



US Dressage Finals Eligibility

The US Dressage Finals is an Invitational competition using the USEF/USDF Regional Championship program to qualify. Qualifying takes place at each of the nine Great American/USDF Regional Dressage Championships, based on either 1) Placing in a Regional Championship Class or 2) Wild Card Eligibility. Either must be achieved at a Regional Championship in a class and eligible division offered at the US Dressage Finals.

I. Qualification Based on Placing in a Regional Championship Class:

Champion and Reserve Champion horse/rider combinations for each level and eligible division from each of the nine Regional Championships will be automatically invited, provided the following three requirements are met: US Citizenship; Declaration of Intent completed by the deadline; and earning an eligible placing in a Regional Championship class.

Note: Since Freestyle classes at Regional Championships are not split by division, the top two Open horse/rider combinations and the top two Adult Amateur horse/rider combinations for each level from each of the nine Regional Championships will be automatically invited. In addition, to be eligible for the Adult Amateur division in the Freestyles at the US Dressage Finals, competitors must check the AA box on the Regional Championship entry form, and must provide proof of Adult Amateur status prior to competing in their Regional Championship classes.

- 1) **United States Citizenship Requirement:** To compete in any US Dressage Finals class, the rider must be a US citizen.
- 2) **Declaration Requirement:** The horse/rider combination must declare their intention to participate **by completing the Declaration of Intent form by midnight on the day prior to the first day of their Regional Championship competition (including any open class day before the start of championship classes)**. There is no fee to declare, but horse/rider combinations must declare at the level(s) and eligible division(s) they intend to compete in at the US Dressage Finals. Go to www.usdressagefinals.com to declare.
- 3) **Placing in a Regional Championship Class:** Eligibility to enter US Dressage Finals classes is based on a horse/rider combination's placing in a Regional Championship class. Champions and Reserve Champions in eligible classes will be automatically invited, as long as their Declaration of Intent has been **received** by the deadline. *Note: In order to be named Champion and Reserve Champion in a Regional Championship class, a horse/rider combination must have achieved a score of 55% or higher.*

In the event that the Champion and/or Reserve Champion declines the invitation, or are ineligible to compete in the US Dressage Finals, the horse/rider combination that has the next highest placing in the class will be invited, providing they:

1. Achieved the pre-requisite score of 55% or higher.
2. Completed the Declaration of Intent for that particular level and division by the deadline.
3. Are a US citizen.

If that combination declines the invitation, the same process will be followed down through the fifth placing horse/rider combination *that has declared* for that Finals level and division.

No invitations will be issued beyond the fifth placing declared horse/rider combination except as may be eligible through the Wild Card invitations described below.

II. Qualification Based on Wild Card Eligibility:

Horse/rider combinations who are not otherwise qualified to compete in the US Dressage Finals based on their Regional Championship placing (see above) may be invited to participate in a Finals class by earning a Wild Card score achieved at one of the nine Regional Championships, provided the following two requirements are met: US Citizenship and earning an eligible Wild Card score in a Regional Championship class.

- 1) **United States Citizenship Requirement:** To compete in any US Dressage Finals class, the rider must be a US citizen.
- 2) **Eligible Wild Card Score:** Eligibility to enter US Dressage Finals classes is based on a Wild Card score earned in a Regional Championship class. For all levels and divisions from Training through Grand Prix, a horse/rider combination that competes in a Regional Championship class and achieves a score at or above the score listed below for that level and division may compete in the **same** level and division at the US Dressage Finals.

Note: Horse/rider combinations are not required to have filed a "Declaration of Intent" in order to receive a Wild Card invitation.

	<u>OPEN:</u>	<u>AA:</u>
Training:	72%	68%
First:	72%	68%
Second:	68%	65%
Third:	68%	65%
Fourth:	68%	65%
Prix St. Georges:	68%	65%
Intermediate I:	66%	64%
Intermediate II:	66%	64%
Grand Prix:	66%	64%
All Freestyles	66%	66%

III. Invitations:

Invitations and notifications will be emailed to eligible/qualified horse/rider combinations immediately after each Regional Championship. There will be three categories of emails:

- 1) Invitation emails will be sent to the first and second placed declared combinations.
- 2) Invitation emails will be sent to combinations eligible for a Wild Card.
- 3) Notification emails will be sent to 3rd -5th of those horse/rider combinations who have declared, notifying them that they are on the reserve/alternate list and reminding them to check the website for any status changes that would make them eligible for an invitation.

In the event that an invited horse/rider combination scratches, invitations may be issued up to the start of the competition.

Note: Competitors do not need to receive an actual invitation to nominate themselves for the US Dressage Finals. The entry system will have their eligibility status and they can nominate prior to receiving an email invitation.

IV. Nomination Requirement:

Nomination, including payment of the nomination fee, is **required** for participation in US Dressage Finals classes, **whether qualifying through placing in a Regional Championship class or by Wild Card Eligibility**. The nomination deadline is midnight, 96 hours after the last championship day in the regional championship show in which the horse/rider combination competed. Each US Dressage Finals horse/rider combination is required to complete the nomination (preliminary entry) process. The Nomination fee paid will be applied to the total amount due at Closing Date.

V. Entry Requirements

Completed entries for the US Dressage Finals **must be received** by the closing date, October 27, 2016, midnight Eastern Time. **Stabling in heated Alltech barns will be allotted by region based on the number of entries received from each region at Closing Date. Assignments for each region's allotment will be based on the date completed entries are received from those requesting Alltech stabling, and completed entries must be received within five days, and no later than five days, after their nomination deadline in order to maintain priority.**

US Dressage Finals Deadlines		
Regional Championship	Declaration	Nomination
1	Wednesday, September 14, 2016	Thursday, September 22, 2016
2	Wednesday, September 21, 2016	Thursday, September 29, 2016
3	Wednesday, October 12, 2016	Thursday, October 20, 2016
4	Wednesday, September 7, 2016	Thursday, September 15, 2016
5	Wednesday, September 14, 2016	Thursday, September 22, 2016
6	Wednesday, September 21, 2016	Thursday, September 29, 2016
7	Wednesday, September 28, 2016	Thursday, October 6, 2016
8	Wednesday, September 21, 2016	Thursday, September 29, 2016
9	Wednesday, October 5, 2016	Thursday, October 13, 2016
<i>Above deadlines are midnight in the time zone of the specific Regional Championship</i>		
Entry Closing Date is October 27, 2016 midnight Eastern Time		
Deadline for Alltech stabling priority is five days after the nomination deadline for each region. See Official Prize List for more information.		

For evolving event and competitor information, usdressagefinals.com will be your source.