

SUMMARY OF 2026 QUALIFYING RULES FOR USEF/USDF PROGRAMS HELD AT NATIONAL SHOWS

Compiled by the USDF TD Committee... rev April 2026

| | SNAFFLE | DOUBL | SNAFFLE BIT DIAMETER | WHIP | SPURS | DRESSAGE COAT | HORSE AGE | RIDER AGE | MINIMUM OVERALL AVERAGE SCORE | PROGRAM EQUIV LEVEL |
|--|---------|-------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| USEF PONY RIDER DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP | YES | NO | CAN BE <10mm | 100cm | OPTIONAL 3.5cm MAX NO ROWELS | SHORT COAT | MIN 6 YRS | 12 - 16 | 62% | 2ND LVL TEST 3 |
| USEF CHILDREN NAYC & DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMP. | YES | NO | 12mm MIN. | 120cm | | SHORT COAT | MIN 6 YRS | 12 - 14 | 62% | 2ND LVL TEST 3 |
| JUNIOR RIDER: ADEQUAN/USEF/ NAYC & FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | 120cm | Spurs are OPTIONAL | SHORT COAT or TAILS | MIN 6 YRS | 14 - 18 | NAYC 64% Festival 66% | 3RD LVL TEST 3 |
| YOUNG RIDER: USEF NAYC & FESTIVAL OF CHAMPIONS | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | OK for Qual, but NO whips in Ch'ships | | SHORT COAT or TAILS | MIN 7 YRS | 16 - 21 | NAYC 64% Festival 66% | PSG |
| U25 NAYC & Festival of Champions ADEQUAN/USEF 'BRENTINA CUP' | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | | | SHORT COAT or TAILS | MIN 8 YRS | 16 - 25 | NAYC 64% Festival 65% | INT-2 & DEV GP |
| USEF INTERMEDIAIRE 1 DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | | | SHORT COAT or TAILS | MIN 7 YRS | MIN 16 YRS | 66% | INT-1 |
| MARKEL/USEF YOUNG HORSE DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 4 YEAR OLD | YES | NO | 12mm MIN. | | | SHORT COAT | 4-YR-OLD | Q NO MIN AGE FESTIVAL 16 YRS MINIMUM | 75% 7.5 AVERAGE | 1ST LVL TEST 3 |
| MARKEL/USEF YOUNG HORSE DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 5 YEAR OLD | YES | NO | 12mm MIN. | 120cm | Spurs are OPTIONAL | SHORT COAT | 5-YR-OLD | Q NO MIN AGE FESTIVAL 16 YRS MINIMUM | 75% 7.5 AVERAGE | 2ND LEVEL |
| MARKEL/USEF YOUNG HORSE DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 6 YEAR OLD | YES | NO | 12mm MIN. | OK for Qual, but NO whips in Ch'ships | | SHORT COAT | 6-YR-OLD | Q NO MIN AGE FESTIVAL 16 YRS MINIMUM | 75% 7.5 AVERAGE | 3RD LEVEL |
| MARKEL/USEF YOUNG HORSE DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 7 YEAR OLD | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | | | SHORT COAT or TAILS | 7-YR-OLD | Q NO MIN AGE FESTIVAL 16 YRS MINIMUM | 68% AVERAGE | 4TH LEVEL |
| MARKEL/USEF DEVELOPING HORSE DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS-PSG | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | | | SHORT COAT or TAILS | 7/8/9 YO | MIN 16 YRS | 69% AVERAGE | USEF DEV HORSE PSG TEST |
| MARKEL/USEF DEVELOPING HORSE DRESSAGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS-GP | YES | YES | 10mm MIN. | | | SHORT COAT or TAILS | 8/9/10 YO | MIN 16 YRS | 66% AVERAGE | INT-2 & DEV GP |

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|-------------------|--|-----|-----|-----------|--|----------|------------|------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| EQUITATION | USDF REGIONAL ADULT AMATEUR EQUITATION PROGRAM | YES | NO* | 10mm MIN. | 120cm Whips OK in all Eq Qual & Ch'ships | OPTIONAL | SHORT COAT | 36 MONTHS OF AGE | MIN 22 YRS | 70% in DSE class or Region Ch'ship Qual | FOLLOW DRESS, SADDLERY & EQUIPMENT RULES FOR FIRST LEVEL* |
| | USEF/USDF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL SEMI-FINALS | | | | | | | | 13 & Under 14 - 18 | 70% in DSE class or Region Ch'ship Qual | |
| | USEF/USDF DRESSAGE SEAT MEDAL FINALS | | | | | | | | 13 & Under 14 - 18 | TOP TWO from each SEMI-FINAL advance | |

* Horses also showing Third Level or above in the same competition may warm up in a double bridle but not compete in Equitation in it.

| ONE ATHLETE RULE DR 128.2 | Pony Childrens | JR & YR U25 | Young Horse 4/5/6/7 | Developing Horse Brentina, Int-1, GP |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Applies at Qualifying Competitions → | ✓ | ✓ | N/A | ✓ |
| Applies at Festival of Champions → | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | |
| DRUGS & MEDICATIONS RULES | National Qualifying Competitions | Festival of Champions | NAYC | CDIs |
| These follow USEF D & M Rules → | ✓ | Children, Pony, Junior, YR, Brentina Cup, Young Horse, Developing Horse | | |
| These follow FEI Rules → | | Int-1 & GP | ✓ | ✓ |