



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
EUROPEAN U25 TOUR, 2024  
DRESSAGE**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

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

1.1.1. Citizenship - The athlete must be a U.S. citizen and in compliance with FEI Article 119 (General Regulations, which can be found on the FEI's website at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2024 European U25 Tour ("Event"). Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:

- 1.1.2.1. Athletes are eligible as U25 Riders from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 25.
- 1.1.2.2. A horse must be a minimum of eight (8) years old to be able to compete in the U25 division.
- 1.1.2.3. The athlete and horse must be registered with the FEI prior to being named to the definite entry and until the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.2.4. The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- 1.1.3.1. Athletes must be an active Competing Members of the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") in good standing from the time of selection through the conclusion of the Event.
- 1.1.3.2. Horses must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF General Rule 1102 in good standing from the time of selection through the conclusion of the Event.
  - The individual owner of the horse listed on the FEI passport must be a Competing Member in good standing with the USEF and must execute the [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#) by the stated deadline. The Owner must certify, by signing the 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.
  - Athletes wishing to compete on the 2024 European U25 Tour must complete an application through their [USEF athlete dashboard](#) by **5:00pm eastern on Monday, March 18, 2024**. The Athlete must certify, by signing the Application, 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.
- 1.1.3.3. The athlete/horse combination has met the minimum criteria to compete in Europe in the CDI U25 per Annex B of the USEF Dressage Regulations.

- 1.1.3.4. Athlete must successfully complete the USEF Application by the stated deadline in the relevant announcement published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).
- 1.1.3.5. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
- 1.1.3.6. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the conclusion of the Event will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#).
- 1.2. Step-by-step description of the selection process for the Event (include maximum Team size):
  - 1.2.1. Athlete/horse combinations are required to earn at least two scores from the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and two scores from the FEI Intermediate II Test in CDI Events ([see FEI Calendar search](#)) between September 11, 2023 and April 15, 2024, with the following exception: Unless USEF has otherwise indicated a change to the qualifying period by February 1, 2024. Scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and FEI Intermediate II Test from the 2023 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship or the 2023 FEI North American Youth Championships, may be submitted to serve as one of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test scores and/or one of the FEI Intermediate II Test scores required. One score in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and one score in the FEI Intermediate II Test must be earned after December 1, 2023.
  - 1.2.2. CDI scores will be automatically tracked by USEF on the USEF European U25 Tour Ranking List. Any scores being used from the 2023 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship or the 2023 FEI North American Youth Championships to fulfill the required number of scores must be submitted via e-mail to USEF (Sarah Hollander– [shollander@usef.org](mailto:shollander@usef.org)) by no later than 5:00PM ET, Monday, March 18, 2024.

## **2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

- 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any): Discretionary selection is used to field the best team possible for the Event.
- 2.2. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:
  - USEF Dressage Selections Working Group
  - USEF Dressage Coaching Staff and/or Chef d'Equipe
  - USEF Dressage Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Ad Hoc Selection Group
- 2.2.1. Up to three (3) athlete/horse combinations and any ranked alternates will be recommended for the European U25 Tour by the designees of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and approved by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad/Hoc Selection Group. The following factors will be used in no priority order when making the recommendation:
  - 2.2.1.1. Ranking of athlete/horse combination on USEF European U25 Tour Ranking List as of April 15, 2024.
  - 2.2.1.2. Athlete/horse combinations' scores in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test, and FEI Intermediate II Test, earned in CDI events between September 11, 2023 and April 15, 2024 unless otherwise determined by February 1, 2024 as outlined above.
  - 2.2.1.3. Athlete/horse combinations' score(s) at the 2023 USEF Brentina Cup National Championship or the 2023 FEI North American Youth Championships, if applicable.
  - 2.2.1.4. Consistency of scores of athlete/horse combination.
  - 2.2.1.5. Recent scores and indication of an upward trend in the scores of athlete and horse combination.
  - 2.2.1.6. State of Preparedness - Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at a CDI, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

- 2.2.1.7. 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) the European U25 Tour.
- 2.3. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All individuals involved in selection 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 selection who has an actual, possible, 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 and/or recuse oneself 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 individual 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 individual'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 themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that an individual must recuse themselves 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 the remaining individuals involved in selection, provide such information to the committee 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. The individual must not otherwise influence other individuals 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 USEF selection appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. At all times USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees. An Athlete or Horse that is nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:
- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. The athlete must submit a written letter to Sarah Hollander (shollander@usef.org).
  - 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
  - 3.1.3. Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
  - 3.1.4. Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
  - 3.1.5. Failure of the horse owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment E).

