UPDATES FROM 2026 TO 2027 IN RED

USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying Calendar

Competition Manual

For Competitions Approved to Host the USEF/NAYC Qualifying Classes between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2027

Published November 23, 2026





Dear Competition Management:

Congratulations! One or more of your competitions have been approved to host the USEF and NAYC National Championship Qualifying Classes. Please review the approved calendar here.

Designated qualifying competitions must be **at least a Level 3 competition** and must comply with all the outlined requirements, as well as the USEF Dressage Rules, USEF General Rules, and Selection Procedures/Qualifying Requirements that apply to these competitions.

This document serves as a resource for competition management of USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying Competitions and U.S. FEI Dressage Competitions for planning purposes. The information provided is subject to changes or updates which will be noted throughout the document.

We appreciate your participation and helping provide these special qualifying opportunities for your exhibitors. Please contact the Dressage Department (festival@usef.org) if you have any questions regarding the contents of this manual.

Useful Links

- January 1, 2027 – August 31, 2027 USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying Calendar
- September 1, 2027 – August 31, 2028 USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying Calendar
- Information for Dressage Qualifying Competition Management
- USEF/NAYC Dressage Calendar Policies and Procedures
- USEF Calendar Search
- USEF Secretary & Manager Search
- U.S. FEI Competitions
- USEF Rulebook

Important Information for 2027:

- Except for CDI classes, all national qualifying classes must have "EF" in the class number (example, class 101EF) and all combinations entered in USEF/NAYC national qualifying classes should be clearly indicated in the results.
- Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes.
- Combinations will be required to earn scores at FEI events only to qualify for the 2027 USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship from August 26, 2026 to April 26, 2027 . Qualifying competitions include all U.S. and foreign CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO, CDI-Am and CDI-W events within the qualifying period. The 2026 U.S. Open Dressage Final on November 13-14, 2026 and the 2027 FEI World Cup Final scheduled on March 24-28, 2027 in Gothenburg (SWE) are considered qualifying competitions. FEI Rules are followed at CDI events.
- The 2027 FEI PAEC Championships of the Americas scheduled for January 19-31, 2027 in Ocala, FL is considered a qualifying competition for the 2027 USEF Grand Prix and Intermediaire I Dressage National Championships.
- Qualifying competitions that have date changes **must communicate the changes** to festival@usef.org. Requests must be received a minimum of 12 weeks prior to the competition and are subject to approval of the Dressage Calendar Working Group. Please review the current edition of the Dressage Qualifying Calendar Policies & Procedures for more information.
- Qualifying competitions that are planning to cancel **must** email festival@usef.org with detailed reasoning for the cancellation. Prior to cancelling, organizers must work with USEF Dressage Staff to resolve any issues that may lead to cancellation. If organizers do not work with USEF Dressage Staff prior to cancellation of the qualifying classes, they will not be eligible to apply for qualifying status in future years and **cancellation fees will apply.** See page 13 of the manual.

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Designated qualifying competitions must comply with all the outlined requirements in this manual, as well as the USEF Dressage Rules, USEF General Rules, and Qualifying Requirements/Selection Procedures that apply to these competitions. Failure to comply may result in investigation, penalties, and sanctions and will affect a competition's future status as a qualifier. If you determine that your competition is unable or unwilling to comply with these requirements and would like to be removed from the official qualifying competition list, contact festival@usef.org immediately.

2027 GAIG/USDF Regional Championships

All GAIG/USDF Regional Championships will be required to hold the following tests as USEF/NAYC or NAYC Qualifying in the non-championship portion of the competition:

USEF/NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Junior Team Test	1575
FEI Junior Individual Test	1576
FEI Young Rider Team Test	1577
FEI Young Rider Individual Test	1578
FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test	1555
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982

NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Junior Freestyle Test	1587
FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test	1588

Please contact festival@usef.org if a Regional Championship would like to offer the following tests as USEF or USEF/NAYC qualifying in the non-championship portion of the competition. Your email must be received no later than 30 days prior to the start of the competition and there is a $25.00 fee to offer these tests as USEF qualifying or USEF/NAYC qualifying.

