Replacements:** By the USOPC upon recommendation of the USEF Chef de Mission, Chef d'Equipe, USEF Dressage Selectors and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician.
 - c. **After the Last Date of Replacements and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix (in accordance with FEI Rules):** By the USOPC upon recommendation of the USEF Chef de Mission, Chef d'Equipe, and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician.
 - d. **After the Grand Prix test and up to two (2) hours before the start of the Grand Prix Special (in accordance with FEI rules):** By the USOPC upon recommendation of the USEF Chef de Mission, Chef d'Equipe, and USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or USEF or USOPC approved physician.

6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.

7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS: In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games:

- [Application](#)
- [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver, and Indemnification Agreement](#)
- [USOPC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures](#)

Horse Owners must also sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement.

8. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS - Athletes will be required to read the [USEF Athlete Agreement](#) and are requested to sign this document.

9. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES: The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

9.1. USEF Web site: www.usef.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

9.2. Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

10. DATE OF NOMINATION: Nomination of Athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all Athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before: June 25, 2024, at 5:00pm mountain time.

11. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION: Short list athletes and horses may be required to meet in one location for the final Veterinary Evaluation (see attachment A - definitions). Date and time of final Veterinary Evaluation will be communicated to Short List Athletes no later than June 17, 2024. The Team and reserve(s) athletes/horses may be required to meet in one location for a mandatory final training camp. These dates will be communicated no later than thirty (30) days prior to the start of the camp.

12. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS:

A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, WADA, FEI, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
 - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
 - b. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
 - c. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
 - d. The Chair of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or their designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.
 - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.
 - b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the Selection of the Event certifies that the

substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

- c. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
- d. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

13. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES: The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or Executive Committee. See Attachment B for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members.

14. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES: The USEF Bylaws can be found [here](#). Contact information for the USOPC Athlete Ombuds can be found below in Section 17.

15. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

16. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Selection to the team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event.

17. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER:

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, APC, as applicable, and/or FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, APC, as applicable, and/or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

18. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

Team USA athletes may contact the Office of the Athlete Ombuds for independent and confidential advice on a variety of sport related matters, including their rights, applicable rules, policies or processes, and questions related to resolving disputes and grievances. The Athlete Ombuds can also help Team USA athletes connect with legal counsel or mental health resources if needed. All other NGB athletes (i.e., athletes competing domestically at the masters or youth level, recreational athletes, foreign athletes) are welcome to visit the Athlete Ombuds website to review informational resources and should work directly with their NGB to understand additional resources and options available to them.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: www.usopc.org/athlete-ombuds

Athlete Ombuds Confidentiality and Privacy Policy:

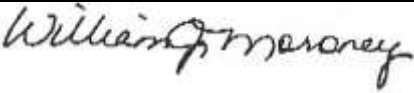

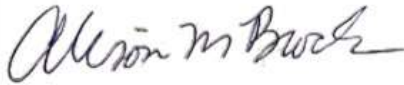
(A) In general.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of

the Office of the Athlete Ombuds. (B) Exception.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved. (C) Judicial and administrative proceedings.—(i) In general.—The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds. (ii) Work product.—Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds—(I) shall be confidential; and (II) shall not be—(aa) subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or (bb) admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding. (D) Applicability.—The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to—(i) applicable federally mandated reporting requirements; (ii) a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds; (iii) a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or (iv) a congressional subpoena.

Anti-retaliation Statement

No employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of USEF or the USOPC shall take or threaten action against an athlete as a reprisal for disclosing information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

19. USEF SIGNATURES: I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		1/16/2024
USEF Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		1/16/2024
USOPC Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative*	Allison Brock		1/16/2024

* If the USOPC Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate USOPC Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the USOPC Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by USEF, she may submit those reasons in writing to her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative, the USEF must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to Laura Roberts, USEF Managing Director of Dressage, United States Equestrian Federation, 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511, Phone (859) 225-6986, Email: lroberts@usef.org.

ATTACHMENT A - DEFINITIONS

USEF DRESSAGE SELECTORS - Five (5) individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by the USEF CEO upon recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the [USEF Code of Conduct](#) and the [Code of Ethics](#) and [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment](#) policies of the USEF. The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also members of the Dressage community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Dressage at the international level.

A minimum of two (2) Replacement Selectors will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest.

LAST DATE FOR REPLACEMENTS

The Last Date for Replacements is the last date and time at which an athlete or horse, selected to travel to the Event can be subject to Pre-Competition Substitution with an athlete or horse not previously selected to travel to the Event. For the avoidance of doubt, only four horses can travel to the Event. The Date for Replacements will be based upon timeframes in which Paris 2024 outline for the horse arrival / substitutions which will be confirmed by Paris 2024 and likely be determined what is logistically possible for changes in the hours before the First Horse Inspection. The Late Date for Replacement will be decided by the USEF Director of FEI Sport in consultation with Dressage Team Leader, Chef d’Equipe, and Team Veterinarian. The date will be published to all Athletes selected to the FEI Nominated Entry List as soon as it can be decided upon.

PROVEN ABILITY

Athlete/horse combination has consistently earned 77% or higher in CDI Grand Prix or CDI Grand Prix Special in 2023 or 2024 at a CDI3* or above, or the 2020 Olympic Games, 2022 FEI World Championships, 2023 Pan American Games.

STATE OF PREPAREDNESS – Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Dressage Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

CDI - Concourse de Dressage International

EVENT – The 2024 Olympic Games

TEAM – The 2024 Olympic Games US Dressage Team

ATTACHMENT B – COMMITTEES

[USEF Board of Directors](#)

[International Disciplines Council](#)

[Dressage Sport Committee](#)

**Dressage Veterinarian Panel
Team Veterinarian – TBD
Veterinary Panel: TBD**

Dressage Selectors - TBD