



2022 USEF Dressage National Championship Qualifying Requirements Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, and Young Adult Brentina Cup

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors Ad Hoc Selection Group on November 18, 2021.

The 2022 USEF Dressage National Championships (“Championships”) Qualifying Requirements published herein are effective on November 18, 2021 unless stated otherwise. The qualifying requirements published herein are subject to additions or revisions. These qualifying requirements pertain to the following divisions:

- Adequan® / USEF Young Adult Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship
- USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship

While every effort has been taken to avoid mistakes in this publication, the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (USEF) assumes no liability to anyone for errors or omissions. For questions concerning these Eligibility and Program Rules, please contact the USEF Dressage Department at festival@usef.org.

Application, Membership and Registration Requirements for Qualifying and Championships.

Application:

1. In order to be considered for these Championships, an application of intent must be completed and submitted to USEF no later than June 16, 2022. Applications are made available on the USEF website [here](#) no later than September 15, 2021.
 - a. Applications received by the USEF on or before May 12, 2022 will require an application fee of \$50 per horse.
 - b. Applications received between May 13, 2022 and June 16, 2022 will require a fee of \$150 per horse.
 - c. An application of intent is considered complete once the confirmation email is received. If the applicant does not receive the confirmation email, it is the applicant’s responsibility to contact USEF (festival@usef.org).
 - d. Additional horses may be added to an existing application(s) of intent until June 16, 2022 and will require a fee of \$50 per horse.
2. No application will be accepted after June 16, 2022 and no refunds will be given after the closing date.
3. The athletes are permitted to compete at these Championships with only those horses named on the athlete’s application.
4. Qualifying scores may be earned prior to the submission of the Application of Intent.

USEF strongly encourages all athlete, horse, and owner membership requirements be completed by June 9, 2022, or rush fees may be required in order to submit the application of intent by 11:59pm, ET on June 16, 2022.

Athlete Membership:

1. Athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to earn qualifying scores and compete in the Championships. If the athlete has an FEI Registration, they must have designated the USA as their Sport Nationality with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
2. Athletes must be Active Competing members in good standing of USEF for qualifying scores to count, as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships.
3. Intermediaire I and Grand Prix: Athletes must meet FEI eligibility and membership requirements in order to compete in CDIs. Athletes must be in good standing with the FEI to earn qualifying scores, through selection and to compete in these Championships.

4. Brentina Cup: FEI Rider Registration is NOT required to earn qualifying scores or to compete in this Championship.

Horse Membership:

1. Horses must be Annual or Life Recorded with USEF in order for qualifying scores to count at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships. Horse Identification (HID) Numbers DO NOT fulfill this requirement.
2. Intermediaire I and Grand Prix: Horses must meet the FEI General and Dressage Rules when competing at a CDI. Horses must be in good standing with the FEI to earn qualifying scores and to compete in the Championships.
3. Brentina Cup: An FEI Horse Registration, FEI passport, or FEI Recognition Card is NOT required to earn qualifying scores or to compete in this Championship.

Horse Owner(s) Membership:

1. Owners must be Active Competing members in good standing with USEF or his/her National Federation (and have proof in English) in order for the athlete/horse combinations' qualifying scores to count, as well as at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Championships.).
2. Ownership may change during the qualifying period and for the Championships as long as the new owner(s) meet all of the above criteria.

II. Division and Age Requirements for Athlete/Horse.

For all divisions listed below, qualification is based upon athlete/horse combination. No athlete may compete more than two (2) horses in each Championship division. The same athlete/horse combination shall only participate in one division at these Championships. A horse may only be competed in one division at these Championships. Ponies and Mules will not be allowed to qualify for or compete in these Championships. Per DR119.10, the horse's age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth to January 1 of the current competition year. FEI Rules apply in CDI competition. Refer to FEI Dressage Article 422.

Brentina Cup:

1. Athletes are eligible to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16) until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of twenty-five (25).
2. Horses must be at least eight (8) years old or older.

Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship at a higher level, the following restrictions apply to competing at a future Dressage National Championship at a lower level:

- Once an athlete has taken part in a National or FEI Dressage Championship for Brentina Cup (16-25), he/she is no longer eligible to compete at a Dressage National Championship for Pony Rider or Junior.
- If an athlete/horse combination places in the top three (3) in the Brentina Cup (16-25) National or FEI Championship, the same athlete/horse combination is no longer eligible to compete at a National Championship for Young Riders.