USEF Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Intermediate I Test	1533
FEI Pony Rider Team Test	1573
FEI Pony Rider Individual Test	1574
FEI Para Grand Prix A TOC	1590
FEI Para Grand Prix B TOC	1591
FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle TOC	1592
FEI Para Intermediate A TOC	9968
FEI Para Intermediate B TOC	9969
FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle TOC	9970

NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Junior Freestyle Test	1587
FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test	1588

USEF/NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Children Team Test	1579
FEI Children Individual Test	1580
FEI Junior Team Test	1575
FEI Junior Individual Test	1576
FEI Young Rider Team Test	1577
FEI Young Rider Individual Test	1578
FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test	1555
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982

Prize List and Required Classes

Prize List Headers and Required Classes for Dressage Qualifying Competitions

Approved USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying Competitions must include the language below in their USEF Prize List.

When drafting your prize lists, if you have questions regarding how the required qualifying classes should be listed, please do not hesitate to contact festival@usef.org.

Competitions (National or CDI Events) held between January 1, 2027 and June 28, 2027 serve as the official qualifier for the:

- 2027 FEI North American Youth Championships
- 2027 USEF Children Dressage National Championship
- 2027 USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship
- 2027 USEF Junior Dressage National Championship
- 2027 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship
- 2027 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship
- 2027 Markel/USEF Young and Developing Horse Dressage National Championships
- 2027 USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- 2027 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championships
- 202 FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in Dressage (Five-, Six-, and Seven-Year Olds)

USEF Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Intermediate I Test	1533
FEI Pony Rider Team Test	1573
FEI Pony Rider Individual Test	1574
FEI Para Grand Prix A TOC	1590
FEI Para Grand Prix B TOC	1591
FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle TOC	1592
FEI Para Intermediate A TOC	9968
FEI Para Intermediate B TOC	9969
FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle TOC	9970

USEF/NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Children Team Test	1579
FEI Children Individual Test	1580
FEI Junior Team Test	1575
FEI Junior Individual Test	1576
FEI Young Rider Team Test	1577
FEI Young Rider Individual Test	1578
FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test	1555

NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Junior Freestyle Test	1587
FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test	1588

Markel/USEF/NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982

Markel/USEF Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Prix St. Georges Test	1531
USEF Four-Year-Old Test	1551
USEF Developing Prix St. Georges Test	1584
USEF Developing Grand Prix Test	1585

WBC/Markel/USEF/Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Five-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1581
FEI Five-Year-Old Final Test	1542
FEI Six-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1582
FEI Six-Year-Old Final Test	1543
FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1583
FEI Seven-Year-Old Final Test	1562

**Please note the following:

- Except for CDI classes, all national qualifying classes must have “EF” in the class number (example, class 101EF) and all combinations entered in USEF/NAYC national qualifying classes should be clearly indicated in the results.
- Hors de Concours entries (HC) are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes.
- **FEI Young Rider and Junior Freestyle Tests** must be offered with a panel of at least two (2) FEI and/or ‘S’ Judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge).

- **FEI Children Preliminary B Test:** This test must be completed in a FEI Children Preliminary B class or an FEI Test of Choice class. These classes must NOT be offered as USEF/NAYC or NAYC Qualifying. Please see page 14 for the placement of judges.
- **FEI Grand Prix and FEI Intermediate Freestyle Tests:** These tests must be offered in a FEI Grand Prix Freestyle class, FEI Intermediate Freestyle class, or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice. These classes must NOT be offered as USEF or USEF/NAYC Qualifying. A minimum of one (1) FEI or USEF 'S' Judge must be on the panel.
- The **FEI Intermediate II A Test** must be offered as an open test for U25 and the Developing Grand Prix.
- For the **Developing PSG and Developing GP** qualifying purposes, when a CDI Small Tour, CDI2* and/or CDI U25 is held in conjunction with a National Qualifying Competition, the following tests must be offered in addition to the Developing PSG/GP Tests with a panel of at least two (2) FEI and/or USEF "S" judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge):

