



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 6, 2022
To: U.S. FEI Young Rider Dressage Athletes
From: Laura Roberts, Director, Dressage Performance & Event Support
Re: 2023 European Young Rider Tour

This memo is intended to provide athletes with a summary of the 2023 European Young Rider Tour selection process and competition schedule. The complete selection procedures for the 2023 European Young Rider Tour can be found beginning on page 2 of this document.

Providing U.S. combinations the opportunity to compete in Europe, if they have reached a required level, is considered an important part of the Dressage Pathway. It is anticipated that three U.S. Young Rider athlete/horse combinations will be sent to a European CDIO-Y. Prior to the CDIO-Y, combinations will participate in either a CDI-Y or European national competition. The level of funding will depend on the resources available and will be prioritized against other calls on resources and priorities set by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Board of Directors and United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC). Below is the list of competitions where USEF may send Young Riders to compete in 2023, pending invitations from the OCs and Tour scheduling. It should be noted that there is no intention to compete in competitions on consecutive weekends.

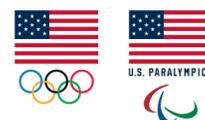
Event*	Date*
CDI-Y or other TBD Comp	TBD
CDI-Y or other TBD Comp	TBD
CDIO-Y Hagen (GER)	June 13-18, 2023

**Locations and dates of Tour to be confirmed at a later date*

APPLICATION – Athletes wishing to be considered for selection for this Tour must submit an application by **5:00PM ET, Tuesday, February 28, 2023**. The application for the Young Rider European Tour is available on our website [HERE](#).

Athlete/horse combinations are required to earn at least two scores from the FEI Young Rider Team Test and two scores from the FEI Young Rider Individual Test in CDI-Y Events between September 15, 2022 and March 27, 2023, with the following exception: Scores earned in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and FEI Young Rider Individual Test from the 2022 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships or 2022 FEI North American Youth Championships, may be submitted to serve as one of the Team Test scores and/or one of the Individual Test scores required. One score in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and one score in the FEI Young Rider Individual Test must be earned after December 1, 2022. As a part of FEI CDI-Y events, at least one FEI Young Rider Freestyle test score must also be earned. Freestyle scores will be verified by the Dressage Department and will not be counted for the ranking lists or an athlete/horse combination's overall average.

QUESTIONS – Questions regarding the 2023 European Young Rider Tour should be directed to Laura Roberts (LRoberts@usef.org or 859 225 6986)





UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.
SELECTION PROCEDURES
2023 European Young Rider Tour
DRESSAGE

MEMBERSHIP & APPLICATION

1) Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered:

- a) **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) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2023 European Young Rider Tour ("the Event").
- b) **Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**
 - i) Athletes are eligible as Young 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 21.
 - ii) A horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years old to be competed in the Young Rider division.
 - iii) The athlete and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI prior to being named to the nominated entry and until the conclusion of the Event.
 - iv) The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.

2) USEF/FEI Memberships

- a) The athlete must be an active Competing member in good standing of USEF at the time of application through the conclusion of the Event, in order for the athlete to earn a qualifying score.
- b) Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection or time of nomination.
- c) Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.
- d) The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to the USEF General Rules, and in good standing under at the time of application through the conclusion of the Event, and in order for the horse to earn a qualifying score.
- e) FEI Rider Registration and FEI Horse Registration must be completed in accordance with FEI rules at the time of application through the conclusion of the Event, and in order for the athlete to earn a qualifying score.
- f) The FEI passport must be completed and FEI validated in accordance with FEI rules at the time of application through the conclusion of the Event, and in order for the athlete to earn a qualifying score.
- g) The owner of the horse must be a Member in good standing of the USEF at the time of application through the conclusion of the Event, and in order for the horse to earn a qualifying score.
- h) The owners of applicant horses must execute the [USEF Horse Participation Agreement](#) by February 28, 2023.

3) Application

- a) Athletes wishing to compete on the 2023 European Young Rider Tour must complete an application through their USEF athlete dashboard by 5:00pm eastern on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER February 28, 2023

SELECTION – Athlete/horse combinations are required to earn at least two scores from the FEI Young Rider Team Test and two scores from the FEI Young Rider Individual Test in CDI-Y Events between September 15, 2022 and March 27, 2023, with the following exception: Scores earned in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and FEI Young Rider Individual Test from the 2022 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships or 2022 FEI North American Youth Championships, may be submitted to serve as one of the Team Test scores and/or one of the Individual Test scores required. One score in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and one score in the FEI Young Rider Individual Test must be earned after December 1, 2022. As a part of FEI CDI-Y events, at least one FEI Young Rider Freestyle test score must also be earned. Freestyle scores will be verified by the Dressage Department and will not be counted for the ranking lists or an athlete/horse combination's overall average.