- 3.1.6. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian. If an Athlete and/or Horse owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- 3.1.7. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- 3.1.8. 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.
- 3.1.9. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.

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.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & HORSES**

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

- 4.1.1. After athletes/horse combinations have been named, substitutions, if they occur, will be filled by the athlete/horse combinations in the order of their ranking on the list approved by the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees and the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. If a selected athlete/horse combination withdraws and all the remaining applicant athletes have declined, an additional athlete/horse combination that did not submit an application in accordance with the deadlines for the subject event may be selected by the Dressage Sport Committee to fill the vacancy subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The method used to select this athlete/horse combination will be the criteria found in Section 1.2. The athlete/horse combination must meet all criteria in Section 1. Any substitution for veterinary reasons must have the approval of a conflict-free veterinarian appointed by the Dressage Sport Committee. Any substitution for extraordinary circumstances must have the unanimous approval of the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees and approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

- 4.1.2. Horse Substitution Request: If an athlete's first ranked horse is not available for any reason after being selected to participate in this Tour, an athlete may request to be considered for selection on another horse and the request will be voted on by the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees after consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors whose decision shall be final. In reviewing the request, the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees shall evaluate the past performance of the athlete/horse combination. If the Horse Substitution Request is not granted by the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees, the athlete remains eligible for selection on their first ranked horse.

If the athlete declines, the next highest athlete/horse combination will be named. If this athlete's first ranked horse is not available, they may request to be considered for selection on another horse, according to the criteria outlined above.

**5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the conclusion of the relevant Event.

**6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and/or Horse owner following selection to the Event:

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

**7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

The approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

7.1. USEF Web site: [www.usef.org](http://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 USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors.

7.2. Other: These procedures will also be available by email upon request.

**8. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USADA, and USEF anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA and USEF 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 beginning 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 FEI/High Performance Sport 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 Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Event 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.
3. 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.
4. 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](http://www.fei.org).

**9. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- USEF Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group of the USEF Board of Directors

**10. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Athletes wishing to file a grievance, a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see the Athlete's Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at [epratt@usef.org](mailto:epratt@usef.org).

**11. 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.

## 12. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Selection to the Event does not guarantee that funding will be available. However, if funds are available, grants may be considered for those Athlete/horse combinations who have met a minimum of one of the below requirements\*:

- Athlete is an Emerging Athlete and/or Development Program member.
- Athlete/Horse combination has earned two scores above 68% in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and FEI Intermediate II Test at two different CDI events (one score may be earned at the 2023 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship or the 2023 FEI North American Youth Championships)

\*Exceptions may be made to the above requirements for the following reasons:

- Trend in scores shows an upward trajectory.
- If there is not an eligible combination for the grant ranked above the athlete and the combination has demonstrated scores within 1% of the minimum criteria above, a special exception may be granted; however, the funding amount may be lower than other combinations which met the criteria.

Note: The amount of the grant may differ for those athletes and/or horses based in Europe.

Selected athletes that receive funding support (directly or indirectly) will be expected to agree targets and *key performance indicators* with the Youth Coach and/or Development Coach and USEF Dressage staff. Athletes that receive funding will be required to write a report after the tour outlining what they achieved and how they benefited. This report will be used to assess the value and the functionality of the Program and to help justify funding support.

## 13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in 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.

## 14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding Athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between Athletes and USEF.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

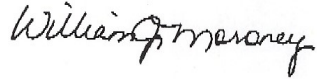
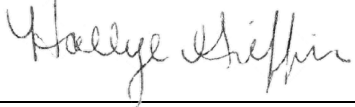
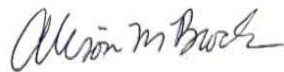
EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

## 15. 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
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USEF CEO	William J. Moroney		<b>11/13/23</b>
USEF Director of FEI Sport	Hallye Griffin		<b>11/13/23</b>
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Allison Brock		<b>11/13/23</b>