



**EQUESTRIAN
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**EQUESTRIAN CANADA NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM
2026 EVENTING HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUAD
CRITERIA**

Approved by HPAG February 10, 2025



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1. *Philosophy*

Equestrian Canada’s (EC) National Team Program (NTP) - Eventing High Performance Squad criteria identifies athletes in the Train to Compete, Learn to Win stages of development and supports their progression to Train to Win, Live to Win. The NTP – Eventing High Performance Squad is categorized into levels: A Squad, B Squad and Development Squad.

The National Team Program – High Performance Squad is aligned with EC’s high performance strategies such as the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program.

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.

Selection of the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad will take place annually on or before December 31st and may be adjusted mid-season. In making such selection, Equestrian Canada will consider both the Performance Standards and the Other Criteria outlined in this document.

2. *Program Requirements and Support*

2.1 National Team Program – Athlete Support

NTP- High Performance Squad athlete support is outlined in the following chart:

	A Squad	B Squad	Development
Benchmarking support	✓	✓	✓
Coaching Support (budget permitting)	✓	✓	NA
Coaching Support at targeted competitions (budget permitting)	✓	✓	✓
Eligibility for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program	✓	✓	NA
Eligibility for EC Horse Maintenance Program	✓	✓	✓
Data collection, analysis and monitoring –	✓	✓	✓
Competition and training planning support - Training and Competition Planning	✓	✓	✓
Equine Management Support from Team Veterinarian at select competitions /divisions that are part of the HP program (budget permitting)	✓	✓	NA



Education on HP athlete concepts, such as anti-doping, fitness, training plans, nutrition, etc, (budget permitting).	✓	✓	✓
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2.2 National Team Program – Athlete Requirements

National Team Program –Athlete requirements are outlined in the following chart:

	A Squad	B Squad	Development
Sign and adhere to the EC Elite Athlete Agreement	✓	✓	✓
Maintain eligibility to compete for Canada (hold a current Canadian passport)	✓	✓	✓
Take ownership for performance, which includes aiming for personal best performances at targeted competitions	✓	✓	✓
Access to horse(s) that are fit to compete at international competitions	✓	✓	✓
Maintain open and transparent communication with the Eventing Manager, High Performance Committee, Team Veterinarian, High Performance Director, Equestrian Canada	✓	✓	✓
Demonstrated commitment to being competitive on the world stage through performances tracking towards this goal;	✓	✓	✓
Prepare and submit seasonal training and competition plan	✓	✓	✓

Participate in debrief and review processes (as requested)	✓	✓	✓
Commitment to personal fitness and professional behaviour and commitment to engage actively in EC programming to support personal fitness training	✓	✓	✓
Adhere to EC’s Rules and Policies	✓	✓	✓
Comply with other national and international rules and policies (FEI, CCES, WADA, IOC, ITA, COC etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Comply with FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules of Equestrian Canada	✓	✓	✓
EC Sport License and FEI registration platinum level	✓	✓	✓



3. Criteria and Minimum Performance Standards

Selection for the NTP Eventing High Performance Squads is based upon results of FEI international Eventing competitions. (CCI/CCIO/CH)

3.1 A Squad

Performance Standards

3.1.1 The minimum performance standards for consideration for the Eventing **A Squad**:

Within the qualifying period defined in s. 3.1.2 (in this section, “Qualifying Period”), the athlete/horse combination must:

Step 1: Start a minimum of any combination of three FEI competitions at the CCI 5*, CCI 4* - L, CCI 4* -S level within the Qualifying Period;

Step 2: Of all FEI competitions at the CCI 5*, CCI 4* - L or CCI 4* -S level, an MER performance result has to be achieved in a minimum of 50% of competitions within the Qualifying Period;

Step 3: a) Achieve a Target Performance Result as outlined in the chart below based on either final score OR HPR at a minimum of one of the eligible FEI competitions within the qualifying period

b) If less than four athlete/ horse combinations achieve the A Squad criteria (Step 1, Step 2 and Step 3a) target results for the A Squad, additional athletes will be considered for inclusion on the A Squad. These athletes will be added to the A Squad based on their HPR ranking, prioritizing 5* - L results (providing the result is a MER) and then 4* -L results (providing the result is a MER). Only the top two CCI 5* - L HPRs not already within A Squad criteria and the top two CCI 4*-L HPRs not already within A Squad criteria will be considered as possible additions to reach at least four (4) athlete/horse combinations on the A Squad.