Markel Qualifying ONLY	Section Code
FEI Prix St. Georges Test	1531
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982

- For **World Breeding Championship** qualifying purposes, when a CDIYH is held in conjunction with a National Qualifying Competition, the following tests must be designated as:

CDIYH

WBC/Markel/USEF/Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Five-Year-Old Preliminary A Test	9982
FEI Five-Year-Old Final Test	1542
FEI Six-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1582
FEI Six-Year-Old Final Test	1543
FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1583
FEI Seven-Year-Old Final Test	1562

National

Markel/USEF Qualifying	Section Code
USEF Four-Year-Old Test	1551
USEF Developing Prix St. Georges Test	1584
USEF Developing Grand Prix Test	1585
FEI Five-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1581
FEI Five-Year-Old Final Test	1542
FEI Six-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1582
FEI Six-Year-Old Final Test	1543
FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1583
FEI Seven-Year-Old Final Test	1562

Competitions (National or CDI Events) held between June 28, 2027 and July 26, 2027 serve as the official qualifier for the:

- 2027 Markel/USEF Young and Developing Horse Dressage National Championships
- 2027 USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- 2027 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championships

USEF Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Intermediate I Test	1533
FEI Para Grand Prix A TOC	1590
FEI Para Grand Prix B TOC	1591
FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle TOC	1592
FEI Para Intermediate A TOC	9968
FEI Para Intermediate B TOC	9969
FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle TOC	9970

Markel/USEF Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Prix St. Georges Test	1531
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982
USEF Four-Year-Old Test	1551
USEF Developing Prix St. Georges Test	1584
USEF Developing Grand Prix Test	1585
FEI Five-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1581
FEI Five-Year-Old Final Test	1542
FEI Six-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1582
FEI Six-Year-Old Final Test	1543
FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	1583
FEI Seven-Year-Old Final Test	1562

**Please note the following:

- Except for CDI classes, all national qualifying classes must have "EF" in the class number (example, class 101EF) and all combinations entered in USEF/NAYC national qualifying classes should be clearly indicated in the results.
- Hors de Concours entries (HC) are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes.
- **FEI Intermediate Freestyle Test:** This test must be offered in a FEI Intermediate Freestyle class, or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice. This class must NOT be offered as USEF Qualifying. A minimum of one (1) FEI or USEF 'S' Judge must be on the panel.
- For the **Developing PSG and Developing GP** qualifying purposes, when a CDI Small Tour, CDI2* and/or CDI U25 is held in conjunction with a National Qualifying Competition, the following tests must be offered in addition to the Developing PSG/GP Tests with a panel of at least two (2) FEI and/or USEF "S" judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge):

Markel Qualifying ONLY	Section Code
FEI Prix St. Georges Test	1531
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982

Competitions (National or CDI Events) held between July 27, 2027 and December 31, 2027 serve as the official qualifier for the:

- 2028 FEI North American Youth Championships
- 2028 USEF Children Dressage National Championship
- 2028 USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship
- 2028 USEF Junior Dressage National Championship
- 2028 USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship
- 2028 USEF Brentina Cup Dressage National Championship
- 2028 USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship
- 2028 USEF Para Dressage National Championships

USEF Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Intermediate I Test	1533
FEI Prix St. Georges Test	1531
FEI Pony Rider Team Test	1573
FEI Pony Rider Individual Test	1574
FEI Para Grand Prix A TOC	1590
FEI Para Grand Prix B TOC	1591
FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle TOC	1592
FEI Para Intermediate A TOC	9968
FEI Para Intermediate B TOC	9969
FEI Para Intermediate Freestyle TOC	9970

USEF/NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Children Team Test	1579
FEI Children Individual Test	1580
FEI Junior Team Test	1575
FEI Junior Individual Test	1576
FEI Young Rider Team Test	1577
FEI Young Rider Individual Test	1578
FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test	1555
FEI Intermediate II A Test	9982

NAYC Qualifying	Section Code
FEI Junior Freestyle Test	1587
FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test	1588

