



# EQUESTRIAN CANADA ÉQUESTRE

## NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

Dressage

2026-01-22



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## 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: A Squad B Squad and Talent ID Squad. The NTP is aligned with EC's high-performance strategies and funding partners, such as Sport Canada and the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).

### 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 increasing attention from EC's Integrated Support Team (IST) Personnel 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 2: A Squad
- Level 3: B Squad
- Level 4: Talent ID Squad

Eligibility for the NTP is based on athlete/horse combinations meeting the performance requirements outlined in Section 3, which will be reviewed and published every six months (June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>).



## 2.1 National Team Program Requirements

Athletes must meet and maintain all NTP requirements outlined in the following chart:

	A Squad	B 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	✓	✓	✓
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	Platinum
Athlete and horse are registered with the FEI	✓	✓	✓
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	
Personal Coach certification or demonstration of actively working towards certification	HP1 Certified	HP1 Certified	
Follow training and competition plans, agreed upon with the Technical Advisor in collaboration with the athlete's personal coach	✓	✓	
Participate in quarterly meetings (in-person or remote) with the Technical Advisor and /or Discipline Manager	✓		
Support the aims of the program including facilitating effective communication between the athlete's personal coach and IST (trainer, vet, farrier etc.) and EC's Technical Advisor / high performance staff and IST Personnel	✓	✓	
Athlete takes all reasonable steps to avoid living in an environment not conducive to high performance achievement (i.e. no access, or limited, access to quality coaching, sport medicine/science, recovery, equipment, facilities, family and peer support etc.) and avoid taking any deliberate action that puts his or her ability to perform at risk or limits performance	✓	✓	✓



## 2.2 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:

	A Squad	B Squad	Talent ID Squad
Observation sessions with EC Technical Advisor, high performance staff and IST personnel at athlete's Daily Training Environment (DTE), as budget permits. The athlete's personal coach and IST personnel may be present	✓	✓	
Support from ECTechnical Advisor, high performance staff and IST personnel at targeted competitions, as budget permits	✓	✓	
Quarterly meetings with Technical Advisor and/or Discipline Manager to discuss and support Yearly Training and Competition Plans	✓		
Benchmarking and goal-setting support	✓		
Support from Team Veterinarian and IST Personnel at targeted competitions and individual access to Team Veterinarian and IST Personnel remotely and in-person, as budget permits	✓	✓	
EC led sourcing of strategic local IST practitioners	✓	✓	✓
Athlete tracking/monitoring and score by score analysis reports	✓		
Education on HP athlete concepts, such as fitness, training plans, nutrition, sponsorships/marketing etc.	✓	✓	
Mentoring opportunities with National Squad athletes		✓	✓
Eligibility to be nominated for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Carding	SR/SR1/ SR2 Level Cards	SR/D Level Cards	
Eligibility for Horse Maintenance Program	✓	✓	✓
Priority access to educational opportunities	✓	✓	✓
Exemptions to CDI Threshold score requirements for authorizations.	✓	✓	✓
Consideration based on ranking for annual international awards, bursary support and funding applications	✓	✓	



### 3. National Team Program Performance Criteria

#### 3.1 A Squad

##### Performance Objective

A Squad athlete/horse combinations have a team top 8 objective at the World Championships and Olympic Games.

##### Performance Criteria

###### Minimum eligibility requirements for athlete/horse combinations:

- Three (3) panel scores of 68%, or better, from CDI3\*, or higher, competitions in the Big Tour Technical tests (Grand Prix/Grand Prix Special), or,
- Athletes who were members of the most recent Olympic or World Championship team qualify for inclusion in the national team program for the two years immediately following the respective Games or Championships. These athletes are not eligible for AAP Carding nomination, unless they have achieved the score requirements as outlined in the national team program criteria and meeting the requirements of the AAP Carding Criteria.

#### 3.2 B Squad

##### Performance Objective

B Squad athlete/horse combinations have an objective to progress to the A Squad

##### Performance Criteria

###### Minimum eligibility requirements for athlete/horse combinations:

Two (2) panel scores of 67%, or better, from CDI1\*, or higher, competitions in the:

- Big Tour Technical Tests (Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special)
- Medium Tour Technical Tests (Intermediate A/B/II)
- U25 Tour Technical Tests (Intermediate II/Grand Prix (16-25)
- Small Tour Technical Tests (Prix St. Georges, Intermediate 1)

and, or

Two (2) panel scores of 68%, or better, from the Canadian National Dressage and Para Dressage Championships in the:

- Big Tour Technical Tests (Grand Prix and Grand Prix Special)
- Medium Tour Technical Tests (Intermediate A/B/II)
- U25 Tour Technical Tests (Intermediate II/Grand Prix (16-25)
- Small Tour Technical Tests (Prix St. Georges, Intermediate 1)



### 3.3 Talent ID Squad

#### Performance Objective

The Talent ID Squad athlete/horse combinations have an objective to progress to the B Squad level.

#### Performance Criteria

##### Minimum eligibility requirements for athlete/horse combinations:

- Two (2) panel scores of 65% or better, from CDIY competitions in the Young Rider Technical Tests (Young Rider Team or Young Rider Individual)

and, or

- Two (2) panel scores of 66% or better, from the Canadian National Dressage and Para Dressage Championships in the Young Rider Technical Tests (Young Rider Team or Young Rider Individual)

## 4. National Team Program Ranking

### 4.1 National Team Program Ranking

Ranking within the NTP is determined by the following process:

- Athlete/horse combinations will be ranked based on the annual average of their technical scores (note freestyle scores will not be used in average calculations) from FEI (CDI) competitions within the proceeding 12-month period Nomination for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program is based on the NTP - December 1<sup>st</sup> ranking list.

## 5. Championships and Major Games Selections

An athlete who is a part of the NTP is not automatically qualified for a Championships or a Major Games, or any other team or individual competition in which EC plans to send competitors, refer to specific criteria for selection details.

## 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 which may have a bearing on high performance strategies. Any person who breaks this confidentiality may be removed from the NTP. If in doubt of confidential information, please confirm with the Discipline Manager.

## 7. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal the NTP 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 NTP 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 2.1; 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) 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 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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