



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2017 FEI North American Junior/Young Rider Championships**  
**DRESSAGE**  
**HITS-on-the-Hudson**  
**Saugerties, NY**  
**July 18-23, 2017**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to a Team:**

- 1. 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](http://www.fei.org)) at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2017 North American Junior Young Rider Championships ("the Event" or "NAJYRC").
- 2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**
  - a.** Athletes wishing to compete in the North American Young Rider Championship ("NAYRC") must have been born on or between January 1, 1996 and December 31, 2001.
  - b.** Athletes wishing to compete in the North American Junior Championship ("NAJC") must have been born on or between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2003.
  - c.** A horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years old for the NAYRC. A horse must be a minimum of six (6) years old for the NAJC. Ponies and mules are ineligible to qualify for or compete in the NAJYRC. Horses must be over 149 cm with shoes (FEI Rules for Dressage Events, Article 422.1).
  - d.** 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.
  - e.** The athlete and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
- 3. Other Requirements:**
  - a.** The athlete must be a member in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation ("USEF") at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - b.** The athlete must be a Participating Member in good standing of the United States Dressage Federation ("USDF") at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - c.** The horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing under USEF rules at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - d.** The horse must be Lifetime Registered with USDF at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - e.** FEI Registration for both athlete and horse must be completed and active by the end of the qualifying period.
  - f.** The owner of the horse must be a member in good standing of the USEF at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - g.** The owner of the horse must be a Participating Member or Business Member in good standing of the USDF at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - h.** Athlete/horse combinations must have earned a Certificate of Capability as outlined in Section IB.3.
  - i.** The Region of each athlete/horse combination is determined by where the athlete is domiciled in the U.S. at the time of application, regardless of multiple temporary residences. Documentation (such as Driver's License) may be requested to verify the domiciled address. A minor's or a dependent's domicile follows that of the parent or guardian who has lawful custody of the minor (unless the minor is emancipated from their parent/guardian and is self supporting). Once an application has been submitted, a change in region can only

occur if the athlete's domicile changes. The athlete must notify the USDF FEI Jr/YR Committee in writing of the change in domicile no later than May 2, 2017, which will then be reviewed.

- j. Applicants domiciled outside of the continental United States must meet the Citizenship and Minimum International Federation Standards for Participation outlined in Section 1A above.
- k. Application - Athletes wishing to represent a Region at the NAJC or NAYRC must complete an electronic Application with the appropriate fee per application to the United States Dressage Federation (USDF). If eligible, athletes may apply for both Events but must complete and submit a separate application and appropriate fee for each one. Application and fees submitted online on or prior to May 2, 2017 will be charged \$50 per application. Applications and fees submitted online after May 2, 2017 and received by USDF on or before May 16, 2017 will be charged an application fee of \$300 per application. Athletes are permitted to compete with only those horses named on the athlete's application. Completed applications must be submitted with payment to the USDF office by the above stated deadline. Online applications are found here: <http://www.usdf.org/online-services/fee-reports/najyrc-application.asp>  
**NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER May 16, 2017.**
- l. Additional horses may be added to an already received application until June 1, 2017 for \$50 each.
- m. The athlete shall certify by electronically signing the NAYRC, NAJC, or, if applicable, both applications, that he has received and read the Selection Procedures for the Event. In addition, the athlete must read and understand the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment A), and the Safe Sport Policy Handbook (<http://safesport.usef.org>) and agrees to be bound by them as represented by the athlete's signature on this document.

## **B. Qualifying Events**

The method by which the Region's Final Ranking for NAYRC and NAJC is determined shall be the process outlined below and approved by the USEF Dressage Committee, USDF Executive Board, and USEF Board of Directors.

- 1. A series of competitions throughout the U.S. have been designated as USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. A list of these designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions is available on the USEF website: <http://www.usef.org/IFrames/breedsdisciplines/discipline/alldressage/natDressage.aspx> or by contacting the USEF Dressage Department. It can also be found on the USDF website: <http://www.usdf.org/competitions/competitions-championships/najyrc/index.asp>.

The FEI Young Rider Team Test (current edition), FEI Young Rider Individual Test (current edition), and FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test (current edition), must be used for qualification for the NAYRC. The FEI Junior Team Test (current edition), FEI Junior Individual Test (current edition), and FEI Junior Freestyle Test (current edition), must be used for qualification for the NAJC.

These tests must be held as individual classes which are specifically designated as NAJYRC Qualifying. "Test of Choice" (TOC) classes will not count. For calculation purposes, the athlete/horse combination's overall average will be determined by averaging the scores earned in the Team and the Individual Test.

