

# ELITE

- 74%+ at CDI Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special (see specific requirements)
- Financial support for agreed upon targets (competition / training)
- Home Visits
- Access to Training / Training Support
- Equine & Human SSM Support
- General Logistics/Competition Planning Support

# PRE-ELITE

- 71%+ CDI Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special Range (see specific requirements)
- Strategic Planning/Training Observation Sessions
- Eligible for grants for training/competition
- Eligible for Human SSM and Veterinary Support
- Support for competition planning

# DEVELOPMENT

- 7-Year-Old Division, Small Tour through Big Tour, and Developing Horse (PSG & GP)
- Training & Evaluation Sessions
- Funding for selected members
- Coach and staff support with planning
- European Competition opportunities (and grants)

# EMERGING YOUTH & YOUNG HORSE

- Youth (FEI Pony/FEI Children through U25 divisions)
- Young Horse (4-, 5-, 6-Year-Old Divisions)
- Training & Evaluation Sessions
- Coach and staff support with planning
- European Competition Opportunities (and grants)

# USEF Emerging Young Horse Program

## Overview

The aim of the USEF Dressage Emerging Young Horse Program is to provide strategic guidance and educational opportunities to selected athlete/horse combinations in each young horse division of FEI dressage (Four-, Five-, and Six-Year-Olds) with the perceived talent and ability to reach the Pre-Elite/Elite List by focusing on developing the skills needed to progress up the Pathway. This program is considered a steppingstone to the Dressage Development Program. The Program is overseen by the USEF Dressage Young Horse Coach, with input from the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

## Training and Evaluation Session Criteria

It is anticipated that in each Spring and Fall, there will be a Training and Evaluation Session (in-person) In order to participate, athletes must submit an application found here. Program membership is not guaranteed based upon participation in a Training and Evaluation Session.

### Eligibility of Athletes and Horses:

- Athletes must be a U.S. Citizen and an Active Member in good standing with USEF at the time of application and for consideration to the Program.
- If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI at the time of application to a Training and Evaluation Session and for consideration to the Program.
- Athletes on the 8-month Grand Prix Ranking List with a horse showing the likelihood of reaching the Pre-Elite/Elite List and an average of 68% or higher on the Grand Prix 8-month Ranking List may be considered.

**Four-Year-Old Horses:** Combinations have competed in a minimum of one (1) USEF Qualifying class at a national competition in the past 12 months and have earned:

- A minimum score of 7.5 in the USEF Four-Year-Old Test; and/or
- A minimum score of 75% in the USEF Training Level Test.
- A minimum score of 70% in the USEF First Level Test.

**Five-, and Six-Year-Old Horses:** Combinations have competed in a minimum of one (1) USEF Qualifying class at a national competition and/or CDI-YH event in the past 12 months and have earned:

- A minimum score of 7.5 in the preliminary or the final test in their respective age group in the current year or the year prior; and/or
- A minimum score of 70% in USEF Second Level Tests or USEF Third Level Tests.

*Three-Year-Old horses may be considered for a Training and Evaluation Session, as long as the athlete is a current Development or Emerging Program member, or on the Pre-Elite/Elite List.*

### **The following factors may be considered in addition to the minimum criteria above:**

- Recognition by a USEF Coach as showing promise and marked aptitude for reaching the Development Program and/or the Pre-Elite/Elite List.
- Willingness of the athlete and the athlete's personal trainer to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program.
- An athlete is a current Development or Emerging Young Horse Program member or on the Pre-Elite/Elite List.

- Observed by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff or Coaches Support Network at a Scouting Event:
  - USEF Qualifying Competitions.
  - CDI-YH events.
  - Program Pathway Clinics.
  - USDF Sport Horse Prospect Development Clinics.
  - USDF Breeders Championship Series.
  - FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage (applications of intent to compete in the FEI WBC may meet this requirement).
  - National Championships (Festival).

\*Videos may be requested as part of the application process for a Training and Evaluation Session.

## Criteria for Emerging Young Horse Program

Following the Training and Evaluation Sessions, the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff will use the following factors in their decision to consider an athlete/horse combination for Membership Selection:

- Performance during the Training and Evaluation Session.
- Results and the trajectory of results (i.e., Is the combination showing improvement or has the combination's results plateaued?). Results achieved at CDIs will carry greater weight.
- Perceived ability for the combination to progress to the Development Program and/or the Pre-Elite/Elite List by meeting the relevant criteria for either.
- 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 environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) their contribution to the U.S. Dressage.

