

October 22, 2020 – YOUNG PARA-EQUESTRIANS TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



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Mill Spring, North Carolina – October 22, 2020- U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF) will host the 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship and CPEDI3* competition October 22-25, 2020, at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, North Carolina. Elite athletes will compete for exposure to be selected to the Adequan® U.S. Para Dressage Team at the now rescheduled Tokyo Summer Paralympic Games in 2021, including medal winners Rebecca Hart and Kate Shoemaker. In addition to high-performance and developing athletes competing in the National Championship, emerging, and young athletes will also ride in the 2020 Para Dressage Emerging Athlete Competition sponsored by the U.S. Para Equestrian Association (USPEA). Young athletes include Veronica, Gogan, Deborah McAlexander, Genevieve Rohner, and Andie Sue Roth.

USPEA is devoted to growing the grass-roots riders in the sport, and is sponsoring an open class, for which prior qualification is not necessary. Among the riders are two young athletes named earlier this year to the U.S. Para-Equestrian Emerging Athletes list (<https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/2tcSsiOy6N8/athlete-list-updated-08252020>) by the U.S. Equestrian Federation, both aspiring to higher levels of competition.



Twelve-year old Genevieve Rohner, of Park City, Utah, was born a premature 28-week triplet and diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, Sensory Integration Disorder, Amblyopia and misaligned right leg bones. One of her brothers had a stroke at birth and also has Cerebral Palsy. Rohner initially began riding for therapy at age four. “I spotted her at age seven and encouraged her to pursue her dreams of the Paralympics”, said USPEA President, Hope Hand, a 2000 Paralympic Equestrian. Currently training with Prestige Dressage and Sydni Peterson in Utah, Rohner has developed into an accomplished rider with her sights set on representing the United States on Team USA at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris, France.

The 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship and CPEDI3*, CPEDI2* and CPEDI1* are scheduled to take place October 22-25, in Mill Spring, NC.

The 2020 Para Dressage Emerging Athlete Competition sponsored by USPEA will be held in conjunction with the CPEDI and USEF Para Dressage National Championship October 22-25, in Mill Spring, NC.

The 2020 Paralympic Games are rescheduled to take place August 24 – September 5, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.

– U.S. Equestrian Federation –

The primary focus of para-equestrian sport is to provide educational and competitive opportunities for athletes with physical disabilities. Many disabled athletes compete, and even excel, in sports designed for the able-bodied, but para-equestrian in particular opens a world of competition to riders with even severe disabilities that might preclude them from other forms of sport, and does so while providing a structured, focused, and highly competitive environment.

In para-equestrian competition, each rider is classified according to his or her functional ability and competitors are grouped accordingly to ensure a level playing field. While it offers competitive opportunities for athletes of every level and aspiration, para-equestrian sport has evolved into an internationally recognized event and para-dressage is held as part of the World Equestrian Games and at the Paralympics which take place every four years immediately following the Olympic Games and at the same venue.

<https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/para-equestrian>



Also aiming for the Paralympics is fifteen-year-old Andie Sue Roth, of Alamo, California who began as an Eventer and is an accomplished Pony Club rider, before switching to para dressage. Roth and her sister, Kaysie Li, were adopted from China at 15 months and six years respectively, each with a severely deformed lower limb requiring amputation, multiple surgeries and specially fitted prosthetics. “I am thrilled to see these young ladies advancing in their abilities, and pursuing their dreams”, said Hand. “They are the future of this sport and I am very pleased to be able to sponsor this portion of the national event to provide the opportunity for them to have the experience and exposure.”



Genevieve Rohner and Viessa, owned by Priscilla Neault at the 2020 Adequan®/USEF Para Dressage National Championship Award and Tryon CPEDI3* and The 2020 Para Dressage Emerging Athlete Competition sponsored by the U.S. Para Equestrian October 23-25, located at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC. Photo by Lindsay Y. McCall for the USPEA.