



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential Applicants for the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions

Date: May 9, 2023

From: Kristen, Director, Dressage Programs

Copy: Hallye Griffin
Laura Roberts

Re: Qualifying Dates and Competitions for the 2024 USEF Dressage National Championships for the Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Brentina Cup Divisions.

This preliminary information is being provided to assist you with your competition planning and may be subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and the final qualifying requirements are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Date and Location: The 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions is scheduled to take place on August 19-25, 2024 at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.

Qualifying Period: The qualifying period for the 2024 USEF Dressage National Championships for the Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Brentina Cup divisions will begin on July 25, 2023, and end on July 22, 2024.

Application of Intent: An Application of Intent must be submitted in order to receive an invitation to the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. The Application of Intent will be available [here](#) on the USEF website no later than September 14, 2023. The early submission deadline for the Application of Intent is May 15, 2024, with a \$50 fee. Additionally, a late Application of Intent must be submitted between May 16, 2024 and June 17, 2024, with a \$150 fee. Horses are permitted to be added to an existing Application of Intent with a \$50 fee per horse by June 17, 2024. Qualifying scores are permitted to be earned prior to submission of the Application of Intent. These deadlines are subject to change.

For these Championships, qualification is athlete/horse combination based. Therefore, the athlete cannot change during the qualifying period.

Age Requirements for Athlete and Horse in 2024:

For all divisions listed below, a combination must fit into one of the following categories to earn qualifying scores and to compete at the Championships (refer to FEI Dressage Article 401 and USEF DR119.1 and DR119.4):

- a. **Brentina Cup:** Athletes must be between the age of sixteen (16) and twenty-five (25) years old by December 31, 2024. Horses must be eight (8) years old or over.
- b. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix:** Athletes must be a minimum of 16 years old by December 31, 2024. Horses must be eligible to compete in the Intermediaire I and Grand Prix levels under FEI rules.

Qualifying Competitions:

Competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#). Qualifying scores may only be earned at these competitions or CDIs (See Ranking List Score Calculation below). However, a combination cannot earn a





qualifying score in a national Qualifying Competition if their respective CDI division is also held at the event. (Exception: a CDI2* event may offer the FEI Grand Prix Special Test as a qualifying class in the national portion of their event; however, it must be scheduled on the day(s) following the conclusion of the CDI Grand Prix).

The 2023 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2024 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2023.

For all divisions, scores earned from the 2023 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions are not used towards qualifying for the 2024 U.S. Dressage Festival Champions.

Brentina Cup: Combinations must compete in either national Qualifying Competitions, CDI-U25/CDIO-U25 events or CDI2* events. Combinations may also earn scores at the FEI North American Youth Championships if held during the qualifying period. See Qualifying Tests below.

Intermediaire I: Combinations must compete in a minimum of one (1) CDI1*, CDIO, or CDI-Am event. Combinations may also compete in national USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions. The 2023 FEI Pan American Games are considered a qualifying competition.

Grand Prix: Combinations must compete in a minimum of one (1) CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am, or CDI-W event. The 2023 FEI Pan American Games and the 2024 FEI World Cup Finals are considered qualifying competitions. Combinations may also compete in national Qualifying Competitions.

Qualifying Tests:

For all divisions: Qualifying tests at national Qualifying Competitions must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) FEI or USEF 'S' judges. For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per Qualifying Competition.

- a. **Brentina Cup:** Combinations must obtain at least two (2) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and at least two (2) qualifying scores from the current edition of FEI Intermediate II Test.
- b. **Intermediaire I:** Combinations must obtain at least three (3) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and three (3) scores from the current edition of the FEI Intermediate I Test.
- c. **Grand Prix:** Combinations must obtain at least three (3) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Test or FEI Short Grand Prix Test and three (3) qualifying scores from the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Special Test.
- d. **Freestyle:**
 - a. **Brentina Cup:** Combinations must complete one (1) Freestyle Test between December 1, 2023 and July 22, 2024. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test, or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a national Qualifying Competition or a CDI. This score will not be used in the calculation of a combination's final average.
 - b. **Intermediaire I:** Combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Freestyle Test within the qualifying period. This score will not be used in the calculation of a combination's final average. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a national Qualifying Competition or a CDI. This score will not be used in the calculation of a combination's final average.



- c. **Grand Prix:** Combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Freestyle Test within the qualifying period. The Freestyle Test score must be earned in an FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test, or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a national Qualifying Competition or a CDI. This score will not be used in the calculation of a combination's final average.

Certificate of Capability:

- a. **Brentina Cup:** A Certificate of Capability is not required for this Championship.
- b. **Intermediaire I:** Combinations must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum score of 67% in the FEI Intermediate I Test completed at a CDI1*, CDIO or CDI-Am event. The Certificate of Capability will be noted on the ranking list.
- c. **Grand Prix:** Combinations must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum score of 67% in either the FEI Grand Prix Test, FEI Short Grand Prix Test, or the FEI Grand Prix Special Test completed at a CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am, or CDI-W event. The Certificate of Capability will be noted on the ranking list.

Ranking List Score Calculation:

- a. Scores from FEI Consolation Competitions, if scheduled, will not count towards calculation of the ranking list.
- b. USEF will automatically track scores for combinations which are earned at national Qualifying Competitions.
- c. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations, and withdrawals will not be penalized.
- d. **Brentina Cup (CDI Scores):** Scores earned in a CDI will automatically count towards a combination's final average with the following exception: If an athlete does not want the scores from a CDI to count towards their final average, they must submit their request via email to the USEF Dressage Department at (festival@usef.org) prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection for that event. This request must include the name of the horse(s) they will compete at the CDI. If the USEF Dressage Staff has not received the request prior to the start time, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, of the veterinary inspection, the score(s) will count toward their final average. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to confirm with the USEF Dressage Staff that their request has been received.
- e. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix (CDI Scores):** Scores earned in a CDI will automatically count towards a combination's final average and will be tracked by USEF. A minimum of one CDI score must be earned (see information on the Certificate of Capability).

Questions: If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org.