



Dressage - US Equestrian Open **Series Rules.**

Effective from 1 January 2025

Updated 10 November 2024

Series Background

The US Equestrian Open Series has been developed to elevate equestrian sport by highlighting elite competition and engaging with fans and stakeholders. The Series is comprised of competitions at the Grand Prix level, including CDI3*, CDI4*, CDI5*, CDIO3*, CDIO4*, CDIO5*, and CDI-W events held in the U.S. culminating with a Final held annually in November or December featuring the Grand Prix Freestyle.

General Information

1. The Series will begin on January 1 and end at least two (2) weeks prior to the Final.
2. The Grand Prix Freestyle to Music is the competition in which points can be earned.
3. All FEI registration athletes (U.S. and foreign) and horses are invited to participate in the Series and the Final.
4. Athletes must compete in a minimum of two (2) U.S. Open Series qualifying events found here. U.S. Organizing Committees will notify the USEF Dressage Department if they wish to participate in the Series at least twelve (12) weeks prior to the start of the Event.
5. The best six (6) results obtained in a U.S. Open Series qualifying event will count towards the standing. In the case of a tie, the athletes shall remain tied but shall take up two (2) places so that if tied for first place, the next ranked athlete shall be ranked third.
6. U.S. Open Series qualifying events held over the course of a weekend are considered one qualifying opportunity. When an athlete competes in more than one (1) star level at the same event, the highest points in a star level will count towards the standings.
7. Certificate of Capability – Athletes must have scored at least 67% in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music in a U.S. Series qualifying event.
8. Results from FEI Consolation Competitions, the Olympic Games, the Pan American Games, and the FEI World Cup Finals are not considered qualifying competitions. FEI Nations Cups held outside of the U.S. are not permitted to be used as a qualifying competition.

9. Points and Standings are automatically tracked by USEF:

PLACING	GRAND PRIX FREESTYLE 3* OR HIGHER
1 ST	20
2 ND – 3 RD	17
4 TH – 5 TH	15
6 TH – 10 TH	10

10. End of Series Prize Money – A minimum of \$50, 000 in prize money will be distributed to the Series Top eighteen (18) winners following the end of the qualifying period as follows:

PLACING	PRIZE MONEY AMOUNT
1 st	\$ 12,500
2 nd	\$ 7,500
3 rd	\$ 6,500
4 th	\$ 5,000
5 th	\$ 4,000
6 th	\$ 3,000
7 th	\$ 2,000
8 th – 15 th	\$ 1,000
16-18 th	\$ 500

Invitation to the Final

1. Athletes will be invited to participate in the U.S. Open Final by the USEF Dressage Department.
2. All athletes who finish in the top eighteen (18) standings and qualified by the method outlined above, including the Certificate of Capability, will be invited to the Finals, not to exceed eighteen (18)
3. If there is a tie for 18th place, all tied athletes will be invited, thereby increasing the total number of entries (i.e., nineteen (19) entries accepted).
4. In the event an athlete declines their invitation to the Final, an invitation will be sent to the next ranked athlete.

5. An athlete is permitted to compete in the Final with one horse only. If an athlete participated in the Series with more than one (1) horse, the horse that is selected by the athlete for the Final must have competed in a minimum of one (1) competition during the Series and earned a minimum of score of 67% in the Grand Prix Freestyle.
6. Starting Order – The starting order of go for the Grand Prix will be established by a draw during a draw party at the U.S. Open Final. The draw will be conducted in groups of five (5) based on the final rankings from the Series. A draw for the Grand Prix Freestyle will be conducted in groups of five (5) based on the placings from the Grand Prix. Athlete/horse combinations must earn a minimum of 60% in the Grand Prix to qualify to compete in the Grand Prix Freestyle to Music.
7. Prize Money - A minimum of \$200, 000 in prize money will be distributed to the athletes per FEI General Regulations, Art 127.