**Please note the following:

- Except for CDI classes, all national qualifying classes must have “EF” in the class number (example, class 101EF) and all combinations entered in USEF/NAYC national qualifying classes should be clearly indicated in the results.
- Hors de Concours entries (HC) are not permitted in USEF/NAYC Qualifying classes.
- **FEI Children Preliminary B Test:** This test must be completed in a FEI Children Preliminary B class or an FEI Test of Choice class. These classes must NOT be offered as USEF/NAYC Qualifying. Please see page 14 for the placement of judges.
- **FEI Grand Prix and FEI Intermediate Freestyle Tests:** These tests must be offered in a FEI Grand Prix Freestyle class, FEI Intermediate Freestyle class, or an FEI Freestyle Test of Choice. These classes must NOT be offered as USEF Qualifying. A minimum of one (1) FEI or USEF ‘S’ Judge must be on the panel.
- **FEI Young Rider and Junior Freestyle Tests** must be offered with a panel of at least two (2) FEI and/or ‘S’ Judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF ‘S’ Judge.

Additional Class Requirements:

FEI Children, Pony Rider, Junior and Young Rider Team Tests: The Team Test must be scheduled PRIOR to the Individual and Freestyle Tests. Freestyle Tests may be offered before Individual Tests. Team and Individual qualifying tests must be offered on separate days.

FEI Intermediaire I, Developing Horse, Young Horse, and U25 Tests:

- The Intermediate I and Prix St. Georges Tests must be offered on separate days.
- The Prix St. Georges and the Developing PSG Tests must be offered on separate days.
- The Intermediate II A and Grand Prix 16-25 Tests must be offered on separate days.
- The Intermediate II A and Developing GP Tests must be offered on separate days.

FEI Children Preliminary B Test: Combinations wishing to earn an invitation to the 2027 NAYC will be required to earn a minimum of one (1) score in the FEI Children Preliminary B Test. This test must be completed in a FEI Children Preliminary B class or an FEI Test of Choice class. These classes must NOT be offered as USEF/NAYC Qualifying. Please see page 20 for the placement of judges.

24 Hour Rule: For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when the horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds. For Federation and NAYC qualifying for Children, Pony Rider, Junior, Young Rider, Intermediaire I, Developing Horse and U25 (Brentina Cup and NAYC), within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF or USEF/NAYC Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF/NAYC championship qualifying purposes. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein.

Dress: Please refer to DR120-121 for Dress and Saddlery rules for national level competition qualifiers. For a CDI event, all FEI Dressage and General Regulations must be followed.

Equipment:

- Whips are permitted in national USEF/NAYC qualifying classes.
- Junior and Young Rider – Snaffle or double bridle is permitted for USEF/NAYC qualifying classes held at a national competition. FEI Rules are followed at a CDI.
- Brentina Cup, Grand Prix and Intermediaire I – Snaffle or double bridle is permitted for qualifying classes held at a national competition. FEI Rules are followed at a CDI.
- Developing Horse – Snaffle or double bridle is permitted for qualifying classes held at a national competition. FEI Rules are followed at a CDI.

USEF Dressage Rules

USEF General Rules

Prize List Review Procedure

Competition Management is required to submit their prize list no later than 30 days prior to the competition per normal USEF and USDF procedures. It is strongly recommended for competitions to submit their prize list via email (festival@usef.org) for review prior to submission to USEF and USDF.

Additionally, except for CDI classes, all national qualifying classes must have "EF" in the class number (example, class 101EF) and all combinations entered in USEF/NAYC qualifying classes should be clearly indicated in the results.

Please note: Any requested changes to your prize list from the comments received by USEF and/or USDF must be received by both Federations within 10 days from the date of the comments. In addition, per GR904, if the Prize List must be changed after it has been distributed to potential exhibitors, notification of specific changes to a prize list must be made in

accordance with GR904. However, requested updates not made by a competition may be reported to the USEF Regulation Department to determine whether a rule violation has occurred.

Click Here for USEF Dressage Level 3, 4, & 5 Prize List Requirements.