If the above restrictions do not apply to an athlete, the following rules apply to qualifying and Championship participation for athletes meeting the eligible age requirement:

- May compete in the Pony Rider (12-16), Junior (14-16), Young Rider (16-21), and Brentina Cup (16-25) divisions; however, may not compete in these divisions at the same qualifying competition(s) with the same mount.
- May compete in the Young Rider and Brentina Cup (16-25) National Championships within the same year; however, may not compete in these divisions at the National Championships with the same mount.

Intermediaire I and Grand Prix:

1. Athletes are eligible to compete in the qualifying competitions and the Championship from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen (16).
2. Horses must be eligible to compete at the Intermediaire I and Grand Prix levels under FEI rules.

III. Qualifying System.

Qualifying Period:

The qualifying period begins July 27, 2021, and is scheduled to end July 25, 2022, unless otherwise noted by USEF no later than February 1, 2022.

Qualifying Competitions:

A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions and a list of these designated Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website [here](#). The 2021 FEI Calendar can be found [here](#) and please note that the 2022 FEI Calendar will not be published on this link until approved by the FEI, no later than December 31, 2021).

For all divisions, please check regularly for updates to the FEI Calendar and the USEF Qualifying Calendar as changes to competitions may be posted at any time.

1. Brentina Cup:
 - a. Athlete/horse combinations must compete in either CDI-U25/CDIO-U25 or CDI events or USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (Qualifying Competitions) to be eligible for an invitation to the Championship. (See Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores below.)
 - b. An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if a CDI-U25 is also held at the event. However, if a CDIO-U25 is held, an athlete/horse combination may earn qualifying scores from the CDI-U25 or CDN qualifying classes if offered by the competition.
2. Intermediaire I
 - a. Qualifying competitions are considered CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, or CDI-Am events as well as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (CDNs). Athlete/horse combinations must compete in a minimum of one (1) CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, or CDI-Am event.
3. Grand Prix
 - a. Qualifying competitions are considered CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am, or CDI-W events as well as USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (CDNs). Athlete/horse combinations must compete in a minimum of one (1) CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am, or CDI-W event. The Tokyo Olympic Games and the 2022 FEI World Cup Finals are considered a qualifying competition.
4. Intermediaire I and Grand Prix: An athlete/horse combination cannot earn a qualifying score in a national competition (CDN) if a CDI is also held at the same 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.

Qualifying Tests and Minimum Qualifying Scores:

USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity, even if they have separate license/recognition numbers. Only one score per respective Test may be earned over the course of a weekend. These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as USEF Qualifying ("Test of Choice" classes will not count with the exception of the FEI Freestyle Test – see below). See Section IV for Judging Panels.

1. Brentina Cup
 - a. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 66% in order to receive an invitation to this Championship.
 - b. At least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and at least two (2) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate II Test. Athlete/horse combinations may also earn qualifying scores in the FEI Intermediate II Test at any CDI.
 - c. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test score within the qualifying period. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a national competition (CDN) designated as a Qualifying Competition or a CDI. The Freestyle score will not be used in the calculation of an

athlete/horse combination's final average. Freestyle scores will automatically be noted on the ranking list.

2. Intermediaire I

- a. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 66% in order to be receive an invitation to this Championship.
- b. At least three (3) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and at least three (3) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Intermediate I Test.
- c. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test score within the qualifying period. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Intermediate I Freestyle Test or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice class held at a national competition (CDN) designated as a Qualifying Competition or a CDI. The Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average. Freestyle scores will automatically be noted on the ranking list.

3. Grand Prix

- a. Athlete/horse combinations must have a minimum overall average of 66% in order to be receive an invitation to this Championship.
- b. At least three (3) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Test or FEI Short Grand Prix Test and at least three (3) scores must be earned in the current edition of the FEI Grand Prix Special Test.
- c. Athlete/horse combinations must also complete one (1) FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test score within the qualifying period. The Freestyle Test score may be earned in an FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test or an FEI Test of Choice class held at a national competition (CDN) designated as a Qualifying Competition or a CDI. The Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average. Freestyle scores will automatically be noted on the ranking list.
- d. Scores from FEI Consolation Competitions, if scheduled, will not count towards calculation of the ranking list.

4. Certificate of Capability

In addition to the above outlined qualifying process, athlete/horse combinations are required to earn a Certificate of Capability within the qualifying period.

- a. **Brentina Cup:** A Certificate of Capability is not required for this Championship.
- b. **Intermediaire I:** Athlete/horse combinations must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum score of 67% in the FEI Intermediate I Test completed at a CDI1*, CDI2*, CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, or CDI-Am event.
- c. **Grand Prix:** Athlete/horse 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.
- d. Once an athlete earns the Certificate of Capability score, it will be noted on the ranking list.