Eligible FEI Competition	Target Performance Result (Score)	Target Performance Result (HPR)
CCI 5* - L	55 or better	70 or better
CCI 4* - L	45 or better	80 or better

3.1.2 Qualifying Period: Eligible FEI competition results must have been obtained between January 1, 2025, and November 30, 2025.

3.1.3 If four (or more) athlete/horse combinations achieve Squad A criteria by achieving the performance results in Steps 1, 2 and 3a, no combinations are eligible to be considered under Step 3b. In this case, the Squad size is not restricted.

3.1.4 Clarification: For the purpose of eligibility, scores which include a fraction will be rounded down the nearest whole number and any score with exactly “.5” will be rounded to the lowest whole number. (i.e. 40.4 will be considered a 40pp, 41.5 will be considered 41pp)



3.1.5 An athlete listed on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad who, for whatever reason during the 2025 season no longer has the ride on the NTP listed horse (due to injury, loss of ride, etc.) may be maintained on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad with one or more other horses provided these horses are deemed suitable by the High Performance Advisory Group.

3.1.6 Definition of a FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) Result (per FEI Rules Art 517)

3.1.6.1 Dressage test: Not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%)

3.1.6.2 Cross Country test: A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible [deformable] device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country); Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for two, three and four star level competitions [30 penalty points] and 100 seconds in the case of five star level competitions [40 penalty points]

3.1.6.3 Jumping test: Not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Note: All MERs obtained in previous years will be counted according to the rules in place at that time.

3.2 B Squad

Performance Standards

3.2.1 The minimum performance standards for consideration for the Eventing **B Squad**:

Within the qualifying period defined in Section 3.2.2 (in this section, “Qualifying Period”), the athlete/horse combination must:

Step 1 Start a minimum of two CCI 3* - L competitions or above (CCI 4* S, L or CCI 5* competitions) within the Qualifying Period;

Step 2 Of all FEI competitions at the CCI 5*, CCI 4* - L CCI 4* -S, CCI3*-L level , a MER performance result has to be achieved in a minimum of 50% of the competitions within the Qualifying Period;

Step 3 Achieve a Target Performance Result as outlined in the chart below based on either final score OR HPR at a minimum of one of the eligible FEI competitions within the qualifying period

Eligible FEI Competition	Target Performance Result (Score)	Target Performance Result (HPR)
CCI 5* - L	MER	MER
CCI 4* - L	50 or better	75 or better
CCI 4* - S	45 or better	80 or better
CCI 3* - L	40 or better	80 or better

3.2.2. Qualifying Period: Eligible FEI competition results must have been obtained between January 1, 2025, and November 30, 2025.



- 3.2.3 Clarification: For the purpose of eligibility, scores which include a fraction will be rounded down the nearest whole number and any score with exactly “.5” will be rounded to the lowest whole number. (i.e. 40.4 will be considered a 40pp, 41.5 will be considered 41pp)
- 3.2.4 An athlete listed on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad who, for whatever reason during the 2025 season, no longer has the ride on the NTP listed horse (due to injury, loss of ride, etc.) may be maintained on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad with one or more other horses provided these horses are deemed suitable and that indicate a positive performance trajectory to achieve NTP Eventing High Performance Squad Target Performance Results within the next 12-18 months.
- 3.2.5 Definition of a FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) Result (FEI Art 517)
- Dressage test: Not more than 45 penalty points (or 55%)
 - Cross Country test: A clear round at obstacles (activating a maximum of one frangible [deformable] device or having a maximum of one missing flag will maintain the MER result on Cross Country); Not more than 75 seconds exceeding the optimum time in the Cross Country Test for two, three and four star level of Competitions [30 penalty points] and 100 seconds in the case of five star level Competitions [40 penalty points]
 - Jumping test: Not more than 16 penalties at obstacles.