Reporting Results

Per DR 128.4, qualifying scores for NAYC, USEF National Championships, including Para Dressage, Children, Pony Rider, Junior, Young Rider, Brentina Cup, Young and Developing Horse, Intermediate I and Grand Prix, must be submitted by Competition Management to USDF and USEF within 48 hours after the competition. Exception: Competitions held at the end of a qualifying period require submission of results within 24 hours after the competition. Results must be submitted to USDF via the USDF Electronic Results Submissions Standard format and electronically to USEF through the Competition Dashboard.

Section Codes

USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying competitions **must** use proper result reporting per the below section code guide. Submission of results without correct section codes may impact on the approval to the USEF/NAYC Qualifying Calendar in the future.

Section Code	Test Name	Program/Division
1551	USEF Dressage Test for 4-Year-Old Horses	4-Year-Old Young Horse
1542	FEI Dressage Test for 5-Year-Old Horses - Final	5-Year-Old Young Horse
1581	FEI Five-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	5-Year-Old Young Horse
1543	FEI Dressage Test for 6-Year-Old Horses - Final	6-Year-Old Young Horse
1582	FEI Six-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	6-Year-Old Young Horse
1562	FEI Dressage Test for 7-Year-Old Horses - Final	7-Year-Old Young Horse
1583	FEI Seven-Year-Old Preliminary B Test	7-Year-Old Young Horse
1584	USEF Developing Horse Prix St. Georges Test	Developing Horse Prix St. Georges
1585	USEF Developing Horse Grand Prix Test	Developing Horse Grand Prix
1555	FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test	U25
9982	FEI Intermediate II A Test	U25 & Developing Horse Grand Prix
1575	FEI Junior Team Test	Junior
1576	FEI Junior Individual Test	Junior
1577	FEI Young Rider Team Test	Young Rider
1578	FEI Young Rider Individual Test	Young Rider
1579	FEI Children Team Test	Children
1580	FEI Children Individual Test	Children
9980	FEI Children Preliminary B Test	Children
1573	FEI Pony Team Test	Pony

1574	FEI Pony Individual Test	Pony
1557	CDI - Grand Prix Open Test	Grand Prix (For CDI competitions)
1558	CDI - Grand Prix Special Test	Grand Prix (For CDI competitions)
1559	Grand Prix Freestyle	Grand Prix (For National and CDI competitions)
1557	CDI-AM FEI Grand Prix Test	Grand Prix - Am (For CDI competitions)
1531	FEI Prix St. Georges Test	Intermediaire I (For CDI and National competitions)
1533	Intermediate I Test	Intermediaire I (For CDI and National competitions)
1534	Intermediate I Freestyle	Intermediaire I (For CDI and National competitions)
1531	FEI Prix St. Georges Test for Amateur CDIAm	Intermediaire I - Am (For CDI competitions)
1533	FEI Intermediate I Test for Amateur CDIAm	Intermediaire I - Am (For CDI competitions)
1534	Intermediate I Freestyle - CDIAm	Intermediaire I - Am (For CDI competitions)
1590	FEI Para Grand Prix A Test	Para Dressage
1591	FEI Para Grand Prix B Test	Para Dressage
1592	FEI Para Grand Prix Freestyle	Para Dressage
9968	FEI Para Intermediate A Test	Para Dressage
9969	FEI Para Intermediate B Test	Para Dressage
9970	FEI Para Intermediate Test Freestyle	Para Dressage

Guide to Hosting Para Dressage Qualifying Test

All approved Qualifying Competitions are required to host Para Dressage Qualifying Tests.

Dispensation or Classification Certificate:

Athletes must provide Competition Management a copy of their Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate with their entry. A copy of their Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate must be attached to the Athlete's test for the Judge's reference.

Copies of these certificates must be attached to the judge's test copy and provided to the Technical Delegate. The ring steward should check the saddlery of one-third of the horses in each class immediately after the horse leaves the arena, in compliance with DR126.2.i.1. Any discrepancy will be reported to the Judge at C and may entail elimination. Management must provide a copy of each Athlete's Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate to the ring stewards for all Para Athletes. See DR308.9 and DR119.12-DR119.1

FEI Para Dressage Tests:

FEI Para Dressage Tests are found here on the FEI website. Please note: the test names have been updated, effective January 1, 2023.