Score Calculation:

Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF Staff.

1. Ranking List

- a. For calculation purposes,
 - **Brentina Cup:** Only those scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test and the FEI Intermediate II Test (each counting 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
 - **Intermediaire I:** Only those scores earned in the FEI Prix St. Georges Test and the FEI Intermediaire I Test (each counting 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.

- **Grand Prix:** Only those scores earned in the FEI Grand Prix Test or FEI Short Grand Prix Test and the FEI Grand Prix Special Test (each counting 50%) will be used to calculate the overall average.
 - For all divisions, the Freestyle Test score will not be used in the calculation of an athlete/horse combination's final average.
- b. USEF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations, which are earned at Qualifying Competitions (CDNs). Submission of score sheets to USEF is not necessary for these Championships unless requested by USEF staff.
 - c. For all divisions, scratches, eliminations, and withdrawals will not be penalized on the ranking list.
 - d. **Brentina Cup (CDI Scores):** Scores earned in a CDI will automatically count towards an athlete/horse 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 Department does not receive the request prior to the start time of the veterinary inspection, as published in the FEI Definite Schedule, the score(s) will count toward their final average. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to confirm with the USEF Dressage Department that their request has been received.
 - e. **Brentina Cup Drop Scores:** If an athlete/horse combination completes three (3) or more of either of their respective Test, the lowest scored earned in this Test will be dropped. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from either Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate an athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless if the FEI Grand Prix Freestyle Test was ridden.
 - f. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix (CDI Scores):** Scores earned in a CDI will automatically count towards an athlete/horse 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 and Drop Score).
 - g. **Intermediaire I and Grand Prix Drop Scores:** If an athlete/horse combination completes four (4) or more of either of their respective Test, the lowest score earned in this Test will be dropped. The score earned for the Certificate of Capability may serve as a drop score. A maximum of one (1) score may be dropped from either Test. All remaining scores will be used to calculate an athlete/horse combination's overall average regardless if the respective Freestyle Test was ridden.

Exception: If an athlete/horse combination competes in only one CDI, this score(s) will not serve as a drop score and will automatically count towards the athlete/horse combination's overall average.

IV. Additional Rules and Requirements.

One Athlete Rule:

1. For USEF qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), Intermediaire I, or Grand Prix within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds. This rule also applies for NAYC and USEF High Performance (HP) qualifying competitions and classes.
2. For USEF Championships, within 24 hours prior and through the conclusion of the competition, any horse entered in a USEF Championship class shall not be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse or pony and athlete arrive on the show grounds.
3. For CDI Events, FEI Dressage Rules apply.

Judging Panels for Qualifying Competitions:

- For all divisions, qualifying tests held at a CDN designated as a Qualifying Competition must be judged by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' and/or FEI Judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1)

USEF 'S' Judge). For tests to be counted towards qualification, at least one (1) judge must differ per Qualifying Competition.

- Freestyle Tests completed at a CDN designated as a Qualifying Competition must be judged by a minimum of one (1) USEF 'S' or FEI judge.

Conflict of Interest:

- Judging Panels at CDI Events: Refer to FEI Dressage Regulations for Judge Requirements and Codex for Judges.
- Judging Panels at USEF National Licensed Competitions: Refer to USEF Chapter 13, GR1304.
- All competitors and officials are subject to the conflict of interest rules at USEF Licensed Competitions as outlined in the [USEF General and Dressage Rules](#).

Dress and Saddlery:

1. Brentina Cup: Please refer to [DR120-121](#) for dress and saddlery rules for national level competition for Brentina Cup qualifiers.
2. Grand Prix and Intermediaire I: Snaffle bridles and the use of a whip will be permitted at a CDN designated as a Qualifying Competition.
3. All divisions: If competing in a CDI event, all [FEI Dressage](#) and [General Regulations](#) must be followed.
4. See Section V regarding Dress and Saddlery rules at the Championships.

General:

1. It is the responsibility of the owners and athletes of horses to ensure that they know and understand the [USEF Rules](#) and [Qualifying Requirements](#), and the USEF Code of Conduct.
2. All athletes, horse owners, and trainers are required to follow the [USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), which includes the [USEF Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#).
3. USEF is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected, or stolen correspondence either electronic, postal, commercially shipped or voice activated. It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure that all application, application fees, and qualifying competition scores have been received by published deadlines.