Qualifying scores for the Event may only be earned at designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions within the qualifying period beginning August 1, 2016 and ending June 19, 2017, unless otherwise determined no later than January 1, 2017. Athletes may also earn qualifying scores at any CDI/Y/J, held within the United States or any other country that offers the FEI Young Rider Tests and FEI Junior Tests within the designated qualifying period. CDI/Y/J scores are calculable at the option of the athlete and will only be computed into the athlete/horse's overall average upon receipt of a CDI/Y/J Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form. All athletes competing in CDI/Y/J competitions and/or the NAJYRC will be required to pay International High Performance (IHP) fees per USEF GR207 at the time of entry.

If within the qualifying period, scores earned at the USEF National Young Rider Dressage Championships or USEF National Junior Dressage Championships can be used as optional qualifying scores and are reportable under the same rules as a CDI/Y/J.

An applicant athlete/horse combination must earn at least three sets of qualifying scores (three scores in the Team Test and three scores in the Individual Test) in qualifying competitions to be eligible for nomination to a Region's team. Athlete/horse combinations will not receive a '0' if they choose to not complete the Team or Individual Test in a qualifying competition. One of these qualifying competitions (One (1) Team Test, One (1) Individual Test) must occur during the spring season (January 1, 2017 through ending June 19, 2017, unless otherwise determined no later than January 1, 2017).

Please note: for these qualification purposes, competition(s) held over the course of more than one day count(s) as a single qualifying competition (even if each day has a separate license number) and only the designated tests count. An athlete/horse combination is limited to competing in one qualifier in the same location in one seven day period however CDI-Y/Js are exempt from this requirement.

*Please note: Judges who are an owner of a horse or parent of an athlete or coach of an athlete competing in this division shall NOT officiate for any USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Classes for this division at designated Qualifying Competitions in any USDF region at any time during the qualifying period. Judges who do are subject to sanctions.*

2. If an athlete/horse combination competes in more than three (3) designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions (must have earned scores in three (3) Team Tests and three (3) Individual Tests) and/or CDI/Y/Js, the lowest score earned in Team Test and the lowest score earned in the Individual Test will be dropped regardless of whether or not these scores were earned in the same competition. Only one (1) score will be dropped from the Team Test and only one (1) score will be dropped from the Individual Test. CDI/Y/J scores will only be computed upon receipt of the CDI/Y/J Report Form within the specific deadline stated on the form. Scores submitted late will not be accepted. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure that all qualifying CDI scores for this program have been presented to USEF on time and are accurate.
3. In addition to the above outlined qualifying process, athlete/horse combinations will also be required to earn a Certificate of Capability, as described in Section I (SELECTION SYSTEM), within the Qualifying Period which begins August 1, 2016 and ending June 19, 2017, unless otherwise determined no later than January 1, 2017.
  - a. North American Young Rider Championships – Each athlete/horse combination must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum overall average of 62.000% attributed by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' or FEI Judges, in the FEI Young Rider Team Test and FEI Young Rider Individual Test at three different designated USEF/NAJYRC qualifying competitions. In addition, they must earn, at least one (1) score of 62.000% in the FEI Young Rider Freestyle during the qualification period at an official qualifying event. Verification that an athlete/horse combination has met the requirements of the Certificate of Capability will be based upon the achievement of the score requirements above, and by the athlete electronically agreeing through the USDF Website ([www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)) that they have been met by the end of the qualifying period
  - b. North American Junior Championships – Each athlete/horse combination must earn a Certificate of Capability by attaining a minimum overall average of 62.000% in the FEI Junior Team Test and FEI Junior Individual Test at three different designated USEF/NAJYRC qualifying competitions attributed by a panel of two (2) or more USEF 'S' or FEI Judges, in the FEI Junior Team Test and FEI Junior Individual Test at three different designated USEF/NAJYRC qualifying competitions. In addition, they must earn at least one (1) score of 62.000% in the FEI Junior Freestyle during the qualification period at an official qualifying event. Verification that an athlete/horse combination has met the requirements of the Certificate of Capability will be based upon the achievement of the score requirements above, and by the athlete electronically agreeing through the USDF Website ([www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org)) that they have been met by the end of the qualifying period.
4. Special Rules pertaining to Dress, Saddlery, Schooling & Warm-up at Qualifying Events:
  - a. DRESS & SADDLERY: Please refer to USEF Rules for dress and saddlery requirements (DR 120-121) if competing in a USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competition or FEI Dressage Regulations if

competing in CDI/Y/J competitions and/or the NAJYRC. **Snaffle bridles will be permitted for NAJYRC qualifying classes, USEF Junior qualifying classes and USEF Young Rider qualifying classes. Double bridles will still be mandatory for NAJYRC and USEF Junior and Young Rider National Championships after August 1, 2015.** One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried in designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. However, when riding in a CDI/Y/J, FEI whip and bridle rules supersede USEF rules.