FEI Para Dressage Tests must be ridden from memory unless an exemption is listed on the athlete's Dispensation/Classification Certificate. In all tests, movements must follow the order laid down in the test. See DR122.1, DR122.4 and DR310.

Facility and Arena Requirements for Para Team, Para Individual, and Para Freestyle TOC classes:

- For designated national qualifying competitions, all tests for Grades I – III must be ridden in a small arena (20m x 40m). See DR303.4.
- For designated national qualifying competitions, all tests for Grades IV - V must be ridden in a standard size arena. See DR303.4.
- Restroom – it is encouraged but not required to provide a minimum of one (1) accessible port-a john if onsite facilities do not have an accessible restroom.
- It is encouraged but not required to provide wheelchair accessible mounting equipment.

Scheduling of Tests:

When preparing your time schedule, consider ending the day with your Para classes in order to begin the next day with Para. This way you only need to change the arena size once a day. Most often, the support staff and families of the athletes are willing to help make any ring adjustments so do not hesitate to ask for help.

If you find that you need both the small and standard-size arenas for athletes in the same class, there are two (2) options:

1. Update your prize list to offer two separate FEI Para TOC classes.
2. Or create two separate divisions of the class.

Divisions or sections of a class are considered to be a separate "class" only if listed as such in the prize list. Divisions or sections of a class may be held in different rings and judged by different judges. When divisions or sections are held under different conditions (i.e., different ring or judges), separate awards must be given (DR126.2.3). Don't forget to send in your updated prize list to USEF! See GR904.

Dress, Saddlery, Equipment & Compensating Aids:

- Please refer to DR120.12 and DR121 for rules not specifically covered under DR306 - DR308.
- Athletes must use snaffle or double bridles (DR308.1) when competing in any FEI Para Dressage Test class. However, when athletes enter an able-bodied class/test, they must provide their Dispensation/Classification Certificate in order to use their compensating aids during the test.

- Due to the complex nature of the saddlery used by some Para athletes, refer to the FEI Para Dressage Rules for any additional requirements for bits and bridles not covered in DR121. See Article 8428 of the FEI Para Dressage Rules.

The aim of the above information is to provide Competition Management with a brief outline of what to expect when offering the Para Dressage Tests. It is strongly recommended for Competition Management hosting the USEF/NAYC Qualifying Tests to familiarize themselves with all USEF General and Dressage Rules.

Level of Competition and Licensing

Competitions approved to host the USEF/NAYC qualifying tests must be licensed as **Level 3 or higher competitions**. A competition and all associated officials and staff must fully comply with the requirements of a Level 3 competition (and/or above). In addition, the correct qualifying classes must be offered. Please refer to the Required Classes and Judge Requirements section. The Level 3 competition cannot be immediately preceded by a competition of a lower level (i.e., it is not permitted to hold a Level 2 competition on a Friday and then the qualifier on Saturday and Sunday). All competitions must retain current and correct USEF licenses and USDF recognition. Competitions held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity, even if they have separate license/recognition numbers.

License Agreement

Competitions that are approved as USEF/NAYC qualifiers should ensure they select the correct classes when completing the USEF/USDF License Agreement.

For example, between **January 1, 2027, and June 28, 2027,** approved competitions to host the qualifying tests would select the following:

- National Classes: Level 3
- FEI/HP Classes: PSG, Int. I, Int. II, Grand Prix, Freestyle, Junior/Young Rider, ParaEquestrian Classes, and Young Horse

Between **June 29, 2027, and July 26, 2027,** approved competitions to host the qualifying tests would select the following:

- National Classes: Level 3
- FEI/HP Classes: PSG, Int. I, Int. II, Freestyle, Young Horse, and ParaEquestrian Classes

If you have any questions when completing the license agreement, please contact us at festival@usef.org.

Date and Location Changes

Modifications may be made to approved competitions, however requests must be received to festival@usef.org a minimum of 12 weeks prior to the competition and are subject to approval of the Dressage Calendar Working Group. Please review the current edition of the Dressage Qualifying Calendar Policies & Procedures for more information.

