YOUNG HORSE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – DRESSAGE

Purpose

The Young Horse Development Program is designed to promote and support the correct development of young horses through the systematic application of the training scale. The program aims to identify emerging talent, encourage owners to maintain their horses in training with Canadian athletes, and prepare these horses for future success on the international stage.

Program Benefits and Eligibility

Beginning in 2026, horses are no longer required to be enrolled in the Young Horse Development Program to be eligible. Instead, results from EC Gold and FEI sanctioned (CDI-YH/CDI) competitions will be tracked throughout the Qualification Period (QP) to determine the highest-ranked Canadian ridden and owned horse in each age category (4-, 5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds).

The owner—or the individual who incurred the costs associated with maintaining the highest-ranked horse in each age category, will be eligible to receive an official donation receipt for CRA income tax purposes for eligible out-of-pocket expenses under the Horse Maintenance Program.

A maximum of four (4) Horse Maintenance Program CRA tax receipts will be issued annually—one per age category—based on the final national rankings compiled from the designated competitions (EC Gold and FEI sanctioned (CDI-YH/CDI) competitions).

Note: In accordance with the *Equestrian Canada Service Pricing Policy*, the processing and submission of Horse Maintenance Program claims are subject to an administrative fee per file. Please refer to the *Equestrian Canada Schedule of Fees* for current rates.

Additional Benefit:

- **National Ranking Recognition** – The highest-ranked Canadian ridden and owned horse in each age category will receive national recognition for their performance and contribution to the development of Canadian dressage talent.

Eligibility Requirements

- Horses aged 4, 5, 6 and 7 are eligible for program consideration.
- Horses must hold either an EC Horse Recording, National Passport, FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card in order to compete in EC or FEI Sanctioned competitions.
- Both the owner and the rider, of the horse, must be Canadian and must hold a current Equestrian Canada Gold or Platinum Sport Licence.

Level of Competition Required

- **4-Year-Old Horses** - FEI 4-Year-Old Test or equivalent Training Level National Tests
- **5-Year-Old Horses** - FEI 5-Year-Old Test or equivalent Second Level National Tests
- **6-Year-Old Horses** - FEI 6-Year-Old Test or equivalent Third Level National Tests
- **7-Year-Old Horses** - FEI 7-Year-Old Test / Developing Prix St. Georges, FEI Prix St. Georges or equivalent Fourth Level National Tests
- ***Note: Scores achieved in Freestyle classes do not count for program ranking.***

Minimum Performance Standard

- Two scores of 68%, or better, from EC Gold, or FEI sanctioned (CDI-YH / CDI) competitions are required for ranking.
- Horses not achieving the minimum performance standard are not eligible for program benefits

National Ranking

- **Qualification Period (QP) -** Scores must be earned annually between **January 1 and November 30** of the current competition year.
- **Competitions -** Horses will be ranked based on results achieved at EC Gold or FEI-sanctioned (CDI-YH / CDI) competitions.
- **Minimum Score Requirement -** To be considered for ranking, horses must achieve a minimum of two (2) scores of 68% or higher
    - For ranking purposes, scores earned at FEI-sanctioned (CDI-YH / CDI) competitions will receive a 1% bonus.
    - The average of the two highest scores achieved will determine the horse's final ranking.
- **Judging Panel** - Where a panel of judges exists, the final full panel score will be used for ranking purposes.