b. **SCHOOLING & WARMUP:** Under penalty of disqualification for NAJYRC qualifying purposes, at no time during a competition offering FEI Young Rider or FEI Junior Qualifying classes at a designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying competition, may any horse entered in an FEI Young Rider or FEI Junior Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in the class on that horse. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions held at USEF licensed Dressage Competitions, the competition starts when horse and/or athlete arrive on the show grounds and ends at the conclusion of the USEF licensed Dressage Competition. For NAJYRC qualifying classes which are included in a CDI/Y/J; per FEI Art. 422 on no account, and under penalty of disqualification, may any horse take part in a CDI/CDIO which has been schooled by anyone other than the athlete mounted in the saddle 24 hours before the planned Veterinary Inspection as well as for the duration of the whole event. Upon arrival on the show grounds, only the athlete when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed), is allowed to carry a whip (maximum 120 cm) anywhere on the showground. The groom may also walk, lead, and lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse. Under no circumstances is the whip allowed to be used to school the horse in the stables.

For CDI-Y/Js, horses may not leave the stables, the competition area, or the areas supervised by Stewards for any purpose unless authorized by a recognized FEI Official of the event or a Veterinarian acting in the interest of the health and welfare of the horse.

**C. Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees**

1. USDF will automatically track scores for athlete/horse combinations which are earned at designated USEF/NAJYRC Qualifying Competitions. CDI/Y/J scores will NOT be automatically calculated into the athlete/horse's overall average without receipt of a CDI/Y/J Report Form within the specified deadline stated on the form.

Percentages are carried out to the third decimal point with numbers of five and above rounded up (63.4555%=63.456%). It is the responsibility of the athlete to verify the accuracy of the standings posted on the USDF website. USDF is not responsible for inaccurately reported or illegible scores. If any errors are detected, athletes are encouraged to contact the USDF office immediately at (859) 971-2277 or [najyrc@usdf.org](mailto:najyrc@usdf.org). Errors must be reported no less than five business days prior to the NAJYRC nominated entry deadline.

At the end of the qualifying period, any ties in overall averages on the final ranking list will be broken according to the athlete/horse combination that achieved the highest average of the FEI Team Test scores.

U.S. Citizens wishing to earn qualifying scores in CDN competitions outside the United States (national competitions outside the United States) must submit a written request to [najyrc@usdf.org](mailto:najyrc@usdf.org). This request must be received at least six (6) weeks prior to the first day of competition and requires approval by the USEF Dressage Committee prior to scores being earned. If approved, athletes are responsible for reporting scores to [najyrc@usdf.org](mailto:najyrc@usdf.org) within five (5) days of the conclusion of the competition.

Regions may not impose additional requirements upon declared athletes or horses without appropriate approval.

**2. FEI Nominated Entry (Date confirmed in FEI Definite Schedule):**

By no later than the date of the FEI Nominated Entry, each Region shall submit a ranked list of applicant athlete/horse combinations (“Final Ranking”) up to eight (8) athletes and horses for each Event (8 for NAYRC and 8 for NAJC) (“Nominated Entry”) to USDF.

**3. FEI Definite Entries (Date confirmed in FEI Definite Schedule):**

After submission of the Nominated Entry but no later than the closing date for the Definite Entries, each Region shall submit their Definite Entries for both the NAYRC and the NAJC to USDF in order of the Region’s Final Ranking for each Event.

Each Region’s Definite Entries for the NAYRC and the NAJC will consist of the four (4) applicant athlete/horse combinations named to the “Team.” Reserve athlete/horse combinations are not allowed. In the case of a Region unable to field a complete team for either the NAYRC or the NAJC, the Region may send a maximum of two athlete/horse combinations who will compete as Individuals.

**REGIONS WITH ATHLETES ON BOTH THE JUNIOR AND YOUNG RIDER NOMINATED ENTRY MUST DECLARE IN WHICH EVENT THEY WILL PARTICIPATE BY THE DEFINITE ENTRY DEADLINE.**

**4. Combining of Regions to Form Teams -** If a Region is unable to field a team of at least three athlete/horse combinations, the Region may apply to USDF to combine with another Region which is also unable to field a team. Once all Definite Entries have been submitted, USEF will make the final decision to combine athlete/horse combinations no later than the first Chef d’Equipe meeting.

