



**EQUESTRIAN
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NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

Para Dressage

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1. Philosophy

Equestrian Canada's (EC) National Team Program (NTP) identifies athlete/horse combinations in the Train to Win, Learn to Win, Training to Compete stages of development and supports their progression to podium success.

The NTP is categorized into three levels: A Squad , B Squad , and Talent ID Squad. The NTP is aligned with EC's high-performance strategies and funding partners, such as the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) nomination.

1.2 Purpose of National Team Program

The purpose of the NTP is to increase the competitive athlete pool and the number of Canadian athlete/horse combinations achieving international podium performances and to give athletes and stakeholders a clear and consistent understanding of what is expected of them in a fair and transparent process.

2. Program Requirements and Support

The NTP supports athlete/horse combinations to improve their performance through support from EC's Technical Advisor and high-performance resources. The program is also used to assist in allocating high performance services and target athlete resources based on the ranking process with a greater allocation of focus based on the following:

- Level 1: A Squad
- Level 2: B Squad
- Level 3: Talent ID Squad

Athlete eligibility for the NTP is based on an athlete meeting the performance requirements outlined in Section 3, which will be reviewed every six months (June 1st and December 1st).



2.1 National Team Program Support

Athlete/horse combinations who meet and maintain NTP requirements will benefit from the high-performance resources and support as outlined in the following chart:

	A Squad	B Squad	Talent ID Squad
Coaching support from Technical Advisor at targeted team competitions	✓	✓	N/A
Video assessments and feedback from Technical Advisor – See Guidelines for video submission	✓	✓	✓
Annual benchmarking and goal-setting session with Technical Advisor (December / January)	✓	✓	N/A
Support from Integrated Support Team (IST) practitioners at targeted team competitions and Daily Training Environment (DTE) visits (priority ranking)	✓	✓	N/A
EC support for sourcing local IST practitioners	✓	✓	✓
Priority access to education opportunities	✓	✓	✓
Data collection, analysis, and monitoring support by Technical Advisor and EC	✓	✓	N/A
Education on HP athlete concepts, such as anti-doping, fitness, training plans, nutrition, sponsorships/marketing, etc.	✓	✓	✓
Eligibility to be nominated for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Carding (See AAP “Carding” Criteria)	SR/SR1/SR2 Level Cards	SR/D Level Cards	D Level Cards
Eligibility for Horse Maintenance Program	✓	✓	✓
Annual Gold Medal Profile (GMP/EGMP) evaluation completed by the Technical Advisor (December / January)	N/A	N/A	✓
Exemptions to CPEDI Threshold score requirements for authorizations.	✓		
Consideration based on ranking for annual international awards, bursary support and funding applications	✓	✓	✓



2.2 National Team Program Requirements

Athletes must meet and maintain all NTP requirements are outlined in the following chart:

	S Squad	B Squad	Talent ID Squad
Abide by EC's Rules, Code of Conduct and Ethics, Safe Sport and Social Media Policy, and act in accordance with other national and international policies (FEI, CCES, WADA etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Sign and adhere to the EC Athlete Agreement	✓	✓	N/A
Be eligible to compete for Canada (hold a current Canadian passport or hold Canadian Citizenship)	✓	✓	✓
Be a current EC Sport Licence Holder in good standing	Platinum	Platinum	Gold
Athlete and horse registered with the FEI	✓	✓	N/A
Horse is fit-to-compete. If there are concerns of fitness the horse will be assessed by the Team Veterinarian	International-level Horse	International-level Horse	National-level Horse
Personal Coach certification or demonstration of actively working towards certification	HP1 Certified	HP1 Certified	Comp Coach
Submission of a yearly training plan (YTP) and yearly competition plan (YCP) to EC, including quarterly updates on those plans.	✓	✓	N/A
Maintain open and transparent communication with EC's Technical Advisor and IST personnel	✓	✓	✓
The athletes' personal coach and IST personnel to also maintain open and transparent communication with EC's Technical Advisor and IST personnel	✓	✓	✓
Submit scores to EC within two (2) weeks of competition	✓	✓	✓
ParaDressage Classification (Grade I, II, III, IV, or V)	International	International	National
Submit monthly training videos with complete athlete reflection report to Technical Advisor	✓	✓	N/A
Demonstrate an understanding for the need for evidence-based benchmarks, and show an active willingness to improve scores in line with NSO set targets	✓	✓	✓



3. Squad Requirements

3.1 A Squad

Performance Objective

A Squad (formally the National Squad) athletes have a top 8 objective at the World Equestrian Games and Paralympic Games.

