



**EQUESTRIAN  
CANADA  
ÉQUESTRE**

**NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM  
JUMPING CRITERIA**

2025-05-26



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## 1. Philosophy

Equestrian Canada’s (EC) National Team Program 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 National Team Program is categorized into three levels: A and B Squad and Talent ID Squad.

The National Team Program is aligned with EC’s high-performance strategies, such as the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program nomination.

### 1.2 Purpose of National Team Program

The purpose of the National Team Program is to increase the competitive athlete pool and the number of Canadian athletes achieving international podium performances.

The National Team Program Criteria will not be used for selection of Major Games, Championships, or any other team or individual competition in which EC plans to send competitors.

## 2. Program Requirements and Support

The National Team Program supports athletes to improve their performance through increasing attention from EC’s Technical Advisor, Talent ID Program Advisor, Discipline High Performance Advisory Group and Discipline Manager and EC’s high-performance resources.

The program cycle runs from December 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. Athlete eligibility for the National Team Program is based on athlete’s meeting the performance requirements outlined in Section 3, which will be reviewed every six months (November 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>). Selection to the program is approved by EC’s Technical Advisor, Talent ID Program Advisor and Discipline High Performance Advisory Group, and Discipline Manager.

### 2.1 National Team Program Support

Athletes who meet and maintain National Team Program requirements will have access to the high-performance resources and support as outlined in the following chart:

	A Squad	B Squad	Talent ID Squad
Technical support from EC’s Technical Advisor at competitions	✓	✓	N/A
Coaching and technical support from EC’s Talent ID Program Advisor at competitions	N/A	N/A	✓
Meetings with EC’s Technical Advisor/Talent ID Program Advisor and Discipline Manager	✓	✓	✓
Benchmarking and goal-setting support from EC’s Technical Advisor/Talent ID Program Advisor, Discipline Manager and IST Personnel	✓	✓	✓



Competition and training planning support from EC's Technical Advisor/Talent ID Program Advisor, Discipline Manager and IST Personnel	✓	✓	✓
Support from Team Veterinarian and IST practitioners at targeted team competitions and individual access and IST practitioners remotely and in-person	✓	✓	N/A
EC support for sourcing local IST practitioners	✓	✓	✓
Access to EC fitness testing	✓	✓	N/A
Data collection, analysis and monitoring support from EC Staff	✓	✓	✓
Education on HP athlete concepts, such as Anti-Doping, fitness, training plans, nutrition, sponsorships/marketing, etc.	✓	✓	✓
Mentoring opportunities with National squad athletes	N/A	N/A	✓
Eligibility to be nominated for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program	SR/SR1/SR2 Level Cards	D Level Cards	N/A
Eligibility for Horse Maintenance Program	✓	✓	✓

## 2.2 National Team Program Requirements

National Team Program requirements are outlined in the following chart:

	A Squad	B Squad	Talent ID Squad
Follow EC's Rules and Code of Conduct and act in accordance with other national and international policies (FEI, CCES, WADA, etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Sign and adhere to the EC Athlete Agreement	✓	✓	N/A
Eligible to compete for Canada (hold a current Canadian passport)	✓	✓	✓
EC Sport License Holder	Platinum	Platinum	Platinum
FEI Registered Athlete and FEI Horse Passport and Registration <i>Note; Talent ID - recommended and/or mandatory at FEI Competitions</i>	✓	✓	✓
Need access to horse(s) that are fit to compete at International level competitions	International-level Horse	International-level Horse	✓



Personal Coach certification or demonstration of actively working towards certification, this should be fully determined by 2025	TBD	TBD	Comp Coach
Follow training and competition plans, created and agreed upon with EC's Technical Advisor in collaboration with the athlete's personal coach	✓	✓	N/A
Athletes must maintain open and transparent communication	✓	✓	✓
Participate in meetings (in-person or remote) with EC's Technical Advisor and/or Discipline Manager	✓	✓	N/A
Maintain and demonstrate their fitness ability to compete at the International level.	✓	✓	N/A
Participate in competition and annual debrief and review processes with EC's Technical Advisor and/or Talent ID and/or Discipline Manager	✓	✓	✓
Submit non-FEI scores to EC within two (2) weeks of competition	N/A	N/A	✓

### 3. National Team Program Criteria

#### 3.1 A Squad

##### Performance Objective

The A Squad athletes have a top 3 objective at the World Equestrian Games and Olympic Games.

