



EQUESTRIAN CANADA ÉQUESTRE

EQUESTRIAN CANADA NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM - 2025 EVENTING HIGH PERFORMANCE SQUAD CRITERIA

Approved by HPAG March 18, 2024

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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 take into account both the Performance Standards and the Other Criteria as 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	✓	✓	NA
Data collection, analysis and monitoring –	✓	✓	NA
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).	✓	✓	✓



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 Athlete Agreement	✓	✓	NA
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 desire to work within the HP culture, expectations, and goals	✓	✓	✓
Adhere to EC’s Rules and Policies	✓	✓	✓
Comply with with other national and international rules and policies (FEI, CCES, WADA etc.)	✓	✓	✓
Comply with FEI Equine Anti-Doping Rules and Equine Controlled Medication Rules and the Human Anti-Doping Rules as set out by the FEI and Equestrian Canada	✓	✓	✓
EC Sport License and FEI registration	✓	✓	✓



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 Olympic Games , CCI 5*, CCI 4* - L, CCI 4* -S level within the Qualifying Period;

Step 2: Of all FEI competitions at the Olympic Games or CCI 5*-L, 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 (TPR) as outlined in the chart below based on either final score OR High Performance result (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 Olympics and CCI5* - L results and then 2. Olympics with two phases + predictive dressage score and 3. CCI 4* -L results. Only the top two Olympic (providing the result is a MER), top two CCI 5*- L HPRs (providing the result is a MER), top two phases + predictive dressage score at the Olympics and top two CCI 4*-L HPRs (providing the result is an MER) will be considered as possible additions, to reach at least of four (4) athlete/horse combinations on the A Squad.

Eligible FEI Competition	Target Performance Result Score (TPR)	Target Performance Result (HPR)
Olympic Games*	55 or better	70 or better (must be MER)
CCI 5* - L	55 or better	70 or better
CCI 4* - L	45 or better	80 or better

*TPR and HPR for the Olympics is based on Dressage, Cross Country and Team Jumping Round

3.1.1.2 If an athlete/horse combination need to be substituted into the competition at the Olympics after dressage and complete **both** cross-country and show jumping phases, a predicted dressage score at a CCI5*-L competition and HPR at the Olympics will be



calculated using EquiRatings predictive scoring algorithms to determine A Squad eligibility.

- 3.1.2 **Qualifying Period:** Eligible FEI competition results must have been obtained from 1st January 2024 to Nov 30, 2024.
- 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 to the nearest whole number and any score with exactly “.5” will be rounded to the nearest even whole number. (i.e. 40.4 will be considered a 40pp, 41.5 will be considered 42pp)
- 3.1.5 An athlete listed on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad who, for whatever reason during the 2024 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 or L, CCI 5*, Olympic Games) within the Qualifying Period;
- Step 2 Of all FEI competitions at the Olympic Games or 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 (TPR) as outlined in the chart below based on either final score OR High Performance result (HPR) at a minimum of one of the eligible FEI competitions within the qualifying period

Eligible FEI Competition	Target Performance Result Score (TPR)	Target Performance Result (HPR)
Olympics	MER	MER
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

3.2.1.2 If an athlete/horse combination need to be substituted into the competition at the Olympics after dressage and complete **both** cross-country and show jumping phases, a predicted dressage score at a CCI5* competition and HPR at the Olympics will be calculated using EquiRatings predictive scoring algorithms to determine B Squad eligibility.

3.2.2. Qualifying Period: Eligible FEI competition results must have been obtained from 1st January 2024 to Nov 30, 2024.

3.2.3 Clarification: For the purpose of eligibility, scores which include a fraction will be rounded to the nearest whole number and any score with exactly “.5” will be rounded to the nearest even whole number. (i.e. 40.4 will be considered a 40pp, 41.5 will be considered 42pp)

3.2.4 An athlete listed on the NTP Eventing High Performance Squad who, for whatever reason during the 2024 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)

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

3.2.5.2 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 of Competitions [30 penalty points] and 100 seconds in the case of five star level Competitions [40 penalty points]

3.2.5.3 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.



3.3 Development Squad

Performance Standards

3.3.5 With the goal of identifying developing athlete/horse combinations, engaging them within the NTP Eventing performance pathway through education, support and recognition.

3.3.6 The Development Squad will be limited to athletes who under the age of 25 and have not been on an NTP in prior years (A or B squad or equivalent list)

3.3.7 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 (TPR) 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 (TPR)	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, 2024 and November 30, 2024.

3.3.5 Athlete/horse combinations that have not achieved the target performance results during the qualifying period defined in s. 3.3.3, may be considered for Development Squad inclusion, provided the following characteristics have been demonstrated:

- a. Coachable
- b. Demonstrated commitment to learn/progress.
- c. Resilience
- d. Self-Reliance
- e. Strong work ethic
- f. Embracing new techniques and approaches

4. Major Games/ Championships

4.1 Declining being named to the NTP – Eventing High Performance Squad 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 in meeting selection criteria for the applicable Major Games or Championship during such period.



- 4.2 Equestrian Canada – Eventing develops and publishes specific selection criteria for Major Games, Championships or other identified competitions (i.e. 2024 Olympic Games).
- 4.3 For avoidance of doubt, an athlete who is listed on the 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.

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 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 Anti- Doping Policy, the FEI Anti Doping Policy or the WADA Code.

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, Manager Eventing.

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. Athletes hereby adopt 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 a bearing on high performance program



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