CDI-Y scores will be automatically tracked by USEF on the USEF European Young Rider Tour Ranking List. Any scores being used from the 2022 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships or 2022 FEI North American Youth Championships to fulfill the required number of scores must be submitted via e-mail to USEF (Laura Roberts – Lroberts@usef.org) by no later than 5:00PM ET, Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Athlete/horse combinations will be recommended for the Young Rider European Tour by the designees of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee and approved by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad/Hoc Selection Group. The following factors will be used in no priority order when making the recommendation:

1. Ranking on USEF European Young Rider Tour Ranking List.
2. Athlete/horse combinations' scores in the FEI Young Rider Team Test, and FEI Young Rider Individual Test, earned in CDI-Y events between September 15, 2022 and March 27, 2023 as outlined above.
3. Athlete/horse combinations' score(s) at the 2022 North American Youth Championship (young rider division) or at the 2022 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championships if applicable.
4. Consistency of Scores.
5. Trend in Scores.
6. The potential to succeed at CDIYs.
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 Young Rider Tour.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS – Upon selected, athlete/horse combinations may be required to participate in an observation session by one of the USEF Dressage Coaches. In addition, a veterinarian statement regarding overall health and soundness of horse(s) named/selected to the European Young Rider Tour is required to be submitted two weeks prior to departing the U.S. For those horse(s) named/selected residing outside of the U.S., the veterinarian statement must be submitted to the USEF three weeks prior to the first competition named as part of the European Tour.

EOUINE DRUG TESTING - All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-competition, 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. In such instance, the positive finding 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 a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised at least one member of the Dressage Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing





Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinarian Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time once the Team and Substitutes for an event have been named following notification to the applicant 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.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or 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. In such instance, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the horse and/or athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinarian Panel appointed for 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.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR 409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

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 a competition 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 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

SOUNDNESS– Horses may be examined for soundness at the athlete’s expense by a veterinarian(s) chosen by the Dressage Sport Committee prior to or after selection. Horses declared to be unsound may be eliminated from any Selection (See Substitutions sections), but only at the recommendation of the U.S. Dressage Youth Coach/Chef d’Equipe, USEF Dressage Sport Committee, and with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

Names of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.

- USEF Dressage Sport Committee Designees
- USEF Dressage Chef d’Equipe
- USEF Dressage Veterinary Panel
- USEF Dressage Team Veterinarian





- USEF Dressage Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group

Dressage Sport Committee Designees: Seven (7) individuals (the “Selections Working Group”) will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon recommendation of the USEF Dressage Sport Committee. These individuals are subject to the [USEF Code of Conduct](#) and the [Code of Ethics](#) and [Conflict of Interest](#) and [Safe Sport Policy of the USEF](#). The individuals 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 and include a minimum of two Dressage Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC (See Definitions) but who is not an applicant for the Team (the “Eligible Athlete Representative Selectors”).

The Selections Working Group will make recommendations based on consultation with the Chef d’Equipe, the Team Veterinarian and when appropriate, the Veterinary Panel. Recommendations are subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

There will be a minimum of 33.333% Eligible Athlete Representation on the Selections Working Group.

Ad Hoc Selection Group: The Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

REMOVAL OF ATHLETES- An athlete may be removed from this Tour for any of the following reasons:

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a withdrawal in writing to Laura Roberts (lroberts@usef.org).
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of the USEF’s Code of Conduct.
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Veterinarian approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council. If an athlete and/or horse owner refuses to have the horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or a Veterinarian approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the event, but only at the recommendation of the U.S Dressage Youth Coach or Chef d’Equipe.
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.





- 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.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, or directives of the U.S. Dressage Youth Coach or Chef d’Equipe.
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy or U.S. Center for SafeSport’s Code.
- Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in these selection procedures.
- Failure of the horse owner to timely sign the [Horse Participation Agreement](#).

An athlete removed from the Tour or Team or as a Substitute pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF’s Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605 or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

SUBSTITUTIONS FOR VETERINARY, MEDICAL and/or EXTRAORDINARY REASONS - After athletes and/or team and alternates 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 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 or the Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

The method used to select this athlete/horse combination will be at the discretion of the Dressage Sport Committee or its designees. The method used may include but is not limited to: ranking on the USEF European Young Rider Tour Ranking List; recommendation by the US Dressage Youth Coach/Chef d’Equipe; availability. Any substitution for veterinary reasons must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian, or, if there is a conflict of interest, 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 or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

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 U.S. Dressage Youth Coach/Chef d’Equipe and subject to approval by the USEF Board of Directors 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 his/her 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, he/she may request to be considered for selection on another horse, according to the memo outlined above.





GRIEVANCES: Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging 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. Please contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman Office at (719) 866-5000, or ombudsman@usathlete.org, or visit www.athleteombudsman.org for guidance as to the USOPC grievance processes.

OTHER - The following documents are required to be properly executed by athletes named on this Tour and horse owners as a condition of nomination for a CDI/CDIO and are included on our website:

- USEF Code of Conduct
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification
- USEF Safe Sport Policy
- USEF Athlete Agreement
- USEF Horse Participation Agreement

NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

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.

FUNDING- Selection to the Young Rider European Tour does not guarantee that grant funds 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 and/or Development Program member
- Athlete/Horse combination has earned two scores above 68% in two different CDI-Y events (one score may be earned at the 2022 USEF Young Rider Dressage National 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 USEF Dressage staff. Athletes that receive funding will be required to write a report after the tour outlining what they achieved and how they benefitted. This report will be used to assess the value and the functionality of the Program and to help justify funding support.

QUESTIONS – Questions regarding the 2023 European Young Rider Tour should be directed to Laura Roberts (LRoberts@usef.org or 859 225 6986)