Performance Requirements

The following two (2) qualifying scores at the FEI international level are the minimum performance requirements for A Squad (formally the National Squad) eligibility:

- Two (2) Technical (Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B) Tests of 68% or higher at international (FEI/Platinum) CPEDI3* competitions
- or
- Athletes who were members of the most recent Paralympic or World Championship team qualify for inclusion in the national team program for the two years immediately following the respective Games or Championships. These athletes are not eligible for AAP Carding nomination, unless they have achieved the score requirements as outlined in the national team program criteria and meet the requirements of the AAP Carding Criteria.

3.2 B Squad

Performance Objective

B Squad athletes have a top 5 objective at CPEDI competitions.

Performance Requirements

The following two (2) qualifying scores are the minimum performance requirements for B Squad eligibility:

- Two (2) Technical (Grand Prix A, Grand Prix B, Intermediate A or Intermediate B) Tests of 65% or higher at international (FEI/Platinum) CPEDI competitions,
- or
- Two (2) Technical (Grand Prix A, Grand Prix B, Intermediate A or Intermediate B) Tests of 67% or higher at the Canadian National Dressage and Para Dressage Championships

3.3 Talent ID Squad

Performance Objective

The Talent ID Squad athlete objective is to progress to the international FEI competition level.

Performance Requirements

The following two (2) qualifying scores at the national or international level are the minimum requirements for Talent ID Squad eligibility:



- Two (2) Technical (Grand Prix A, Grand Prix B, Intermediate A or Intermediate B) Tests of 64% or higher at national (Gold) or international (FEI/Platinum) competitions.

4. National Performance Ranking Process

The purpose of the national performance ranking process is to collect vital performance data to monitor and analyze individual athlete/horse performances to ensure successful progression, in addition to targeting athlete resources. Performance ranking is based on the following process:

1. Athletes report scores within two (2) weeks of competition, in the Para Dressage Online Results Submission Portal at https://licence.equinecanada.ca/pec_results/login.aspx. Athletes must provide a copy of the judge score sheet(s) for the scores to be eligible.
2. Every six months (June 1st and December 1st), the athlete/horse combination's performance ranking will be calculated as follows:
 - **A Squad**
Sum of the two (2) Technical Test scores at the international CPEDI3* level divided by two (2)
 - **B Squad** Sum of the two (2) Technical Test scores at the international CPEDI / or National Championships level divided by two (2)
 - **Talent ID Squad**
Sum of the two (2) Technical Test scores at the national (Gold) or International (FEI/Platinum) level divided by two (2)

Scores remain valid for one year from competition date.

Eligibility for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program is based on December 1st performance ranking.

The EC High Performance Director and Technical Advisor have final approval of athlete selection to the EC NTP.



5. Championships and Major Games Selections

Athlete/horse combinations who are a part of the NTP are not automatically qualified for a Major Games, Championships, or any other team or individual competition in which EC plans to send competitors.

6. Confidentiality

It is vital for the integrity of the NTP that strict codes of confidentiality are followed by athletes, personal IST, team IST, and EC staff relating to information or discussions, and which may have a bearing on high performance strategies. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the NTP. If in doubt of confidential information, please confirm with the Discipline Manager.

7. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal the NTP criteria, but only on the grounds of incorrect implementation of the criteria and procedures outlined in this document. Athletes hereby adopt Equestrian Canada's Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Policy as the mechanism to resolve NTP related disputes.

8. Removal from Program

Athlete/horse combinations who do not maintain performance criteria outlined in Section 3; or who do not comply with NTP requirements outlined in Section 2.2; or whose horse becomes unsuitable for any reason (sale, loss of form, prolonged lameness or injury) and is still unsuitable three (3) months from the date that reason became apparent; or who do not, without good reason, compete in named target competitions; or who do not, without good reason, participate in formal training programmes; or who are in breach of EC, or other national / international policies and rules, or who bring the sport into disrepute; may be removed from the NTP after respectful consideration of the Discipline High Performance Advisory Group (HPAG) and Director, High Performance (DHP).

1. In the first instance the Discipline Manager (DM), Technical Advisor (TA) and DHP will speak to the athlete, advise them of the concerns, and mutually agree on a sufficient period of time to allow the athlete to remedy the concerns.
2. If not achieved, the DM, TA and DHP will consult with HPAG to reach a decision on the removal of the athlete from the NTP.

If any athlete/horse is found to have a positive finding (i.e. a medication not covered by a TUE/ETUE or a banned substance) the athlete will automatically be removed from the program pending review.



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