Athlete/horse combination must meet a minimum of one of the following within the past 12 months:

- Achieved Champion or Reserve Champion in the Four-, Five-, and Six-Year-Old divisions at the National Championships (Festival).
- Selected to represent the US at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage.
- Achieved a minimum score of 8.2 in a CDI-YH event in the Five- or Six-Year-Olds. National Championship or special competitions may also be considered.
- Achieved a minimum score of 8.2 in the Preliminary and Final in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.

## Criteria for Retention for the Emerging Young Horse Program

- Membership is based on athlete/horse combination. Athletes must maintain the ride on the horse they were named to the Program with. If they are no longer competing/training the horse, they will be removed from the program.
- In consultation with the Young Horse Coach, athletes will be required within thirty days of being invited to the Program to establish KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and target markers (i.e., increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Young Horse Coach, the athlete, and their personal trainer to encourage improved performance and results. Following the initial meeting, a personalized performance plan will be established to aid in meeting the agreed upon markers. This will allow the Young Horse Coach to support the combination and their personal trainer throughout the competition year. Markers should include future goals of meeting the Development Program minimum criteria.

- Membership to the Program is automatic for one year from the notification of Program enrollment. Following the one-year automatic enrollment, the athlete will undergo a minimum of one annual review by the Young Horse Coach and/or the Program Pathway Advisor in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff. This includes but is not limited to conference calls, home visits, observation events, and/or training sessions.
- Membership to the Program with a six-year-old horse may be permitted until December 31 of the year that the horse is seven years old if the expectation is that the combination will progress to the Development Program or the Pre-Elite/Elite List. The horse's age is to be counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year.
- If a horse's level of work must be decreased/changed for 30 days or more, the Director of Dressage Performance & Event Support must be notified in writing and informed of the veterinary diagnosis. A combination may be removed from the Program following discussion of rehabilitation plans and prognosis with the Young Horse Coach in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff.
- If it is agreed that a combination is in a transition or building year and will not be competing or have scores to review, funding may be held until the combination has reached a competitive level.
- Participate in the Human SSM program and abide by the agreed follow-up action (when available).
- Promote and encourage communication between the athlete's support staff and the USEF support staff.
- Willingness of the athlete to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier, etc.) and the Program Staff.
- Be of assistance with USEF efforts to promote equestrian sport and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Athletes named to the Program must remain an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing and agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, as well as maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

**A combination may be removed from the Emerging Young Horse Program at any time for the following reasons:**

- Failure to meet annual targets.
- Combination (horse and/or rider) no longer actively competing due to change in ownership, prolonged injury, etc.
- USEF Code of Conduct Violation.
- Safe Sport violation or temporary suspension.
- Violation of equine or human drug violation.
- Unwillingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the Program's aims, including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program/Team support staff.

# USEF/USDF Dressage Emerging Athlete Program

## Overview

The aim of the USEF/USDF Dressage Emerging Athlete Program is to provide strategic guidance and educational opportunities to selected athletes 25 years old and under necessary for reaching the Pre-Elite/Elite List or future USEF European Tours. While the focus of this program is on the U25, Young Rider Junior, and Children levels, Pony Riders may be eligible for educational opportunities offered through the Program. This program is run by the USEF Dressage Youth Coach, with input from the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff.

### Athlete Eligibility:

- Athletes must be between 12 and 25 years of age according to the FEI.
- Athletes must be a U.S. Citizen and an Active Member in good standing with USEF for consideration to the Program.
- If an athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI Registration for consideration to the Program.

## Criteria for the Emerging Athlete Program

Following observation by a USEF coach, athletes will be monitored, and selection may be made at any time throughout the year but no later than November of each year. The following factors will be used to determine membership to the Program:

- Recognition by a USEF Coach as showing promise and marked aptitude for reaching the Development Program or the Pre-Elite/Elite level at a Scouting Event:
  - USEF Program Pathway Clinics
  - USDF Regional Clinics
  - FEI North American Youth Championships (NAYC)
  - U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions
  - USEF Dressage Training Series (East and West Coast)
  - USEF Dressage Seat Medal Finals
- 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 environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) their contribution to the U.S. Dressage.

Athlete/horse combination must meet a minimum of one of the following within the past 12 months:

- Selection to the USEF Young Rider or U25 European Tour.
- Individual medal winners at NAYC in Dressage (not including freestyles).
- Champion and Reserve Champion in the Intermediaire I, Brentina Cup, Young Rider, Junior and Children divisions at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions.
- Combinations competing in a CDICH with a minimum quality score of 80% and a minimum technical score of 70% from two different CDIs. National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- Combinations competing in either a CDIY or CDIJ with a score of 70% or higher from two different CDIs (freestyles not included). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- Combinations competing in CDIU25 or CDI3\* or higher with a score of 68% or higher from two different CDIs (freestyles not included). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.

