



## **United States Equestrian Federation and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Assistance Program for Para-Equestrian Driving Athletes**

The U.S. Equestrian Federation supports Para-Equestrian-eligible military Veterans in their efforts to represent the USA at upcoming Para-Equestrian World Championships and other International competitions. Veterans who demonstrate exceptional sport skills and the commitment necessary to pursue elite-level competition are given guidance on securing the training, support, and coaching needed to qualify for Team USA and achieve their Para-Equestrian dreams.

Through a partnership with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA Paralympic Program Office helps to provide a monthly assistance allowance for disabled Veterans of the Armed Forces, as authorized by section 703 of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008.

Through the program, the VA will pay a monthly allowance to a Veteran with a service-connected or non-service-connected disability if the Veteran meets the minimum military standard or higher (i.e. Emerging, Talent Pool, National Team) in his/her respective sport at a recognized competition.

### **GENERAL PARA-EQUESTRIAN DRIVING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

In addition to meeting the military standard, athletes must:

- Be 17 years or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Must be a U.S. Veteran with a permanent, physical disability
- Must be a current member in good standing of USEF at the time that the Required Scores are achieved.
- Be medically eligible in accordance with the FEI Classification Manual for Para-Equestrian Competitions, 4th Edition, 2015 Rules for FEI Para-Equestrian Driving Events to compete in Para-Equestrian Driving competitions. To do so, Drivers shall have either a National or International Para-Equestrian Classification and be assigned a Grade. For more information regarding Classification, visit the FEI website at <http://www.fei.org/fei/regulations/driving>
- To schedule a National or International Classification, contact Laureen Johnson at the USEF at 859-225-7693.
- Drive independently (without second reins).

### **OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- Must comply with all USEF and ADS (American Driving Society) requirements.

### **REQUIRED SCORES:**

- A total of two scores for each must be submitted as follows for the current competition year:
- The minimum score of two driven FEI or ADS Dressage Tests at or above the ADS Preliminary Level at two USEF or ADS sanctioned Combined Driving Event must be below 65 penalty points and the entire event must have been completed successfully without Elimination, Retirement nor Disqualification.
- Scores for the entire event may be submitted from any horse/driver combination;
- All test scores (both driver and/or horse) must be achieved at ADS, USEF or FEI Para-Equestrian licensed competitions. FEI PE tests must be scored by a USEF "R" rated judge or above, or an FEI PE recognized judge. ADS tests must be scored by ADS "R" rated judges or above.

### **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- Athletes are required to submit legible copies of all qualifying tests, clearly indicating the name of the judge and competition at which the scores were achieved to Laureen Johnson, USEF High Performance Director of Para-Equestrian Programs at the address below.

USEF

P.O. Box 83

Gladstone, NJ 07934

[lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org)

Attention: Laureen Johnson, Director of Para-Equestrian

**USEF Fax: 908-234-9417**

Once received by the USEF, the scores will be recorded and added to the USEF Para-Equestrian List. Scores will then be forwarded to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for consideration to the Veterans Assistance Program.

To learn more about the Para-Equestrian monthly assistance allowance, contact Laureen Johnson, USEF Director of Para Equestrian, 859-225-7693, or via email [lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org).