Cancellation of a USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying Competition – New Procedure

Cancellation of any USEF/NAYC event outside of the regular Open Review period must be received in writing to festival@usef.org with specific reasoning concerning the cancellation. The cancellation notification will be included in the file for future applications and could affect eligibility to host a qualifier in future years. Cancellation fees apply unless the cancellation is due to force majeure or an Act of God under GR305.4. See below for breakdown of cancellation fees. Please review the current edition of the Dressage Qualifying Calendar Policies & Procedures for more information on cancellation fees.

Qualifying Requirements/Selection Procedures

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

Applicable Rules

Designated qualifying competitions must comply with all the outlined requirements in this manual, as well as the USEF Dressage Rules, USEF General Rules, Qualifying Requirements, and FEI Rules that apply to these competitions. Failure to comply may result in investigation, penalties, and sanctions and will affect a competition's future status as a qualifier. If you determine that your competition is unable or unwilling to comply with these requirements and would like to be removed from the official qualifying competition list, contact festival@usef.org immediately.

Judge Requirements for Qualifying Competitions:

A panel of at least two (2) FEI and/or USEF "S" judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and one (1) USEF 'S' Judge) must officiate all qualifying tests at national Qualifying Competitions. All FEI Dressage and General Regulations must be followed for CDI events

***Note: For FEI Young Horse Tests and the USEF Four-Year-Old Test, all judges assigned to these qualifying tests must have USEF or FEI Young Horse Judging Designation. The designations are listed on the online rosters on the USEF and FEI websites.*

FEI Children's Tests

Please review the information below in its entirety.

All USEF/NAYC Qualifying Competitions (Level 3, 4 or 5) must offer the FEI Children Tests as follows:

1. The FEI Children Team and Individual Tests must be judged by a panel of at least two (2) USEF S and/or FEI Judges (or at least one (1) FEI Judge and USEF S Judge).
    - **Two Judges**: Judge at C uses only the Technical Marking Sheet. Judge at B or E uses only the Quality Marking Sheet. The technical score and the quality score shall be weighted each with 50% towards the final score.
    - **Three Judges**: Judge at C uses only the Technical Marking Sheet; two judges sitting together at either B or E use only the Quality Marking Sheet. The technical score and the quality score shall be weighted each with 50% towards the final score.
    - For CDI-Ch events within the qualifying period, the average of the technical score and the quality score will count towards Festival and/or NAYC, pending the submission of the USEF CDI & Championship report form per the Qualifying Requirements/Selection Procedures for these Championships.
2. The FEI Children Preliminary B Test must be earned in an FEI Children Preliminary B class or in an FEI Test of Choice class. These classes may be judged by one judge who is placed at C. See below for the placement of judges.
3. All other qualifying requirements will remain the same for this division.

Placement of Judges for the FEI Children Preliminary B Test and for national level competitions offering a <u>non-qualifying</u> FEI Children Test(s), competitions may use one, two, or three judges:

1) **One Judge:** Judge at C uses the Technical Marking Sheet. The Quality Marking Sheet will not be used or filled out by the judge.
2) **Two Judges**: Judge at C uses the Technical Marking Sheet. The Judge at B or E uses only the Quality Marking Sheet. The technical score and the quality score shall be weighted each with 50% towards the final score.
3) **Three Judges:** Judge at C uses only the Technical Marking Sheet; two judges sitting together at B or E use only the Quality Marking Sheet. The technical score and the quality score shall be weighted each with 50% towards the final score.
4) To include this test as an FEI Test of Choice (TOC) class where only one judge presides, ONLY the Technical Marking Sheet can be used. If two or three judges preside over the FEI Children Tests, they must be offered separately in TOC class that is limited to FEI Children Tests (i.e., separate placing and awards must be offered due to different judging conditions).

Please note that one single judge will not complete both the technical and quality marking components of the FEI Children tests for either National or CDI-Ch competition. When only one judge, they must be at C and use only the Technical Marking Sheet. The Quality Marking Sheet will only be used when one or two judges also officiate at B or E.