- Combinations achieved a minimum quality score of 80% or higher and a minimum technical score of 70% or higher in the FEI Children Team and FEI Children Individual tests in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.
- Combinations achieved a minimum score of 70% or higher in the FEI Junior or Young Rider Team and FEI Junior or Young Rider Individual tests in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.
- Combinations achieved a minimum score of 68% or higher in the FEI Intermediate II and FEI Grand Prix 16-25 test in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.
- Combinations achieved a minimum score of 68% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix and FEI Grand Prix Special tests in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.

*\*Videos may be requested as part of the evaluation process for the Program. U25 combinations schooling and/or competing in the Big Tour will be considered for the Emerging Athlete Program unless they are meeting the criteria for the Elite or Pre-Elite Program.*

## Criteria for Retention on the Emerging Athlete Program List:

- Membership is based on athlete/horse combination. Athletes must maintain the ride on the horse they were named to the Program. If they are no longer competing/training the horse, they will be removed from the program.
- In consultation with the Youth Coach, athletes will be required within thirty days of being invited to the Program to establish KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and target markers (i.e., increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Youth Coach, the athlete, and their personal trainer to encourage improved performance and results. Following the initial meeting, a personalized performance plan will be established to aid in meeting the agreed upon markers. This will allow the Youth Coach to support the combination and their personal trainer throughout the competition year. Markers should include future goals of meeting the Development Program and/or Pre-Elite/Elite List minimum criteria.
- Membership to the Program is automatic for one year from the notification of Program enrollment. Following the one-year automatic enrollment, the athlete will undergo a minimum of one annual review by the Youth Coach and/or the Program Pathway Advisor in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff. This includes but is not limited to conference calls, home visits, observation events, and/or training sessions.
- Membership to the Program may be permitted until the athlete turns 26 according to FEI rules if the expectation is that the combination will progress to the Development Program or the Pre-Elite/Elite List.
- Combinations must achieve the minimum established KPIs and target markers within 12 months following their invitation to the Program unless given an exception by the Youth Coach. A flexible 6-month period and possibility of a grace period may be established for the following circumstances:
  - Transition from Children to Junior, Junior to Young Rider or Young Rider to U25.
  - Veterinary reasons. If a horse's level of work must be decreased/changed for 30 days or more, the Director of Dressage Programs must be notified in writing and informed of the veterinary diagnosis.
  - Number of qualifying competitions in the Region.
  - Athlete's school schedule.
  - Extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the athlete.
- Athletes will participate in the Human SSM program when available and abide by the agreed follow-up action.

- Promote and encourage communication between the athlete's support staff and the USEF support staff.
- Willingness of the athlete to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier, etc.) and Program Staff.
- Athletes named to the Program must remain an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing and agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, as well as maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

**A combination may be removed from the Emerging Athlete Program at any time for the following reasons:**

- Failure to meet annual targets.
- Combination (horse and/or rider) no longer actively competing due to change in ownership, prolonged injury, etc.
- USEF Code of Conduct Violation.
- Safe Sport violation or temporary suspension.
- Violation of equine or human drug violation.
- Unwillingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the Program's aims, including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program/Team support staff.

# USEF Dressage Development Program

## Overview

The aim of the USEF Dressage Development Program is to provide strategic guidance and resources to selected athlete/horse combinations with the perceived talent and ability to reach the Pre-Elite/Elite List within the next two to three years by focusing on developing the skills needed to progress up the Pathway. This program is overseen by the USEF Development Program Coach with assistance from the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and support network.

The intention is that the combinations in the program have the goal of reaching the Pre-Elite/Elite List within two to three years. Membership to the program is a privilege and not a right.

## Evaluation Session Criteria

It is anticipated that in each Spring and Fall, there will be an Evaluation Session (in-person) In order to participate, athletes must submit an application found here. Program membership is not guaranteed based upon participation in an Evaluation Session.

### Eligibility of Athletes and Horses:

- Athletes must be a U.S. Citizen and an Active Member in good standing with USEF at the time of application and for consideration to the Program.
- If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI at the time of application to an Evaluation Session and for consideration to the Program.
- Athletes on the 8-month Grand Prix Ranking List with a horse showing the likelihood of reaching the Pre-Elite/Elite level and have an average of 68% or higher on the Grand Prix 8-month Ranking List may be considered.
- Athletes, 25 years old or younger according to the FEI, will be considered for the Emerging Athlete Program.