Clean Sport

1. [Equine Anti-Doping](#): All horses/ponies shall be subject to drug and medication testing during qualifying and at the Championship and the horse must meet all Federation drug and medication rules. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected at any time during the competition. Samples collected from horses/ponies will be tested for the presence of all substances forbidden and/or controlled by USEF. Any horse/pony whose sample contains a prohibited substance or a restricted substance in a concentration greater than USEF limits shall be subject to sanctions in accordance with USEF Rules.
2. [Human Anti-Doping](#): Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and USADA protocols, policies, and procedures. This includes participation in out of competition testing as required by WADA, FEI, USEF, and/or USADA rules, if applicable.

Grievance Procedures:

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](#) and Opportunity to Participate Complaint 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 process.

V. Championship Competition.

Invitations for the Championships:

1. All athlete/horse combinations that submitted an Application of Intent as outlined above (see "Application") and have qualified by the method outlined above (see "Qualifying System") will be ranked

according to scores and be accepted up to the numbers of entries available, not to exceed 12.

Exception: Wildcard invitations (see below).

2. No athlete may compete more than two horses in each division at these Championships. The same athlete/horse combination shall only participate in one division at these Championships. A horse may only be competed in one division at these Championships.
3. If an athlete qualifies more than two horses in the top twelve (12) ranked athlete/horse combinations, the next athlete/horse combination may be invited to attend up to a maximum of fifteen (15) athlete/horse combinations.
4. In the case of a tie, the athlete/horse combinations shall remain tied, but shall take up two places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete/horse combination shall be #3.
5. If there is a tie for 12th place, all tied combinations will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries (i.e., 13 entries accepted).

Wild Card Invitations:

1. Brentina Cup is not eligible for Wild Card invitations.
2. Grand Prix
 - a. In addition to the athlete/horse combinations who have not received an invitation to compete in the Championship through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above, athlete/horse combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one FEI Grand Prix CDI score, one FEI Short Grand Prix CDI score, FEI Grand Prix Special CDI score or one FEI Grand Prix Freestyle score after July 27, 2021, may request a wild card invitation.
 - b. Wild Card requests must be submitted to festival@usef.org no later than July 25, 2022.
2. Intermediaire I
 - a. In addition to the athlete/horse combinations who have not received an invitation to compete in the Championship through the fulfillment of the criteria listed above, athlete/horse combination(s) not qualified (as listed above) with at least one FEI Prix St. Georges CDI Score, one FEI Intermediate I CDI score, or one FEI Intermediate I Freestyle score after July 27, 2021 may request a wild card invitation.
 - b. Wild Card requests must be submitted to festival@usef.org no later than July 25, 2022.
3. The Dressage Sport Committee or its Designees may award up to three Wild Card invitations in either the Intermediaire I and the Grand Prix divisions based upon on results of the combination, as well as any extenuating circumstances that may have led to the combination not qualifying otherwise. The following factors will be considered:
 - Scores earned from tests (FEI Prix St. Georges Test, FEI Intermediate I Test, FEI Grand Prix Test or FEI Short Grand Prix Test, FEI Grand Prix Special) from CDIs during the qualifying period. Scores from CDNs carry less weight than scores from CDIs.
 - The experience and standing of the CDN judges.
 - The athlete/horse combination's ranking on their respective National Championship ranking list.
 - Consistency of scores over 66% (which is the minimum overall average for the Qualifying Process).
 - The trend in scores if the combination competed in multiple competitions within the qualifying period.
 - Factors beyond the control of the athlete that led to the athlete/horse combination not earning the required CDI results.

Competition Information:

1. It is anticipated that the 2022 U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions will take place on August 22-28, 2022, at HITS Chicago at Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, IL.
2. The [FEI rules for Dressage, Saddlery and Execution of Tests](#) will apply. Tests shall be ridden from memory and whips are forbidden while competing in the arena. USEF drug rules will be followed.
3. Horses will be examined for soundness. A horse inspection will be scheduled prior to the Championship classes, at which time all horses must be presented to a FEI veterinarian and at least two members of the judging panel for examination. All individuals aged 25 and under must wear protective headgear during the Horse Inspection. Please refer to the [FEI Veterinary Regulations](#) on Horse Inspection Procedures.
4. Championship Format for each division will be available on the USEF Website by March 1, 2022.

USEF reserves the right to amend this document should there be a need to utilize the Championships as selection events or mandatory outings for Team selection or Championships preparation.

These Qualifying Requirements are based on the USEF and FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Qualifying Requirements caused by a change in USEF or FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The Qualifying Requirements are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the Qualifying Requirements are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.