Note: All MERs obtained in previous years will be counted according to the rules in place at that time

3.3 Development Squad

Performance Standards

- 3.3.1 With the goal of identifying developing athlete/horse combinations, engaging them within the NTP Eventing performance pathway through education, support and recognition.
- 3.3.2 The Development Squad will be limited to athletes who are in the year of their 25th birthday or younger and have not been on an NTP in prior years (A or B squad or equivalent list)
- 3.3.3 The HPAG will take into account the competition performance record of the athlete/horse combination, giving specific consideration to Athlete/horse combinations who have achieved a Target Performance Result as outlined in the chart below: based on either final score or HPR at a minimum of one of the eligible FEI competitions within the qualifying period.

Eligible FEI Competition	Target Performance Result (Score)	Target Performance Result (HPR)
CCI 4*-L	MER	MER
CCI 4*-S	60 or better	65 or better
CCI 3*-L	55 or better	65 or better
CCI 3*-S	50 or better	70 or better
CCI 2*-L	40 or better	80 or better



3.3.4 Qualifying Period: Eligible FEI competition results must have been obtained between January 1, 2025 and November 30, 2025.

3.3.5 Athlete/horse combinations that have not achieved the target performance results during the qualifying period defined in s. 3.3.3, but who have a CCI2*-L MER completion during the qualifying period may be considered for Development Squad inclusion, provided the following characteristics have been demonstrated:

- a. Potential and intention to represent Canada on Senior Teams
- b. Commitment to international competitiveness
- c. Demonstrated horsemanship and social license¹

4. Major Games/Championships and Selection

- 4.1 Equestrian Canada High performance Advisory Group Eventing, develops and publishes specific selection criteria for Major Games, Championships or other identified competitions.
- 4.2 An athlete who is listed on an NTP- Eventing High Performance Squad is not automatically qualified for a Major Games, Championships or any other Team or Individual competition in which Equestrian Canada plans to send competitors.
- 4.3 Declining being named to the NTP: If an athlete chooses to decline being named to an NTP Squad, this does not jeopardize an athlete's performance standing for selection to any Major Games or Championships, which will be determined pursuant to the applicable selection criteria. The athlete, in declining, will not have access to the National Team Program benefits during such period.

5. Removal from the Program

Athletes may be removed from the program for the following reasons:

- a. Decline in performance - failure to maintain performance standards;
- b. Loss of NTP listed horse without suitable replacement in the opinion of the HPAG ;
- c. Not following the National Team Program requirements;
- d. Determined to be in breach of EC or FEI rules or bring the sport into disrepute;
- e. Determined to be in breach of the EC Athlete Agreement;
- f. Determined to be in breach of EC's Policies;
- g. Determined to be in breach of Section 7;
- h. Determined to be in breach of, or Anti-Doping violation under any part of the EC/CCES Anti-Doping Policy, the FEI Anti-Doping Policy or the WADA Code.

¹ **Social License:** In the context of equestrian sport, social license refers to the level of public acceptance, approval and trust that equestrian activities hold with the broader community. It encompasses the sport's ethical, environmental, and welfare considerations and reflects how these activities align with societal expectations, values and standards.



6. Appeals

Athletes wishing to question their status on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad list must submit their competition results (see below) with a letter of rationale. The deadline for submission of such inquiries is seven (7) days following the announcement of the list.

Submissions should be made to Equestrian Canada, High Performance Advisory Group, Eventing

Email: egilbert@equestrian.ca

Competition results must include:

- Name, date, category and level of the FEI Eventing competition.
- Full competition results - dressage, cross country (jump and time penalties) and jumping (jump and time penalties)
- Final placing
- Number of the starting field in the division

Athletes have the right to appeal the National Team Program – Eventing High Performance Squad criteria but only on the grounds of incorrect implementation of the criteria and procedures outlined in the document. Appeals will follow the EC Discipline Complaints and Appeals Policy as the mechanism to resolve NTP program disputes.

7. Confidentiality

It is important for the integrity of the National Team Program that confidentiality is maintained by Squad athletes, Team Personnel, EC staff and committee members relating to information or discussions which may have bearing on high performance strategy.



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