### Horses Between the age of 7-Years-Old and 9-Years-Old:

- Must be showing talent for the Grand Prix work, including piaffe/passage.
- Scores from the current competition year will be reviewed which includes but is not limited to:
  - Scores earned in USEF Qualifying classes at national competitions or CDI (U.S. or foreign) in the Seven-Year-Old, Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I, Intermediate II, Developing Horse Prix St Georges or Developing Horse Grand Prix Tests.
  - Scores earned in a U.S. or foreign CDI (Small and/or Medium Tours).
  - Scores earned at the GAIG/USDF Regional Championships/US Dressage Finals (Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I, or Grand Prix).
  - Scores earned in the USEF Seven-Year-Old, Intermediaire I, Developing Horse Prix St. Georges, or Developing Horse Grand Prix National Championships.

### Horses Between the ages of 10-Years-Old and 12-Years Old:

- Must be progressing towards confirmation of the Grand Prix/Special movements.
- Scores from the current competition year will be reviewed which includes but is not limited to:
  - Scores earned in USEF Qualifying classes at national competitions in the Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special, Intermediate II, or Developing Horse Grand Prix Tests.
  - Participation and performance in a U.S. or foreign CDI (Big and/or Medium Tours).
  - Scores earned at the GAIG/USDF Regional Championships/US Dressage Finals (Grand Prix).
  - Participation and performance in the Grand Prix or Developing Horse Grand Prix National Championships (Festival).



**The following factors may be considered in addition to the minimum criteria above:**

- Recognition by a USEF Coach as showing promise and marked aptitude for reaching the Pre-Elite/Elite List.
- Willingness of the athlete and the athlete's personal trainer to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program.
- An athlete is a current Pre-Elite/Elite, Development or Emerging Young Horse Program member.
- Observed by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff or Coaches Support Network at a USEF Qualifying Competition or FEI Event.

*\*Videos may be requested as part of the application process for an Evaluation Session.*

## Criteria for Development Program

Combinations may be considered for membership to the Development Program if within the past 12 months, they have attended an evaluation session or have been observed by a member of the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff or Coaches Support Network at an FEI event, USEF National Qualifying Competition and/or the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. The Development Program Coach in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff will use the following factors in their decisions to consider an athlete/horse combination for Membership Selection:

- Performance during the Evaluation Session.
- Results and the trajectory of results (i.e., Is the combination showing improvement or has the combination's results plateaued?). Results achieved at CDIs will carry the greatest weight.
- Age of horse and likelihood of moving into the Pre-Elite/Elite List within two to three years but no more than four years.
- Athlete/horse combination must meet a minimum of one of the following within the past 12 months:
  - Achieved Champion or Reserve Champion at the USEF Seven-Year-Old, Developing Horse Prix St. Georges or Developing Horse Grand Prix National Championships.
  - Selected to represent the US in the 7-year-olds at the FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage.
  - Achieved a minimum score of 77.500% in a CDI-YH event in the Seven-Year-Olds. National Championship or special competitions may also be considered.
  - Achieved a minimum score of 77.500% in the Preliminary and Final in combination at two (2) USEF Qualifying Competitions.
  - Achieved a minimum score of 71%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Prix St. Georges or Intermediate I Tests). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
  - Achieved a minimum score of 70%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Intermediate A, Intermediate B, or Intermediate II Tests). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
  - Achieved a minimum score of 69% in at least 2 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special Tests). National Championship and special competition results may also be considered.
- 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 environment that will affect (either positively or negatively) their contribution to the U.S. Dressage.

## Criteria for Retention for the Development Program

- Membership is based on athlete/horse combination. Athletes must maintain the ride on the horse they were named to the Program. If they are no longer competing/training the horse, they will be removed from the program.