**5. Declaration of Starters (Time/date confirmed in FEI Definite Schedule) –** Once at the Event site, and after the horse inspection, each Region’s Chef d’Equipe will declare the starting order of the athlete/horse combinations on the Team of three (3) or four (4) athlete/horse combinations in the Team Test for each the NAYRC and the NAJC, as well as the Individuals (maximum of two per Region unable to field a complete team).

**D. Provided in Attachment B are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.** See Attachment B for the list of USDF and USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**II. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

**A. Prior to and after the Definite Entries Deadline, USEF has jurisdiction over athlete/horse combinations who might participate at the Event:** An athlete/horse combination whose name is included on a Region’s Final Ranking and/or submitted on Nominated Entry may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with these procedures.

- Voluntary withdrawal. The athlete must advise USEF (Hannah Niebielski, Director of Dressage, and National Programs – hniebielski@usef.org) of their withdrawal in writing.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- Violation of the Safe Sport Policy Handbook.
- Failure to adhere to all USOC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA and/or WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including, if applicable, participation in the out-of-competition testing as required by the FEI and/or WADA Rules.

In these procedures, the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section III. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES.

An athlete removed from the Region's Final Ranking and/or Nominated Entry pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaw 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR605 or USOC Bylaws, Section 9.

**B. An athlete may be removed at any time for violation of FEI and/or WADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the FEI** - Athletes must adhere to all USOC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, and may be drug tested. Please contact Christy Baxter with any questions at: (908) 326-1152 or [cbaxter@usef.org](mailto:cbaxter@usef.org).

### **III. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES**

**A. Following is the process by which the substitute pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** Each Region's Final Ranking and/or ranked list of athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entry will comprise the pool of substitute athletes for that Region.

**B. Substitute athlete/horse combinations will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method in accordance with the FEI Definite Schedule for the Event**

1. **Prior to the Definite Entries:** Prior to Definite Entries, USEF has the discretion to substitute athlete/horse combinations for the reasons set forth in Section II.A.
  - a. Openings, if they occur, whether by voluntary withdrawal or removal, will be filled according to the Region's Final Ranking and/or ranked list of athlete/horse combinations on the Nominated Entry.
  - b. Any substitution for reasons set forth in Section II.A except by voluntary withdrawal, must have the approval of the USDF Executive Board or its designees, the USEF Dressage Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
2. **After the Definite Entries and until two (2) hours before the Horse Inspection:** After the Definite Entries and until two (2) hours before the Horse Inspection, USEF has the discretion to substitute athlete/horse combinations on the Definite Entries for reasons set forth in Section II.A except by voluntary withdrawal, upon the approval of the USEF Dressage Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. During this time period, Team members may only be replaced with a substitute athlete/horse combination in order of their ranking. Substitutions may only be made in accordance with Article 449.1.2 of the FEI Rules for Dressage Events [25<sup>th</sup> Edition, Effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014- updated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015].

**C. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete/horse combination substitution determinations:**

1. Group or committee that determines the substitution list: The USEF Dressage Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
2. Group or committee that determines a substitution prior to and after the Definite Entries: The USEF Dressage Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

**IV. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** – USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for six months past the final day of the Event.

**V. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** – The following are required to be properly executed by applicants:

- Application–<http://www.usdf.org/online-services/fee-reports/najyrc-application.asp>
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment A)

Applicants will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and the Safe Sport Policy Handbook and that they understand these and agree to be bound by them.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures, including but not limited to the USDF FEI Jr/YR Committee, the USDF Executive Board, members of the USEF Dressage Committee, USEF Board of Directors and the USEF International Disciplines Council will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies.

**VI. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES** – The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date:

- **USEF website:** [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF.
- **USDF website:** [www.usdf.org](http://www.usdf.org) – These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USEF.

**VII. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS** - Athletes must adhere to all USOC, IOC, USEF, FEI, USADA and WADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures.

**VIII. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES** –The following committees/groups were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USDF FEI Jr/YR Committee, USDF Executive Board, USEF Dressage Committee, USEF International Disciplines Council, and USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment B for list of USDF and USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**IX. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES** – The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF’s website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

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

**XI. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN** – Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman’s Office by:

- Telephone at (719)866-5000
- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [Kacie.wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

**XII. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES**

I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USDF and USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF President	Chrystine J. Tauber		9/30/16
USDF President	George Williams		11/16/16

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to:

USEF, Attn: Hannah Niebielski, Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or via e-mail at [hniebielski@usef.org](mailto:hniebielski@usef.org) .  
USDF, Attn: NAJYRC, 4051 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or via e-mail at [NAJYRC@usdf.org](mailto:NAJYRC@usdf.org) .