



**EQUESTRIAN
CANADA
ÉQUESTRE**

NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

Para-Dressage

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Equestrian Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus and COVID-19 and EHV-1 on the global and domestic level and how it may impact the ability for athletes to achieve performances to meet the published criteria for eligibility for the National Team Program (NTP). Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus and COVID-19 and or EHV-1, Equestrian Canada will respect these published NTP Criteria as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this NTP criteria to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the NTP criteria. In such circumstances, any modifications will be published and sent to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

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: National Squad, Development 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 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:	Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Squad
Level 2:	National Squad
Level 3:	Development Squad
Level 4:	Talent ID Squad

Athlete eligibility for the NTP is based on athlete's 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:

	National Squad	Development Squad	Talent ID Squad
Coaching support from Technical Advisor at targeted team competitions	✓	✓	N/A
Training and coaching support from Technical Advisor and International Experts (remotely, training camps, etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Benchmarking and goal-setting support from Technical Advisor (remotely)	✓	✓	✓
Support from Integrated Support Team (IST) practitioners at targeted team competitions and individual access to Team Veterinarian and IST practitioners remotely and in-person	✓	✓	N/A
EC support for sourcing of local IST practitioners	✓	✓	✓
Access to EC fitness and IST testing	✓	✓	N/A
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	C1/SR/SR1/SR2 Level Cards	D Level Cards	N/A
Eligibility for Horse Maintenance Program	✓	✓	✓
Gold Medal Profile (GMP/EGMP) evaluations completed bi-annually by the Technical Advisor	✓	✓	✓
Priority access to educational opportunities	✓	✓	✓
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:

	National Squad	Development 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 are 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 all annual training and competition plans to EC, including quarterly updates of those plans. Follow training and competition plans, created and agreed upon with the Technical Advisor	✓	✓	✓
Maintain open and transparent communication between athlete's personal coach and IST and EC's Technical Advisor and high performance staff, including remote communications	✓	✓	✓
Participate in annual fitness and IST assessment	✓	✓	N/A
Submit scores to EC within two (2) weeks of competition	✓	✓	✓
Para-Dressage Classification (Grade I, II, III, IV, or V)	International	International	National
Submit monthly training videos with complete athlete reflection report to Technical Advisor	✓	✓	
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 National Squad

Performance Objective

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

Performance Requirements

The following three (3) qualifying scores at the FEI international level are the minimum performance requirements for National Squad eligibility:

- Three (3) Technical (Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B) Tests of 68% or higher at international (FEI/Platinum) CPEDI3* competitions

3.2 Development Squad

Performance Objective

Development Squad athletes have a top 5 objective at CPEDI3* competitions.

Performance Requirements

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

- Two (2) Technical (Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B) Tests of 66% or higher at international (FEI/Platinum) CPEDI competitions or higher,

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:

The two (2) scores must be of 64% or higher from national (Gold) or international (FEI/Platinum) competitions:

- Two (2) Technical (Grand Prix A or Grand Prix B (old Team and Individual)) Tests,
- or
- Two (2) Technical (Intermediate A or Intermediate B (old Novice A and B)) Tests



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-Equestrian 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:
 - **National Squad**
Sum of the three (3) Technical Test scores at the international CPEDI3* level divided by three (3)

 - **Development Squad**
Sum of the two (2) Technical Test scores at the international CPEDI 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 National Team Program.

5. Championships and Major Games Selections

Athlete/horse combinations who are a part of the National Team Program 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 National Team Program. If in doubt of confidential information, please confirm with the Discipline Manager.

7. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal 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 Equestrian Canada's Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Policy as the mechanism to resolve National Team Program 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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