- In consultation with the Development Program Coach, athletes will be required within thirty days of being invited to the Program to establish KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and target markers (i.e., increase of scores, training sessions, competition plan) agreed upon by the Development Program Coach, the athlete, and their personal trainer to encourage improved performance and results. Following the initial meeting, a personalized performance plan will be established to aid in meeting the agreed upon markers. This will allow the Development Program Coach to support the combination and their personal trainer throughout the competition year. Markers should include future goals of meeting the Pre-Elite/Elite List minimum criteria.
- Membership to the Program is intended to be automatic for one year from the notification of Program enrollment. Following the one-year automatic enrollment, the athlete will undergo a minimum of one annual review by the Development Program Coach and/or the Program Pathway Advisor in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff. This includes but is not limited to conference calls, home visits, observation events, and/or training sessions.
- A combination may remain in the Development Program for two to three years but no more than four years subject to a minimum of one annual review and targets being achieved. Improvement will be measured against agreed targets.
- If a horse's level of work must be decreased/changed for 30 days or more, the Director of Dressage Programs must be notified in writing and informed of the veterinary diagnosis. A combination may be removed from the Program following discussion of rehabilitation plans and prognosis with the Development Program Coach in consultation with the USEF Coaching Staff.
- If it is agreed that a combination is in a transition or building year and will not be competing or have scores to review, funding may be held until the combination has reached a competitive level.
- If an athlete is named to the Program with more than one horse, they may not receive the same financial support for the additional horse(s).
- Horses who do not improve to the Pre-Elite/Elite List by the age of 14 may be removed unless an exception is granted by the Development Program Coach, USEF Dressage Coaching Staff, Director of Dressage Programs, and Managing Director.
- Participate in the Human SSM program and abide by the agreed follow-up action (when available).
- Promote and encourage communication between the athlete's support staff and the USEF support staff.
- Willingness of the athlete to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier, etc.) and the Program Staff.
- Be of assistance with USEF efforts to promote equestrian sport and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Athletes named to the Program must remain an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing and agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, as well as maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

**A combination may be removed from the Development Program at any time for the following reasons:**

- Failure to meet annual targets.
- Combination (horse and/or rider) no longer actively competing due to change in ownership, prolonged injury, etc.
- USEF Code of Conduct Violation.
- Safe Sport violation or temporary suspension.
- Violation of equine or human drug violation.
- Unwillingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the Program's aims, including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program/Team support staff.

# Pre-Elite List

## Overview

The Pre-Elite List underpins the Elite List and seeks to provide support and guidance to those combinations in the 71-73% Grand Prix score range, so they can succeed in reaching the Elite List (consistent 74%+ score range).

## Criteria for the Pre-Elite List

- Invitations are based upon athlete/horse combination.
- Athletes must be a U.S. Citizen and an Active Member in good standing with USEF.
- If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI.
- Athletes, 25 years old or younger according to the FEI, may be considered for the Emerging Athlete Program, or the Pre-Elite/Elite Lists.

Combinations must meet one of the below points within the past 12 months earned at a CDI3\*/CDIO3\* or above:

- Achieved 71%+ in at least 3 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special).
- Achieved 72%+ in at least 2 CDIs (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special).
- Achieved 73%+ in at least 1 CDI (Grand Prix or Grand Prix Special).

Combinations may request to be included on the Pre-Elite list and be specially approved without meeting the score requirements above for the following reasons:

- Previous international experience of the horse and/or athlete (pre-observation required by the Technical Advisor or a USEF Coach).
- Athletes on the current Pre-Elite List or Elite List or with a horse showing the likelihood to succeed (pre-observation required by the Technical Advisor or a USEF Coach).

## Criteria for Retention on the Pre-Elite List

Upon being named to the Pre-Elite list, athletes agree to the following:

- Attend one Strategic Planning/Training Observation session twice per year with the Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe where competitions and training plans are discussed, and targets are set.
- Horse to be evaluated by Team Veterinarian or another designated veterinarian.
- Participate in the Human SSM program and abide by the agreed follow-up action (when available).
- Willingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.
- Must continue to meet the Minimum Criteria for eligibility as outlined above unless given an exception by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Managing Director, who will also consult with the Director of FEI Sport.
- If an athlete has more than one horse eligible for the List, they may not receive the same financial support with the 2nd horse.
- Athletes named to the List must remain an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing and agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, and maintain a high level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.
- Be of assistance with US Equestrian efforts to promote equestrian sports and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).

A combination may remain on the Pre-Elite List for up to two years but must improve scores annually. Improvement will be measured against agreed targets. Failure to meet annual targets could result in the combination being removed. If scores do not improve to the Elite List within the two years, they will be removed unless an exception is granted (for a specified period) by the Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe and Managing Director for at least one of the following reasons:

- An injury to the horse but the Team Veterinarian has agreed to treatment/rehabilitation plan to have horse back in training and competition within 12 months. Note any funding linked to training or competing will be withheld while the horse is injured and not in full training.
- Age of the horse and perceived likelihood to reach Elite level.
- Impending Games (within 6 months) where the horse will likely be on the Short List.
- Unforeseen circumstances which create an extraordinary situation.