All athletes, plus reserve chosen to be part of a Major Games or Championship Team, and have not met the NTP A Squad criteria, may automatically be added in alphabetical order at the end of the A Squad List. However, in order to be eligible for Sport Canada AAP funding, these athletes must have met full A or B Squad criteria.

##### Performance Criteria

The horse/athlete must maintain a minimum of 60% ≤4 faults rate in FEI 4\* and 5\* 1.55M - 1.60M with a minimum of 10 rounds within one calendar year for the A Squad eligibility.

Only rounds at FEI 4\* and 5\* 1.55M/1.60M count as number of rounds jumped towards A Squad eligibility.

Horse/athlete combinations with three or more podium finishes in FEI 4\* and 5\* 1.55M-1.60M may automatically be added in alphabetical order at the end of the A Squad List. However, in order to be eligible for Sport Canada AAP funding, these athletes must have met full A or B Squad criteria.

#### 3.2 B Squad

##### Performance Objective

The B Squad athletes have a top 8 objective at CSI2\* and above competitions.



### Performance Criteria

The horse/athlete must maintain a minimum of 60%  $\leq$ 4 faults rate in FEI 1.50M or above with a minimum of 10 rounds within one calendar year for the B Squad eligibility.

The Grand Prix at 2\* competitions will count towards the B Squad eligibility.

*NOTE: Any competition with specs listed as 1.40M – 1.60M will be reviewed to determine if the competition results will be considered towards A Squad or B Squad criteria.*

### 3.3 Priority Order of A & B Squad Athletes

For purposes of naming athletes in priority order, the list of athletes will be ranked by highest % of usable scores (4 faults or less) with a minimum of 10 rounds.

### 3.4 Talent ID Squad

#### Performance Objective

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

#### Performance Criteria

*Talent ID Squad Criteria is currently under review.*

## 4. Process Details

### 4.1 National Team Program Eligibility

The National Team Program ranking is based on the following process:

1. Eligibility for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program is based on December 1<sup>st</sup> ranking.
2. National Team Program squads will be reviewed and published annually. The National Team Program ranking will be published on [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca)

EC's Technical Advisor, Talent ID Program Advisor and Discipline High Performance Advisory Group and Discipline Manager have final approval of athlete selection to the EC National Team Program.

### 4.2 Championship and Major Games Selections

An athlete who is part of the National Team Program is not automatically qualified for a Major Games, Championships, or any other team or individual competition in which EC plans to send competitors.

Athletes who are not part of the NTP are still eligible to be selected for a Major Games, Championships, or any other team or individual competition in which EC plans to send competitors.

## 5. Confidentiality

It is important for the integrity of the National Team Program that strict codes of confidentiality are followed by athletes, IST Personnel, Technical Advisor's, High Performance Advisory Group and EC staff relating to information or discussions which may have a bearing on high performance strategies.



## 6. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal to the National Team Program criteria, but only on the grounds of incorrect implementation of the criteria and procedures outlined in this document. Athletes hereby adopt the Dispute Resolution Policy for Elite Athletes as the mechanism to resolve National Team Program related disputes.

## 7. Removal from Program

Athletes who fail to maintain performance criteria outlined in Section 3; or who do not comply with National Team Program requirements outlined in Section 2; or whose horse becomes unsuitable for any reason (sale, loss of form, prolonged lameness or injury) and is still unsuitable 3 months from the date that reason became apparent; or who are in breach of EC, FEI rules or bring the sport into disrepute; may be removed from the program as per considerations of EC's Technical Advisor, Talent ID Program Advisor and Discipline High Performance Advisory Group and Discipline Manager.

1. In the first instance EC's Technical Advisor or Talent ID Program Advisor and Discipline Manager will speak to the athlete, advise them of the concerns, and mutually agree on sufficient period to allow them to remedy concerns.
2. If not achieved, the EC's Technical Advisor, Talent ID Program Advisor, Discipline High Performance Advisory Group and Discipline Manager will reach a decision on the athlete's removal from the program.

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 may be removed from the program, by EC's Technical Advisor, Talent ID Program Advisor and Discipline High Performance Advisory Group and Discipline Manager.



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