**A combination may be removed from the Pre-Elite list at any time for the following reasons:**

- Failure to meet annual targets.
- Combination (horse and/or rider) no longer actively competing due to change in ownership, prolonged injury, etc.
- USEF Code of Conduct Violation.
- Safe Sport violation or temporary suspension.
- Violation of equine or human drug violation.
- Unwillingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the Program's aims, including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program/Team support staff.

# Elite List

## Overview

The aim of the Elite List is to provide support and resources to those athlete/horse combinations that have been proven they are internationally competitive. The List is overseen by the Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe and Managing Director.

## Criteria for the Elite List

- Invitations are based upon athlete/horse combination.
- Athletes must be a U.S. Citizen and an Active Member in good standing with USEF.
- If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI.
- Athletes, 25 years old or younger according to the FEI, may be considered for the Emerging Athlete Program, or the Pre-Elite/Elite Lists.

Open to combinations who in the past 12 months have met at least one of the following criteria at a CDI3\*/CDIO3\* and above:

- 74%+ in the Grand Prix\* or Grand Prix Special at two competitions within a 3-month window.
- 74%+ in the Grand Prix\* or Grand Prix Special at a CDI5\*, CDIO5\*, World Cup Finals, Olympic Games or World Equestrian Games.

\*Short Grand Prix may replace the Grand Prix. National Championship and Special Competition results may be considered as CDI scores.

### Other Criteria

- Satisfactory veterinary inspection and/or report.
- Agreement to Requirements to Maintain Membership.
- Age of the horse and thus the perceived likelihood of the horse contributing to podium scores at Games and Championships
- Willingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the aims of the Program including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program / Team support staff.

## Criteria for Retention on the Elite List

Upon being named to the Pre-Elite list, athletes agree to the following:

- The Elite List will be reviewed on a rolling basis.
- Combinations on the Elite List will be reviewed twice annually. Those unable to show improved results, meet their targets, no longer have the ride on the horse, or unable to compete due to prolonged injury will be removed from the List.
- Combinations will not be eligible for the Pre-Elite List for two years following being removed from the Elite List.
  - If combinations meet the Minimum Criteria set above for the Elite List within two years of being removed, they may be added back after review by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Managing Director, who will consult with the Director of FEI Sport.
- Must continue to meet the Minimum Criteria for eligibility as outlined above unless given an exception by the USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and Managing Director, who will also consult with the Director of FEI Sport

- Must set targets with Technical Advisor/Chef d'Equipe and Managing Director to encourage improved performance and results.
- Participate in the Human SSM program and abide by the agreed follow-up action (when available).
- Encourage communication between athlete's support staff and US Equestrian Dressage support staff.
- If an athlete has more than one horse eligible for the List, they may not receive the same financial support with the 2nd horse.
- Be of assistance with US Equestrian efforts to promote equestrian sports and the discipline of Dressage (up to four days per year).
- Athletes named to the List must remain an active Competing Member of USEF in good standing and agree to abide by the USEF Code of Conduct, SafeSport Policies, as well as maintain a high-level of sportsmanship and horsemanship.

**A combination may be removed from the Elite list at any time for the following reasons:**

- Failure to meet annual targets.
- Combination (horse and/or rider) no longer actively competing due to change in ownership, prolonged injury, etc.
- USEF Code of Conduct Violation.
- Safe Sport violation or temporary suspension.
- Violation of equine or human drug violation.
- Unwillingness of athlete to endorse and adhere to the Program's aims, including facilitating effective communication between the athletes' own support staff (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and the Program/Team support staff.

## Membership Benefits

- Opportunity to participate in USEF Training Sessions/Clinics/Coaching Sessions.
- One-on-One Coaching/Home Visits.
- Access to USEF Human and Equine Sports Science Medicine Education Programs and resources when available, appropriate and as funding allows.
- Assistance in transition to the next age bracket or division level (training, strategic planning, setting competition and training targets, data analysis, etc.).
- Included on USEF Program Member List published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).
- Additional horses in addition to those horse(s) associated for membership may be reviewed for comment via video submission.
- If funding permits, it is possible for these athlete/horse combinations to receive some funding to support their agreed upon targets and goals. Priority is given to Program Members for all USEF Program events (except those that may be specially restricted). If an athlete has more than one horse qualified for a Program membership, they may not receive the same financial support with additional horses.
- Additional benefits may be available depending on specific program membership.